Lake Elsinore & San Jacinto Watersheds Authority

City of Lake Elsinore • City of Canyon Lake • County of Riverside
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District • Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority

LESJWA BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING

EVMWD, 31315 Chaney Street, Lake Elsinore, CA 92531

PUBLIC VIDEO ACCESS

Meeting ID: 851 8756 4355 **Passcode:** 586241	**Access Via Computer:** https://sawpa.zoom.us/j/85187564355?pwd=CnJk8KB5bbaLov5UmGJcvncLdhlcRp.1
	Access Via Telephone: 1 (669) 900-6833

This meeting will be conducted in person at the address listed above. As a convenience to the public, members of the public may also participate virtually using one of the options set forth above. Any member of the public may listen to the meeting or make comments to the Board using the call-in number or Zoom link above. However, in the event there is a disruption of service which prevents the Authority from broadcasting the meeting to members of the public, the meeting will not be postponed or rescheduled but will continue without remote participation. The remote participation option is provided as a convenience to the public and is not required. Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting in-person.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2024 – 3:00 P.M.
AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (Robert Magee, Chair)

2. ROLL CALL

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Members of the public may address the Board on items within the jurisdiction of the Board; however, no action may be taken on an item not appearing on the agenda unless the action is otherwise authorized by Government Code §54954.2(b).

Members of the public may make comments in-person or in writing for the Board's consideration by sending them to publiccomment@sawpa.gov with the subject line "LESJWA Public Comment". Submit your written comments by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 6, 2024. All public comments will be provided to the Chair and may be read into the record or compiled as part of the record. Please note, individuals have a limit of three (3) minutes to make comments and will have the opportunity when called upon by the Board.

4. ITEMS TO BE ADDED OR DELETED

Pursuant to Government Code §54954.2(b), items may be added on which there is a need to take immediate action and the need for action came to the attention of Lake Elsinore & San Jacinto Watersheds Authority subsequent to the posting of the agenda.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

All matters listed on the Consent Calendar are considered routine and non-controversial and will be acted upon by the Board by one motion as listed below.

A. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: AUGUST 15, 2024 5
Recommendation: Approve as posted.

B. TREASURER'S REPORT: JUNE AND JULY 2024 7
Recommendation: Approve as posted.

C. TMDL TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES: JULY 23, 2024 AND AUGUST 27, 2024 23
Recommendation: Approve as posted.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. CANYON LAKE ALUM TREATMENT PROGRAM (LES#2024.5) 35
Presenter: Rick Whetsel
Recommendation: Staff and the Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake Nutrient Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Task Force recommend that the Board of Directors authorize the following:

1. General Services Agreement with Aquatechnex, LLC; and,
2. Change Order and exercise the first of two (2) one-year options to extend the term of the Aquatechnex agreement, Task Order No. AQUA160-04 for an amount not-to-exceed $305,675 per year, to oversee and implement the 2025 calendar year Canyon Lake Alum Treatment Program.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE JUSTICE COMMUNITY CHANGE GRANTS PROGRAM (LES#2024.6) 81
Presenter: Rachel Gray
Recommendation: That the LESJWA Board of Directors authorizes LESJWA Authority Administrator, or designee, to:

1. Prepare and submit a grant application on behalf of LESJWA to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights (OEJECR) Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants Program, seeking funds to implement an oxygenation system in Lake Elsinore; and
2. Authorize a consultant task order to assist with the preparation of the grant application for an amount not to exceed $10,000; and
3. Sign the grant application; and
4. Execute potential partnership agreements, funding agreements, and all necessary documentation.

7. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. LAKE ELSINORE AND CANYON LAKE TMDL TASK FORCE (LES#2024.7) 189
Presenter: Rick Whetsel
Recommendation: Receive and File.

B. LESJWA OUTREACH AND EDUCATION STATUS UPDATE (LES#2024.8) 211
Presenter: Liselle DeGrave, DeGrave Communications
Recommendation: Receive and File.

8. ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS

9. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

10. CLOSED SESSION

There were no Closed Session items anticipated at the time of the posting of this agenda.

11. ADJOURNMENT

PLEASE NOTE:

Americans with Disabilities Act: If you require any special disability related accommodations to participate in this meeting, call (951) 354-4244 or email zramirez@sawpa.gov. 48-hour notification prior to the meeting will enable staff to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility for this meeting. Requests should specify the nature of the disability and the type of accommodation requested.

Materials related to an item on this agenda submitted to the Board of Directors after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection during normal business hours at the LESJWA's office, 11615 Sterling Avenue, Riverside, and available at www.mywatersheds.com, subject to staff's ability to post documents prior to the meeting.

Declaration of Posting

I, Zyanya Ramirez, Clerk of the Board of the Lake Elsinore and San Jacinto Watersheds Authority declare that on Wednesday, October 10, 2024, a copy of this agenda has been uploaded to the LESJWA website at www.mywatersheds.com and posted at LESJWA's office, 11615 Sterling Avenue, Riverside, California.

2024 - LESJWA Board of Directors Regular Meetings

Third Thursday of Every Other Month (February, April, June, August, October, December)
(Note: All meetings begin at 4:00 p.m., unless otherwise noticed, and are held at
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District, 31315 Chaney Street, Lake Elsinore, CA 92531)

February 2/15/24 Regular Board Meeting	**April** 4/18/24 ~~Regular Board Meeting~~ [cancelled]
June 6/20/24 ~~Regular Board Meeting~~ [cancelled]	**August** 8/15/24 Regular Board Meeting [SAWPA at 3:00 p.m.]
October 10/17/24 Regular Board Meeting [3:00 p.m.]	**December** 12/19/24 Regular Board Meeting

2025 - LESJWA Board of Directors Regular Meetings

Third Thursday of Every Other Month (February, April, June, August, October, December)
(Note: All meetings begin at 4:00 p.m., unless otherwise noticed, and are held at
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District, 31315 Chaney Street, Lake Elsinore, CA 92531)

February 2/20/25 Regular Board Meeting	**April** 4/17/25 Regular Board Meeting
June 6/19/25 Regular Board Meeting	**August** 8/21/25 Regular Board Meeting
October 10/16/25 Regular Board Meeting	**December** 12/18/25 Regular Board Meeting

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Lake Elsinore & San Jacinto Watersheds Authority

City of Lake Elsinore • City of Canyon Lake • County of Riverside
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District • Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority

LESJWA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 15, 2024

DIRECTORS PRESENT	Robert Magee, Chair, City of Lake Elsinore Dale Welty, Vice Chair, City of Canyon Lake Brenda Dennstedt, Secretary-Treasurer, Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority Andy Morris, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District Karen Spiegel, County of Riverside
DIRECTORS ABSENT	None.
ALTERNATE DIRECTORS PRESENT; NON-VOTING	None.
STAFF PRESENT	Jeff Mosher, Rachel Gray, Rick Whetsel, Zyanya Ramirez
OTHERS PRESENT	Denis Bilodeau, Orange County Water District, Gil Botello, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District, T. Milford Harrison, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District, Amy Stevens, WSC Inc.

The Regular Board of Directors meeting of the Lake Elsinore & San Jacinto Watersheds Authority (LESJWA) was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chair Magee on behalf of the Lake Elsinore & San Jacinto Watersheds Authority, 11615 Sterling Avenue, Riverside, CA 92503.

1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. ROLL CALL

An oral roll call was noted and recorded by the Clerk of the Board.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

4. ITEMS TO BE ADDED OR DELETED

There were no items to be added or deleted.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: FEBRUARY 15, 2024
Recommendation: Approve as posted.

B. TREASURER'S REPORT: DECEMBER 2023 – MAY 2024
Recommendation: Approve as posted.

C. TMDL TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES: FEBRUARY 27, 2024, MAY 13, 2024, AND JUNE 17, 2024

Recommendation: Approve as posted.

MOVED, to approve the Consent Calendar as posted.

Result:	Adopted by Roll Call Vote
Motion/Second:	Morris/Dennstedt
Ayes:	Dennstedt, Magee, Morris, Spiegel, Welty
Nays:	None
Abstentions:	None
Absent:	None

6. WORKSHOP DISCUSSION AGENDA

A. LESJWA STRATEGIC PLAN

Amy Stevens, WSC Strategic Planning facilitator, emphasized the workshop's goal: to clarify LESJWA's vision, mission, and values, with a focus on supporting the lakes and the watershed. The discussions aimed to define LESJWA's core purpose and long-term objectives, committing to follow-up actions if plans couldn't be finalized. The Directors reviewed feedback regarding LESJWA's mission and vision, expressing a collective desire for a primary focus on the lakes, highlighting water quality, TMDL standards, and funding mechanisms essential for their health.

Ms. Stevens encouraged a broader vision that involved engaging upper watershed stakeholders. However, the Directors reiterated their commitment to the lakes until existing goals were met. They acknowledged the need for long-term sustainability and stable financial planning, discussing staff roles and resource-sharing strategies. When addressing organizational vision, mission and values, recurring themes were identified, and group exercises were organized to refine and prioritize these values. There was a brief debate on the term "equity" leading to a consensus on ensuring both lakes received appropriate attention based on their unique needs.

The workshop concluded with a commitment to refining the mission and vision statements to ensure they reflected the organization's priorities. The Directors acknowledged the importance of clarity in language while emphasizing community and ecological success.

An electronic copy of the updated presentation is available on the LESJWA website under Agendas and Minutes: https://mywatersheds.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/LESJWA-Board-Workshop_V20240815-updated.pdf

7. ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS

There were no Administrator comments.

8. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

There were no Director's comments.

9. CLOSED SESSION

There was no closed session.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for review, Chair Robert Magee adjourned the meeting at 4:54 p.m.

Approved at a Regular Meeting of the Lake Elsinore and San Jacinto Watersheds Authority Board of Directors on Thursday, October 17, 2024.

_____
Robert Magee, Chair

Attest:

_____
Zyanya Ramirez, Clerk of the Board

Lake Elsinore and San Jacinto Watersheds Authority

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 2024

LAKE ELSINORE & SAN JACINTO WATERSHEDS AUTHORITY
CASH FLOW STATEMENT
AS OF 6/30/2024

Balance as of 5/31/2024		$	420,250.44
Funds Received			
Deposits:			
Open - Grant Invoices			
Open - Member & Other Contributions			
City of Canyon Lake	$20,000.00		
City of Lake Elsinore	$9,150.00		
Total Due LESJWA	$29,150.00		
Disbursement List - June 2024		$	(46,005.98)
Funds Available as of 6/30/2024		**$**	**374,244.46**
Funds Available:			
Checking		$	39,186.10
LAIF*		$	335,058.36
Total		**$**	**374,244.46**

* Balance Sheet number for LAIF includes an adjustment to the market value of LAIF assets required by GASB

Lake Elsinore San Jacinto Watersheds Authority
LE/CL TMDL Invoice History
FYE 2015 - 2024
as of June 30, 2024

Agency	FY 2014-15	FY 2015-16	FY 2016-17	FY 2017-18	FY 2018-19	FY 2019-20	FY 2020-21	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23	FY2023-24
March ARB	35,226.00	25,176.00	38,321.00	29,864.00	27,890.00	32,863.00	36,460.00	33,216.00	38,751.00	34,425.00
CalTrans	28,656.00	26,072.00	40,421.00	31,964.00	29,996.00	34,286.00	37,651.00	32,757.00	39,848.00	33,721.00
City of Beaumont	24,280.00	26,866.00	37,421.00	28,128.00	14,160.00	28,251.00	28,935.00	27,070.00	32,082.00	28,056.00
City of Canyon Lake	34,863.00	24,142.00	42,521.00	33,586.00	28,780.00	33,754.00	37,787.00	34,393.00	40,695.00	36,069.00
City of Hemet	25,510.00	27,958.00	54,278.00	36,426.00	29,084.00	41,830.00	46,261.00	42,139.00	50,858.00	45,931.00
City of Lake Elsinore	30,580.00	32,463.00	37,421.00	22,330.00	28,521.00	33,361.00	34,071.00	31,795.00	35,573.00	33,046.00
City of Menifee	55,821.00	23,584.00	100,499.00	100,906.00	112,252.00	86,846.00	92,189.00	82,180.00	106,785.00	97,958.00
City of Moreno Valley	113,058.00	17,750.00	96,414.00	74,122.00	144,495.00	80,826.00	83,847.00	63,927.00	91,977.00	73,550.00
City of Murrieta	24,280.00	26,866.00	38,321.00	31,337.00	22,796.00	30,774.00	34,433.00	32,988.00	38,102.00	34,075.00
City of Perris	26,739.00	29,050.00	59,821.00	50,374.00	66,775.00	50,792.00	54,723.00	40,792.00	56,560.00	42,033.00
City of Riverside	24,280.00	26,866.00	38,921.00	30,293.00	24,896.00	26,751.00	28,635.00	27,070.00	32,082.00	28,056.00
City of San Jacinto	24,280.00	26,866.00	37,721.00	23,290.00	27,296.00	26,751.00	27,435.00	27,970.00	32,082.00	28,656.00
City of Wildomar	19,528.00	26,460.00	41,642.00	28,841.00	21,872.00	31,578.00	30,945.00	25,060.00	32,376.00	26,065.00
County of Riverside	36,469.00	30,362.00	68,931.00	69,034.00	76,601.00	81,634.00	88,734.00	83,361.00	114,620.00	112,093.00
Dept of Fish and Game	18,435.00	28,840.00	35,121.00	22,857.00	16,818.00	26,751.00	27,435.00	25,570.00	29,082.00	26,556.00
Eastern Municipal Water District	16,225.00	23,525.00	27,789.00	15,724.00	16,222.00	23,496.00	26,935.00	25,570.00	29,082.00	26,556.00
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District	16,225.00	23,525.00	30,361.00	18,327.00	12,626.00	24,934.00	29,881.00	26,946.00	30,411.00	27,401.00
March JPA	24,485.00	27,160.00	38,921.00	30,464.00	24,596.00	31,006.00	34,412.00	32,968.00	38,071.00	34,045.00
San Jacinto Agricultural Operators	47,549.00	23,530.58	45,785.00	31,391.00	37,999.65	38,927.00	27,767.00	14,382.00	29,915.00	28,067.00
San Jacinto Dairy & CAFO Operators	16,225.00	-	-	-	2,700.00	2,850.00	-	-	3,000.00	1,500.00
Total	642,714.00	497,061.58	910,630.00	709,258.00	766,375.65	768,261.00	808,536.00	710,154.00	901,952.00	797,859.00
Total Paid Contributions	642,714.00	497,061.58	910,630.00	709,258.00	766,375.65	768,261.00	808,536.00	710,154.00	901,952.00	797,859.00
Total Outstanding Contributions	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	-	-	-	-	-	-

Total Outstanding Contributions

	-
	-
Total Outstanding All Years	**-**

Lake Elsinore/San Jacinto Watershed Authority
Statement of Net Assets
For the Twelve Months Ending Sunday, June 30, 2024

Assets	
Checking - US Bank	$39,186.10
L.A.I.F.	333,824.02
Accounts Receivable	29,150.00
Interest Receivable	4,484.13
Total Assets	$406,644.25
Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	10,375.50
Accrued Accounts Payable	108,078.41
Total Liabilities	$118,453.91
Retained Earnings	155,338.17
Excess Revenue over (under) Expenditures	$132,852.17
Total Net Assets	$288,190.34
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	$406,644.25

Lake Elsinore/San Jacinto Watershed Authority
Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Assets
For the Twelve Months Ending Sunday, June 30, 2024

	Period Actual	YTD Actual	Annual Budget	% Used	Budget Variance
Revenues					
LAIF Interest	$4,484.13	$17,065.38	$1,650.00	1034.27%	($15,415.38)
Valuation Income - LAIF	(1,234.34)	1,362.01	0.00	0.00%	(1,362.01)
Member Agency Contributions	0.00	238,966.00	300,709.00	79.47%	61,743.00
Other Agency Contributions	0.00	721,343.00	663,251.00	108.76%	(58,092.00)
Miscellaneous Revenue	0.00	5,500.00	0.00	0.00%	(5,500.00)
Total Revenues	***$3,249.79***	***$984,236.39***	***$965,610.00***	***101.93%***	***($18,626.39)***
Expenses					
Salaries - Regular	3,854.65	49,651.92	61,294.00	81.01%	11,642.08
Payroll Burden	1,414.66	18,222.27	22,496.00	81.00%	4,273.73
Overhead	6,522.06	84,011.04	103,710.00	81.01%	19,698.96
Audit Fees	0.00	4,675.00	5,600.00	83.48%	925.00
Consulting - General	39,887.04	634,107.82	671,135.00	94.48%	37,027.18
LEAMS Offset Credit License	56,400.00	56,400.00	112,500.00	50.13%	56,100.00
Legal Fees	0.00	67.50	1,100.00	6.14%	1,032.50
Meeting & Conference Expense	0.00	1,080.08	0.00	0.00%	(1,080.08)
Bank Charges	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00%	1,000.00
Shipping & Postage	0.00	0.00	50.00	0.00%	50.00
Office Supplies	0.00	0.00	60.00	0.00%	60.00
Other Expense	0.00	30.32	400.00	7.58%	369.68
Insurance Expense	0.00	2,828.00	2,800.00	101.00%	(28.00)
Interest Expense	0.00	310.27	200.00	155.14%	(110.27)
Total Expenditures	***$108,078.41***	***$851,384.22***	***$982,345.00***	***86.67%***	***$130,960.78***
Excess Revenue over (under) Expenditures	***($104,828.62)***	***$132,852.17***	***($16,735.00)***	***-793.86%***	***($149,587.17)***

Lake Elsinore San Jacinto Watersheds Authority
Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Assets by Project
For the Month Ending June 30, 2024

	JPA Administration	TMDL Task Force	Total	Budget	% Used	Budget Variance
Revenues						
LAIF Interest	17,065.38		17,065.38	1,650.00	1034.27%	(15,415.38)
Member Agency Contributions	142,450.00	96,516.00	238,966.00	300,709.00	79.47%	61,743.00
Other Agency Contributions	20,000.00	701,343.00	721,343.00	663,251.00	108.76%	(58,092.00)
Miscellaneous Revenue	5,500.00		5,500.00	-	100.00%	(5,500.00)
Total Revenues	$ 185,015.38	$ 797,859.00	$ 982,874.38	$ 965,610.00	101.79%	$ (17,264.38)
Expenditures						
Salaries	$ 26,764.81	$ 22,887.11	$ 49,651.92	$ 61,294.00	81.01%	$ 11,642.08
Benefits	9,822.69	8,399.58	18,222.27	22,496.00	81.00%	4,273.73
Indirect Costs	45,286.05	38,724.99	84,011.04	103,710.00	81.01%	19,698.96
Audit Fees	4,675.00		4,675.00	5,600.00	83.48%	925.00
Consulting	61,105.67	573,002.15	634,107.82	671,135.00	94.48%	37,027.18
Other Contract Services			-	-	0.00%	-
Legal Fees	67.50		67.50	1,100.00	6.14%	1,032.50
Contributions			-	-	0.00%	-
Meeting & Conference Expense	1,018.81	61.27	1,080.08	-	0.00%	(1,080.08)
Bank Charges			-	1,000.00	0.00%	1,000.00
Shipping & Postage			-	50.00	0.00%	50.00
Other Expense	30.32		30.32	400.00	7.58%	369.68
LEAMS Excess Offset Credit		56,400.00	56,400.00	112,500.00	50.13%	56,100.00
Insurance Expense	2,828.00		2,828.00	2,800.00	101.00%	(28.00)
Office Supplies				60.00	0.00%	60.00
Interest Expense	310.27		310.27	200.00	155.14%	(110.27)
Total Expenditures	$ 151,909.12	$ 699,475.10	$ 851,384.22	$ 982,345.00	86.67%	$ 130,960.78
Excess Revenue over (under) Expenditures	$ 33,106.26	$ 98,383.90	$ 131,490.16	$ (16,735.00)	100.00%	$ (148,225.16)
Cash Balance @ 06/30/2024	**$ 25,953.38**	**$ 352,775.21**	**$ 378,728.59**			

Lake Elsinore San Jacinto
Watershed Authority
Disbursements
June 2024

Check #	Check Date	Type	Vendor	Check Amount
EFT557	6/13/2024	CHK	Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority	$ 14,812.43
EFT558	6/13/2024	CHK	WSP USA Environment & Infrastructure	$ 13,827.30
EFT559	6/13/2024	CHK	Kahn, Soares & Conway, LLP	$ 14,340.00
EFT560	6/20/2024	CHK	Water Systems Consulting, Inc	$ 3,026.25
			Total Disbursements June 2024	**$ 46,005.98**

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Lake Elsinore and San Jacinto Watersheds Authority

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

July 2024

LAKE ELSINORE & SAN JACINTO WATERSHEDS AUTHORITY
CASH FLOW STATEMENT
AS OF 7/31/2024

Balance as of 6/30/2024		$	374,244.46
Funds Received			
Deposits:			
LAIF Interest			4,484.13
City of Canyon Lake			20,000.00
City of Lake Elsinore			9,150.00
County of Riverside			20,000.00
City of Canyon Lake			20,000.00
City of Lake Elsinore			20,000.00
EVMWD			20,000.00
RCFCD			20,000.00
Open - Grant Invoices			
Open - Member & Other Contributions			
SAWPA	$10,000.00		
Cal Trans	$33,625.00		
City of Beaumont	$27,960.00		
City of Canyon Lake	$35,973.00		
City of Hemet	$45,835.00		
City of Lake Elsinore	$32,950.00		
City of Menifee	$97,862.00		
City of Moreno Valley	$73,454.00		
City of Murrieta	$33,979.00		
City of Perris	$41,937.00		
City of Riverside	$27,960.00		
City of San Jacinto	$28,560.00		
City of Wildomar	$25,820.00		
County of Riverside	$111,997.00		
DFW	$26,460.00		
EMWD	$26,460.00		
EVMWD	$27,348.00		
March ARB	$34,329.00		
March JPA	$33,949.00		
WRCAC	$27,997.00		
WRCAC	$1,500.00		
Total Due LESJWA	$805,955.00		
Disbursement List - July 2024		$	(46,002.87)
Funds Available as of 7/31/2024		**$**	**461,875.72**
Funds Available:			
Checking		$	122,333.23
LAIF*		$	339,542.49
Total		**$**	**461,875.72**

* Balance Sheet number for LAIF includes an adjustment to the market value of LAIF assets required by GASB

Lake Elsinore San Jacinto Watersheds Authority
LE/CL TMDL Invoice History
FYE 2019 - 2025
as of July 31, 2024

Agency	FY 2018-19	FY 2019-20	FY 2020-21	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23	FY2023-24	FY2024-25
March ARB	27,890.00	32,863.00	36,460.00	33,216.00	38,751.00	34,425.00	34,329.00
CalTrans	29,996.00	34,286.00	37,651.00	32,757.00	39,848.00	33,721.00	33,625.00
City of Beaumont	14,160.00	28,251.00	28,935.00	27,070.00	32,082.00	28,056.00	27,960.00
City of Canyon Lake	28,780.00	33,754.00	37,787.00	34,393.00	40,695.00	36,069.00	35,973.00
City of Hemet	29,084.00	41,830.00	46,261.00	42,139.00	50,858.00	45,931.00	45,835.00
City of Lake Elsinore	28,521.00	33,361.00	34,071.00	31,795.00	35,573.00	33,046.00	32,950.00
City of Menifee	112,252.00	86,846.00	92,189.00	82,180.00	106,785.00	97,958.00	97,862.00
City of Moreno Valley	144,495.00	80,826.00	83,847.00	63,927.00	91,977.00	73,550.00	73,454.00
City of Murrieta	22,796.00	30,774.00	34,433.00	32,988.00	38,102.00	34,075.00	33,979.00
City of Perris	66,775.00	50,792.00	54,723.00	40,792.00	56,560.00	42,033.00	41,937.00
City of Riverside	24,896.00	26,751.00	28,635.00	27,070.00	32,082.00	28,056.00	27,960.00
City of San Jacinto	27,296.00	26,751.00	27,435.00	27,970.00	32,082.00	28,656.00	28,560.00
City of Wildomar	21,872.00	31,578.00	30,945.00	25,060.00	32,376.00	26,065.00	25,820.00
County of Riverside	76,601.00	81,634.00	88,734.00	83,361.00	114,620.00	112,093.00	111,997.00
Dept of Fish and Game	16,818.00	26,751.00	27,435.00	25,570.00	29,082.00	26,556.00	26,460.00
Eastern Municipal Water District	16,222.00	23,496.00	26,935.00	25,570.00	29,082.00	26,556.00	26,460.00
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District	12,626.00	24,934.00	29,881.00	26,946.00	30,411.00	27,401.00	27,348.00
March JPA	24,596.00	31,006.00	34,412.00	32,968.00	38,071.00	34,045.00	33,949.00
San Jacinto Agricultural Operators	37,999.65	38,927.00	27,767.00	14,382.00	29,915.00	28,067.00	27,997.00
San Jacinto Dairy & CAFO Operators	2,700.00	2,850.00	-	-	3,000.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Total	766,375.65	768,261.00	808,536.00	710,154.00	901,952.00	797,859.00	795,955.00
Total Paid Contributions	766,375.65	768,261.00	808,536.00	710,154.00	901,952.00	797,859.00	-
Total Outstanding Contributions	-	-	-	-	-	-	

Total Outstanding Contributions	
March ARB	34,329.00
CalTrans	33,625.00
City of Beaumont	27,960.00
City of Canyon Lake	35,973.00
City of Hemet	45,835.00
City of Lake Elsinore	32,950.00
City of Menifee	97,862.00
City of Moreno Valley	73,454.00
City of Murrieta	33,979.00
City of Perris	41,937.00
City of Riverside	27,960.00
City of San Jacinto	28,560.00
City of Wildomar	25,820.00
County of Riverside	111,997.00
Dept of Fish and Game	26,460.00
Eastern Municipal Water District	26,460.00
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District	27,348.00
March JPA	33,949.00
San Jacinto Agricultural Operators	27,997.00
San Jacinto Dairy & CAFO Operators	1,500.00
	-
Total Outstanding All Years	**795,955.00**

Lake Elsinore/San Jacinto Watershed Authority
Statement of Net Assets
For the One Month Ending Wednesday, July 31, 2024

Assets	
Checking - US Bank	$122,333.23
L.A.I.F.	339,542.49
Accounts Receivable	805,955.00
Total Assets	$1,267,830.72
Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	98,978.33
Accrued Accounts Payable	56,400.00
Total Liabilities	$155,378.33
Retained Earnings	288,077.29
Excess Revenue over (under) Expenditures	$824,375.10
Total Net Assets	$1,112,452.39
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	$1,267,830.72

Lake Elsinore/San Jacinto Watershed Authority
Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Assets
For the One Month Ending Wednesday, July 31, 2024

	Period Actual	YTD Actual	Annual Budget	% Used	Budget Variance
Revenues					
LAIF Interest	$0.00	$0.00	$1,650.00	0.00%	$1,650.00
Valuation Income - LAIF	1,234.34	1,234.34	0.00	0.00%	(1,234.34)
Member Agency Contributions	298,268.00	298,268.00	298,268.00	100.00%	0.00
Other Agency Contributions	607,687.00	607,687.00	665,692.00	91.29%	58,005.00
Total Revenues	***$907,189.34***	***$907,189.34***	***$965,610.00***	***93.95%***	***$58,420.66***
Expenses					
Salaries - Regular	6,729.33	6,729.33	62,500.00	10.77%	55,770.67
Payroll Burden	2,449.48	2,449.48	22,750.00	10.77%	20,300.52
Overhead	11,009.18	11,009.18	102,250.00	10.77%	91,240.82
Audit Fees	1,880.00	1,880.00	6,200.00	30.32%	4,320.00
Consulting - General	58,070.25	58,070.25	433,334.00	13.40%	375,263.75
Other Contract Services	0.00	0.00	230,676.00	0.00%	230,676.00
LEAMS Offset Credit License	0.00	0.00	112,500.00	0.00%	112,500.00
Legal Fees	0.00	0.00	1,100.00	0.00%	1,100.00
Bank Charges	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00%	1,000.00
Shipping & Postage	0.00	0.00	50.00	0.00%	50.00
Office Supplies	0.00	0.00	60.00	0.00%	60.00
Other Expense	0.00	0.00	400.00	0.00%	400.00
Insurance Expense	2,676.00	2,676.00	3,000.00	89.20%	324.00
Interest Expense	0.00	0.00	200.00	0.00%	200.00
Total Expenditures	***$82,814.24***	***$82,814.24***	***$976,020.00***	***8.48%***	***$893,205.76***
Excess Revenue over (under) Expenditures	***$824,375.10***	***$824,375.10***	***($10,410.00)***	***-7919.07%***	***($834,785.10)***

Lake Elsinore San Jacinto Watersheds Authority
Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Assets by Project
For the Month Ending July 31, 2024

	JPA Administration	TMDL Task Force	Total	Budget	% Used	Budget Variance
Revenues						
LAIF Interest			-	1,650.00	0.00%	1,650.00
Member Agency Contributions	90,000.00	208,268.00	298,268.00	298,268.00	100.00%	-
Other Agency Contributions	20,000.00	587,687.00	607,687.00	665,692.00	91.29%	58,005.00
Miscellaneous Revenue			-	-	100.00%	-
Total Revenues	$ 110,000.00	$ 795,955.00	$ 905,955.00	$ 965,610.00	93.82%	$ 59,655.00
Expenditures						
Salaries	$ 4,170.74	$ 2,558.59	$ 6,729.33	$ 62,500.00	10.77%	$ 55,770.67
Benefits	1,518.15	931.33	2,449.48	22,750.00	10.77%	20,300.52
Indirect Costs	6,823.33	4,185.85	11,009.18	102,250.00	10.77%	91,240.82
Audit Fees	1,880.00		1,880.00	6,200.00	30.32%	4,320.00
Consulting	9,980.25	48,090.00	58,070.25	433,334.00	13.40%	375,263.75
Other Contract Services			-	230,676.00	0.00%	230,676.00
Legal Fees			-	1,100.00	0.00%	1,100.00
Contributions			-	-	0.00%	-
Meeting & Conference Expense			-	-	0.00%	-
Bank Charges			-	1,000.00	0.00%	1,000.00
Shipping & Postage			-	50.00	0.00%	50.00
Other Expense			-	400.00	0.00%	400.00
LEAMS Excess Offset Credit			-	112,500.00	0.00%	112,500.00
Insurance Expense	2,676.00		2,676.00	3,000.00	89.20%	324.00
Office Supplies				60.00	0.00%	60.00
Interest Expense			-	200.00	0.00%	200.00
Total Expenditures	$ 27,048.47	$ 55,765.77	$ 82,814.24	$ 976,020.00	8.48%	$ 893,205.76
Excess Revenue over (under) Expenditures	$ 82,951.53	$ 740,189.23	$ 823,140.76	$ (10,410.00)	100.00%	$ (833,550.76)
Cash Balance @ 07/31/2024	**$ 139,287.96**	**$ 322,587.76**	**$ 461,875.72**			

Lake Elsinore San Jacinto
Watershed Authority
Disbursements
July 2024

Check #	Check Date	Type	Vendor	Check Amount
01121	7/3/2024	CHK	Alliant Insurance Services	$ 2,676.00
EFT561	7/11/2024	CHK	Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority	$ 11,791.37
EFT562	7/11/2024	CHK	GEI Consultants	$ 8,208.00
EFT563	7/11/2024	CHK	Water Systems Consulting, Inc	$ 2,167.50
EFT564	7/11/2024	CHK	Kahn, Soares & Conway, LLP	$ 21,160.00
			Total Disbursements July 2024	**$ 46,002.87**

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Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake TMDL Task Force

July 23, 2024

PARTICIPANTS PRESENT:

Abigail Suter, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Adam Gufarotti, City of Lake Elsinore
Alex Christie, City of Moreno Valley
Ann Marie Loconte, City of Banning
Anthony Budicin, EMWD
Ben Foster, City of Lake Elsinore
Chris Stransky, WSP USA
Carlos Norvani, City of Lake Elsinore
Cynthia Gabaldon, City of Menifee, Perris, and March JPA
David Renfrew, Alta Environmental
Dustin Christensen, City of Beaumont
Hannah Daum
Jilleen Ferris, City of Hemet
Jim Klang, WRCAC
Jagroop Khela, Regional Water Quality Control Board
John Rudolph, WSP USA
Kelsey Reed, City of Canyon Lake (Willdan)
Kris Hanson, City of Wildomar (Interwest)
Lauren Briggs, Regional Water Quality Control Board
Lauren Sotelo, March JPA
Lenai Hunter, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District
Lynn Merrill, City of San Jacinto
Dr. Michael Anderson
Michael Roberts, City of Riverside
Natasha Thandi, Caltrans (MBI)
Pat Boldt, WRCAC
Rae Beimer, City of Moreno Valley
Rebekah Guill, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Richard Boon, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Richard Meyerhoff, GEI Consultants
Ryan Kearns, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Scott Bruckner, Riverside County Executive Office
Scott Sewell, CDFW
Shirley Colvin, City of Perris
Siomara Giroux, City of Beaumont
Steven Wolosoff, GEI Consultants
Stormy Osifeso, City of Riverside
Sudhir Mohleji, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District
Terri Reeder, Regional Water Quality Control Board
Tess Dunham, Kahn, Soares & Conway, LLP
Bruce Whitaker, SAWPA
T Milford Harrison, SAWPA
Gil Botello, SAWPA
Rachel Gray, SAWPA
Rick Whetsel, SAWPA
Zyanya Ramirez, SAWPA

Call to Order & Introductions

The Lake Elsinore/Canyon Lake TMDL Task (Task Force) meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. by Rick Whetsel, with all participants participating remotely.

Approval of Meeting Notes from June 17, 2024 Task Force Meeting

The June 17, 2024 meeting notes were approved as posted.

Status: Regional Board Update (Regional Board)

Lauren Briggs, Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board informed the Task Force that Regional Board staff held a final meeting to wrap up discussion with EPA. EPA requested that the Task Force include additional text in the TMDL Technical report to compare to and justify why the Task Force is recommending the use of the Cumulative Distribution Function (CDF) curves instead of the approved EPA's Nutrient Models.

Lauren reminded stakeholders that a Board Workshop on the LE&CL TMDL updates is planned for September 13, 2024.

Update: TMDL Update Activities (Tess Dunham, KSC and Steve Wolosoff, GEI)

Tess Dunham, KSC, presented to stakeholders an update on the TMDL documents and schedule moving forward. This included an overview outlining key sections of the Basin Plan Amendment language and TMDL Technical report, key revisions to the language, options for TMDL compliance, and key milestones and concepts relating to the TMDL implementation schedule.

Steven Wolosoff, GEI then presented to stakeholders on the methodology used to derive the TMDL allocations, a comparison of the revised external TMDL allocations to the 2004 TMDL allocations, and numeric targets expressed as Cumulative Distribution Functions.

Moving forward, Tess requested Comments from stakeholders on revised draft Basin Plan Amendment language & draft Executive Summary to be submitted to the consultant team by July 29, 2024. The consultant team will

then submit the final draft Basin Plan Amendment language and Technical TMDL Report to Santa Ana Water Board staff by August 6, 2024.

Copies of the presentations prepared by Tess Dunham and Steve Wolosoff are available on the SAWPA website under Agendas and Meeting Materials:

- TMDL Document and Schedule Update (Tess Dunham) - https://sawpa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/July-23-2024-LECL-Task-Force-Meeting.pdf.
- Project Status Update (Steve Wolosoff) - https://sawpa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/LECL-Task-Force-Presentation-July-2024.pdf

Update: LEAMS Future Options Study (Steve Wolosoff, GEI)

Steven Wolosoff, GEI provided an update to the Task Force on the Lake Elsinore In-Lake Nutrient Reduction Alternatives Analysis being conducted and funded by the LEAMS Operators in support of the LE&CL TMDL Task Force.

The primary goal of this study is to conduct in-depth analysis of alternatives to improve N&P offsets in Lake Elsinore, as well as to improve the overall lake water quality. To date, the team of consultants have identified the various project options, and completed their condition assessment for the existing LEAMS system. The team of consultants is currently working on the conceptual design and costing for the various project alternatives. The next steps include a comprehensive alternatives analysis, and the sediment oxygenation demand and nutrient flux study.

Steven then introduced John Rudolph, WSP USA to provide a brief overview and update on the sediment oxygenation demand and nutrient flux study. The purpose of which is to determine what kind of biological and chemical oxygen demand the sediments are requiring, so that we can appropriately size the system to deliver oxygen to the bottom layers of Lake Elsinore to suppress the nutrient flux from the sediment. On Thursday (July 25th) WSP USA will be out on the lake to collect a total of 36 intact sediment cores at 4 locations across the lake. These core samples will then be brought to the laboratory at WSP USA to conduct an incubation study to look at both the nutrient flux and the demand of the sediment.

Steven will continue to provide updates to stakeholders at future Task Force meetings as appropriate.

Update: Lake Elsinore Water Quality Plan (Adam Gufarotti, City of Lake Elsinore)

Adam Gufarotti, representing the City of Lake Elsinore, provided an update to the Task Force on the City of Lake Elsinore Water Quality Plan initiated by the City in August 2023.

Adam provided an update on cyanobacteria (microcystin toxin) monitoring currently being conducted by the City. At this time the Lake is looking pretty good in terms of microcystin toxin levels, with the latest data (July 17th) showing each of the monitoring locations to be in the Caution Level, as determined by Regional Board.

Adam informed the Task Force that that Lake Elsinore City Council recently approved the purchase of two additional nanobubble barge systems that will inject an additional 5,000 pounds per day of oxygen into Lake Elsinore, bringing the total oxygen delivered by Nanobubbles systems into Lake Elsinore to 5,500 pounds per day. Tonight (Tuesday, July 23rd) City staff will be taking a request to City Council to approve $450,000 for Lake Elsinore shoreline maintenance.

The City of Lake Elsinore is continuing its coordination with Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District on the evaluation of the LEAMS treatment options.

The City is still working with Regional Board staff for approval to add Phoslock (lanthanum based chemical) to treat the Lake and to include ozone treatment as a component of the Nanobubbles system. WSP USA is currently assisting the City with a toxicology to support the addition of ozone.

Adam will continue to provide updates to stakeholders at future Task Force meetings as appropriate.

Update: Update: Fall 2024 Canyon Lake Alum Application (LESJWA Staff)

Rick Whetsel informed the Task Force that the upcoming Fall 2024 Canyon Lake alum application is being planned for late September – October. LESJWA staff will coordinate with Aquatechnex and GEI staff to plan this upcoming alum application.

In support of the alum application program, LESJWA staff, in coordination with DeGrave Communications, will conduct a public workshop for Canyon Lake residents to inform them of the benefits of the alum application and to address any safety concerns. This event is tentatively scheduled for September 3rd, to be part of a regularly scheduled Canyon Lake Property Owners Association meeting.

Task Force Administration (LESJWA Staff)

Rick Whetsel informed stakeholders that FY 2024-25 LE&CL TMDL Task Force invoices will be going out later this week.

He also reminded the Task Force that draft 2023-24 Annual LE&CL TMDL Compliance Monitoring report is due to Regional Board by August 15th and that staff will be coordinating with WSP USA to present to the stakeholders on the results of the past year monitoring at a future Task Force meeting.

Other Business

No Other Business was discussed.

Schedule Next Meeting

The next LE/CL TMDL Task Force meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 27, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Table Summary of Agreements and Actions

Date of Action/Agreement	Action/Agreement	Responsible Entities Reaching Agreement
September 28, 2021	• Approve funding in the amount of up to $30,000 to CDM Smith to assist Task Force technical issues, including but not limited to, initial discussions regarding content and scope of TMDL Implementation Plan revisions should the Task Force decide to provide resources for further revising the 2018 draft TMDL.	Voting Task Force members.
November 3, 2021	• Approve moving forward with the proposed step-wise approach to updating the TMDL Technical Report and its timeline.	Voting Task Force members
January 10, 2022	-	-
March 2, 2022	• The Task Force agreed to submit a comment letter to the Draft Staff Working Proposal for MS4 Permit by March 18, 2022. Regional Board confirmed that they would accept the comments past their soft deadline of March 10. • Approved the alum application to the Canyon Lake if the February monitoring data exceeds 0.09.	Voting Task Force members
April 20, 2022	• Approved execution of the Key Principles for Technical TMDL Revision by Mark, Norton Task Force Administrator on behalf of the voting members of the task force subject to revisions discussed at the 4/20/2022 task force meeting. • Approved submittal of the Task Force Comment letter to Regional Board on the Staff Working Proposal for the MS4 Permit upon revision discussed at the 4/20/2022 task force meeting. Regional Board abstained from action and conversation of this matter. • Approved amendment #3 to extend the LE/CL TMDL Task Force Agreement for a period of three years to June 30, 2025, with the option that the Agreement, while still in full force and effect, may be extended an additional two years, to June 30, 2027, by means of Administrative Action by the Task Force Administrator	Voting Task Force members; Excludes Regional Board in relation to the Comment Letter to Regional Board on the Staff Working Proposal for the MS4 Permit.
June 27, 2022	-	-
August 17, 2022	• Approved execution of the Key Principles for Technical TMDL Revision by Mark Norton, Task Force Administrator on behalf of the voting members of the LE&CL TMDL Task Force. • Approved a proposal by CDM Smith and a recommendation to the LESJWA Board to authorize a Task Order to update and revise the technical document and additional TMDL technical support services.	Mark Norton, Task Force Administrator on behalf of the voting members of the LE&CL TMDL Task Force
September 27, 2022	-	-
November 14, 2022	• Transfer the remaining balance of the contract work supported by Steven Wolosoff as of December 31, 2022 from CDM Smith and enter into an agreement with GEI Consultants to complete work starting on January 1 2023. • Exercise an option for a two year extension with WSP USA to oversee and implement TMDL Compliance Monitoring. Program.	Voting Task Force members
January 10, 2023	-	-
February 15, 2023	• The Task Force moved to provide LESJWA staff in coordination with the Task Force consulting team the authority to make a determination on the need for a Spring 2023 alum application based upon review of the February 2023 Canyon Lake monitoring results to be provided by WSP USA.	Voting Task Force members.
March 28, 2023	-	-
April 25, 2023	-	-
June 5, 2023	• Task Force approved LESJWA staff to rework the nutrient offset credits based solely on the need for total phosphorus offset credits and to invoice stakeholders for only 2022 TP offset credits. All	Voting Task Force members.

	remaining funds are to be applied to stakeholders 2023 LEAMS budget allocation.	
August 7, 2023	• Task Force approved for LESJWA staff to prepare a Change Order for WSPUSA for an amount not to exceed $10,330 to perform two additional Lake Elsinore in-lake monitoring events, one each in November and December 2023 using funds available from the LE&CL TMDL Task Force reserve.	Voting Task Force members.

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Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake TMDL Task Force

August 27, 2024

PARTICIPANTS PRESENT:

Abigail Suter, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Adam Gufarotti, City of Lake Elsinore
Andy Komor, PACE Engineering
Aldo Licitra, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Alex Christie, City of Moreno Valley
Alison Trollier, Eco Oxygen Tech
Ann Marie Loconte, City of Banning
Ben Foster, City of Lake Elsinore
Brian Covellone, Regional Water Quality Control Board
Chris Stransky, WSP USA
Carlos Norvani, City of Lake Elsinore
Cynthia Gabaldon, City of Menifee, Perris, and March JPA
Dan Cortese, City of Hemet
Evan Chen, GEI Consultants
Garth Engelhorn, NV5
Greg Clark, Caltrans District 8
Jilleen Ferris, City of Hemet
Jim Klang, WRCAC
Jagroop Khela, Regional Water Quality Control Board
John Rudolph, WSP USA
Lauren Briggs, Regional Water Quality Control Board
Lauren Sotelo, March JPA
Lynn Merrill, City of San Jacinto
Mayra Martinez
Michael Roberts, City of Riverside
Natasha Thandi, Caltrans (MBI)
Pat Boldt, WRCAC
Rebekah Guill, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Richard Boon, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Richard Meyerhoff, GEI Consultants
Ryan Kearns, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Scott Bruckner, Riverside County Executive Office
Shirley Colvin, City of Perris
Steven Wolosoff, GEI Consultants
Stormy Osifeso, City of Riverside
Sudhir Mohleji, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District
Terri Reeder, Regional Water Quality Control Board
Tess Dunham, Kahn, Soares & Conway, LLP
T Milford Harrison, SAWPA
Gil Botello, SAWPA
Rachel Gray, SAWPA
Rick Whetsel, SAWPA
Zyanya Ramirez, SAWPA

Call to Order & Introductions

The Lake Elsinore/Canyon Lake TMDL Task (Task Force) meeting was called to order at 9:32 a.m. by Rick Whetsel, with all participants participating remotely.

Approval of Meeting Notes from July 23, 2024 Task Force Meeting

The July 23, 2024 meeting notes were approved as posted.

Status: Regional Board Update (Re3gional Board)

Lauren Briggs, Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board informed the Task Force of changes to the Regional Board schedule. The Board Workshop on the LE&CL TMDL updates planned for September 13, 2024 has been canceled, due to a conflict with the MS4 Permit workshop being scheduled for the same meeting.

Instead Regional Board is planning to open the 45 day public comment period no later than October 1, 2024. The public comment period will continue until noon on November 15, 2024, then Regional Board staff is planning to move straight into the adoption hearing scheduled for December 13, 2024.

Update: TMDL Update Activities (Tess Dunham, KSC and Steve Wolosoff, GEI)

Tess Dunham, KSC, presented to stakeholders an update on the TMDL documents and schedule moving forward. This included the following:

- Update of Task Force activities and deliverables to Regional Board staff
  - Submittal of the final draft Basin Plan Amendment language and Technical TMDL Report to Santa Ana Water Board staff on August 20th and 21st respectively.
- Review of the Santa Ana Water Board schedule:
  - August-October - AB 2108 outreach
  - October-November - public review and comment (45-day review period)
  - December 13, 2024 - Santa Ana Water Board Adoption Hearing
- Organization of final draft BPA:
  - TMDL components

  - Implementation plan components
- Review of significant revisions of interest

Next Steps for Basin Plan Amendments

- Internal Review of BPA by Santa Ana Water Board's Legal Counsel
- Final Edits by Santa Ana Water Board staff
- Notice of Availability and Release for 45-day Public Comment Period
- Prepare Response to Comments from Public Comment Period
- Santa Ana Water Board member briefings
- Santa Ana Water Board consideration for adoption (December 13, 2024)

A copy of the presentation prepared by Tess Dunham is available on the SAWPA website under Agendas and Meeting Materials: https://sawpa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/August-27-2024-LECL-Task-Force-Meeting.pdf

Update: LEAMS Future Options Study (Steve Wolosoff, GEI)

Steven Wolosoff, GEI provided an update to the Task Force on the Lake Elsinore In-Lake Nutrient Reduction Alternatives Analysis being conducted and funded by the LEAMS Operators in support of the LE&CL TMDL Task Force.

The primary goal of this study is to conduct in-depth analysis of alternatives to improve N&P offsets in Lake Elsinore, as well as to improve the overall lake water quality.

Today's meeting included discussion on the following:

- Update on the sediment study
- Review of in-lake treatment options:
  - Oxygen delivery systems (evaluation includes: 4 system configurations and 4 delivery technologies)
  - Recirculating wetland treatment
  - Algae biomass harvesting
  - Chemical addition
- Update on current system operations

Next steps include the following:

- Develop and finalize evaluation criteria
- Rank alternatives
- Draft report
- Present draft report at November 2024 TMDL Task Force meeting
- Final report

Steven's next update to the Task Force is scheduled for November 2024.

A copy of the presentation prepared by Steve Wolosoff is available on the SAWPA website under Agendas and Meeting Materials: https://sawpa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Lake-Elsinore-In-Lake-Options-Study-update-to-LECL-Task-Force-082724.pdf

Update: Lake Elsinore Water Quality Plan (Adam Gufarotti, City of Lake Elsinore)

Adam Gufarotti, representing the City of Lake Elsinore, provided an update to the Task Force on the City of Lake Elsinore Water Quality Plan initiated by the City in August 2023.

Adam provided an update on cyanobacteria (microcystin toxin) monitoring currently being conducted by the City. At this time the Lake is looking pretty good in terms of microcystin toxin levels, with the latest data showing each of the monitoring locations to be at the Caution or warning Level, as determined by Regional Board. Since that time the City has increased its algaecide treatments.

The City is still working with Regional Board staff on a de minimis impact permit to add Phoslock (lanthanum based chemical) to treat the Lake.

Adam will continue to provide updates to stakeholders at future Task Force meetings as appropriate.

Update: Update: Fall 2024 Canyon Lake Alum Application (LESJWA Staff)
Rick Whetsel reminded the Task Force that the upcoming Fall 2024 Canyon Lake alum application is being planned for late September – early October. LESJWA staff will coordinate with Aquatechnex and GEI staff to plan this upcoming alum application.

In support of the alum application program, LESJWA staff, in coordination with DeGrave Communications, will conduct a public workshop for Canyon Lake residents to inform them of the benefits of the alum application and to address any safety concerns. This event is yet to be scheduled.

Task Force Administration (LESJWA Staff)
Rick Whetsel presented two action items for consideration of approval by the Task Force:

1) Recommendation for the Task Force to direct LESJWA staff to extend Agreement for Services with Tess Dunham, Kahn, Soares & Conway to serve as Regulatory Compliance Expert for the Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake TMDL Task Force for two additional years for FYEs 2026 and 2027.

   Following brief discussion, a motion was put forward by Lynn Merrill representing the City of San Jacinto and seconded by Cynthia Gabaldon representing the City of Perris to approve.

   MOVED to approve LESJWA staff to extend Agreement for Services with Tess Dunham, Kahn, Soares & Conway to serve as Regulatory Compliance Expert for the Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake TMDL Task Force for two additional years for FYEs 2026 and 2027.

2) Recommendation for the Task Force to direct LESJWA staff to exercise the option to extend the Agreement for Services with Aquatechnex to provide semi-annual Canyon Lake alum dosings to support the Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake TMDL Task force. This Agreement has an option to extend the work by Aquatechnex for two additional years for CYs 2025 and 2026.

   Following brief discussion, a motion was put forward by Lynn Merrill representing the City of San Jacinto and seconded by Cynthia Gabaldon representing the City of Perris to direct LESJWA staff to exercise the option to extend the Agreement for Services with Aquatechnex in one year increments. This request to proceed in one year increments provides for the opportunity for the Task Force to consider alternative treatment (such as lanthanum based compounds) for the second year.

   MOVED to approve LESJWA staff to extend Agreement with Aquatechnex in one year increments. At this time LESJWA staff will extend the agreement for CT 2025 to provide for two semi-annual Canyon Lake alum dosings to support the Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake TMDL Task force.

Mr. Whetsel next informed the Task Force that the Agreement for Services with WSPUSA is scheduled to expire end on June 30, 2025 and with that being said the Task Force will proceed to issue a request for proposals (RFP) to bring on-board a consultant to oversee and implement the TMDL compliance monitoring in FY 2025-26. Due to the scheduling of the Regional Board Adoption Hearing for the revised LE&CL TMDLs in December 2024, he suggested that the Task Force hold off on issuing the RFP until after the outcome of the Adoption Hearing has been determined.

Additionally, LESJWA staff was informed by WSPUSA that key LE&CL TMDL Compliance Monitoring program staff will be leaving WSPUSA and taking new positions with GEI Consultants. Due to the professional expertise and working knowledge of these key individuals on the LE&CL TMDL compliance monitoring

program, the Task Force requested that LESJWA staff contact WSPUSA to arrange for the staff to be retained, through a sub-contract wit GEI Consultants, as part of the LE&CL TMDL Compliance Monitoring program team.

Other Business
No Other Business was discussed.

Schedule Next Meeting
The next LE/CL TMDL Task Force meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 30, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Adjourn
The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Table Summary of Agreements and Actions

Date of Action/Agreement	Action/Agreement	Responsible Entities Reaching Agreement
September 28, 2021	• Approve funding in the amount of up to $30,000 to CDM Smith to assist Task Force technical issues, including but not limited to, initial discussions regarding content and scope of TMDL Implementation Plan revisions should the Task Force decide to provide resources for further revising the 2018 draft TMDL.	Voting Task Force members.
November 3, 2021	• Approve moving forward with the proposed step-wise approach to updating the TMDL Technical Report and its timeline.	Voting Task Force members
January 10, 2022	-	-
March 2, 2022	• The Task Force agreed to submit a comment letter to the Draft Staff Working Proposal for MS4 Permit by March 18, 2022. Regional Board confirmed that they would accept the comments past their soft deadline of March 10. • Approved the alum application to the Canyon Lake if the February monitoring data exceeds 0.09.	Voting Task Force members
April 20, 2022	• Approved execution of the Key Principles for Technical TMDL Revision by Mark, Norton Task Force Administrator on behalf of the voting members of the task force subject to revisions discussed at the 4/20/2022 task force meeting. • Approved submittal of the Task Force Comment letter to Regional Board on the Staff Working Proposal for the MS4 Permit upon revision discussed at the 4/20/2022 task force meeting. Regional Board abstained from action and conversation of this matter. • Approved amendment #3 to extend the LE/CL TMDL Task Force Agreement for a period of three years to June 30, 2025, with the option that the Agreement, while still in full force and effect, may be extended an additional two years, to June 30, 2027, by means of Administrative Action by the Task Force Administrator	Voting Task Force members; Excludes Regional Board in relation to the Comment Letter to Regional Board on the Staff Working Proposal for the MS4 Permit.
June 27, 2022	-	-
August 17, 2022	• Approved execution of the Key Principles for Technical TMDL Revision by Mark Norton, Task Force Administrator on behalf of the voting members of the LE&CL TMDL Task Force. • Approved a proposal by CDM Smith and a recommendation to the LESJWA Board to authorize a Task Order to update and revise the technical document and additional TMDL technical support services.	Mark Norton, Task Force Administrator on behalf of the voting members of the LE&CL TMDL Task Force
September 27, 2022	-	-
November 14, 2022	• Transfer the remaining balance of the contract work supported by Steven Wolosoff as of December 31, 2022 from CDM Smith and enter into an agreement with GEI Consultants to complete work starting on January 1 2023. • Exercise an option for a two year extension with WSP USA to oversee and implement TMDL Compliance Monitoring. Program.	Voting Task Force members
January 10, 2023	-	-
February 15, 2023	• The Task Force moved to provide LESJWA staff in coordination with the Task Force consulting team the authority to make a determination on the need for a Spring 2023 alum application based upon review of the February 2023 Canyon Lake monitoring results to be provided by WSP USA.	Voting Task Force members.
March 28, 2023	-	-
April 25, 2023	-	-
June 5, 2023	• Task Force approved LESJWA staff to rework the nutrient offset credits based solely on the need for total phosphorus offset credits and to invoice stakeholders for only 2022 TP offset credits. All	Voting Task Force members.

	remaining funds are to be applied to stakeholders 2023 LEAMS budget allocation.	
August 7, 2023	• Task Force approved for LESJWA staff to prepare a Change Order for WSPUSA for an amount not to exceed $10,330 to perform two additional Lake Elsinore in-lake monitoring events, one each in November and December 2023 using funds available from the LE&CL TMDL Task Force reserve.	Voting Task Force members.
August 27 2024	• Task Force approved LESJWA staff to extend Agreement for Services with Tess Dunham, Kahn, Soares & Conway to serve as Regulatory Compliance Expert for the Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake TMDL Task Force for two additional years for FYEs 2026 and 2027. • Task Force approved LESJWA staff to extend Agreement with Aquatechnex in one-year increments. At this time LESJWA staff will extend the agreement for CT 2025 to provide for two semi-annual Canyon Lake alum dosings to support the Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake TMDL Task force.	Voting Task Force members.

LESJWA BOARD MEMORANDUM NO. 2024.5

DATE: October 17, 2024

TO: LESJWA Board of Directors

SUBJECT: Canyon Lake Alum Treatment Program – Aquatechnex, LLC

PRESENTED BY: Rick Whetsel, Senior Watershed Manager

RECOMMENDATION

Staff and the Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake Nutrient Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Task Force recommend that the Board of Directors authorize the following:

1. General Services Agreement with Aquatechnex, LLC; and,

2. Change Order and exercise the first of two (2) one-year options to extend the term of the Aquatechnex agreement, Task Order No. AQUA160-04 for an amount not-to-exceed $305,675 per year, to oversee and implement the 2025 calendar year Canyon Lake Alum Treatment Program.

DISCUSSION

On February 17, 2022, in response to a request for proposals issued in October 2021, the LESJWA Board approved the selection of Aquatechnex to oversee and implement the Canyon Lake Alum Treatment Program.

This request for proposals was issued to eight qualified firms in the western states and posted on the LESJWA, as well as SAWPA's website. The Request for Proposals stipulated under the Term of Agreement, "a three-year agreement with the option to exercise two additional one-year extensions." Two firms responded to the proposal, Arch Chemicals dba Marine Biochemists and AquaTechnex, LLC. A review of the two proposals was undertaken by the LE&CL TMDL Task Force, which provide the funding for the task force activities. Based upon the consultants' approach to the tasks, technical expertise, responsiveness and costs to conduct the work laid out in their proposals, the committee recommended that the AquaTechnex proposal be selected, and LESJWA executed a contract with AquaTechnex under the terms described above.

In review of the work performance over the past three years of AquaTechnex, the Task Force was supportive of extending the alum support services for an additional year and will consider the 2nd year. The attached Task Order with AquaTechnex provides support services to oversee and implement the Canyon Lake Alum Treatment Program for one additional year (2025-2026). Included with this Task Order is a scope of work and budget providing a detailed description of support services to be performed by the consultant, as highlighted below:

- Coordinate with the LE&CL TMDL Task Force to develop treatment plans for up to two application events per year.
- Secure and receive specified gallons for application
- Apply specified gallons to Main Lake, North Causeway, and East bay of Canyon Lake
- Prepare a final treatment report

BACKGROUND

In August 2013, LESJWA, working on behalf of stakeholders of the Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake TMDL Task Force initiated Phase 1 of a program to apply alum to treat the lake by removing nutrients (namely phosphorus) that contribute to algal blooms. This included approval by the LESJWA Board of a Task Order with Aquatechnex to conduct five Treatments of alum to Canyon Lake from Sept. 2013- May 2016.

Phase 1 of this program, funded in part by a California Department of Water Resources Proposition 84 grant, continued through September 2016 and entailed seven semi-annual Treatments to Canyon Lake. Preliminary analysis of the results of these alum Treatments (September 2013 through May 2016) included in the Compliance Assessment with the 2015 Interim Response Targets for LE/CL TMDL submitted to the Regional Board on June 30, 2016, show that phosphorus concentrations are consistently at or below 0.1 mg/L - a final TMDL target the stakeholders are not required to meet until 2020.

In December 2016, LESJWA, working on behalf of stakeholders of the Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake TMDL Task Force authorized Aquatechnex to extend the Canyon lake Alum Treatment Program through a three-year agreement with the option to exercise two additional one-year extensions.

In February 2022, LESJWA, working on behalf of stakeholders of the Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake TMDL Task Force once again authorized Aquatechnex to extend the Canyon Lake Alum Treatment Program through a three-year agreement with the option to exercise two additional one-year extensions.

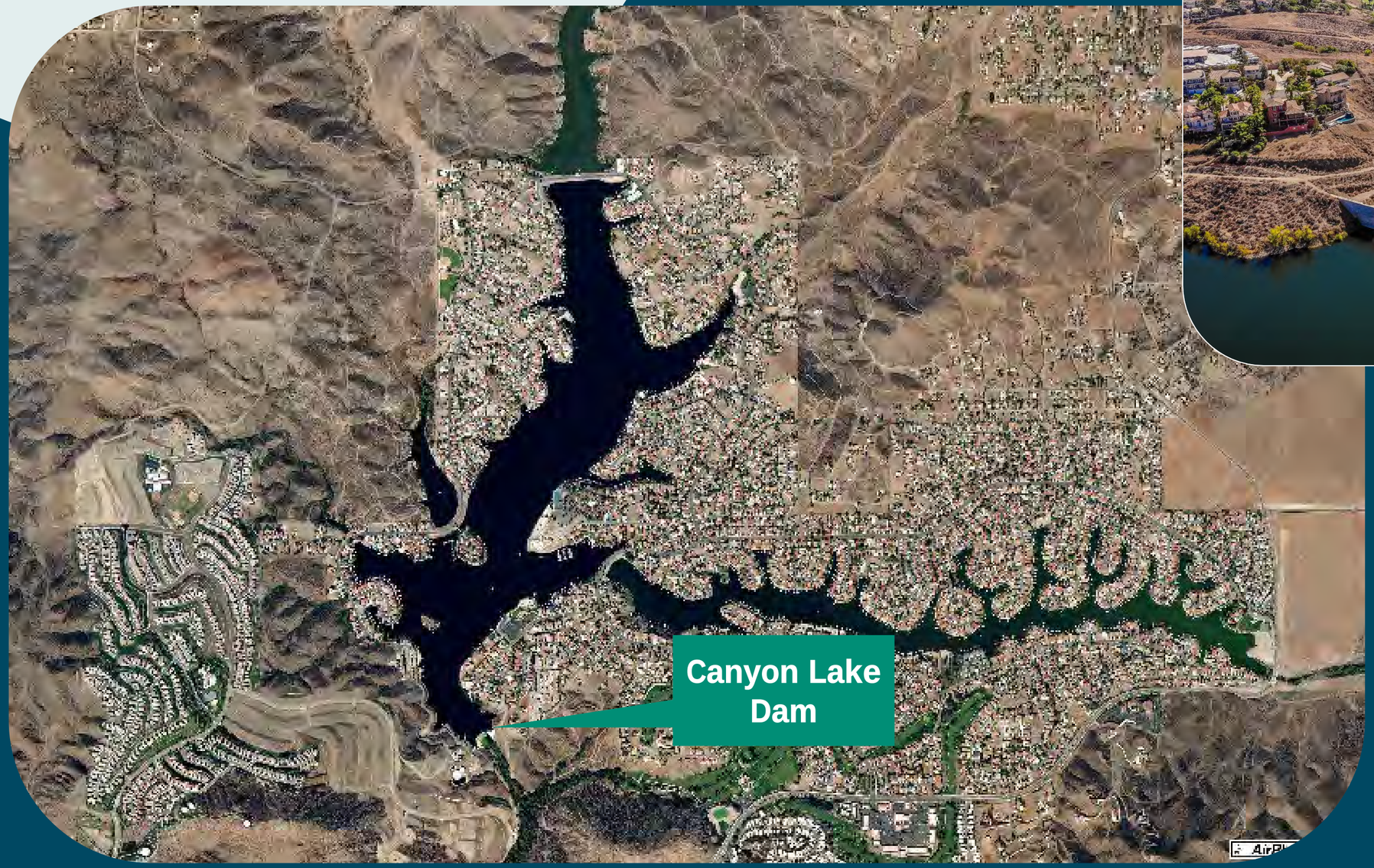
BUDGET IMPACT
The TMDL Task Force FY 2024-25 and 2025-26 Budgets will provide sufficient funds to conduct the Canyon Lake Alum Treatment Program. All staff contract administration time for this contract will be taken from the TMDL budget and funded by the TMDL Stakeholders.

Attachments:
1. PowerPoint Presentation
2. Change Order to Task Order No. AQUA160-04
3. Canyon Lake Alum Treatment Proposal 2025-26
4. Task Order No. AQUA160-04 with Original Proposal

Canyon Lake Alum Treatment Aquatechnex Agreement for Services

Rick Whetsel, Senior Watershed Manager
LESJWA Board Meeting
October 17, 2024

Canyon Lake

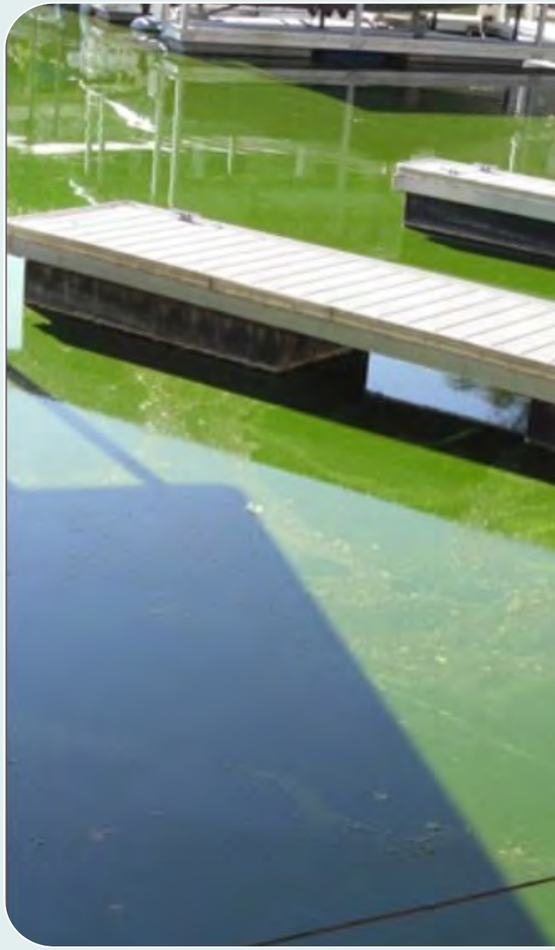


Canyon Lake

- 383 acres
- 13.8 miles of shoreline
- 3 main beaches
- Jump Lagoon water ski ramp
- 3-mile championship water ski course (wakeboard, sky ski)
- 2 marinas and 10 common dock areas
- Concrete dam 80 feet high, 510 feet wide (1929)
- Drinking Water Reservoir
- Owned by Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District

CANYON LAKE: Challenges

- Storm water runoff carries high levels of nutrients including nitrogen and phosphorus
- Nutrients impact water quality and threatens the fishery health



Canyon Lake Alum Treatment Project Background

2011-2012 - Dr. Michael Anderson conducts studies showing the application of alum to be an effective strategy to address excess phosphorus in Canyon Lake.

July 2012 - LESJWA, on behalf of the Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake TMDL Task Force submitted proposal to DWR through the Proposition 84 Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) grant Program for funding for a Canyon Lake Hybrid Treatment Project.

May 2013 - LE&CL TMDL Task Force completes alum toxicity testing of canyon Lake Water to demonstrate assimilative capacity.

June 2013 - City of Canyon Lake approved CEQA.

- LESJWA serves as responsible agency to contract, coordinate and oversee the implementation of future alum applications.
- EVWMD agreed to provide staff to conduct on-site application inspection.

June 2013 - LESJWA, on behalf of the Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake TMDL Task Force contracts with Aquatechnex to conduct bi-annual alum applications to Canyon Lake.

September 2013 - Aquatechnex successfully completes first Alum Application to Canyon Lake

October 2014 - LESJWA awarded $500,000 in grant funding by DWR to implement the Canyon Lake Hybrid Treatment Project.

December 2015 - City of Canyon Lake City Council, approved CEQA amendment to allow, but not require, additional alum applications for the next 10 years.

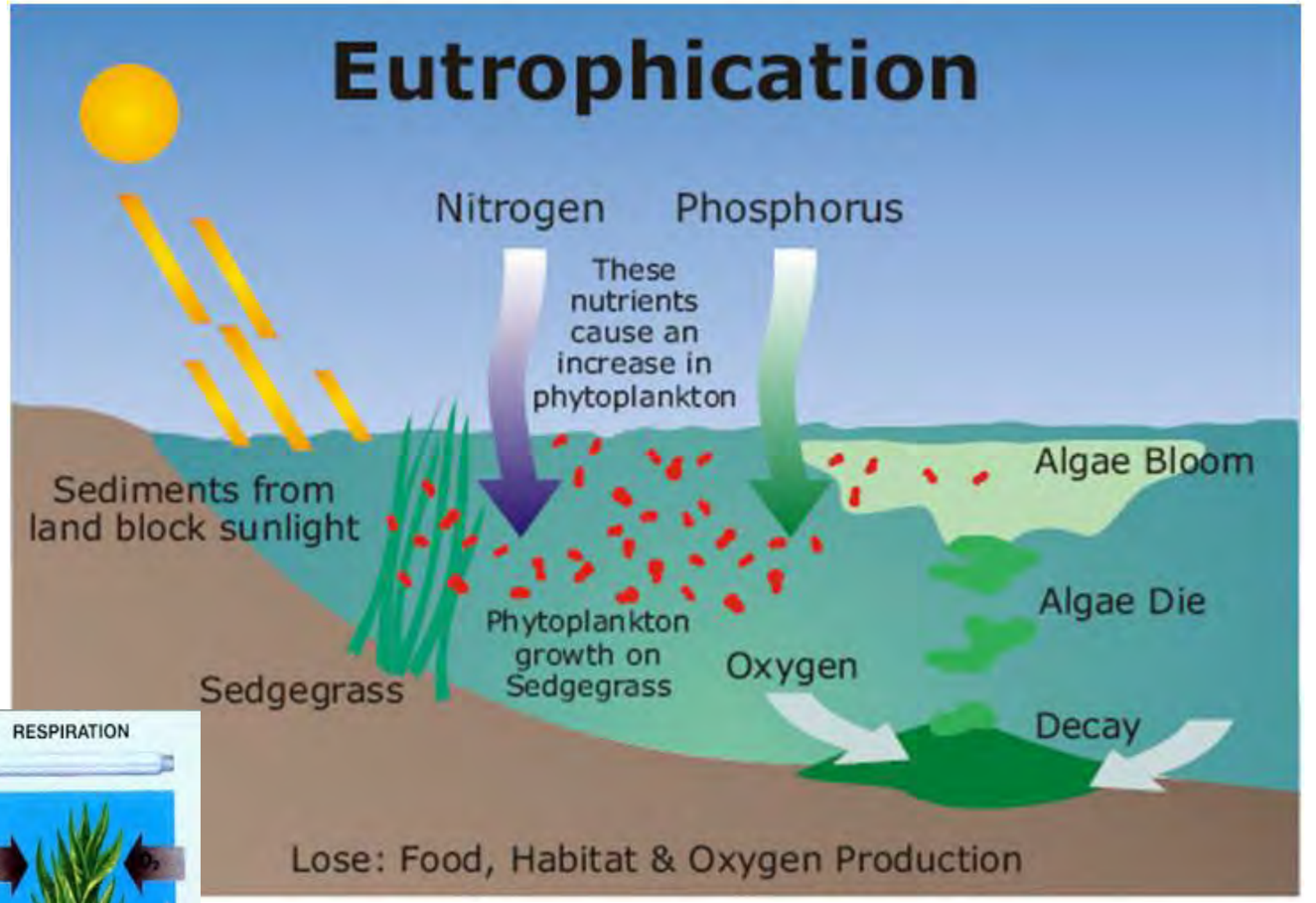
2013-2024 - LESJWA, on behalf of the Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake TMDL Task Force successfully completed a total of 21 alum Applications to Canyon Lake.

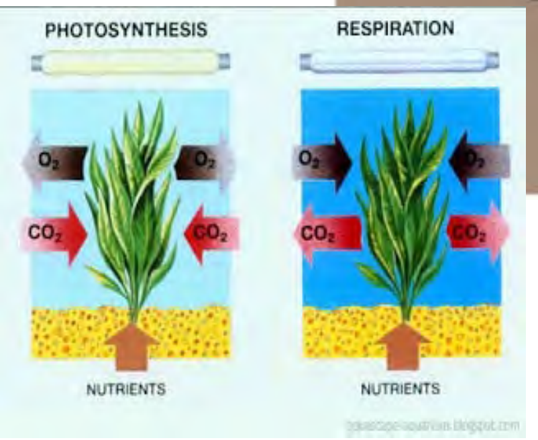
Canyon Lake Alum Treatment Project Process

Goal: Reduce Phosphorus in water column and on lake bottom preventing resuspension.

- Alum Applications Conducted bi-annually
  - Spring Application (March – April)*
    - Alum applied approximately 60,000 gal.
    - Total Phosphorus removed 980 kg
    - Estimated Cost Alum $ 960,570
    - Labor Cost $32,125
  - Fall Application (September – October)
    - Alum applied approximately 90,000 gal.
    - Total Phosphorus removed 1,470 kg
    - Estimated Cost Alum $ 144,855
    - Labor Cost $32,125

* Spring Alum application contingent on in-lake water quality


Eutrophication
Nitrogen
Phosphorus
These nutrients cause an increase in phytoplankton
Sediments from land block sunlight
Algae Bloom
Algae Die
Phytoplankton growth on Sedgegrass
Oxygen
Sedgegrass
Decay
Lose: Food, Habitat & Oxygen Production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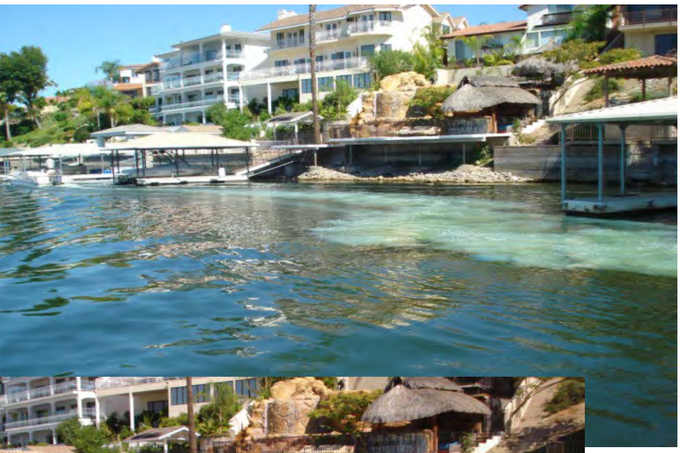
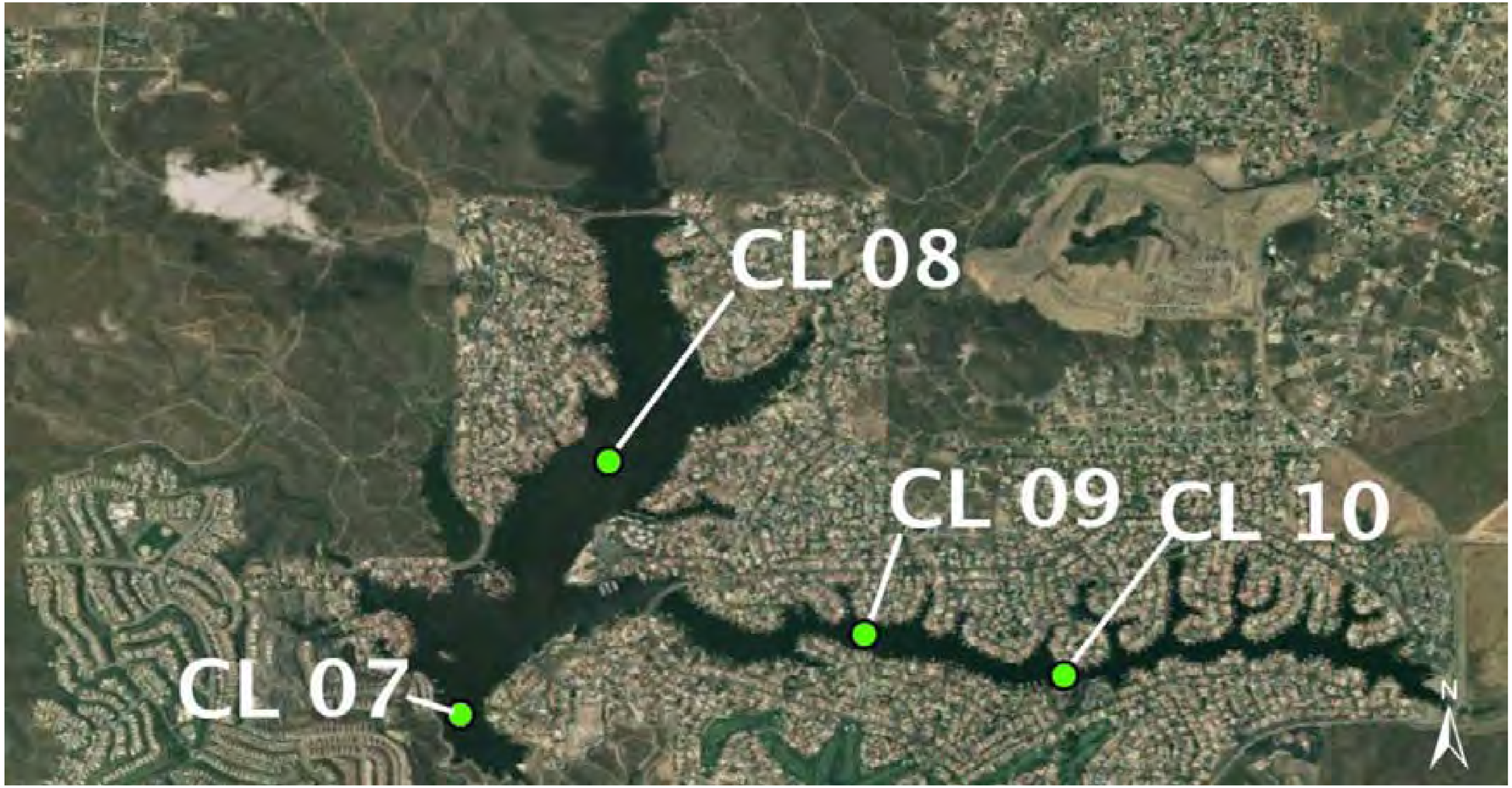
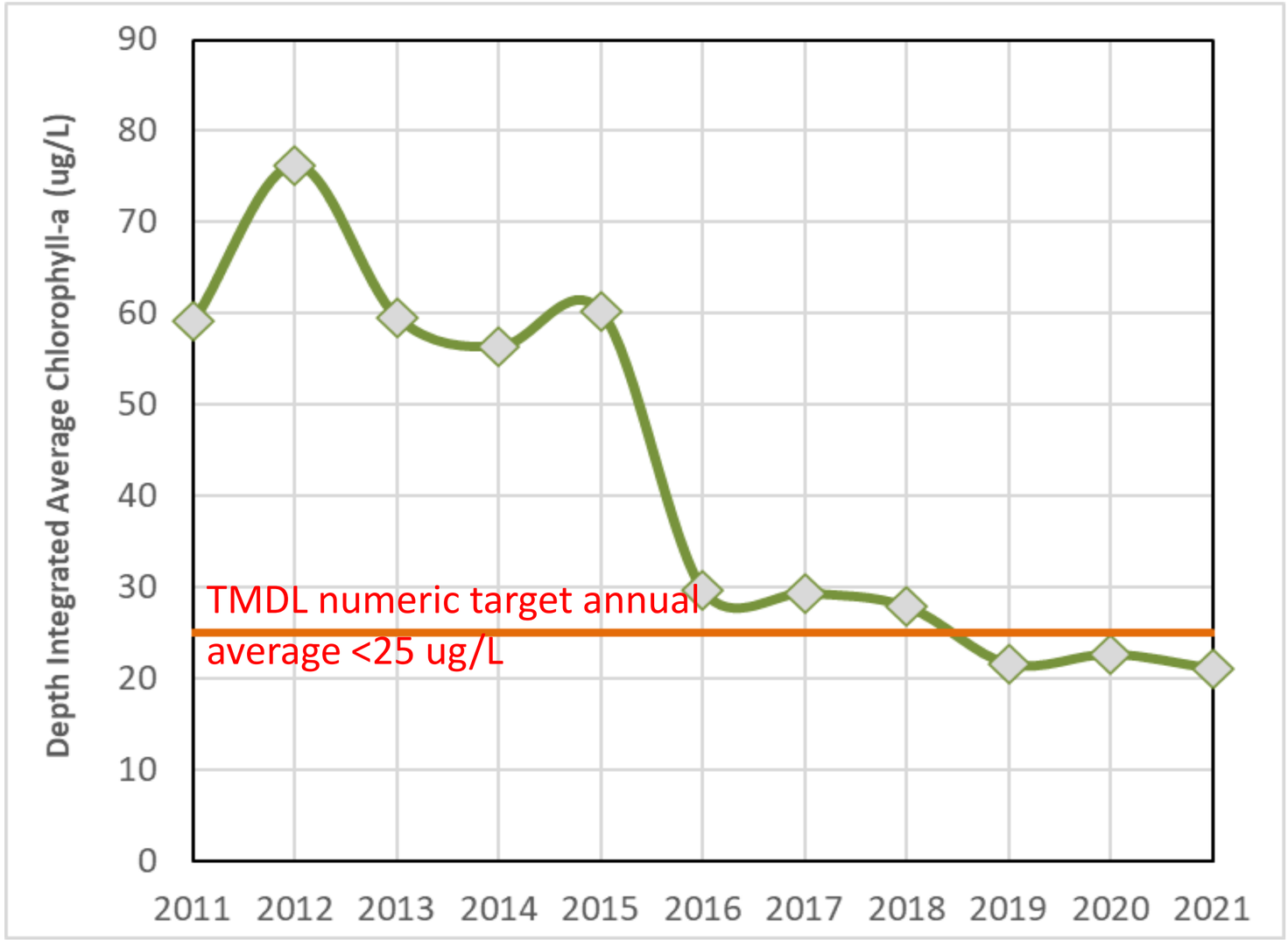


Canyon Lake Alum Treatment Project Water Quality Monitoring



Effectiveness of Alum Applications

- Routine, low-dose, alum additions in Canyon Lake
- Improved water quality that is meeting 2004 TMDL numeric targets for algae



Benefits

- **Improves Water Clarity**: Alum binds with phosphorus and other particles in the water, forming a floc that sinks to the bottom. This process significantly enhances water clarity.
- **Reduces Algal Blooms**: By trapping excess nutrients, alum helps prevent the growth of harmful algal blooms, which can be toxic to aquatic life and humans.
- **Supports Aquatic Plant Growth**: Improved water clarity allows sunlight to penetrate deeper, promoting the growth of beneficial aquatic plants. These plants contribute to oxygen production, sediment stabilization, and provide habitat for fish and invertebrates.
- **Long-Lasting Effects**: The benefits of alum treatments can last for many years, sometimes up to 20 years, depending on the lake's conditions.
- **Enhances Recreational Use**: Cleaner, clearer water makes lakes more enjoyable for recreational activities like swimming, boating, and fishing.

Recommendation

The Lake Elsinore & Canyon Lake Nutrient TMDL Task Force and LESJWA staff recommend that the Board of Directors:

1) General Services Agreement with Aquatechnex, LLC; and,

2) Change Order and exercise the first of two (2) one-year options to extend the term of the Aquatechnex agreement, Task Order No. AQUA160-04 for an amount not-to-exceed $305,675 per year, to oversee and implement the 2025 calendar year Canyon Lake Alum Treatment Program.

Questions

LAKE ELSINORE & SAN JACINTO WATERSHEDS AUTHORITY
CHANGE ORDER NO. 1
TO TASK ORDER NO. AQUA160-04

CONSULTANT: AquaTechnex, LLC
P.O. Box 30824
Bellingham, WA 98228

VENDOR NO.: 1727

PROJECT: Canyon Lake Alum Treatment Project

COST: $305,675.00

REQUESTED BY: Rick Whetsel, Senior Watershed Manager October 17, 2024

FINANCE: _____
Karen Williams, Deputy GM/CFO Date

FINANCING SOURCE: Acct. Coding: 160TMDL-6113-01
Acct. Description: General Consulting

BOARD AUTHORIZATION REQUIRED FOR THIS CHANGE: YES (X) NO ( )
Authorization: October 17, 2024; LES#2024.5

The consultant is hereby directed to provide the work necessary to comply with this change order.

DESCRIPTION / JUSTIFICATION OF CHANGE: The purpose of this change order is for the consultant to conduct two (2) semi-annual Canyon Lake alum dosings for the Spring and Fall of 2025 at a cost of $305,675.00. See scope of work attached.

CHANGE IN CONTRACT TIME: December 31, 2025

CHANGE IN TASK ORDER PRICE:

Original Task Order Amount:	$	689,800.00
Change Order No. 1 Amount:	$	305,675.00
Amended Contract Total:	$	995,475.00

ACCEPTANCE:
Consultant accepts the terms and conditions stated above as full and final settlement of any claims arising from or related to this Change Order. Consultant agrees to perform the above-described work in accordance with the terms and in compliance with applicable sections of the Consultant Specifications. This Change Order is hereby agreed to, accepted and approved, all in accordance with the General Provisions of the Consultant Specifications.

LAKE ELSINORE & SAN JACINTO WATERSHEDS AUTHORITY

_____
Jeffrey J. Mosher, General Manager Date

AQUATECHNEX, LLC

_____ _____
(Signature) Date Type/Print Name and Title

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Proposed scope of work

Our first step would be to organize meetings with the key agency staff responsible for managing our contract and operations. While we have worked with LESJWA for several years through the Bluewater Satellite and initial Canyon Lake Alum Treatment program, this is still a key step at start up.

Our team would perform a pre application planning process. This planning process identifies and clarifies the goals of the project, analyzes all threats to effective completion of the mission and allows for planning to mitigate for them, identifies all resources necessary to complete the mission, reviews lessons learned from previous experiences with respect to this mission, build the operation plan and task list and plans for contingencies. This process is very effective and ensures all aspects of the mission are defined, assigned and potential obstacles to completion are identified and solved. As we have performed this work for several years, we use the Debriefing methods they define at the end of each treatment to document what worked well, what challenges we faced and develop solutions for any problems that develop for consideration in the next application.

Our team would develop a safety plan that addresses the needs of this project. This would consider the requirements of the Canyon Lake Property Owners Association, material handling safety, spill prevention and equipment to mitigate spill, local resources for medical and emergency support and all other components necessary to complete this project with safety for the HOA residents, the environment and our team of applicators. The project work we have performed to date have been very effective and we would incorporate the lessons learned in this effort.

Alum treatments on the water need to be calibrated for water depth, speed of the application vessel, swath width and several other factors. We utilize ArcGIS to develop treatment map shapefiles, these files are uploaded into RAVEN Cruzier II precision application guidance systems on our treatment vessels. These systems display the treatment paths the vessel should track to, the flow rate of of Alum based on water volume under the boat, record acres treated and display steering information to the vessel operator to ensure complete coverage and overlap of the treatment paths. This programing is performed, examined, made part of the operational plan, and uploaded to the treatment boat guidance systems.

RAVEN Precision Application Management Systems are used on all of our application equipment to help insure complete coverage on the water and dosing based on water volume under the boat

Our next step would be to mobilize equipment to the lake and stage it for alum application. We would also purchase and schedule delivery of Alum to the project site. We work Eco-Services as the primary supplier of Alum. We feel they are the best provider of water treatment plant grade Alum in Southern California. They do an excellent job of supporting lake treatment operations in

terms of on time delivery and scheduling of tank trucks. Their drivers to an excellent job of working around urban lakes, the tight spaces that they have to access to get to the water and staging deliver to our treatment vessels. We have found that using the right mix of application vessels, we do not have to stage storage tanks that increase the project footprint on Canyon Lake POA property. This approach also means we only have to move the alum once, from Truck to boat instead of from Truck to tank to boat and that lowers the probability of a spill event dramatically.

The key to getting Alum into the lake at this volume rapidly and with minimal disruption to lake users is staging the shore side operations strategically around the lake margins. The POA has provided access to a number of locations where park facilities would allow a truck to nurse our treatment vessels. Our plan would be to operate from the sites we have effectively used in the past five applications.

We would operate two to three treatment vessels on the lake to perform this work. The primary work will be performed using 30 foot Chinook Treatment Barge with a 150 hp engine. A second boat would be a 18 foot system with 700 gallon capacity that can support both open water and cove treatments. A third boat (if necessary) would be equipped with a handling tank for Alum and a hose application system that can discharge material up to 60 feet from the boat. This system with trained operators can place alum throughout the fingers on this lake in and around tight spaces such as boat docks and moored vessels. All of these boats will be equipped with GPS/GIS precision guidance systems.

We have a fleet of application vessels for larger open water application of alum. These two vessels can move 8,000 pounds on the water, perform precision application and move back quickly to the access site to reload. We can process on tank truck of alum in approximately two-three hours under most conditions.

Each of our boats are equipped with InSitu SmarTroll multi parameter water quality monitoring probes and software. This equipment can be used to measure real time key parameters such as pH and dissolved oxygen and collect profiles. It is assumed that the Agency may also be involved in monitoring these parameters, we can support that effort and keep track of this data real time as we apply Alum.

The Precision Application equipment we utilize generates reports that document treatment tracks, volume applied, and acres treated. This information will be downloaded each day and used to

develop a final report. It can also be make available to the contract administrator at any point during the project mission.

Fanjet application technology allows us to apply Aluminum Sulfate across a 40 foot swath per pass to effectively speed up application on the water and reduce the time necessary to be onsite while obtaining excellent coverage.

Aquatechnex biologists applying Aluminum Sulfate with a system that allows for working in tight spaces such as the fingers on the East Arm.

This system with a good operator can reach inside and between dock slips and around moored boats very effectively and this will be key in areas where these conditions occur. A traditional boom injection system cannot maneuver in tight spaces and evenly apply Alum or other products.

We work doing applications around high value watercraft every day and are extremely experienced with both accurate application and no impacts to those vessels.

The last step at the lake would be to bring the sites used back to pretreatment conditions. The team would attempt to ensure that no impact to facilities provided by the POA would be affected. The management team would conduct a detailed survey of conditions prior to use and post treatment, anything of concern would then be addressed.

Our team would then demobilize from the lake and be available for the next scheduled treatment in the contracted mission.

We would develop a final report that documented all operations, any observations or lessons learned that would help future treatments on this lake and deliver that to the Agency. We would also be available to meet with the agency at any point there is a need or concern. We are also available to participate in presentations to the public as the Agency deems our support in that role helpful.

Detailed Project Schedule

The exact dates for application are not known, however we can provide the following as a detailed project schedule.

Task	Schedule
Preliminary meeting with Agency	Within two weeks of contract award Agency staff schedule permitting
Development of treatment and safety plans	Within four weeks of contract award
Mobilization for February (Spring) Treatment	Once dates of proposed treatment are provided to our team, we can mobilize within one week.
Treatment in Spring each year of contract period	Our team would perform this treatment within a one-week period including mobilization and demob from the Lake with the specified alum volume
Demobilize from Spring treatment	We can be demobilized from the site within 24 hours of completion of treatment.
Report to LESJWA as necessary	We can generate and deliver the final report within two weeks of treatment completion
Mobilize for September Treatments	Within one week of notice to proceed
Treatment in September each year of contract period	Our team would perform this treatment within a one week period including mobilization and demob from the lake with the specified alum volume.
Demobilization	We can be clear of this site within 24 hours of treatment completion
Report to LESJWA as necessary	Within 2 weeks of treatment completion
Other communications or meeting	We can generally accommodate necessary meeting as attendance is requested within 2-4 days.

Fee Proposal

Based on the scope of work and the specified amounts of Alum to be applied to the lake our fee proposal would be as follows.

Task	Unit Costs	Estimated Total Cost
Task 1, preliminary meeting	Time and materials	$500.00
Task 2, develop treatment plan for both Fall and Spring application events	Time and materials	$500.00
Task 3, Safety Planning	Time and Materials	$0.00
Task 4, GIS mapping and Application System Programing	Time and materials	$500.00
Task 5a, mobilize for Spring (February) treatment	Time and materials	$1,000.00
Task 5b, secure and receive specified gallons for application	Alum pricing	$1.48 per gallon to account for increased transport costs
Task 5c apply specified gallons to Main Lake, North Arm, East Arm	Lump sum	$29,500.00
Task 5d, demobilize from Canyon lake	Time and materials	$500.00
Task 6a, mobilize for September treatment	Time and materials	$1,000.00
Task 6b, secure and deliver specified gallons of alum	Alum Pricing	$1.48 per gallon
Task 6c apply specified gallons alum	Lump sum	$29.500.00
Task 6d, demobilize from Canyon Lake	Time and materials	$500.00
Final Report and meetings	Time and materials	$750.00
Other tasks as necessary	Time and materials	
Estimated Total per year		
	Alum is a commodity and pricing may be variable over the years of this contract. If there is a significant increase in costs we will communicate this to LESJWA and request consideration. Pricing remained stable over the previous contract period	

Hourly Billing Rates

The following hourly billing rates are generally used by Aquatechnex to support our work

Position	Hourly Rate
Senior Scientist	$120.00
Project Manager	$95.00
GIS Specialist	$75.00
Licensed Applicator	$75.00
Support Staff	$65.00

Thank you for your consideration, if questions develop please contact Terry McNabb (tmcnabb@aquatechnex.com) or Ian Cormican (cody@aquatechnex.com)

Aquatechnex biologists applying Alum on Canyon Lake

LAKE ELSINORE & SAN JACINTO WATERSHEDS AUTHORITY
TASK ORDER NO. AQUA160-04

CONSULTANT: AquaTechnex, LLC
P.O. Box 30824
Bellingham, WA 98228

VENDOR NO.: 1727

COST: **$689,800.00**

PAYMENT: Upon Receipt of Proper Invoice

REQUESTED BY: Mark Norton, Authority Administrator February 17, 2022

FINANCE: DocuSigned by: Karen Williams CAB613DE28264TC... 2/22/2022
Karen Williams, Deputy GM/CFO Date

FINANCING SOURCE: Acct. Coding 160-TMDL-6113-01
Acct. Description General Consulting

BOARD AUTHORIZATION REQUIRED: YES (X) NO ( )
Authorization: February 17, 2022; LES#2022.04

This Task Order is issued upon approval and acceptance by the Lake Elsinore & San Jacinto Watersheds Authority (LESJWA) and AquaTechnex, LLC (Consultant) pursuant to the Agreement for Services between LESJWA and Consultant, entered into on February 17, 2022, expiring December 31, 2025.

I. PROJECT NAME OR DESCRIPTION
Canyon Lake Alum Treatment Project 2022-24

II. SCOPE OF WORK / TASKS TO BE PERFORMED
Consultant shall provide all labor, materials and equipment for the Project to conduct up to two (2) semi-annual Canyon Lake alum dosigns to be scheduled for the Spring and Fall, based upon an evaluation on in-lake water quality. In addition, the work includes an option to continue two (2) additional years (four additional application events). See proposal attached.

III. PERFORMANCE TIME FRAME
Consultant shall begin work February 17, 2022 and shall complete performance of such services by or before **December 31, 2024.**

IV. LESJWA LIAISON
Rick Whetsel and/or Mark Norton will serve as liaison between LESJWA and Consultant.

V. COMPENSATION
For all services rendered by Consultant pursuant to this Task Order, Consultant shall receive a total not-to-exceed sum of **$689,800.00**. Payment for such services shall be made within 30 days upon receipt of proper and timely invoices from Consultant, as required by the above-mentioned Agreement. Each such invoice shall be provided to LESJWA by Consultant within 15 days after the end of the month in which the services were performed.

VI. CONTRACT DOCUMENTS PRECEDENCE

In the event of a conflict in terms between and among the contract documents herein, the document item highest in precedence shall control. The precedence shall be:

a. The Agreement for Services by Independent Consultant/Contractor.
b. The Task Order or Orders issued pursuant to the Agreement, in numerical order.
c. Exhibits attached to each Task Order, which may describe, among other things, the Scope of Work and compensation therefore.
d. Specifications incorporated by reference.
e. Drawings incorporated by reference.

In witness whereof, the parties have executed this Task Order on the date indicated below.

LAKE ELSINORE & SAN JACINTO WATERSHEDS AUTHORITY

DocuSigned by:
Dale Welty 2/23/2022
E74B6871E602441...
Dale Welty, Chair Date

AQUATECHNEX, LLC

DocuSigned by:
Terry McNabb 2/24/2022
7851FE12E25C4EC...
(Signature) Date

Terry McNabb
Print/Type Name and Title

AquaTechnex

Proposal for Continuation of Canyon Lake Alum Treatment Program

Lake Elsinore and San Jacinto Watersheds Authority

AquaTechnex, LLC

www.aquatechnex.com

HEADQUARTERS
Bellingham, WA 98228
Local Offices
Lynnwood, WA
Centralia, WA
Spokane Valley, WA
Pleasant Hill, CA
Missoula, MT
Palm Desert, CA
Boise, ID
Santa Ana, CA

December 1, 2021

Mark Norton
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority
11615 Sterling Avenue
Riverside, CA 92503-4979

Dear Mark,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our proposal for the Canyon Lake Alum Treatment Project. It's been an excellent experience to be part of this program to this point and we hope we can continue to support your project. Our contact information is presented here.

Our headquarters is Aquatechnex, LLC, PO Box 30824 Bellingham, WA, 98228, 360-527-1271. Our regional office is Aquatechnex, LLC, 2025 S Lyons, Santa Ana, CA 92705, 760-272-5842. I will be the project manager for this mission should we be selected to perform this work, my contact information is cell phone 360-201-2612 and email tmcnabb@aquatechnex.com. Cody Appling, our regional manager will also be involved in managing staff, his contact information is 760-272-5842 and email cody@aquatechnex.com.

As the only environmental service firm that has performed this work for you, I think we have an excellent understanding of what is required. We have no learning curve. We have excellent suppliers with experience delivering to Canyon Lake. We have demonstrated considerable flexibility in scheduling through the three years we have worked her, facilitated by local staff and equipment staging. We have met your needs at a reasonable cost. I think we are uniquely qualified to continue this important work.

We believe our submittal covers all your requested information. If there are questions about it, we would be happy to answer them.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Terry McNabb, CLM

Manager/Aquatic Biologist/Certified Lake Manager

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Understanding the Project

The Lake Elsinore and San Jacinto Watersheds Authority was formed to help meet water quality guideline for Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lakes. This action driven by TMDL's that were established for both lakes. Canyon Lake is the upstream waterbody that first receives run off from the San Jacinto Watershed and the primary concerns were phosphorus loading to the lake. After considerable study the Watersheds Authority selected the in-lake strategy of sequestering phosphorus through application of Aluminum Sulfate. This work started in 2013 and there have generally been two applications per year in the time since.

Aluminum Sulfate or Alum is one of the primary agents used in lake management to target phosphorus both in the water column and in the accumulated sediments. Alum treatments are done to form a floc that settles through the water column capturing phosphorus available, and lands on the lake sediments where it can form a "cap" and help tie up mobile phosphorus in the sediments.

Aquatechnex biologists have been involved in the management of Canyon Lake using this technology since the start of the program. We have been the successful respondent to the initial Request for Proposals issued by the Authority and the subsequent ones. To date we have successfully made 17 applications following the exact direction in this Request for Proposals.

During those 17 applications we have learned quite a bit. We have built a successful relationship with the Property Owners Association and their Marine Patrol. Their cooperation escorting the delivery tank trucks and managing traffic on the lake have allowed this work to proceed with minimal impact on their community and use of the lake. We have built a successful relationship with the Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District who own the lake. Our biologists have helped them mitigate algae problems around the intake when this water source is used for supply.

We have developed method and equipment to get this job completed rapidly. One of the keys to this has been our use of multiple application vessels equipped with DGPS guidance. Our larger vessels operate on the open waters of the lake, we also have assigned smaller vessels and specialized application systems to work in the narrow fingers of the lake and around boats and docks. Part of getting this volume of Alum into the lake effectively in a few days is our multi boat rotation and just in time alum delivery protocols. We can empty and apply a tank truck in under 2 hours. Companies that utilize one larger treatment vessel must build on site storage for Alum that interferes with the communities use of boat ramps and doubles the chance for spills as the alum must be moved twice, from deliver trucks to tank, and from tanks to the application vessel. We believe our system better fits the needs of this community.

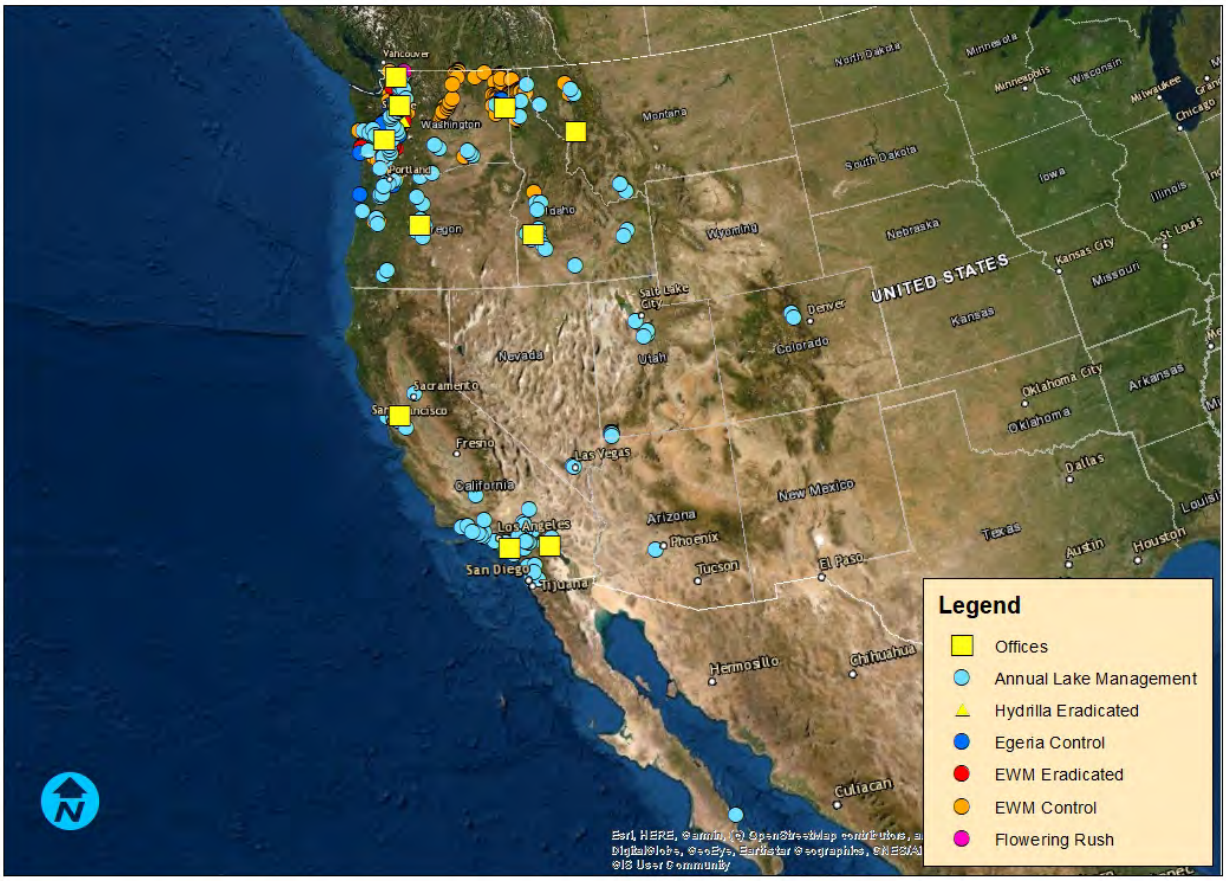
Historically, this project has had to be scheduled and rescheduled based on weather and/or sampling requirements. Often it has had to be delayed by a week or two especially in the spring because of rain events or water temperatures. In a couple of cases the delay was more than a month. Canyon Lake has a large boat storage facility with the property. Since 2013 we have rented storage space for our larger treatment boats at this facility as we don't have room to secure them at our Santa Ana or Palm Desert offices. This means our equipment is at the lake much of the year, minimizing mobilization costs and time and allowing us to be extremely flexible when schedule changes are required. Some competitors must travel large distances and must schedule tightly, and their flexibility is often not possible. We have

experienced several times during the past years where the Authority has asked us to move dates at the last minute and we have been able to comply in all cases to the benefit of the program.

We believe we have an excellent understanding of this project because we have been successfully performing this exact scope of work for almost ten years.

Experience and Qualifications

For over 40 years the biologists at Aquatechnex have been at the forefront of the fight to protect our water resources. Our team pioneered assessment technologies to detect and map threats to our nation's lakes and rivers. We have a recognized expertise in the restoration of aquatic habitats impacted by invasive aquatic species. As phosphorus pollution is increasingly driving toxic algae blooms, our team has the technology to sequester and remove phosphorus from lake and river systems. We support homeowner associations; pond owners and golf course superintendents protect the value of the water on their property. We have the capabilities to analyze, proscribe solutions and implement programs to protect and restore any size water body.



Aquatechnex Major Lake Management and Invasive Aquatic Weed Projects

With over 400 clients in the Western United States, we often encounter situations where phosphorus pollution is driving cyanobacteria blooms. For the past 40 years we have been designing and

implementing programs to target these conditions to protect the beneficial uses of the water. This has included both proactive and reactive treatment strategies.

Reactive strategies involve applying US EPA registered aquatic algaecides to target and reduce problem algae populations. We have helped groups from small golf course pond systems to large potable water reservoir systems target and reduce populations. This can be a very effective way to manage cyanobacteria and maintain low populations of these species. In the past two years Aquatechnex biologists have ben utilizing these technologies on Utah Lake near Provo, UT to provide relief from toxic algae blooms

During the summers of 2020 and 2021 Aquatechnex biologists worked for the Utah Lake Commission and State of Utah to suppress toxic algae blooms throughout high use areas on this 95,000 acre water body

Proactive strategies often provide a much greater benefit to the water body when funding exists to implement this type of program.

There are two technologies that are operationally used to target and sequester phosphorus pollution.

The longest used and probably best understood technology in the United States is the application of Aluminum Sulfate.

Our company is unique in that the father of our principle was a PH.D. limnologist at Michigan State University in the late 1960's and 1970's. During this time frame, the US EPA's Clean Lakes Program was established, and lake restoration studies and operational programs were put into action. The use of Alum as a phosphorus sequestering agent in lakes is a technology that was developed through this program. Two of the first large scale Alum applications made in the United States were performed in this time frame on Skinner Lake, IN and Lake Lansing, MI. Terry McNabb helped support these applications and participated in Michigan State University's sampling and analysis pre and post

treatment for several years while in college. In the 3 decades since, our team has used this technology on a regular basis to help clients restore lake systems that have been impacted with phosphorus.

In 2010, the Orange County (California) Parks Department selected our team as the most qualified respondent to their RFP to manage 15 lakes in 10 Regional Parks. We were again selected in 2014 to work on this contract for the next five-year period. This $650,000.00 annual contract had as a key focus mitigating the impacts of phosphorus pollution and the resulting cyanobacteria blooms that have plagued many of these lakes. In this time frame we discovered Phoslock, a technology developed by the Australian National Science Academy and widely used as an alternative to Alum where water quality conditions impact the effectiveness of floc formation or long term sequestration. We have now used this technology in over 12 lake systems and monitored results and have determined that this is a very effective technology where appropriate as well. We are the only firm in the Western United States that have deployed this technology operationally to this point.

Aquatechnex biologists applying Aluminum Sulfate to capture and precipitate phosphorus to mitigate cyanobacteria blooms

One of the key challenges of alum treatments is the logistics of moving large amount of material through the community and onto the water, then applying the material with the precision required to allow it to function. Over the past three decades, our team has treated hundreds of lakes much larger that Canyon Lake with a wide range of lake and aquatic plant management products. We have an excellent understanding of the logistical planning necessary to maximize our time delivering product into the water column while minimizing. The largest project we have effectively accomplished is the treatment of 5,000 acres of Eurasian Milfoil in Lake Pend Oreille, Idaho. This project involved managing the precision application of a number of EPA registered aquatic herbicides across 100 plus miles of shoreline in this 120,000-acre lake system on this $1.8 million USD Project. We have a mix of transport boats, large liquid volume capacity treatment boats that can carry a consider amount of product but are fast empty so they can turn around quickly. We also have several systems to apply this material in tight spaces such as the fingers. Our eductor application systems can treat in and around docks and moored vessels effectively without overspray. Most alum application companies are only set up to target open water areas, we work around tight treatment sites like your East Arm regularly.

Our team has repeatedly demonstrated our capabilities in this area. In May of this year, we completed a 50 metric ton Phoslock application to a lake system in Orange County in 3 days. This week (November 14, 2016) we are applying 55,000 gallons (14 Tank Trucks) of Alum to 900 Lake Stevens in Washington State in three days. We have the experience necessary to plan and implement these projects.

Aquatechnex biologists staging and transfer Aluminum Sulfate in a situation similar to that required on Canyon Lake. We have set up flagging and an interface with the public, informational signage and staged safety and spill equipment. We also have set up containment under the truck transfer point. Our water quality monitoring team is also mobilized at this location with support boats.

Our team is also very familiar with Canyon Lake and the issues present there. We have worked under contact with your agency to deliver the BlueWater Satellite Study that assessed chlorophyll a levels in Canyon and Elsinore Lakes over the previous decades. This included presentations to LE&SJWA on these technologies, contracting with the Agency and successful delivery of this study.

Our experience performing this same contract effort over the past three years gives us a level of experience that is not available elsewhere. We know exactly what it takes to move alum effectively into the community and onto the water without disrupting the community. We know the exact equipment mix that is necessary to effectively target both the open water areas of the lake and the narrow bays and coves. We have an excellent working relationship with the Canyon Lake Property Owners Association and their marine patrol, we won't have to learn their concerns. We have experience presenting to the local community and from these past meetings understand their concerns, we have effectively addressed them in the past. We have demonstrated the capacity to deal with unexpected conditions that might arise.

We now have two offices located within a short drive from Canyon Lake. Our Santa Ana office is staffed by two senior scientists with extensive experience in nutrient reduction applications along with boats and support staff. Our Palm Desert office is similarly staffed and equipped. We have the capability to bring additional equipment and personnel to bear rapidly should that be necessary.

In summary, our team has over 3 decades experience mitigating phosphorus pollution through application of sequestering agents to lake systems throughout the United States. We are also considered to be among the most qualified applicators of aquatic herbicides and algaecides in the

United States. These applications have many things in common with Alum treatments. Some of the things we have learned over the years are the focus of the next few paragraphs.

Aquatechnex is a Limited Liability Company. Our team is fully capable of completing this project without subcontractors and we do not anticipate using any. We have excellent relationships with the major alum manufacturers in the region and have worked with Chemical Transfer of Stockton California to deliver Alum on schedule and without incident in the previous five applications.

While there is no license required for this type of application, our firm is fully licensed to apply EPA registered products to waters of the State in California. Terry McNabb holds both a California DPR Pest Control Advisor's License and a Qualified Applicator License. Cody Appling and Jay Kasheta hold Qualified Applicator Licenses as do three of our other Southern California applicators.

Description of Experience

Aquatechnex biologists have performed hundreds of Aluminum Sulfate applications over the decades we have been in business. These are several representative projects that can serve to highlight our experience with nutrient reduction/Phosphorus inactivation treatments. In addition to those highlighted above, here are some specific recent project references

Big Bear Lake Alum Modeling and 2015 Alum Treatment, Big Bear Lake California. Prior to the first major Alum treatment on Big Bear Lake, California that is referenced in your documents, Aquatechnex was selected to perform large scale Sonar aquatic herbicide treatments to remove the invasive aquatic weed Eurasian Milfoil and assist in the development of the Alum Treatment Protocols. In 2001, the lake was experiencing major problems with both invasive weed growth that placed them on the 303d list, and cyanobacteria blooms that impacted recreation. During the summers of 2001 through 2003, our team performed technical applications with Sonar Precision Release Herbicides that reduced Eurasian milfoil from over 700 acres to under 10 acres scattered through the littoral zone. We also set up a number of one acre Alum Study Plots in the lake and performed and monitored treatment results at different application rates. These plots were set up using isolation barrier curtains to contain the site. Treatments were performed inside these and water quality parameters and phosphorus reduction sampling was performed. This work was the basis for the whole lake treatment program that took place in 2004. In the summer of 2015, the BBMWD issued an RFP to perform a 640,000 gallon Alum treatment and Aquatechnex was the successful respondent. We effectively move 140 tank trucks of alum to the lake and onto the water. The contact person is Mike Stephenson, general manager, 909-866-5796 or mstephenson@bbnwd.net

Lake Ketchum Restoration Project, Snohomish County, Washington. Lake Ketchum was considered one of the most phosphorus polluted lakes in Washington State and the Snohomish County Surface Water Management Program set out to restore this waterbody. They issued an RFP to develop and implement a phosphorus mitigation program for the lake to compliment watershed management activities they were also implementing. Our treatments started in 2014 and were extremely effective. We have been retained to continue using small regular dosing of the lake to continue managing phosphorus pollution in the lake. There is a web page that documents this at http://snohomishcountywa.gov/2451/Lake-Ketchum-Restoration The contact person is Marisa Burghdoff at 425-388-3204 or marisa.burghdoff@snoco.org

Orange County Parks Department Lake Management Program, Orange County, California. In 2010, the Orange County (California) Parks Department and Public Works issued an RFP to select a lake management company for a $437,100.00 annual contract for their 15 lakes in nine regional parks. Aquatechnex was selected as the most qualified respondent to this RFP. We were again selected as the most qualified respondent to their 2014 and 2018 RPP's and this contract has been increased to $850,000.00 annually. Each of these lake systems have different challenges but one primary problem in most of them was excessive cyanobacteria blooms. As the water quality in these systems was such that Alum treatments would be affected, our team turned to Phoslock as a potential solution. We performed the first applications within the United States using this technology with excellent results. It has become the backbone of the OC Parks Lake Management Program in many regards. Through this work we gained experience mobilizing and applying very large volumes of material. The Laguna Niguel treatment performed under the first general permit issued by a RWQCB for Phoslock was performed in April of this year and 50 metric tons were applied within a three-day window. The OC Parks Lake Management Program won the California Parks and Recreation Society Best of the Best Project of the Year in 2011 and we remain on the job there. The contact person is Robin LaMont, 714-657-0618 or robin.lamont@ocparks.com

Hicks Lake/King County Department of Natural Resources Alum Treatment Project. White Center, WA. This urban lake system has been plagued by high phosphorous build up and cyanobacteria blooms. The King County Lake Stewardship Program within the DNR assumed the responsibility for managing water quality in this system. Aquatechnex was selected to perform the first Aluminum Sulfate (with buffering agents) treatment to reduce phosphorus levels in 2006 and 2011. The County continued to monitor phosphorus inflow to this system and when levels required a treatment response we work with them to manage this site. This water is extremely soft, and we had to manage buffering as well as Alum floc formation and phosphorus mitigation. The contact for this is Sally Abella, 206-836-8382 or sally.abella@kingcounty.gov

City of Lake Stevens Aluminum Sulfate Treatment Program, Lake Stevens, Washington. Lake Stevens is a 1,100 acre lake north of Seattle, Washington. This lake has been the subject of study and EPA and Washington DOE Lake Restoration for several years. Approximately 20 years ago, a large hypolimnetic aeration system was installed in the lake. This three-story high system was placed in 150 feet of water and has helped mitigate internal phosphorus loading for two decades. This past summer this system failed and the City was faced with decisions on replacement or bring in a new approach. Aquatechnex has worked with the City since 2010, performing treatments to selectively target and remove Eurasian Milfoil from the littoral area of the lake. In 2013, the City added responsibility for managing phosphorus levels for the next four years through the use of Aluminum Sulfate applications. Much like Canyon Lake, our team has been selected to continue this successful treatment program through 2019. The contact person is Mick Monken, Director of Public Works at 425-377-3237 or mmonken@lake-stevens.wa.us

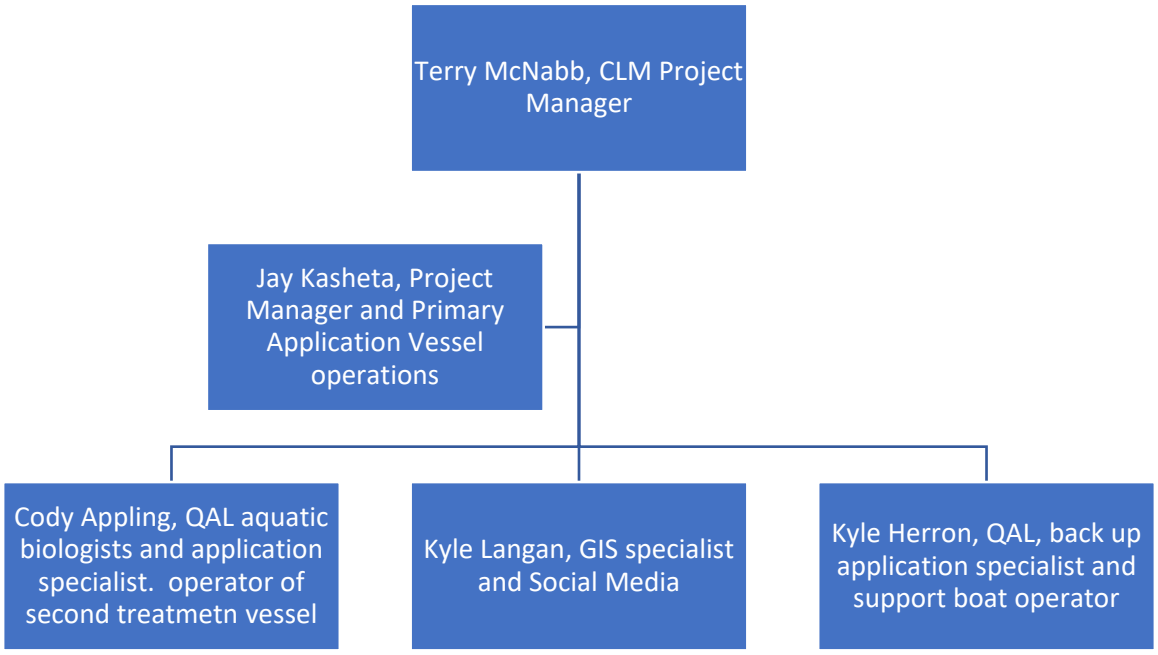
Canyon Lake Alum Project, Canyon Lake, California. As you are aware, our firm was selected to perform this project from 2013 through the present. We have learned how to effectively move large volumes of alum into this gated community without disrupting use of the lake. We have the equipment mix to effectively target all areas of the waterbody and this is a unique challenge with the narrow fingers and coves on the lake. We have worked effectively with the Canyon Lake POA and their marine patrol and have developed excellent working relationships with them. Our trucking company has performed exceptionally well in terms of meeting our schedules and safely helping us get the Alum onto the water.

We have worked with the stakeholders extensively and know them well. We have been effective in our communications with the community around the lake through public meetings and social media. We will have no learning curve that might impact your project.

Aquatechnex biologists applying 640,000 gallons of Alum to Big Bear Lake, CA during June of 2015. This is the largest Alum treatment performed in the Western United States in recent years and our team performed this mission within budget and schedule.

Organizational Chart

Should our team be selected to perform this work the organizational chart for this mission would be as follows.



The primary management team would be Terry McNabb, Cody Appling and Jay Kasheta. They would be on site and involved in directing operations and communicating with the Contracting agency. Kyle Langan is one of our GIS/GPS specialists. He would be developing precision mapping applications including programing GPS guidance systems and calibration of equipment to deliver Alum based on water depth/volume under the treatment vessels. Our Qualified Applicator team of Cody Appling and Kyle Herron from our Santa Ana office will operate vessels. We will also have support staff from Santa Ana and Palm Desert assisting with loading operations and on standby for unexpected developments such as rain delays that might double the need for application the following day or if floating floc issue occur that must be dealt with.

Resumes for Assigned Personnel

The key people that will be involved in this mission would be the following.

Terry McNabb, Aquatic Biologist

Terry McNabb presenting a project briefing on a 600 acre application project on Lake Coeur d'Alene, Idaho to State Agency Staff

Terry has over 35 years of experience in the field of lake and aquatic plant management. He is a graduate of Michigan State University, with a degree in Water Resource Management. He has been recognized by his peers in this field and been elected to serve as the president of both the Western Chapter and the National Aquatic Plant Management Society. Terry is the recipient of the 1998 SePRO Environmental Stewardship Award to outstanding contributions to the Aquatics Industry and Environmental Stewardship. He was awarded an honorary membership in the Washington Weed Science Association in 1994 and has been an invited speaker about Eurasian Milfoil control at a number of meetings in recent years. Terry has served as an invited member to select committees of the Washington and Minnesota State Legislatures to develop statewide Eurasian Watermilfoil control programs. He has been awarded a US-Asia Environmental Partnership Grant to help Malaysia and Indonesia develop programs to deal with water quality and aquatic plant management issues. He has consulted for the Egyptian Government on managing Water Hyacinth problems on the Nile River. In 2004, Terry was appointed by the Whatcom County Board of County Commissioners to the Whatcom County Noxious Weed Board and remains a member of that board. In 2010 Terry was asked by RISE to present his experiences with NPDES for applicators at the national meeting. He is currently the President Elect of the North American Lake Management Society.

Terry has extensive experience working in the Western United States and California. He has developed and implemented Lake Restoration Programs throughout the region for over 35 years with a history of excellent outcomes. He has also worked on Canyon Lake for the past 6-7 years and knows the situation well.

Terry is a licensed Pest Control Advisor in California and holds commercial applicator licenses in several western states. He is a Certified Lake Manager (CLM) meeting the national certification criteria of the North American Lake Management Society, is a certified SCUBA Diver and an FAA Licensed pilot. If we are selected for this project, Terry will be the project manager and lead applicator.

Jay Kasheta, Aquatic Biologist

Jay and Terry commencing alum treatment operations on Canyon Lake. Jay has been the primary treatment vessel operator on all five of the Canyon Lake Applications. He is also the lead applicator on the Lake Stevens and Ketchum Lake ongoing Alum projects in Washington State and managed the Big Bear Lake Treatment in 2015

Jay is a graduate of the University of San Francisco with a degree in Business Administration and has worked in the aquatic plant management field since 1985. Jay managed a lake service business in Northern California from 1985 through 2012 when he joined our team. He has extensive experience with Alum applications and has applied more than 1 million gallons of Aluminum Sulfate in the past five years for our team. Jay managed the logistics of delivery and coordinates effective coverage on the water. Jay has been involved in every Alum treatment performed on Canyon Lake and has been key to the success of the project to date.

Kyle Langan, Aquatic Biologist

Kyle managing application on a potable water reservoir in southern Oregon to mitigate cyanobacteria problems the agency was experiencing

Kyle is a graduate of Washington State University with a degree in Environmental Sciences with a focus on Water Resources. Kyle worked for our firm as a summer biologist for all four years of college and took a full-time position in 2000. He has an excellent working knowledge of aquatic plant survey techniques and has performed surveys for Eurasian Milfoil and other invasive species in over 100 lakes. Kyle is a specialist in underwater survey for aquatic plants and is knowledgeable in aquatic plant identification. Kyle is an expert in the use of GPS/GIS technologies to map aquatic plants and a certified SCUBA diver.

Kyle has extensive experience working on very large treatment projects. He has managed application vessels and material delivery on Lake Pend Oreille and Lake Coeur d'Alene. He manages our RAVEN Precisions Application Management Hardware and Software for all of our application vessels.

Cody Appling, Aquatic Biologist

Cody performing Phoslock application for OC Parks at Laguna Niguel Regional Park

Cody manages our Santa Ana, California operations. He is responsible for monitoring and diagnosing water quality issues for over 40 lakes in Southern California and developing corrective treatment strategies when necessary. Cody has worked on the Canyon Lake project for the past few years and is extremely familiar with the lake and needs of this contract.

Dan Formula, Logistic Specialist

Dan assisting one of our application vessels receive material for treatment on Lake Pend Oreille, ID during a 1,500 acre precision application to manage invasive species.

Dan has captained ocean-going commercial fishing vessels in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska for over 20 years. He is employed by AquaTechnex to provide technical assistance and equipment for our large scale treatment programs for a number of years during the summer months. Dan piloted one of our application boats during our 2006 treatment program for both Bonner County and our CDA Tribe applications in 2006 through the present. He operates our larger transport vessels to move herbicides/bulk Alum from the shore side operation to the treatment locations. He will be supporting our team as necessary and has worked on Canyon Lake during the previous alum missions.

Support Staff

AquaTechnex has a number of well-trained summer interns and full time service staff that support our operations as well. We will assign additional personnel to this mission from that pool of people as necessary to complete these treatments. We will also look to hire from the local community as necessary. All personnel that will be handling Alum will be trained and hold application licensing from the State of California DPR, while these licenses are not necessary for Alum application the training required to obtain these licenses mean that these staff are very knowledgeable on application management and safety around products applied. .

Proposed scope of work

Our first step would be to organize meetings with the key agency staff responsible for managing our contract and operations. While we have worked with LESJWA for several years through the Bluewater Satellite and initial Canyon Lake Alum Treatment program, this is still a key step at start up.

Our team would perform a pre application planning process utilizing the Afterburner Flawless Execution Model. This planning process identifies and clarifies the goals of the project, analyzes all threats to effective completion of the mission and allows for planning to mitigate for them, identifies all resources necessary to complete the mission, reviews lessons learned from previous experiences with respect to this mission, build the operation plan and task list and plans for contingencies. This process is very effective and ensures all aspects of the mission are defined, assigned and potential obstacles to completion are identified and solved. As we have performed this work for several years, we use the Debriefing methods they define at the end of each treatment to document what worked well, what challenges we faced and develop solutions for any problems that develop for consideration in the next application.

Our team would develop a safety plan that addresses the needs of this project. This would consider the requirements of the Canyon Lake Property Owners Association, material handling safety, spill prevention and equipment to mitigate spill, local resources for medical and emergency support and all other components necessary to complete this project with safety for the HOA residents, the environment and our team of applicators. The project work we have performed to date have been very effective and we would incorporate the lessons learned in this effort.

Alum treatments on the water need to be calibrated for water depth, speed of the application vessel, swath width and several other factors. We utilize ArcGIS to develop treatment map shapefiles, these files are uploaded into RAVEN Cruzier II precision application guidance systems on our treatment vessels. These systems display the treatment paths the vessel should track to, the flow rate of of Alum based on water volume under the boat, record acres treated and display steering information to the vessel operator to ensure complete coverage and overlap of the treatment paths. This programing is performed, examined, made part of the operational plan, and uploaded to the treatment boat guidance systems.

RAVEN Precision Application Management Systems are used on all of our application equipment to help insure complete coverage on the water and dosing based on water volume under the boat

Our next step would be to mobilize equipment to the lake and stage it for alum application. We would also purchase and schedule delivery of Alum to the project site. We work Eco-Services as the primary supplier of Alum. We feel they are the best provider of water treatment plant grade Alum in Southern California. They do an excellent job of supporting lake treatment operations in terms of on time delivery and scheduling of tank trucks. Their drivers to an excellent job of working around urban lakes, the tight

spaces that they have to access to get to the water and staging deliver to our treatment vessels. We have found that using the right mix of application vessels, we do not have to stage storage tanks that increase the project footprint on Canyon Lake POA property. This approach also means we only have to move the alum once, from Truck to boat instead of from Truck to tank to boat and that lowers the probability of a spill event dramatically.

The key to getting Alum into the lake at this volume rapidly and with minimal disruption to lake users is staging the shore side operations strategically around the lake margins. The POA has provided access to a number of locations where park facilities would allow a truck to nurse our treatment vessels. Our plan would be to operate from the sites we have effectively used in the past five applications.

We would operate two to three treatment vessels on the lake to perform this work. The primary work will be performed using 30 foot Chinook Treatment Barge with a 150 hp engine. A second boat would be a 18 foot system with 700 gallon capacity that can support both open water and cove treatments. A third boat (if necessary) would be equipped with a handling tank for Alum and a hose application system that can discharge material up to 60 feet from the boat. This system with trained operators can place alum throughout the fingers on this lake in and around tight spaces such as boat docks and moored vessels. All of these boats will be equipped with GPS/GIS precision guidance systems.

We have a fleet of application vessels for larger open water application of alum. These two vessels can move 8,000 pounds on the water, perform precision application and move back quickly to the access site to reload. We can process on tank truck of alum in approximately two-three hours under most conditions.

Each of our boats are equipped with InSitu SmarTroll multi parameter water quality monitoring probes and software. This equipment can be used to measure real time key parameters such as pH and dissolved oxygen and collect profiles. It is assumed that the Agency may also be involved in monitoring these parameters, we can support that effort and keep track of this data real time as we apply Alum.

The Precision Application equipment we utilize generates reports that document treatment tracks, volume applied, and acres treated. This information will be downloaded each day and used to develop a final report. It can also be make available to the contract administrator at any point during the project mission.

Fanjet application technology allows us to apply Aluminum Sulfate across a 40 foot swath per pass to effectively speed up application on the water and reduce the time necessary to be onsite while obtaining excellent coverage.

Aquatechnex biologists applying Aluminum Sulfate with a system that allows for working in tight spaces such as the fingers on the East Arm.

This system with a good operator can reach inside and between dock slips and around moored boats very effectively and this will be key in areas where these conditions occur. A traditional boom injection system cannot maneuver in tight spaces and evenly apply Alum or other products.

We work doing applications around high value watercraft every day and are extremely experienced with both accurate application and no impacts to those vessels.

The last step at the lake would be to bring the sites used back to pretreatment conditions. The team would attempt to ensure that no impact to facilities provided by the POA would be affected. The management team would conduct a detailed survey of conditions prior to use and post treatment, anything of concern would then be addressed.

Our team would then demobilize from the lake and be available for the next scheduled treatment in the contracted mission.

We would develop a final report that documented all operations, any observations or lessons learned that would help future treatments on this lake and deliver that to the Agency. We would also be

available to meet with the agency at any point there is a need or concern. We are also available to participate in presentations to the public as the Agency deems our support in that role helpful.

Detailed Project Schedule

The exact dates for application are not known, however we can provide the following as a detailed project schedule.

Task	Schedule
Preliminary meeting with Agency	Within two weeks of contract award Agency staff schedule permitting
Development of treatment and safety plans	Within four weeks of contract award
Mobilization for February (Spring) Treatment	Once dates of proposed treatment are provided to our team, we can mobilize within one week.
Treatment in Spring each year of contract period	Our team would perform this treatment within a one-week period including mobilization and demob from the Lake with the specified alum volume
Demobilize from Spring treatment	We can be demobilized from the site within 24 hours of completion of treatment.
Report to LESJWA as necessary	We can generate and deliver the final report within two weeks of treatment completion
Mobilize for September Treatments	Within one week of notice to proceed
Treatment in September each year of contract period	Our team would perform this treatment within a one week period including mobilization and demob from the lake with the specified alum volume.
Demobilization	We can be clear of this site within 24 hours of treatment completion
Report to LESJWA as necessary	Within 2 weeks of treatment completion
Other communications or meeting	We can generally accommodate necessary meeting as attendance is requested within 2-4 days.

Fee Proposal

Based on the scope of work and the specified amounts of Alum to be applied to the lake our fee proposal would be as follows.

Task	Unit Costs	Estimated Total Cost
Task 1, preliminary meeting	Time and materials	$500.00
Task 2, develop treatment plan for both Fall and Spring application events	Time and materials	$500.00
Task 3, Safety Planning	Time and Materials	$0.00
Task 4, GIS mapping and Application System Programing	Time and materials	$500.00
Task 5a, mobilize for Spring (February) treatment	Time and materials	$1,000.00
Task 5b, secure and receive specified gallons for application	Alum pricing	$1.18 per gallon to account for increased transport costs
Task 5c apply specified gallons to Main Lake, North Arm, East Arm	Lump sum	$27,500.00
Task 5d, demobilize from Canyon lake	Time and materials	$500.00
Task 6a, mobilize for September treatment	Time and materials	$1,000.00
Task 6b, secure and deliver specified gallons of alum	Alum Pricing	$1.18 per gallon
Task 6c apply specified gallons alum	Lump sum	$27.500.00
Task 6d, demobilize from Canyon Lake	Time and materials	$500.00
Final Report and meetings	Time and materials	$750.00
Other tasks as necessary	Time and materials	
Estimated Total per year		
	Alum is a commodity and pricing may be variable over the years of this contract. If there is a significant increase in costs we will communicate this to LESJWA and request consideration. Pricing remained stable over the previous contract period	

Hourly Billing Rates

The following hourly billing rates are generally used by Aquatechnex to support our work

Position	Hourly Rate
Senior Scientist	$120.00
Project Manager	$95.00
GIS Specialist	$75.00
Licensed Applicator	$75.00
Support Staff	$65.00

Thank you for your consideration, if questions develop please contact Terry McNabb (tmcnabb@aquatechnex.com) or Ian Cormican (cody@aquatechnex.com)

Aquatechnex biologists applying Alum on Canyon Lake

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LESJWA BOARD MEMORANDUM NO. 2024.6

DATE: October 17, 2024

TO: LESJWA Board of Directors

SUBJECT: Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants Program

PREPARED BY: Rachel Gray, LESJWA Authority Administrator

RECOMMENDATION

That the LESJWA Board of Directors authorizes LESJWA Authority Administrator, or designee, to:

1. Prepare and submit a grant application on behalf of LESJWA to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights (OEJECR) Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants Program, seeking funds to implement an oxygenation system in Lake Elsinore; and
2. Authorize a consultant task order to assist with the preparation of the grant application for an amount not to exceed $10,000; and
3. Sign the grant application; and
4. Execute potential partnership agreements, funding agreements, and all necessary documentation.

DISCUSSION

LESJWA staff is pursuing a grant opportunity through the Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grant program (Community Change Grants). The Notice of Funding Opportunity offers an unprecedented opportunity to transform disadvantaged communities across the United States into healthy, climate resilient, and thriving communities for their current and future residents. The Community Change Grants funds community-driven projects that address climate challenges and reduce pollution while strengthening communities through thoughtful implementation.

Track I applications – Community-Driven Investments for Change focuses on multi-faceted applications with Climate Action and Pollution Reduction Strategies to meaningfully improve the environmental, climate, and resilience conditions affecting disadvantaged communities. Awards under Track I are expected to be $10-20 million each. EPA expects to award approximately $1.96 billion for approximately 150 Track I award, including those under the Target Investment Areas.

Eligible applicants for the Community Change Grants include a partnership between two community-based non-profit organizations (CBOs), or a partnership between a CBO and one of the following: a Federally recognized Tribe, a local government, or an institution of higher education (IHE), including Minority Serving Institutions.

Lake Elsinore is the largest natural lake in Southern California. Originally, at a lake elevation of 1,260 feet (ft) the surface area of the lake was approximately 5,950 acres with an average depth of 21.5 ft (Engineering-Science 1984). Lake Elsinore historically

became a dry lakebed periodically, eliminating aquatic life as well as opportunities for recreation; and even under current conditions, the lake continues to experience significant fluctuations in lake levels due to the impacts of climate change risks such as extreme heat and drought that have a significant impact on the attainability of beneficial recreational uses in the lake.

Excess nutrients in the lake from watershed runoff and reclaimed water addition provides food for hazardous algal blooms (HABs) to grow and persist at levels that exceed illness risk thresholds for swimming beach notification or closure.

Climate change impacts of extreme heat and extended drought cause increased air and water temperature creating conditions that favor exacerbated growth of HABs over other algae. Monitoring samples collected in recent years found concentrations of cyanotoxins exceeding “Danger” thresholds suggested in state guidance for recreational inland waters. Protecting Lake Elsinore as a water contact recreational body is important to the surrounding disadvantaged community because swimming and other activities can help individuals manage health risks associated with prolonged periods of extreme heat.

LESJWA’s proposed project is an oxygenation system in Lake Elsinore which helps reduce the occurrence of algae by increasing the levels of dissolved oxygen in the water. This process supports beneficial aerobic bacteria that break down organic matter and nutrients, which algae need to grow.

RESOURCE IMPACTS

The application effort cost to respond to the grant program is covered by existing FYE2024-2025 budget. There will be no financial impact to member agencies except for staff time in responding to LESJWA staff information requests.

Attachments:

1. PowerPoint Presentation
2. Notice of Funding Opportunity

LAKE ELSINORE & SAN JACINTO WATERSHEDS AUTHORITY

City of Lake Elsinore • City of Canyon Lake • County of Riverside
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District • Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights (OEJECR) Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants Program

Rachel Gray, LESJWA Authority Administrator

LESJWA Board Meeting

October 17, 2024

Recommendation

That the LESJWA Board of Directors authorizes LESJWA Administrator, or designee, to:

1. Prepare and submit a grant application on behalf of LESJWA to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights (OEJECR) Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants Program, to seek funds to implement an oxygenation system in Lake Elsinore; and
2. Authorize a consultant task order to assist with the preparation of the grant application for an amount not to exceed $10,000; and
3. Sign the grant application; and
4. Execute potential partnership agreements, funding agreements, and all necessary documentation.

- **Lake Elsinore Challenges**
  - Algal blooms
  - Fish kills
- **Cause of WQ Problems**
  - Excessive phosphorus and nitrogen = nutrients
  - Depletion of oxygen
- **Sources of Nutrients**
  - Urban, agriculture, erosion, septic systems
  - Nutrient loading occurs during very large storm events
- **Proposed Project**
  - Oxygenation system
  - Community Outreach and Education

Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grant Program

- The Community Change Grants support comprehensive community and place-based approaches to redressing environmental and climate injustices for communities facing legacy pollution, climate change, and persistent disinvestment.
- These concentrated local investments will fund community-driven, change-making projects that center collaborative efforts for healthier, safer, and more prosperous communities.
- Community Change Grants are intended to achieve the following objectives:
  - Provide resources for community-driven projects to address environmental and climate challenges in communities facing disproportionate and adverse health, pollution, and environmental impacts, and suffering from generations of disinvestment.
  - Invest in strong cross-sectoral collaborations with partners who bring a robust commitment to working with and for communities with environmental and climate justice concerns.
  - Empower communities and strengthen their capacity to drive meaningful positive change on the ground for years to come.
  - Strengthen community participation in government decision-making processes that impact them.

Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grant Program

- **Track II applications – Meaningful Engagement for Equitable Governance:**
  - Facilitate the engagement of disadvantaged communities in governmental processes to advance environmental and climate justice.
  - Awards under Track II are expected to be $1-3 million each.
  - EPA will award approximately $40 million for approximately 20 Track II awards.

- Eligible applicants for the Community Change Grants include a partnership between two community-based non-profit organizations (CBOs), or a **partnership between a CBO** and one of the following: a Federally recognized Tribe, **a local government**, or an institution of higher education (IHE), including Minority Serving Institutions.

Schedule

Board Approval	Grant Application Development	Grant Application Submittal Deadline
October 17, 2024	October –November 2024	November 21, 2024

Recommendation

That the LESJWA Board of Directors authorizes LESJWA Administrator, or designee, to:

1. Prepare and submit a grant application on behalf of LESJWA to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights (OEJECR) Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants Program, to seek funds to implement an oxygenation system in Lake Elsinore; and
2. Authorize a consultant task order to assist with the preparation of the grant application for an amount not to exceed $10,000; and
3. Sign the grant application; and
4. Execute potential partnership agreements, funding agreements, and all necessary documentation.

Questions?

LAKE ELSINORE & SAN JACINTO WATERSHEDS AUTHORITY

City of Lake Elsinore · City of Canyon Lake · County of Riverside
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District · Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority

Thank You

Rachel Gray
LESJWA Authority Administrator
Office (951) 354-4220 | Direct (951) 354-4242
rgray@sawpa.gov

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FEDERAL AGENCY AND OFFICE:	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights (OEJECR)
FUNDING OPPORTUNITY TITLE:	Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants Program
ANNOUNCEMENT TYPE:	Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)
FUNDING OPPORTUNITY NUMBER:	EPA-R-OEJECR-OCS-23-04
ASSISTANCE LISTING NUMBER:	66.616
ACTION:	Modification No. 3 to the NOFO
DATE:	August 6, 2024

SUMMARY: This modification revises and clarifies the February 12, 2024 NOFO, which was originally issued on November 21, 2023. This version of the NOFO supersedes previous versions of the NOFO. The revisions of this modification include:

1. The Important Dates section on the first page is revised to indicate that initial selections were made in July 2024, and the anticipated start of the period of performance for the initial selections is November 2024. In addition, on the first page EPA added a notice about the changes to the grant regulations in 2 CFR.

2. In section I.D the language about the Track I Two-Phase Evaluation Process is revised to remove the reference to oral presentations. EPA is eliminating the oral presentation component of the Track I application process to streamline the application and review process, reduce burdens on applicants, and facilitate timely awards to benefit disadvantaged communities as required by the Inflation Reduction Act.

3. In order to account for the grant regulation change increasing the de minimus indirect cost rate from 10% to 15% effective October 1, 2024, Section II.A of the NOFO and corresponding sections are revised to remove the statement that Track I awards cannot exceed $20 million and that Track II awards cannot exceed $3 million. This modification does not impact threshold eligibility criteria #10 in Section III.D.

4. In Section II.B, "Hawaii" was removed from TIA B to clarify that the TIA applies only to Federally Recognized Tribes in the Continental United States.

5. Section II.E is revised to indicate that the first awards are expected in the fall of 2024.

6. Sections V.B, C, and D of the NOFO are revised to remove the oral presentation component for Track I applications, and corresponding changes are made in these sections for consistency purposes.

7. Section V.F of the NOFO is revised to indicate that initial selections were made in July 2024 and initial awards are expected to be made by November 2024.

8. Appendix A is revised to update the components of the EPA map used to identify disadvantaged communities specific to this NOFO and to make additional clarifying changes.

FEDERAL AGENCY AND OFFICE:	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights (OEJECR)
FUNDING OPPORTUNITY TITLE:	Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants Program
ANNOUNCEMENT TYPE:	Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)
FUNDING OPPORTUNITY NUMBER:	EPA-R-OEJECR-OCS-23-04
ASSISTANCE LISTING NUMBER:	66.616

IMPORTANT DATES:

November 21, 2023	**NOFO Opening Date**
November 21, 2024	**Application Closing Date**
July 2024	**Initial Award Selections Made**
November 2024	**Anticipated Start of Period of Performance for Initial Selections**

DEADLINE: Application packages will be accepted on a rolling basis, as further explained in the NOFO, until November 21, 2024, at 11:59 PM (Eastern Time) through Grants.gov. Applications received after the closing date and time will not be considered for funding.

In alignment with EPA's commitment to conducting business in an open and transparent manner, copies of applications selected for award under this NOFO may, as appropriate, be made publicly available on the OEJECR website or other public website for a period after the selected applications are announced. Therefore, applicants should clearly indicate which portion(s) of the application, if any, they are claiming contains confidential, privileged, or sensitive information. As provided at 40 CFR § 2.203(b), if no claim of confidential treatment accompanies the information when it is received by EPA, it may be made available to the public by EPA without further notice to the applicant.

Notice To Applicants: The revisions to the grant regulations in 2 CFR described at 89 FR 30046-30208 (April 22, 2024) will apply to awards made under this NOFO, including the change to the de minimis indirect cost rate.

NOTE: Prior to naming a contractor (including consultants) or subrecipient in your application as a "partner," please carefully review Section IV.d, "Contracts and Subawards," of EPA's Solicitation Clauses that are incorporated by reference in this NOFO in Section I.J. EPA expects recipients of funding to comply with competitive procurement contracting requirements as well as EPA's rule on Participation by Disadvantaged Business Enterprises in EPA Programs in 40 CFR Part 33. The Agency does not accept justifications for sole source contracts for services or products available in the commercial marketplace based on a contractor's role in preparing an application or a firm or individual's "unique" qualifications.

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

Section I. Funding Opportunity Description

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A. Background: Inflation Reduction Act and Executive Orders

The Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grant program (Community Change Grants) – the subject of this NOFO – offers an unprecedented opportunity to transform disadvantaged communities across the United States into healthy, climate resilient, and thriving communities for their current and future residents. The Community Change Grants will fund community-driven projects that address climate challenges and reduce pollution while strengthening communities through thoughtful implementation. The historic levels of support provided by these grants will enable communities and their partners to overcome longstanding environmental challenges and implement meaningful solutions to meet community needs now and for generations to come.

The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) created the Environmental and Climate Justice Program (ECJP)—the largest investment in environmental and climate justice in U.S. history—when it was signed into law by President Biden on August 16, 2022. The ECJP is now contained in Section 138 of the Clean Air Act (CAA), 42 U.S.C. § 7438. Under this program, EPA was provided $2.8 billion to award grants to help disadvantaged communities address a wide range of environmental and climate justice issues, and $200 million for technical assistance related to these grants. This historic investment advances Executive Order 13985, *Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government*, which established a whole-of-government approach to advancing equity and opportunity, and Executive Order 14008, *Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad*, which created the government-wide Justice 40 Initiative that established the goal that 40 percent of the overall benefits of certain federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities. Awards under the ECJP also support core goals of Executive Order 14091, *Further Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government*, and Executive Order 14096, *Revitalizing Our Nation's Commitment to Environmental Justice for All.*

The Community Change Grants are the final and most comprehensive piece of EPA's implementation of ECJP IRA funding. The Community Change Grants will complement grant programs that EPA launched in 2022 and 2023, including those for the Collaborative Problem-Solving, Government-to-Government, and Thriving Communities Grantmaker programs. Collectively, these programs will empower communities and their partners to design, develop, and implement multi-faceted community-driven projects. These programs will address the diverse and unique needs of disadvantaged communities by:

1. Reducing and preventing pollution;
2. Building resilience to climate change and mitigating current and future climate risks;
3. Enhancing meaningful involvement in government processes related to environmental and climate justice;
4. Expanding access to high-quality jobs and economic opportunity through workforce development; and
5. Bolstering community strength by ensuring that local residents receive the benefits of investments and have the opportunity to build on them for current and future generations.

Through the approximately $2 billion to be awarded under the Community Change Grants, and the technical assistance that will be available to eligible applicants related to the grants, EPA will advance the goals of these Executive Orders (EO) and the agency's environmental and climate justice priorities. Environmental justice, as defined by EO 14096, means the just treatment and meaningful involvement of all people,

regardless of income, race, color, national origin, Tribal affiliation, or disability, in agency decision-making and other federal activities that affect human health and the environment so that people:

- Are fully protected from disproportionate and adverse human health and environmental effects (including risks) and hazards, including those related to climate change, the cumulative impacts of environmental and other burdens, and the legacy of racism or other structural or systemic barriers; and
- Have equitable access to a healthy, sustainable, and resilient environment in which to live, play, work, learn, grow, worship, and engage in cultural and subsistence practices.

B. Statutory and Regulatory Authority

The authority for the awards under this NOFO is Clean Air Act (CAA) § 138, codified at 42 U.S.C. § 7438. Of the $2.8 billion appropriated, approximately $2 billion will be awarded for the Community Change Grants under this NOFO. As provided in 42 U.S.C. § 7438(a)(1) and (b)(1), all the funds must be awarded by September 30, 2026, the grants cannot be longer than three years in duration, and no extensions will be granted.

Eligible entities and eligible activities are defined in 42 U.S.C. §7438(b)(2) and (3) and are further described below and in Section I and Section III of this NOFO.

Section 138(b)(2) of the CAA specifies that an eligible entity may use a grant awarded under this NOFO for:

1. community-led air and other pollution monitoring, prevention, and remediation, and investments in low and zero-emission and resilient technologies and related infrastructure and workforce development that help reduce greenhouse gas emissions[1] and other air pollutants;
2. mitigating climate and health risks from urban heat islands, extreme heat, wood heater emissions, and wildfire events;
3. climate resiliency and adaptation;
4. reducing indoor toxics and indoor air pollution; or
5. facilitating engagement of disadvantaged communities in state and federal advisory groups, workshops, rulemakings, and other public processes.

In addition, Section 102(2)(I) of the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. § 4332(2)(I) is applicable to international work, if any, under this NOFO. Further, all funded activities under this NOFO must comply with federal, state, and local laws and regulations, including but not limited to:

1. 2 CFR 200.435(b), which restricts the use of grant funds to defend a recipient that is subject to a criminal, civil or administrative proceeding against it commenced by any government for fraud or similar offenses;
2. 2 CFR 200.435(g), which precludes the use of grant funds to prosecute claims against the Federal Government; and
3. 2 CFR 200.450(c), which restricts the use of federal funds by nonprofit organizations for certain lobbying or electioneering activities but does not preclude the use of federal funds to promote adoption of local ordinances, including those related to zoning.

[1] "Greenhouse gas" means the air pollutants carbon dioxide, hydrofluorocarbons, methane, nitrous oxide, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride.

4. 40 CFR Parts 5 and 7, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin (including limited-English proficiency), disability, sex, and age by recipients and subrecipients of federal financial assistance.

C. Community Change Grants Objectives

The Community Change Grants will support comprehensive community and place-based approaches to redressing environmental and climate injustices for communities facing legacy pollution, climate change, and persistent disinvestment. These concentrated local investments will fund community-driven, change-making projects that center collaborative efforts for healthier, safer, and more prosperous communities.

Designed with meaningful community, Tribal, and other stakeholder involvement, the investments EPA makes through the Community Change Grants are intended to achieve the following objectives:

1. Provide resources for community-driven projects to address environmental and climate challenges in communities facing disproportionate and adverse health, pollution, and environmental impacts, and suffering from generations of disinvestment.
2. Invest in strong cross-sectoral collaborations with partners who bring a robust commitment to working with and for communities with environmental and climate justice concerns.
3. Unlock access to additional and more significant resources to advance environmental and climate justice goals from across the federal government and other sources.
4. Empower communities and strengthen their capacity to drive meaningful positive change on the ground for years to come.
5. Strengthen community participation in government decision-making processes that impact them.

D. NOFO Competition Features

EPA anticipates awarding approximately $2 billion in funding through this NOFO, depending on funding availability, quality of applications received, EPA priorities, and other applicable considerations. EPA will consider applications under two separate tracks.

- **Track I applications – Community-Driven Investments for Change** will focus on multi-faceted applications with Climate Action and Pollution Reduction Strategies to meaningfully improve the environmental, climate, and resilience conditions affecting disadvantaged communities. Awards under Track I are expected to be $10-20 million each. EPA expects to award approximately $1.96 billion for approximately 150 Track I awards, including those under the Target Investment Areas described in Section II.B.
- **Track II applications – Meaningful Engagement for Equitable Governance** will facilitate the engagement of disadvantaged communities in governmental processes to advance environmental and climate justice. Awards under Track II are expected to be $1-3 million each. EPA will award approximately $40 million for approximately 20 Track II awards.

The number of Track I and Track II awards are estimates, and EPA reserves the right to increase or decrease the total number of awards and dollar amounts for each track, contingent on the quality of applications received, the amount of funds awarded to selected applicants, budget availability, agency priorities, programmatic considerations, or a combination of these.

Target Investment Areas for Track I Applications: EPA has identified five Target Investment Areas (TIA) to help ensure that communities with unique circumstances, geography, and needs can equitably compete for funding (see Section II.B). Applicants applying under a specified TIA will compete against other applicants under the same TIA, as opposed to the broader application pool. Please note that applicants applying for the TIA for Alaska Tribal lands should review Appendix H for additional guidance pertaining to the Climate Action and Pollution Reduction Strategies to include in their application, including those related to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA).

Eligible Applicants: Eligible applicants for the Community Change Grants include a partnership between two community-based non-profit organizations (CBOs), or a partnership between a CBO and one of the following: a Federally recognized Tribe, a local government, or an institution of higher education (IHE), including Minority Serving Institutions as further described in Section III.A. Other organizations and entities may participate in the Community Change Grants as Collaborating Entities through subawards, or as contractors selected in accordance with competitive procurement requirements. Further details about applicant eligibility, partnership requirements, Collaborating Entities, subawards, and procurement contracts are in Section III.

Under this NOFO, Lead Applicants, as defined in Section III.A, may submit a maximum of two eligible applications and may receive up to two awards, if they demonstrate the capacity and capabilities to effectively perform, manage, oversee, and complete the awards within the three-year grant period of performance. The two applications may be two Track I applications, two Track II applications, or one of each. Lead Applicants who submit more than two total eligible applications will be asked to withdraw the excess one(s). EPA will not review more than two eligible applications from any one Lead Applicant.

In addition, EPA is introducing several features to enhance community involvement and ease the application process. Unless otherwise noted, the following applies to both Track I and Track II applications:

- **Rolling Applications.** EPA will allow applications to be submitted on a rolling basis over a 12-month period, through November 21, 2024, and will permit applicants to resubmit an unsuccessful application after a debriefing with the agency. Further details about the rolling application and resubmission process are in Sections II and V.
- **Fast-Tracked Approach.** EPA will review and select high-quality applications to fund on a rolling basis to deliver results and benefits to disadvantaged communities.
- **Indirect Costs Limitation**. As further described in Appendix G, there is a 20% cap on indirect costs for certain recipients and subrecipients.

E. Technical Assistance

Under the IRA, EPA received $200 million for technical assistance to eligible entities in connection with the ECJP. Technical assistance will be available for pre-award technical assistance including but not limited to designing a project, preparing an application, or facilitating partnerships, and for post-award technical assistance to help grant recipients manage, oversee, perform, and report on the grants. Further details about technical assistance can be found here, and additional information on technical assistance that may be available through EPA's technical assistance contractor can be found here. Receiving technical assistance does not guarantee that applicants will be selected for funding.

F. Community or Tribal Relocation Resources

Projects for community or Tribal relocation activities are not eligible for funding under this NOFO and will not be reviewed. For purposes of this NOFO, relocation activities generally include activities intended to plan or assist the moving of an individual from their residence or a business from its place of business.[2] EPA is working with other federal agencies on a separate and tailored effort to develop a support mechanism for communities that want to implement community-driven relocation plans. EPA intends to share relocation assistance information in future guidance posted on the Community Change Grants website. In the interim, information related to Federally-assisted relocation can be found on FEMA's webpage and in the HUD Climate Resilience Implementation Guide for Community Driven Relocation. Any questions about whether an activity is considered a relocation activity should be sent by email to CCGP@epa.gov prior to applying.

G. Funding Track I: Community-Driven Investments for Change

1. Track I Objectives

Track I is the primary emphasis for the Community Change Grants. These projects will be implemented through strong collaborations to achieve sustained impacts related to climate resilience, pollution reduction, community health, economic prosperity, and community strength. This approach catalyzes change by focusing on the following objectives:

- **Increase community resilience through climate action activities**: Implement comprehensive Climate Action Strategies and infrastructure that build the resilience and adaptive capacities of communities, reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and better prepare for and reduce the impacts of climate change.
- **Reduce local pollution to improve public health**: Reduce and remediate quantifiable health-harming pollutants to improve public health.
- **Center meaningful community engagement**: Conduct robust community engagement throughout the project – from design to implementation.
- **Build community strength**: Develop strategies to increase the likelihood that benefits of the investments accrue to existing residents of disadvantaged communities, both immediately and sustainably beyond the grant period.
- **Reach priority populations**: Support people within the Project Area as described in Appendix A who are acutely exposed to and impacted by climate, pollution, and weather-related threats, and / or who exhibit acute vulnerabilities to the impacts of environmental pollution.[3]
- **Maximize integration across projects**: Ensure that the projects and activities within the Project Area are integrated and complement each other to maximize benefits.

[2] The Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act, 42 U.S.C. § 4601 et seq. (URA) would apply if a construction project funded through a Community Change Grant has an incidental effect of permanently displacing residents or businesses.

[3] This may include populations of concern as identified in The Impacts of Climate Change on Human Health in the United States: A Scientific Assessment (2016) that "experience disproportionate, multiple, and complex risks to their health and well-being in response to climate change," such as children and pregnant women, older adults, and those with low incomes, limited-English-proficiency, disabilities or chronic medical conditions, or other risks that may put them at greater vulnerability.

2. Track I Community Vision Description

Track I applications should be rooted in addressing specific, community-driven environmental justice challenges. Accordingly, Track I applications should begin with a Community Vision Description that, at a minimum, provides an overview of the Project Area (as described in Appendix A) to benefit from the grant, a clear description of the challenges the Project Area faces, and a vision for how the grant will respond to those challenges to advance environmental and climate justice in the Project Area. This description should provide essential context for the rest of the application, informing how the Climate Action and Pollution Reduction Strategies were selected and the positive impact the applicant envisions the grant will have in the Project Area. The Community Vision Description is further described in Section IV.B: *Content of Application Submission.*

3. Track I Application Requirements

Track I applications must address the following six requirements, as further described below. Additional information about the contents of the Project Narrative for Track I applications can be found in Section IV.B: *Content of Application Submission* and information about how applications will be evaluated can be found in Section V.C: *Track I Application Review Process and Evaluation Criteria*.

Requirement 1. Climate Action Strategy: Applications must include at least one project aligned with at least one of the Climate Action Strategies as described below. The Climate Action Strategies focus on strengthening the community's climate resilience and / or reducing GHG emissions. Climate Action Strategies should be responsive to the community challenges described in the Community Vision Description.

Requirement 2. Pollution Reduction Strategy: Applications must include at least one project aligned with at least one of the Pollution Reduction Strategy as described below. The Pollution Reduction Strategy can include monitoring, prevention, reduction, and remediation activities that support community efforts to address quantifiable and health-harming pollutants. Pollution Reduction Strategies range broadly depending on the type and pathway of pollution (e.g., indoor, or outdoor air pollution, water pollution, soil pollution). Pollution Reduction Strategies should be responsive to the community challenges described in the Community Vision Description.

Requirement 3. Community Engagement and Collaborative Governance Plan: Successful implementation of environmental and climate justice projects requires relationships among an ecosystem of community leaders and members along with partners across varied sectors. To help ensure that the community itself drives project development and implementation, applicants must submit a Community Engagement and Collaborative Governance Plan which should demonstrate how the applicant will inform, respond to, and engage community members throughout project development and implementation. This plan should include a Collaborative Governance Structure, which describes the roles and responsibilities of the Lead Applicant, Collaborating Entities, and community residents in implementing the project.

Requirement 4. Community Strength Plan: Applicants must submit a Community Strength Plan that describes how their proposed projects will enhance the overall strength and economic prosperity of the community, including maximizing the benefits of the projects for existing residents and minimizing potential risks associated with investing significant resources into the Project Area. This should include strategies for how the projects will promote inclusive economic development, drive benefits of the projects to existing residents, and proactively address unintended displacement consequences. This plan should speak to how the projects will enhance the overall wellbeing of the community, ensuring existing

community members receive the benefits of these investments and can build on those benefits for future generations.

Requirement 5. Readiness Approach: Given the statutory requirement that all Community Change Grants must be completed within three years, applicants must describe how they will be able to initiate grant performance upon award, or generally no later than 120 days after award, so they can successfully complete the grant within the three-year period of performance.

Requirement 6. Compliance Plan: Applicants must submit a Compliance Plan that describes how they will: (1) ensure compliance with the grant's terms and conditions, including 2 CFR § 200.302(b) (financial management), 2 CFR § 200.303 (internal controls), and 2 CFR § 200.332 (requirements for pass-through entities); and (2) manage broader legal and compliance risks.

Details of Track I Application Requirements

Requirement 1. Climate Action Strategies: Applicants must include at least one project aligned with at least one of the Climate Action Strategies identified below. When addressing the strategy in their application, applicants should describe relevant challenges faced in the Project Area and how the selected Climate Action Strategy(ies) and associated project(s) will address those challenges. Each Climate Action Strategy outlined below is focused on building short-term and long-term climate resilience, reducing GHGs, and providing additional co-benefits so that impacted communities can adapt to the changing climate. Applicants are also encouraged, as applicable, to integrate processes that minimize burdens to human health and the environment while maximizing benefits to the Project Area through such means as integrating nature-based solutions, utilization of low-carbon building materials, or sourcing sustainable products and materials to perform the projects. When selecting a Climate Action Strategy and designing their climate action projects, applicants may refer to the National Climate Resilience Framework released in September 2023.

Examples of project activities and guidelines associated with the strategies can be found in Appendix C. While applicants may select from among the examples in the Appendix, applicants may also submit other types of project activities as long as they are consistent with a Climate Action Strategy described in Section I.G of the NOFO and are eligible for funding under §138(b)(2) of the CAA.

Strategy 1: Green Infrastructure and Nature-Based Solutions

Many disadvantaged communities face complex climate challenges, such as urban heat island effects and flooding risks. Strategy 1 supports using nature-based solutions (NBS), also referred to as green infrastructure, to address such climate risks. Nature-based solutions are generally actions to protect, sustainably manage, or restore natural systems to address the impacts of climate change, while simultaneously providing benefits for people and the environment.[4] Projects under this strategy can include planting shade trees, restoring native plants and wetlands to capture stormwater, and deploying other green infrastructure solutions that often have the co-benefit of reducing GHG emissions. Communities also may incorporate vegetation or similar natural features into traditional infrastructure.

Strategy 2: Mobility and Transportation Options for Preventing Air Pollution and Improving Public Health and Climate Resilience

Many disadvantaged communities lack access to affordable low- or zero-emission transportation options, leading to disproportionate difficulties in daily life, limiting access to educational and

[4] Applicants may use the White House's Nature-Based Solutions Resource Guide as a resource for integrating nature-based solutions.

economic opportunities, and creating vulnerability to climate risks. Strategy 2 focuses on providing community members with access to low- and zero-emission technologies to improve their overall health and well-being, reduce emissions, and increase access to important community destinations such as schools, workplaces, health care centers, and community spaces. Projects funded under this strategy may include installing protected bike lanes or walking paths, supplying traditional or electric bikes to community members, and deploying other low- or zero-emission transportation solutions. The impact of such projects could include improved public health outcomes, reduced GHG emissions from the transportation sector, more equitable access to community resources, increased community connectivity and safety, and greater community resilience to extreme weather events.

Strategy 3: Energy-Efficient, Healthy, and Resilient Housing and Buildings
Residential and commercial buildings are a significant source of GHG emissions due to the large amounts of electricity consumed for heating, cooling, lighting, and other similar functions. Many disadvantaged communities also face a disproportionately high energy burden, defined as the percentage of gross household income spent on energy costs. Many factors can influence high energy burden, including higher-cost fuels, such as propane or other bottled fuels, and energy-inefficient homes due to a lack of insulation in older homes or older appliances. Strategy 3 supports investments in low- and zero-emission technologies and energy efficiency upgrades that can help decarbonize residential and commercial buildings, decrease energy burden, and increase resilience for communities. Many of these activities also contribute to positive public health outcomes by improving indoor air quality and the safety and comfort of buildings. Co-benefits associated with this strategy can be maximized by combining additional Climate Action and Pollution Reduction Strategies to improve indoor air quality and / or produce additional resiliency benefits. This strategy can support a range of residential and commercial buildings, including single-family homes, multi-family housing buildings, small businesses, community health facilities, community centers, nonprofit offices, schools, and other similar community-serving buildings.

Strategy 4: Microgrid Installation for Community Energy Resilience
Many disadvantaged communities suffer from unreliable access to electricity, a problem that is becoming more acute due to increased heating and cooling demands during extreme weather events driven by climate change. Strategy 4 supports the installation of microgrids powered by low- and zero-emission renewable energy to improve electric reliability, enhance overall energy efficiency, reduce emissions of GHG and other air pollutants, and build a community's capacity to prepare for and withstand power disruptions. The U.S. Department of Energy defines microgrids as "a group of interconnected loads and distributed energy resources within clearly defined electrical boundaries that acts as a single controllable entity with respect to the grid." A microgrid can operate autonomously when disconnected from the grid or when there is no grid to connect to, such as in some remote communities. When connected and operated with the grid, a microgrid can provide grid ancillary services.

Strategy 5: Community Resilience Hubs
Many disadvantaged communities lack the resources to evacuate in a safe and timely manner when disaster strikes or is imminent. Strategy 5 supports the creation of, or upgrades to, community-level resilience hubs, which are public-serving spaces that provide shelter and essential services during extreme weather, natural hazards, or other events causing or contributing to an emergency or disaster, such as dangerous wildfire woodsmoke, toxic releases, industrial fires, or similar hazardous chemical incidents. These community-level resilience hubs can also serve as community-convening spaces that provide educational activities and related emergency and disaster preparedness resources to community residents year-round.

Strategy 6: Brownfield Redevelopment for Emissions Reduction and Climate Resilience
Many disadvantaged communities contain brownfield sites that impede economic development. Redeveloping brownfields provides an opportunity to make investments that contribute to community revitalization, resilience, and GHG emissions reduction. Redeveloping brownfield sites also supports infill development that significantly reduces residential vehicle use and the associated GHG emissions. Strategy 6 supports the redevelopment of brownfield sites that have already been cleaned up, or where a site assessment indicates that cleanup is not necessary for reuse. These projects should seek to improve energy efficiency through investments in low- and zero-emission technologies, integrate climate resiliency, and / or mitigate climate change impacts while also promoting economic development and improving public health for residents. Examples could include construction of a public park or partnering on a LEED Certified low-income housing project on a former brownfield site.

Note: Projects funded under this Climate Action Strategy must be performed on sites where, at the time of application submission, the applicant demonstrates that cleanup is complete or that the site does not require any cleanup activities for the intended use or reuse of the site. See Section III.D.8 and Appendix C section on this Strategy.

Strategy 7: Waste Reduction and Management to Support a Circular Economy
Disadvantaged communities often bear the brunt of environmental contamination from improper disposal of physical waste, or from disposal in landfills adjacent to those communities. This strategy supports circular economy[5] activities and promotes sustainable use of natural resources to keep materials and products in circulation for as long as possible, resulting in the reduction of GHG emissions and other pollution across a product's lifecycle. Examples of these projects may include efforts to reduce food waste (e.g., composting, anaerobic digestors), or to promote the reduction, reuse, and recycling of disaster debris, construction and demolition debris, and other materials and products. Project activities should demonstrate that they will result in materials being diverted from end-disposal facilities (e.g., landfills, incinerators) to reduce GHG emissions, toxic air pollution, and soil and water pollution.

Strategy 8: Workforce Development Programs for Occupations that Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Air Pollutants
Individuals in disadvantaged communities often lack pathways into fast-growing and well-paying job opportunities related to environmental and climate justice. This strategy allows applicants to propose workforce development programs to enable individuals in these communities to pursue career pathways in fields related to the reduction of GHG emissions and other air pollutants. Strong workforce development proposals should include all three of the following features, as detailed in Appendix C: (1) multi-sectoral partnerships that bring together workforce expertise and enable pathways into high-quality careers that help reduce GHG emissions and other air pollutants; (2) high-quality training models, such as pre-apprenticeships or Registered Apprenticeship Programs, that are worker-centered, demand-driven, and lead to good jobs that help reduce GHG emissions and other air pollutants; and (3) strategies for recruiting and retaining individuals from disadvantaged communities, especially for populations that face barriers to employment. Given that workforce development opportunities can be significant to achieving environmental and climate justice in many communities, EPA anticipates making a minimum of fifteen awards for high-ranking applications that include a workforce training program as further described in Section V.E. Note that it is a statutory requirement that workforce development activities funded under this program be focused specifically on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants.

[5] A circular economy keeps materials, products, and services in circulation for as long possible.

Requirement 2. Pollution Reduction Strategies: Applications must include at least one project aligned with at least one of the Pollution Reduction Strategies identified below. When addressing the strategy in their application, applicants should describe relevant challenges faced in the Project Area and how the selected Pollution Reduction Strategy(ies) will address those challenges. Each Pollution Reduction Strategy outlined below is focused on pollution monitoring, prevention, and remediation of quantifiable and health-harming pollutants.

Applications that include activities to increase monitoring capabilities or raise community awareness of pollution must also include an associated remediation, implementation, or infrastructure pollution reduction project that addresses the identified pollution issue.

Examples of project activities and guidelines associated with the strategies can be found in Appendix D. While applicants may select from among the examples in the Appendix, applicants may also submit other types of project activities as long as they are consistent with a Pollution Reduction Strategy described in Section I.G of the NOFO and are eligible for funding under §138(b)(2) of the CAA.

Strategy 1: Indoor Air Quality and Community Health Improvements
Disadvantaged communities often face high levels of indoor air pollution from several sources, including mold, lead paint, radon, asbestos, fossil fuel combustion, and pollution from outdoors that seeps inside. These pollutants can have a detrimental impact to human health, particularly for vulnerable populations including children, the elderly, and people with health conditions like asthma and heart disease.[6] Activities under Strategy 1 can include education on air toxins / toxics and how to monitor them (e.g., curriculum development, outreach strategies, public education activities) and direct assessment and remediation to reduce harmful air pollution (e.g., installation of filtration systems, building retrofits that address multiple sources of pollution, replacement of wood heaters that do not meet EPA standards, asbestos abatement in schools).

Strategy 2: Outdoor Air Quality and Community Health Improvements
Outdoor air pollution from mobile and stationary sources can compromise human health and the environment in many ways, including by triggering asthma attacks and heart attacks, exacerbating respiratory disease, and causing children and adults to miss school and work on bad air days. Activities funded under Strategy 2 could include: funding the purchase, upgrade, and / or maintenance of equipment and technology to allow for the inspection, testing, monitoring, and sampling of air pollution; purchasing equipment that limits community exposure to outdoor air pollutants; and reducing exposure to near-road pollution, pollution from airports and ports, and mobile source pollution. This could include land use and zoning policies that enable households to live in affordable, dense, and vibrant communities within urban and rural areas. These activities can be bolstered by educating the public on air toxins / toxics and how to monitor them (e.g., curriculum development, outreach, public education), and communication of air pollution assessment results to reduce exposure, including during environmental emergencies or events where the risk of pollution exposure is high.

Strategy 3: Clean Water Infrastructure to Reduce Pollution Exposure and Increase Overall System Resilience
Disadvantaged communities often lack access to clean water and clean drinking water. Functional water infrastructure is essential for protecting the quality of drinking water resources as well as the safety of recreational waters communities use for subsistence fishing, swimming, and other activities everyone deserves to enjoy. Strategy 3 addresses challenges communities face in accessing clean, reliable drinking water and wastewater treatment. Projects funded under this strategy may include focused

[6] Indoor Air Quality (IAQ).

infrastructure investments that can be completed within the three-year project period and within the funding amounts specified in this NOFO, as well as assessment and planning that will enable communities to better access tens of billions of dollars in federal water infrastructure funding from other sources such as EPA's Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds. Targeted infrastructure projects can include identification and replacement of lead pipes in homes and public spaces, improved resilience of water systems through deployment of backup power such as onsite renewable energy and storage, targeted efficiency upgrades, septic to sewer conversions, lining waste lagoons, and investments in redundancy such as backup wells. Assessment and planning efforts could include, for example, a leak detection and pipe replacement plan, or a PFAS monitoring program that informs a funding application to one of several sources of state and federal funding.

Strategy 4: Safe Management and Disposal of Solid and Hazardous Waste
Disadvantaged communities are disproportionately exposed to solid and hazardous waste, which negatively impacts public health. This strategy supports pollution prevention, recycling, and disposal activities related to the management of solid and hazardous waste, such as discarded electronics, tires, single-use plastics, and other disposable items. Community-level responses to these challenges could include, for example, the purchase of equipment and the development of facilities to manage solid and hazardous waste to improve public health outcomes. Brownfields cleanup is not contemplated under this strategy and is not a Community Change Grants program priority.

Requirement 3. Community Engagement and Collaborative Governance Plan: Track I applications must include a Community Engagement and Collaborative Governance Plan. Successful implementation of environmental and climate justice projects requires relationships and meaningful engagement among an ecosystem of community leaders and members alongside partners across many sectors. This plan is required to help ensure that grant activities are driven and informed by the views of the Project Area community and are accomplished through collaboration among key stakeholders, The plan should describe how the applicant will engage, educate, and be responsive to community members throughout project development and / or implementation. Additionally, the plan should incorporate a Collaborative Governance Structure that demonstrates how the Lead Applicant and Collaborating Entities (as described in Section III.A) will work together to successfully implement the grant in a timely, effective, and equitable manner.

The Community Engagement and Collaborative Governance Plan cannot exceed 10 single spaced pages – excess pages will not be reviewed. It should address the following elements and any others the applicant deems relevant to their projects:

- **Past Community Outreach and Engagement Conducted**: The applicant should demonstrate what outreach and engagement methods were used to engage with the Project Area community, including any with specific neighborhoods or groups, and how this impacted the selection of the strategies and associated projects as well as the applicant's implementation approach.
- **Community Engagement Plan Implementation:** The applicant should demonstrate the specific community engagement methods, as well as how they will mitigate barriers and involve relevant governmental stakeholders, necessary to support overall implementation including:
    - **Clear Methods for Engagement and Transparency:** The applicant should describe the following elements:
        - Outreach methods that provide opportunities for broad and diverse community member involvement in project development and / or implementation and feedback during grant performance.
        - Transparent mechanisms that will promote meaningful accountability to the needs and preferences of residents in the Project Area.

        - Mechanism(s) that will be used to continuously inform the community before and during project implementation on project status, benefits available to them through the project, and indicators being tracked, such as air quality improvements or trees planted.
    - **Mitigating Barriers**: The applicant should describe measures to minimize and mitigate barriers around community engagement and participation in project development and / or implementation including but not limited to those related to linguistic differences, communication challenges, disabilities, inaccessible technology, lack of trust or awareness, transportation, childcare, and elderly / adult care.[7]
    - **Government Involvement**: As applicable, the applicant should demonstrate the support and involvement of government agencies needed to facilitate successful grant performance. For example, projects that intersect with local-government authorities such as permitting, planning, and zoning are encouraged to demonstrate the involvement and cooperation of local government authorities.
- **Collaborative Governance Structure**: The applicant should provide details regarding the roles and responsibilities of the Lead Applicant, Collaborating Entities, and community residents and / or community-selected representatives for implementing, managing, and overseeing the application's project activities, including how they should meet regularly to discuss project implementation. The description should include at a minimum:
    - Outreach methods to solicit community representatives and processes to choose representatives to enable a broad cross-section of community representatives to participate so different voices are heard.
    - An explanation of how the Lead Applicant and Collaborating Entities will coordinate with each other and community members to inform and engage the community on project development and progress.
    - An outline of the planned decision-making processes between the Lead Applicant and Collaborating Entities, including procedures to ensure that decisions are transparent and can be made in an expedited manner when necessary.
    - Processes for replacing a Collaborating Entity to ensure that the replacement entity has comparable skills, qualifications, expertise, community support, and experience to avoid any adverse impact on grant performance. EPA approval of the qualifications, expertise, and experience of the replacement Collaborating Entity will be required pursuant to 2 CFR 200.308I(2) and / I(c)(6).

Note: Awards may include terms and conditions requiring that subaward agreements between the Lead Applicant and Collaborating Entities (including the Statutory Partner described in Section III.A) contain provisions reflecting certain of the requirements above.

Requirement 4. Community Strength Plan: Track I applications must include a Community Strength Plan. Advancing environmental and climate justice requires bolstering the strength and economic prosperity of a community for the benefit of local residents, while also ensuring those residents can remain within the community and benefit from the investments over the long term. Executive Order 14096, *Revitalizing Our Nation's Commitment to Environmental Justice for All*, states, "Advancing environmental justice will require investing in and supporting culturally vibrant, sustainable, and resilient communities in which every person has safe, clean, and affordable options for housing, energy, and transportation. It is also necessary to prioritize building an equitable, inclusive, and sustainable economy that offers economic opportunities.

[7] Refer to the EPA Office of Grants and Debarment Guidance on Selected Items of Cost for Recipients, EPA Guidance on Participant Support Costs, and EPA Subaward Frequent Questions, including for additional information on paying for light refreshments, providing dependent care stipends or services for community meeting participants, and meeting participant transportation stipends. See Appendix G for additional information.

Pursuing these and other objectives integral to advancing environmental justice can successfully occur only through meaningful engagement and collaboration with underserved and overburdened communities to address the adverse conditions they experience and ensure they do not face additional disproportionate burdens or underinvestment."

In alignment with this Executive Order and to help EPA assess whether the proposed projects will benefit disadvantaged communities, as required by §138(b)(1) of the CAA, this plan should describe how the projects in the application are intended to (1) maximize the economic benefits of the projects for existing residents in the Project Area, and (2) avoid unintended consequences for existing residents in the Project Area including the displacement of residents in the Project Area.

This plan cannot exceed 5 single-spaced pages – excess pages will not be reviewed. Consistent with the above discussion, the plan should address the following elements.

1. Maximizing Economic Benefits of Projects:

The plan should describe how the projects included in the application will maximize economic benefits for individuals in the Project Area, including priority populations defined in footnote 3.

Examples of economic benefits, as described below, could include (1) opportunities for local small businesses or contractors; (2) jobs for community members; (3) financial savings for residents; and other similar benefits, in alignment with EPA grant regulations and applicable law.[8]

- **Business Opportunities:** Applicants may need to hire contractors to carry out certain project activities. Applicants may inform local businesses of open solicitations and encourage them to compete for contracts. For example, applicants may consider partnering with their local government's small business office to broadly advertise contracting opportunities. Similarly, applicants should make a "good faith effort" to provide disadvantaged business enterprises (DBEs) with an opportunity to compete for contracts in accordance with EPA's 40 CFR Part 33 Disadvantaged Business Enterprise rule.[9]
- **Job Opportunities:** Applicants may propose measures to facilitate the employment and retention of workers from disadvantaged communities on funded projects. For example, applicants may propose developing recruitment strategies in partnership with their local workforce development board; funding supportive services for workers on grant-funded projects (e.g., transportation, childcare, mental health supports), coordinating such services with local social service providers; or establishing goals for hiring individuals from disadvantaged communities on the projects and transparently tracking progress toward those goals. Applicants may propose measures to increase community awareness of these job opportunities and the associated skill requirements, such as hiring workshops or job fairs. Applicants may also describe specific measures that will ensure Project Area residents are developing skills that are necessary to take advantage of existing or future jobs in professions contributing to the reduction of GHG emissions and other air pollutants.

[8] Note that applicants are not bound by statutory or administrative local-preference requirements, per 2 CFR 200.319(c).

[9] Note: Please carefully review Section IV.d, "Contracts and Subawards," of EPA's Solicitation Clauses that are incorporated by reference in this NOFO in Section I.J. EPA expects recipients of funding to comply with competitive procurement contracting requirements. The Agency does not accept justifications for sole source contracts for services or products available in the commercial marketplace based on a contractor's role in preparing an application or a firm or individual's "unique" qualifications. For example, applicants cannot name local contractors as part of this Community Strength Plan without adhering to these competitive procurement requirements.

Note: Jobs funded under this program should be high-quality jobs, in alignment with the U.S. Department of Labor and Commerce's Good Jobs Principles, as described in Appendix E. Applicants may propose measures to increase the likelihood that these will be good jobs for individuals from disadvantaged communities, such as training for employers / contractors on grant-funded projects to promote best practices such as equal opportunity recruitment and hiring practices, good benefits, healthy organizational culture, and opportunities for advancement. Additionally, jobs for construction activities funded under this grant will be required to pay prevailing wage rates, as required by CAA § 314 and the Davis-Bacon and Related Acts.

- **Financial Savings:** Applicants may also describe how and the extent to which Project Area residents will receive direct economic benefits from the Climate Action and Pollution Reduction projects in the applications, such as through energy bill savings or affordable zero- or low-emission transportation solutions. The plan may also discuss how the applicant plans not only to deliver these benefits for residents in the short-term but also to preserve them for the long-term. As an example, applicants working on a transportation project that will deliver immediate cost savings for residents may negotiate with a vendor / contractor to lock-in long-term cost savings for community members.

Applicants may consider using tools to align stakeholders around these benefits, such as a Community Benefits Agreement (CBA), which is a legally binding contract that defines benefits. Parties to a CBA may include CBOs, neighborhood associations, local government entities, contractors and developers, and other similar project stakeholders. Applicants are reminded of the three-year period of performance for the grant and should be prepared to expeditiously begin the negotiation of community benefits to prevent project delays.

2. Displacement Avoidance:

Benefits to disadvantaged communities can be evaluated by whether residents are able to retain the benefits of EPA-funded projects over the short and long-term. While climate action and pollution reduction can have a positive impact on a community, those benefits can also lead to unintended consequences, such as increased costs of living in a Project Area. Given that the purpose of CAA §138 is to fund activities that will benefit disadvantaged communities, applicants should describe measures to increase the likelihood that existing community members of the Project Area will benefit from investments in both the immediate and long term.

Applicants should discuss potential short-term and long-term risks associated with the proposed projects to residents, small businesses, nonprofits, and other community members in the Project Area. Applicants should assess and describe the community's vulnerability to rising costs attributable to the proposed projects and assess potential impacts to households, small businesses, and other existing groups. Based on the specific risks identified, applicants should describe measures for mitigating those risks as applicable. Some measures can mitigate these displacement vulnerabilities in the short-term, whereas other measures can have long-term impacts. For example, for projects that increase the energy efficiency of multi-family housing facilities, and that may have the unintended effect of raising rents for those facilities, the approach may focus on outreach / education to residents, such as information packets, tenant protection workshops that feature information about tenant rights under applicable state and local laws, or other educational activities. Other approaches may focus on securing commitments from landlords benefiting from EPA-funded property improvements to extend affordable housing covenants or agree not to raise rents

unnecessarily.[10] Applicants can also describe how they will work with relevant entities, such as local governments, to create policies, plans, or programs to mitigate unintended impacts of the EPA-funded investments.

Applicants should describe any work already underway in the Project Area that would mitigate these risks, or existing policies, ordinances, or programs that are relevant. For example, an applicant could describe any ordinances in the Project Area designed to expedite construction or availability of additional affordable housing. Applicants can also describe any Climate Action and Pollution Reduction Strategies proposed as part of this application that might help mitigate displacement risks by providing project co-benefits. For example, a strategy that promotes increased housing density as a tool to reduce emissions could have the co-benefit of reducing housing costs by increasing housing supply.

Requirement 5. Readiness Approach: Given the statutory requirement that all Community Change Grants must be completed within three years, applicants must describe their approach for initiating grant performance upon award, or generally within 120 days after award, in compliance with the requirements in 2 CFR Parts 200 and 1500, 40 CFR Part 33 that apply to all EPA grants so they can successfully complete the grant within the three-year period.

This includes addressing the readiness considerations listed below, and any others, that are applicable to the projects and how they will be met. If any of the below considerations are not applicable, the application should explain why not.

- **Government Approvals**: If government approval at any level (e.g., construction permits) is necessary to implement or perform a project, the applicant must demonstrate that they have obtained such approval. If such approval has not been obtained, then the applicant must demonstrate how they will obtain it immediately after award, so it does not impede grant implementation.
- **Federal Requirements for Construction Projects**: Applicants must demonstrate that they have systems in place, or a plan to have such systems in place immediately after the grant award, to comply with CAA § 314 and the Davis-Bacon and Related Acts prevailing wage requirement, the Build America Buy America domestic preference requirement, and other cross-cutting statutory and Executive Order requirements that apply to Federally funded construction projects.
- **Alignment with Existing Plans**: Applicants must demonstrate that the project(s) in the Project Area as defined in Appendix A are consistent with any community development, climate resilience, or hazard mitigation plans, or other comparable government land use restrictions.
- **Site Control**: Applicants must demonstrate that they own or control the site where a project will be performed or that they will have legally binding access or permission to the site so they can perform the project(s).
- **Operations and Maintenance**: Applicants must describe their operations and maintenance plan and financing approach for their project's infrastructure investments, if relevant, which may include long-term service costs, fee structures, detailed indebtedness for all properties, and other relevant information demonstrating how operations and maintenance of the investment will be assured during and after the grant award.

[10] Note that any agreements must be in alignment with local and state housing laws. For example, in some instances, state or local law may allow a landlord to raise rents to compensate for increases in property taxes attributable to the value of EPA funded improvements.

Requirement 6. Compliance Plan: Applicants must submit a Compliance Plan that describes how they will: (i) ensure compliance with the grant's terms and conditions, including 2 CFR § 200.302(b) (financial management), 2 CFR § 200.303 (internal controls), and 2 CFR § 200.332 (requirements for pass-through entities); and (ii) manage broader legal and compliance risks. This plan cannot exceed 5 single-spaced pages – excess pages will not be reviewed.

H. Funding Track II: Meaningful Engagement for Equitable Governance

Under this track, eligible applicants may submit projects, as described in CAA § 138(b)(2)(E), for "facilitating engagement of disadvantaged communities in State and Federal advisory groups, workshops, rulemakings, and other public processes." EPA has interpreted "other public processes" as encompassing local, Tribal, and other governmental processes. All funded activities under this NOFO must comply with federal, state, and local laws and regulations, including but not limited to:

1. 2 CFR 200.435(b), which restricts the use of grant funds to defend a recipient that is subject to a criminal, civil or administrative proceeding against it commenced by any government for fraud or similar offenses;
2. 2 CFR 200.435(g), which precludes the use of grant funds to prosecute claims against the federal Government; and
3. 2 CFR 200.450(c), which restricts the use of federal funds by nonprofit organizations for certain lobbying or electioneering activities but does not preclude the use of federal funds to promote adoption of local ordinances, including those related to zoning.
4. 40 CFR Parts 5 and 7, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin (including limited-English proficiency), disability, sex, and age by recipients and subrecipients of federal financial assistance.

Track II Objectives

Section 138 of the CAA provides that grants may be awarded for the purpose of "facilitating engagement of disadvantaged communities in State and Federal advisory groups, workshops, rulemakings, and other public processes." Accordingly, Track II applications intend to build the capacity of communities and governments to evaluate and redress environmental and climate injustices by giving disadvantaged communities a meaningful voice in government decision-making processes. By supporting direct participation of disadvantaged communities in the development and implementation of solutions, policies, and programs, the Community Change Grants can help close equity gaps and redress environmental and climate injustices.

Track II applications should focus on breaking down systemic barriers to community participation in government processes impacting environmental and climate justice. This can be done by creating engagement and feedback mechanisms with two-way communications between community members and government decision-makers. Applications should focus on ways to provide disadvantaged communities with information about issues that directly impact them, while simultaneously creating mechanisms for the government to gather input to ensure community needs inform decision-making and are integrated into government processes and policies. Applications in this track should strive to enable communities to play a meaningful role in making and implementing decisions.

Effective projects should also involve partnerships between community organizations, governments, philanthropic organizations, the private sector, and / or third-party facilitators and evaluators who can support collaboration across sectors to facilitate the engagement of disadvantaged communities in governmental decision-making processes.

Track II Project Examples

The following are examples of activities that may be proposed under Track II. Applicants may expand or refine these examples or submit projects that are not listed below if they demonstrate how they will facilitate the engagement of disadvantaged communities in governmental processes.

Example 1. Educational and Training Programs

These projects prepare, train, and educate members of disadvantaged communities on how to engage in government processes related to environmental and climate justice activities.

Examples of activities that could be performed under this type of project include but are not limited to:

- Creating a leadership development program that trains community members to identify environmental and climate justice challenges, devise strategies to address them, and recommend actions to governmental authorities. Example topics could include how to review public sector budgets, navigate specific processes such as land-use ordinances or National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) reviews, and participate effectively in public meetings. The EPA EJ Academy is an example of a type of project applicants may consider developing for their own community.
- Designing and implementing a training program to help members of disadvantaged communities effectively participate in advisory boards, commissions, land use authorities, or other bodies that involve community members in environmental and climate related policy making.
- Partnering with a government to develop and / or implement Equity Action Plans that identify and address barriers to equity and opportunity and discrimination that disadvantaged communities may face. Equity Action Plans should meaningfully incorporate community input and result in city-or-statewide transformational, equitable change in environmental or climate related policies. For informational purposes only, please find here a link to Equity Action Plans developed by federal agencies that may help applicants with designing and preparing these types of projects.

Example 2. Environmental Advisory Boards (EABs)

These are projects that facilitate the engagement of disadvantaged communities in environmental decision-making by establishing advisory councils, taskforces, or similar bodies to engage with government. These boards should have regular meetings to create consistent opportunities for disadvantaged communities to provide recommendations on actions government entities should take to address environmental and climate justice challenges. These bodies should include members from disadvantaged communities, may include additional representatives from other stakeholder groups that can effectively represent important and related perspectives (including Tribal, academia, youth / elderly / disability populations, government, etc.).

Examples of activities under an EAB-type project may include but are not limited to facilitating the engagement and involvement of disadvantaged communities in governmental processes at different levels of government to provide input, recommendations, and advice on matters such as:

- Permitting decisions for factories or industrial sites.
- Community infrastructure upgrades to address pollution and climate concerns.

- Zoning and siting guidance for fence-line / frontline communities[11] such as new school placements, highway construction, and industrial and commercial uses of land.
- Issues and actions of municipal and public utilities related to workforce development, drinking water shutoffs, drinking water quality and affordability, and aging wastewater treatment infrastructure in / near disadvantaged communities.

Example 3. Collaborative Governance Activities

These are projects that facilitate the process of providing recommendations and implementing decisions that will benefit disadvantaged communities. Projects can focus on creating collaborative bodies with members from and / or representing the interests of disadvantaged communities, governmental entities, and other stakeholders to work on environmental and climate justice issues.

Functions these bodies may focus on include co-producing solutions with disadvantaged communities to identify and address environmental issues. This could be done through obtaining feedback from a wide range of experts and stakeholders, including but not limited to those working in public health, housing, economic development, environmental justice, and other relevant fields, to identify environmental and directly related public health issues, develop solutions, and then work towards implementing the ideas with the necessary parties.

Examples of activities under a collaborative governance project may include but are not limited to facilitating the engagement and involvement of disadvantaged communities in governmental processes on matters such as:

- Participating in the development of one or more community benefits agreements to help ensure that environmental projects funded by federal, state, and / or private entities meaningfully engage and account for community needs. For informational purposes only, the resource here from the Department of Energy provides information that may help applicants with designing and preparing these types of projects.
- Creating a governance body or "development community" for a brownfields post-cleanup redevelopment project.[12]
- Creating a source water protection plan to protect public health and reduce burdens on water systems.
- Recommending organizational changes to government entities that make them more receptive and sensitive to the environmental and climate justice concerns of disadvantaged communities.

Example 4. Participation in Governmental Funding and Budgeting Processes

These are projects that use participatory budgeting to inform public spending on environmental priorities. Participatory budgeting is an approach to making decisions about governmental spending that is focused on meaningfully and deeply engaging the community in governmental funding processes. Projects can enable community-based organizations to partner with a public entity to design and implement processes whereby members of disadvantaged communities have input into, and influence, decisions about how to allocate public budgets for environmental and climate justice priorities. An example of a project using participatory budgeting could involve designing a program where the community identifies problems,

[11] A fence-line community or frontline community is generally one immediately adjacent to high polluting facilities such as industrial parks, manufacturing facilities, or commercial facilities and is directly affected by the noise, odors, traffic, and chemical and pollution emissions of the operations of these entities.
[12] U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. Build a Development Community.

evaluates proposals, and recommends decisions for public funding of projects that implicate environmental and climate justice issues.

I. EPA Strategic Plan Linkage, Anticipated Outputs, Outcomes & Performance Measures

1. Strategic Plan Linkage

Awards made under this NOFO will support the following goals and objectives of the FY 2022-2026 EPA Strategic Plan. Applications must explain how their projects will further these goals and objectives.

Goal 2: Take Decisive Action to Advance Environmental Justice and Civil Rights

- Objective 2.1: Promote Environmental Justice and Civil Rights at the Federal, Tribal, State, and Local Levels which includes the strategy of Building Community Capacity and Climate Resilience and Maximizing Benefits to Overburdened and Underserved Communities: EPA will increase support for community-led action by providing unprecedented investments and benefits directly to communities with environmental justice concerns and by integrating equity throughout Agency programs.

Depending on the projects included in them, awards will also support and advance the following EPA Strategic Plan Goals as applicable:

- Goal 1: Tackle the Climate Crisis
- Goal 4: Ensure Clean and Healthy Air for All Communities
- Goal 5: Ensure Clean and Safe Water for All Communities
- Goal 6: Safeguard and Revitalize Communities; and
- Goal 7: Ensure Safety of Chemicals for People and the Environment.

2. Environmental Results: Outputs and Outcomes

Pursuant to EPA Order 5700.7A1, Environmental Results under Assistance Agreements, applicants must describe the environmental outputs and outcomes to be achieved under the award. Applicants should specifically describe the environmental results of the proposed project in terms of well-defined outputs and, to the maximum extent practicable, well-defined outcomes that will demonstrate how the project will contribute to the goals and objectives of the Community Change Grants program.

The following questions may be useful to consider when developing output and outcome measures of quantitative and qualitative results:

- What measurable short- and longer-term results will the grant achieve?
- How will the Lead Applicant and Collaborating Entities measure progress in achieving the expected results (including outputs and outcomes), and how will the approach to measuring progress use resources effectively and efficiently?
- Are the projected outputs and outcomes specific and detailed? Are specific target measures included where possible? Are target measures reasonable and achievable within the project period and for the funding amount?

See Appendix F for further details on expected outputs and outcomes from Track I and II awards.

3. Performance Measurement Plan

The evaluation component of the Community Change Grants is essential. In their Performance Measurement Plan, applicants should describe how they plan to track and measure their project implementation and progress towards achieving the expected outputs and outcomes, including those identified in Appendix F, throughout the performance period.

Generally, higher quality performance measurement plans include specific target metrics for both outputs and outcomes. The applicant's performance measurement plan should help gather insights, will be a mechanism to track progress toward output and outcome objectives, and may provide the basis for developing lessons learned to inform future funding recipients.

Applicants should incorporate program evaluation activities from the outset of their program design and implementation to meaningfully document and measure their progress towards meeting project goals. Applications may include funding in the budget for personnel with expertise in planning, designing, developing, implementing, and evaluating programs.

J. Additional Provisions for Applicants Incorporated into the NOFO

Additional provisions that apply to Sections III, IV, V, and VI of this NOFO and / or awards made under this NOFO can be found at EPA Solicitation Clauses. These provisions are important for applying to this NOFO, and applicants must review them when preparing applications for this NOFO. If you are unable to access these provisions electronically at the website above, please email CCGP@epa.gov to obtain the provisions.

Section II. Federal Award Information

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A. Number and Amount of Awards

EPA anticipates awarding approximately $2 billion in funding through this NOFO depending on funding availability, quality of applications received, EPA priorities, and other applicable considerations. Awards under Track I are expected to be between $10-20 million each. Awards under Track II are expected to be between $1-3 million each. EPA expects to award approximately $1.96 billion for about 150 Track I awards, including those under the Target Investment Areas described below in B, and approximately $40 million for about 20 Track II awards. These amounts are estimates only, and EPA reserves the right to increase or decrease the total number of awards and funding amounts for each Track contingent on the quality of applications received, the amount of funds awarded to selected applicants, budget availability, and / or agency priorities and programmatic considerations. In addition, given that workforce development programs as described in Section I.G can be significant to achieving environmental and climate justice in many communities, EPA anticipates making a minimum of fifteen awards for high-ranking applications that include a workforce training program(s) as further described in Section V.E.

B. Target Investment Areas (TIA) for Track I Applications

Out of the approximate $2 billion in funding, EPA has identified five Target Investment Areas (TIA) listed below to help ensure that communities with unique circumstances, geography, and needs can equitably compete for funding. The amounts are estimates only and subject to change based on the number and quality of applications received, funding considerations, and agency priorities. Applicants interested in submitting an application for projects benefitting a TIA must identify this in their application. Consistent with the Track I evaluation process described in Section V, the TIA applications will be ranked and selected per TIA. Applications for the TIAs must address the Track I application requirements identified in Section I.G.

- TIA A: Tribes in Alaska: an estimated $150 million for projects benefitting Indian Tribes in Alaska. As noted in Appendix H and Section V.E below, the EPA anticipates making a minimum of 5 awards for high-ranking applications under this TIA that include projects to assess and/or clean up lands conveyed under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act that were contaminated at the time of their conveyance from the federal government to an Alaska Native Corporation.
- TIA B: Tribes in the Continental United States: an estimated $300 million for projects benefitting Tribal communities outside Alaska, which include Indian Tribes as defined by the Clean Air Act in Section III.A.3 below and Tribal Lands included in the EPA Disadvantaged Community Environmental and Climate Justice Program Map referenced in Appendix A. This also includes projects benefitting such Tribal communities that are located in the Border Area identified below in TIA E.
- TIA C: Territories: an estimated $50 million for projects benefitting disadvantaged communities in the United States' territories of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands.
- TIA D: Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities: an estimated $50 million for projects benefitting disadvantaged unincorporated communities as defined in Appendix A.
- TIA E: United States (U.S). – Southern Border Communities: Consistent with EPA's longstanding approach to addressing transborder climate and pollution challenges, an estimated

$100 million for projects benefitting non-Tribal disadvantaged communities within 100 kilometers north of the U.S.-Mexico border.

Special Requirements for Cross-Border Projects to Benefit U.S. Disadvantaged Communities

EPA's strong preference is that the work for all projects to be performed under the awards made through this NOFO will be performed entirely within the United States. However, in limited circumstances, projects to benefit U.S. disadvantaged communities near an international border may require some international work to be performed within 100 kilometers of that border (e.g., within 100 km south of the U.S.-Mexico border for a TIA E application, or within 100 km north of the U.S.-Canada border for any application). In those limited cases, to be eligible for funding consideration, the applicant must demonstrate in their application that:

- The project(s) will directly and predominantly benefit disadvantaged communities in the U.S., for example by monitoring and / or preventing pollution from an international source that is impacting the disadvantaged community in the U.S.
- Any work outside of the U.S. is necessary for the project(s) to be successful in benefitting the disadvantaged communities in the U.S. — e.g., the project(s) will not be effective otherwise.
- Any work outside of the U.S. will not be a substantial part of the project.
- The applicant will ensure that any work outside of the U.S. will be timely and properly completed and monitored to ensure it is effectively performed.

Failure to address how the application meets these conditions will render the application ineligible for review as stated in Section III.D. Applications involving cross-border work that are selected for award must address any cross-border work issues (e.g., site access and control) during the workplan negotiations following selection and before award, The appropriate terms and conditions will be included in the grant. Projects benefitting Project Areas along the U.S.-Mexico Border should be consistent with guidance and best practices outlined by EPA's Border Program.[13] [14]

C. Rolling Application Submittal and Review Process, Application Award Limits, and Application Resubmission Procedures

1. Applications may be submitted under this NOFO through November 21, 2024, to provide applicants, to the maximum extent practicable, flexibility on when to submit an application. Applications will be reviewed and evaluated on a rolling basis as described in Section V to facilitate and expedite the review and award process. EPA cannot guarantee that funding will be available through the end of the NOFO 12-month application period as funding availability is dependent on the volume and quality of applications received, as well as other applicable programmatic and funding considerations. As such, it is possible that funding could be exhausted before the conclusion of the 12-month rolling application period.
2. Under this NOFO, Lead Applicants, as defined in Section III.A, may submit a maximum of two eligible applications and receive up to two awards if they demonstrate their capacity and capabilities to effectively perform, manage, oversee, and complete both awards within the three-year grant period of performance. The two applications may be either two Track I applications or two Track II applications, or one of each. Lead Applicants who submit more than two total eligible

[13] United States – Mexico Environmental Program.
[14] U.S.-Mexico Border Program – Borderwide Resources.

applications will be asked to withdraw the excess one(s). EPA will not review more than two eligible applications from any one Lead Applicant.

3. Lead Applicants whose initial eligible application(s) is not selected for funding may, after timely requesting and receiving a debriefing on the application (as described in the Section VI Debriefings and Disputes clauses included in the EPA Solicitation Clauses), resubmit a revised application one additional time while the NOFO remains open. For example, if a Lead Applicant submits two eligible applications and both are not initially selected for funding, they may resubmit each application one additional time within the 12-month NOFO open period as explained above and further below. There is no guarantee that resubmissions, even after a debriefing, will be selected for funding. In addition, applicants who submit applications towards the end of the 12-month rolling period may not have an opportunity to resubmit the application because the NOFO is expected to close for applications on November 21, 2024. While EPA intends to review applications and provide debriefings as expeditiously as possible, applicants should keep this in mind when determining the timing of their application submission to ensure there is sufficient time for a resubmission.
4. The resubmitted application must be clearly identified as a resubmission of a previously submitted application by providing the date of the original submission through www.grants.gov and / or the date of the EPA debriefing in the updated application package. The resubmission should take into consideration the feedback received during a debriefing and any other relevant considerations, and it cannot be a completely different application from the one initially submitted. If EPA determines, in its sole discretion, that it is a different application bearing little resemblance to the original application, it may be rejected and not reviewed.

D. Conditional Awards

EPA may make conditional awards under this NOFO, which will be subject to applicable terms and conditions in the grant award.

E. Period of Performance

The period of performance of every grant funded under this NOFO cannot by statute exceed three years. There can be no extensions. Projects must be designed to be successfully and effectively completed within three years. EPA anticipates that the first awards under this NOFO will be made in the fall of 2024 and will continue to be made on a rolling basis until funding is exhausted. EPA cannot predict when funding will be exhausted since it is dependent on the volume and quality of applications received, as well as other applicable programmatic and funding considerations. As such, it is possible that funding could be exhausted before the 12-month rolling application period is over.

F. Partial Funding

EPA reserves the right to partially fund applications by funding discrete portions or phases of applications. If EPA decides to partially fund an application, it will do so in a manner that does not prejudice any applicants or affect the basis upon which the application, or portion thereof, was evaluated and selected for award, and therefore maintains the integrity of the competition and selection process. **To facilitate consideration of an application for partial funding, if applicable, EPA recommends that applications separate costs for the proposed grant in the program budget by project category, to the extent practicable.**

G. Additional Awards

EPA reserves the right to make additional awards under this NOFO, consistent with EPA policy and guidance, if additional funding becomes available after all the selections are made under this NOFO. For this NOFO, this only applies to making additional awards for those applications considered during the final monthly review, described in Section V. Any additional selections for awards will be made no later than 6 months after the final monthly review.

H. Funding Type

EPA anticipates awarding cooperative agreements under this NOFO because it is expected that there will be substantial Federal involvement through the EPA Project Officer with selected applicants in the performance of the grant and for effective EPA oversight of grantee performance. Although EPA will negotiate precise terms and conditions relating to substantial federal involvement as part of the award process with each grantee awarded a cooperative agreement, the anticipated substantial federal involvement may include:

- Closely monitoring the grantee's performance to verify the results reported by the applicant;
- Reviewing proposed procurement, in accordance with the Procurement Standards in 2 CFR Parts 200 and 1500;
- Reviewing evidence of completion of project phases (e.g., planning) before providing approval for the grantee to begin work on the next project phase (e.g., implementation);
- Reviewing the substantive terms of contracts, subawards, or other financial transactions (EPA will not select contractors, subrecipients, or program beneficiaries);
- Approving qualifications of key personnel (EPA will not select employees or contractors employed by the grantee);
- Reviewing and commenting on reports prepared under the cooperative agreement (the final decision on the content of reports will rest with the grantee); and
- Addressing compliance with Build America, Buy America requirements, in accordance with 2 CFR § 184, and providing technical assistance, if necessary, on compliance with CAA § 314 and the Davis-Bacon and Related Acts.

In addition, there may be Federal involvement with selected applicants in the performance of the grant, which may include co-sponsoring community meetings and other events and collaborating during performance of the scope of work.

Section III. Eligibility Information

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Note: Additional provisions that apply to this section of the NOFO can be found in the EPA Solicitation Clauses.

A. Eligible Applicants

Consistent with CAA §138(b)(3) and Assistance Listing 66.616, applicants eligible to apply and receive grants under this NOFO are (1) a partnership between two community-based nonprofit organizations (CBOs) as defined below, or (2) a partnership between a CBO and one of the following: a federally recognized Tribe, a local government, or an institution of higher education. These types of partnerships for eligibility purposes are known as Statutory Partnerships. Further eligibility requirements are described below.

1. Community-Based Non-Profit Organization (CBO)

To qualify as a CBO for eligibility purposes, an organization must demonstrate that they are a "nonprofit organization" as defined at 2 CFR 200.1, which "means any corporation, trust, association, cooperative, or other organization that is operated mainly for scientific, educational, service, charitable, or similar purpose in the public interest and is not organized primarily for profit; and uses net proceeds to maintain, improve, or expand the operation of the organization."

Applicants must include documentation in their application demonstrating that they are a nonprofit organization by one of two ways: 1) a written determination by the Internal Revenue Service that they are exempt from taxation under Section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code, or 2) based on a written determination by the state, territory, commonwealth, Tribe, or other United States governmental entity in which they are located. This can be done, for example, by submitting a letter, certificate, or articles of incorporation from the state where the organization is located that recognizes them as a nonprofit organization. Nonprofit organizations described in Section 501I(4) of the Internal Revenue Code that engage in lobbying activities as defined in Section 3 of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 are not eligible to apply. Foreign non-profit organizations cannot qualify as a CBO for eligibility purposes.

In addition to being considered a nonprofit organization, an organization must demonstrate that they are a public or private nonprofit organization that supports and / or represents a community and/or certain populations within a community through engagement, education, and other related services provided to individual community residents and community stakeholders. A "community," for these purposes, can be characterized by a particular geographic area and / or by the relationships among members with similar interests and can be characterized as part of a local, regional, or national community where organizations are focused on the needs of urban, rural, and / or Tribal areas, farmworkers, displaced workers, children with high levels of lead, people with asthma, subsistence fishers, and other similar groups. For purposes of this NOFO, the CBO must have a geographic presence or connection in, or relationship with, the specified community that the projects are intended to benefit. For example, national or statewide CBOs must demonstrate the CBO's connection to the community that will benefit from the grants.

For the purposes of this NOFO, applicants that demonstrate that they are Alaska Native Nonprofit Organizations or Alaska Native Nonprofit Associations are considered CBOs. In addition, Intertribal Consortia may be able to qualify as CBOs if they meet the above requirements and 40 CFR 35.504(a) and (c). The for-profit Alaskan Native Corporations are not eligible under the CBO definition and therefore are unable to apply as CBOs.

2. Local Government (in partnership with a CBO)

The following units of government within a state, as defined by the regulations in 2 CFR 200.1, are eligible to enter a Statutory Partnership with a CBO:

- County
- Borough
- Municipality
- City
- Town
- Township
- Parish
- Local public authority, including any public housing agency under the United States Housing Act of 1937
- Special district
- School district
- Intrastate district
- Council of governments, whether incorporated as a nonprofit corporation under State law; and
- Any other agency or instrumentality of a multi-, regional, or intra-State or local government.

3. Federally Recognized Tribe (in partnership with a CBO)

For the purposes of eligibility for entering into a Statutory Partnership with a CBO, EPA uses the definition of "Indian Tribe" in §302I of the CAA which provides that the term "...means any Indian Tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community, including any Alaska Native village, which is Federally recognized as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians." Note that this definition does not include Alaskan Native Corporations or State-recognized Tribes.

4. Institutions of Higher Education (in partnership with a CBO)

For the purposes of eligibility for entering into a Statutory Partnership with a CBO, the grant regulations at 2 CFR 200.1 state that Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) are defined at 20 U.S.C. § 1001.

EPA also recognizes that it is important to engage all available minds to address the environmental and climate justice challenges the nation faces. Accordingly, EPA encourages Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) to participate in the grants under this NOFO, including by partnering with a CBO.

For purposes of this NOFO, the following are considered MSIs:

1. Historically Black Colleges and Universities, as defined by the Higher Education Act (20 U.S.C. § 1061(2)). A list of these schools can be found at Historically Black Colleges and Universities.
2. Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), as defined by the Higher Education Act (20 U.S.C. § 1059c(b)(3) and (d)(1)). A list of these schools can be found at American Indian Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities.
3. Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs), as defined by the Higher Education Act (20 U.S.C. § 1101a(a)(5)). A list of these schools can be found at Hispanic-Serving Institutions.
4. Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions; (AANAPISIs), as defined by the Higher Education Act (20 U.S.C. § 1059g(b)(2)). A list of these schools can be

found at Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions.

5. Predominantly Black Institutions (PBIs), as defined by the Higher Education Act of 2008, 20 U.S.C. § 1059e(b)(6). A list of these schools can be found at Predominantly Black Institutions.

B. Statutory Partnership Requirements and Collaborating Entities

Please refer to Section III.A above for who is eligible to apply for the grants. The Statutory Partnership application is comprised of one Lead Applicant (an eligible CBO, Federally recognized Tribe, local government, or institution of higher education) who enters into a Partnership Agreement with one Statutory Partner (which is one of the following eligible entities– a CBO, Federally recognized Tribe, local government, or institution of higher education) to carry out the grant activities if the application is selected for funding. Please note that a CBO must be either the Lead Applicant or a Statutory Partner in every Statutory Partnership (e.g., there cannot be a statutory partnership of a local government and an institution of higher education or either of these entities and an Indian Tribe). In other words, as identified in Section III.A all Statutory Partnerships must include a CBO. If the application is selected for award, the Lead Applicant will enter into a subaward with the Statutory Partner that must contain the elements of the Partnership Agreement in Appendix B. The Lead Applicant must include a copy of a written and signed Partnership Agreement with their application to be eligible for funding consideration.

To ensure effective grant performance to meet the objectives of the Community Change Grants outlined in Section I, subawards from the Lead Applicant to other entities to implement and perform specific grant project activities identified in the application will be necessary. These other entities, including the Statutory Partners, are collectively referred to as Collaborating Entities in the NOFO. Given the community centered focus of the Community Change Grants, applications that do not include Collaborating Entities will likely not score well during the evaluation process. Collaborating Entities may include Statutory Partners (CBOs, Federally-recognized Tribes, local governments, and institutions of higher education) and entities that cannot legally be Statutory Partners (e.g., states, territorial governments, and international organizations). However, for-profit firms and individual consultants or other commercial service providers cannot be Collaborating Entities. Subawards made by the Lead Applicant and Collaborating Entities to implement the project strategies and activities under the application must be made consistent with the grant regulations at 2 CFR 200.331 and as permitted in Appendix A of the EPA Subaward Policy.

If selected for award, the Lead Applicant will become the grantee, operating as a pass-through entity for purposes of 2 CFR Part 200 and the EPA Subaward Policy, and taking responsibility for making subawards to Collaborating Entities. The Lead Applicant will also be accountable to EPA for effectively carrying out the full scope of work and the proper financial management of the grant (including the subawards it makes under the grant, and contracts to consultants and procurement contractors selected in accordance with the competitive procurement requirements in 2 CFR Parts 200 and 1500 as well as EPA's 40 CFR Part 33 Disadvantaged Business Enterprise rule). Additionally, as provided in 2 CFR § 200.332, the Collaborating Entities, and other subrecipients, will be accountable to the Lead Applicant for proper use of EPA funding. Note that pursuant to 2 CFR § 200.332(a)(2), as implemented in Items 2 and 4 of EPA's *Establishing and Managing Subawards* General Term and Condition, successful Lead Applicants in the Statutory Partnership must ensure that the terms and conditions of the grant agreement "flow down" to all subrecipients in the subawards. EPA has developed an optional template for subaward agreements, available in Appendix D of the EPA Subaward Policy.

As noted above, Collaborating Entities cannot include for-profit procurement contractors or individual consultants who may be involved in project performance but who receive procurement awards made in compliance with the competitive procurement requirements in 2 CFR Parts 200 and 1500 and 40 CFR Part 33. Further information on procurement and distinguishing between subawards and procurement

transactions can be found in the Best Practice Guide for Procuring Services, Supplies, and Equipment Under EPA Assistance Agreements and in EPA Subaward Policy.

C. Cost-Sharing or Matching Funds

No cost-sharing or matching is required as a condition of eligibility under this NOFO.

D. Threshold Eligibility Criteria

Applications must meet the threshold eligibility criteria below to be considered for funding. **Applications that do not meet all the applicable threshold eligibility criteria will be deemed ineligible for funding consideration and will not be considered further.** If necessary, EPA may contact applicants to clarify issues relating to threshold eligibility criteria compliance prior to making an eligibility determination. In addition, applicants should contact EPA with any questions about the threshold eligibility criteria prior to submission of their applications. Applicants whose applications are deemed ineligible for funding consideration because of the threshold eligibility review will be notified within 15 calendar days of the ineligibility determination.

Applications must meet the following threshold eligibility criteria to be considered eligible for funding under this NOFO:

1. Applications must comply with the content and submission requirements listed below.
    - Applications must substantially comply with the application submission instructions and requirements set forth in Section IV of this NOFO or else they will be rejected. However, where a page limit is expressed in Section IV with respect to the application, or parts thereof, pages in excess of the page limitation will not be reviewed. Applicants are advised that readability is of paramount importance and should take precedence in application format, including selecting a legible font type and size for use in the application.
    - In addition, initial applications must be submitted through Grants.gov as stated in Section IV of this NOFO (except in the limited circumstances where another mode of submission is specifically allowed for as explained in Section IV) on or before the application submission deadline published in Section IV of this NOFO. Applicants are responsible for following the submission instructions in Section IV of this NOFO to ensure that their application is timely submitted. Please note that applicants experiencing technical issues with submitting through Grants.gov should follow the instructions provided in Section IV, which include both the requirement to contact Grants.gov and email a full application to EPA prior to the deadline.
    - Applications submitted outside of Grants.gov will be deemed ineligible without further consideration unless the applicant can clearly demonstrate that it was due to EPA mishandling or technical problems associated with Grants.gov or SAM.gov. An applicant's failure to timely submit their application through Grants.gov because they did not timely or properly register in SAM.gov or Grants.gov will not be considered an acceptable reason to consider a submission outside of Grants.gov.

    DO NOT WAIT! Register in SAM.gov or Grants.gov as soon as possible. Finalizing these registrations could take a month or more. You do not want a late registration to prevent you from being able to properly submit your application through Grants.gov.

2. All applicants must meet the eligibility and statutory partnership requirements in III.A and include a Partnership Agreement (See Appendix B) with the application.

3. All applications must demonstrate, as required by CAA § 138(b)(1), that the projects will benefit disadvantaged communities as defined in Appendix A. While projects may have an incidental benefit to census block groups or other areas that are not considered disadvantaged communities as defined in Appendix A, the applicant must demonstrate how all the projects in the application will primarily benefit disadvantaged communities as defined in Appendix A.

4. Track I applications proposing to serve a geographically defined community identified as disadvantaged in Appendix A must submit a Project Area Map that defines which specific census block groups are designated as disadvantaged within the Project Area. Track 1 applications proposing to serve a farmworker community or DUC as defined in Appendix A must submit a Project Area Map showing where the communities that will benefit from the project are located.

5. Given the requirement under CAA § 138(b)(1) that all grants must be completed within three years, all applications must describe how the projects in the application, including any construction projects, can be completed within three years of award.

6. All Track I applications must include projects under at least one Climate Action Strategy and at least one Pollution Reduction Strategy as described in Section I.G. Track I applications also must include a Community Engagement and Collaborative Governance Plan, Community Strength Plan, Readiness Approach, and Compliance Plan as described in Section I.G.

7. All Track I applications including a workforce development project under the Climate Action Strategy must demonstrate how it will help reduce air pollutants and GHG emissions.

8. Track I applications that include projects under Climate Action Strategy 6, Brownfields Redevelopment, must demonstrate that the project will be performed on sites where, at the time of application submission, cleanup is complete or where the site does not require any cleanup activities for the intended use or reuse of the site. Please refer to the Climate Action Strategy 6 section in Appendix C for how to show that cleanup is complete or is not necessary.

9. All Track I applications for Pollution Reduction activities to increase monitoring capabilities or raise community awareness of pollution must also include an associated remediation, implementation, or infrastructure pollution reduction project that addresses the identified pollution issue.

10. Track I applications cannot request more than $20 million in EPA funding and Track II applications cannot request more than $3 million in EPA funding. Applications requesting more than these amounts will be rejected. If necessary, EPA will clarify any questions about the funding amounts requested prior to application review.

11. A Track I application for a TIA defined in Section II.B can only address one TIA. An application cannot address more than one TIA.

12. Track I applications submitted for TIA A benefitting Alaskan Tribal lands that include a project(s) for the assessment and cleanup of sites covered by the Contaminated ANCSA Lands Assistance Program must meet the relevant requirements specified in Appendix H.

13. Applications submitted for TIA E for U.S.-Southern Border Communities projects, as well as any including projects that may include project activities within 100 km of a U.S. border as discussed in Section II.B, must meet the special requirements identified in Section II.B.

14. Applications must be submitted in English only. Applications written in languages other than English will not be reviewed or considered for award. If you need assistance to submit the written application in English, technical assistance may be available. Please refer to Section I.E.

15. Multiple Applications. Lead Applicants may submit no more than two eligible applications under this NOFO, and receive no more than two awards, as explained in Section II. Excess applications will not be reviewed. If a Lead Applicant submits more than two eligible applications, they will be contacted by EPA to determine which one(s) to withdraw. Notwithstanding this limitation, a Lead Applicant may be a Statutory Partner or Collaborating Entity on other applications.

16. Resubmissions. As stated in Section II.C, a resubmitted application must be clearly identified as a resubmission of a previously submitted eligible application through such means as providing the date of the original submission and / or date of the EPA debriefing. It cannot be a completely different application from the one originally submitted. If EPA determines, in its sole discretion, that it is a completely different application bearing little resemblance to the original application, it may be rejected and not reviewed.

17. EPA will not consider any application that includes projects that are exclusively designed to conduct scientific research. However, applications may include research components such as building blocks for outreach, training, and program implementation projects. In such cases, applications should clearly articulate this link, explain why the research is necessary for the project's success, and ensure that such research does not already exist.

18. EPA will not consider any application requesting funding for assessment, removal, or remediation of Superfund sites.

Note: If an application is submitted that includes any ineligible projects, tasks, or activities, including but not limited to ones that EPA determines cannot be funded under the statutory / regulatory authorities for the grant, that portion of the application will be ineligible for funding and may, depending on the extent to which it affects the application, render the entire application ineligible for funding. This includes but is not limited to projects requesting funding for relocation activities as described in Section I.F.

Applicants who have any questions about whether their project can be funded under the statutory / regulatory authorities for the grants and this NOFO, or whether certain costs related to the project are allowable costs, should clarify the issue with EPA prior to submitting their application. Failure to do so may result in the projects and / or costs being ineligible for funding and may impact the eligibility of the entire application.

Section IV. Application and Submission Information

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Note: Additional provisions that apply to this section of the NOFO, including those related to Intergovernmental Review, can be found in the EPA Solicitation Clauses.

A. Requirement to Submit through Grants.gov and Limited Exception Procedures

Applicants must apply electronically through Grants.gov under this NOFO based on the grants.gov instructions below. If your organization has no access to the internet or access is very limited, you may request an exception from applying through Grants.gov for the remainder of this calendar year by following the procedures outlined here.

Issues with submissions with respect to this NOFO only are addressed in section 3: *Technical Issues with Submission* below.

1. SAM.gov (System for Award Management) Registration Instructions

Organizations applying to this funding opportunity must have an active SAM.gov registration. If you have never done business with the Federal Government, you will need to register your organization in SAM.gov. If you do not have a SAM.gov account, then you will need to create an account using login.gov to complete your SAM.gov registration.

SAM.gov registration is FREE. The process for entity registration includes obtaining a Unique Entity ID (UEI), a 12-character alphanumeric ID assigned an entity by SAM.gov, and requires assertions, representations and certifications, and other information about your organization. Please review the Entity Registration Checklist for details on this process.

If you have done business with the Federal Government previously, you can check your entity status using your government issued UEI to determine if your registration is active. SAM.gov requires you renew your registration every 365 days to keep it active.

Please note that SAM.gov registration is different than obtaining a UEI only. Obtaining an UEI only validates your organization's legal business name and address. Please review the Frequently Asked Question on the difference for additional details.

Organizations should ensure that their SAM.gov registration includes a current e-Business (EBiz) point of contact name and email address. The EBiz point of contact is critical for Grants.gov Registration and system functionality.

Contact the Federal Service Desk for help with your SAM.gov account, to resolve technical issues or chat with a help desk agent: (866) 606-8220. The Federal Service desk hours of operation are Monday – Friday 8am – 8pm ET.

2. Grants.Gov Registration Instructions

Once your SAM.gov account is active, you must register in Grants.gov. Grants.gov will electronically receive your organization information, such as e-Business (EBiz) point of contact email address and UEI. Organizations applying to this funding opportunity must have an active Grants.gov registration. Grants.gov registration is FREE. If you have never applied for a federal grant before, please review the Grants.gov

Applicant Registration instructions. As part of the Grants.gov registration process, the EBiz point of contact is the only person that can affiliate and assign applicant roles to members of an organization. In addition, at least one person must be assigned as an Authorized Organization Representative (AOR).

Only person(s) with the AOR role can submit applications in Grants.gov. Please review the Intro to Grants.gov-Understanding User Roles and Learning Workspace – User Roles and Workspace Actions for details on this important process.

Please note that **registering in grants.gov for the first time can take a month or more** for new registrants. Applicants must ensure that all registration requirements are met to apply for this opportunity through Grants.gov and should ensure that all such requirements have been met well in advance of the application submission deadline.

Contact Grants.gov for assistance at 1-800-518-4726 or support@grants.gov to resolve technical issues with Grants.gov. Applicants who are outside the U.S. at the time of submittal and are not able to access the toll-free number may reach a Grants.gov representative by calling 606-545-5035. The Grants.gov Support Center is available 24 hours a day 7 days a week, excluding federal holidays.

Application Submission Process

To begin the application process under this NOFO, go to Grants.gov and click the red "Apply" button at the top of the view grant opportunity page associated with this opportunity.

The electronic submission of your application to this NOFO must be made by an official representative of your organization who is registered with Grants.gov and is authorized to sign applications for Federal financial assistance. If the submit button is grayed out, it may be because you do not have the appropriate role to submit in your organization. Contact your organization's EBiz point of contact or contact Grants.gov for assistance at 1-800-518- 4726 or support@grants.gov.

Applicants need to ensure that the Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) who submits the application through Grants.gov and whose UEI is listed on the application is an AOR for the applicant listed on the application. Additionally, the UEI listed on the application must be registered to the applicant organization's SAM.gov account. If not, the application may be deemed ineligible.

Application Submission Deadline

Your organization's AOR must submit your complete application package (including any resubmission as explained in Section II.C) electronically to EPA through Grants.gov no later than November 21, 2024, at 11:59 PM ET. Please allow for enough time to successfully submit your application and allow for unexpected errors that may require you to resubmit. Please see Section II and Section V describing the rolling application submittal and review process for this NOFO.

Applications submitted through Grants.gov will be time and date stamped electronically. Please note that successful submission of your application through Grants.gov does not necessarily mean your application is eligible for award. Any application submitted after the application deadline time and date deadline will be deemed ineligible and not considered.

3. Technical Issues with Submission

If applicants experience technical issues during the submission of an application that they are unable to

resolve, follow these procedures **before** the application deadline date:

a. Contact the Grants.gov Support Center **before** the application deadline date.
b. Document the Grants.gov ticket / case number.
c. Send an email with EPA-R-OEJECR-OCS-23-04 in the subject line to CCGP@epa.gov before the application deadline time and include the following information:
    i. Grants.gov ticket / case number(s)
    ii. Description of the issue
    iii. The entire application package in PDF format

Without this information, EPA may not be able to consider applications submitted outside of Grants.gov. Any application submitted after the application deadline will be deemed ineligible and **not** be considered.

Please note that successful submission through Grants.gov or email does not necessarily mean your application is eligible for award.

EPA will make decisions concerning acceptance of each application submitted outside of Grants.gov on a case-by-case basis. EPA will only consider accepting applications that were unable to submit through Grants.gov due to Grants.gov or relevant SAM.gov system issues or for unforeseen exigent circumstances, such as extreme weather interfering with internet access. Failure of an applicant to submit the application prior to the application submission deadline time and date because they did not properly or timely register in SAM.gov or Grants.gov is not an acceptable reason to justify acceptance of an application outside of Grants.gov.

4. Required Forms and Documents

The following forms and documents are required under this NOFO:

Mandatory Documents for Track I and Track II Applications

1. **Application for Federal Assistance** (SF-424)
2. **Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs** (SF-424A)
3. **EPA Key Contacts Form** 5700-54
4. **EPA Preaward Compliance Review Report Form** 4700-4 (Please see these Useful Tips for completing this form)
5. **Project Narrative Attachment Form**: Use this to prepare your Project Narrative as described in Section IV.B below.
6. **Attachments**: Use the "Other Attachments Form" in Grants.gov for the following additional documents. These attachments are not subject to the page limitation that applies to the Project Narrative identified below and some have their own page limitation as identified below:
    - **Attachments for Track I and Track II Applications:**
        - **Attachment A:** Program Budget Template (See below in Section IV.B and also optional template in Appendix G)
        - **Attachment B:** Partnership Agreement (See Section III.A and Appendix B)
        - **Attachment C:** Indirect Cost Rate Agreement, if applicable.

    - **Attachments for Track I Applications Only:**
        - **Attachment D:** Project Area Map as described in Appendix A.
        - **Attachment E:** Community Engagement and Collaborative Governance Plan as described in Section I.G that does not exceed 10 single spaced pages-excess pages will not be reviewed.

- **Attachment F:** Community Strength Plan as described in Section I.G that does not exceed 5 single spaced pages-excess pages will not be reviewed.
- **Attachment G:** Readiness Approach Information as described in Section I.G.
- **Attachment H**: Compliance Plan as described in Section I.G that does not exceed 5 single-spaced pages--excess pages will not be reviewed.

B. Content of Application Submission

Applicants should read the following sections very carefully. A complete application package includes the forms, documents, and attachments listed above in Section IV.A.4: *Required Forms and Documents,* which includes the materials further described below.

Applicants should ensure that their application materials, including attachments, address all the applicable evaluation criteria in Section V, and applicable threshold eligibility criteria in Section III.D, for Track I and II applications. The evaluation criteria in Section V place increased emphasis on certain evaluation criteria that are integral to ensuring that the application will advance environmental and climate justice, meet CCG objectives, and maximize benefits to disadvantaged communities.

Project Narrative for Track I and II Applications

Below are the instructions for both Track I and Track II applications. There are different instructions for each track, so applicants should carefully read the instructions and contact EPA at CCGP@epa.gov with any questions. There are also certain attachments for Track I and II applications that must be submitted as identified in Section IV.A.4 above.

The Project Narrative for both application tracks are comprised of Sections A and B as described below for each track and should include the information and content below. Applicants should ensure they include information addressing the relevant evaluation criteria in Section V for Track I or II applications and any applicable threshold eligibility criteria in Section III.D. Please make sure the required attachments identified in Section IV.A.4 for Track I and II applications also include the applicable information.

- The Project Narrative for Track I applications must not exceed twenty (20) single-spaced pages and be on letter size pages (8 ½ X 11 inches). Excess pages will not be reviewed. The attachments for Track I described in Section IV.A.4 are not part of the Project Narrative.
- The Project Narrative for Track II applications must not exceed fifteen (15) single spaced pages and be on letter size pages (8 ½ X 11 inches). Excess pages will not be reviewed. The attachments for Track II described in Section IV.A.4 are not part of the Project Narrative.

Applicants are encouraged to be concise and do not need to use all the pages within the page limit. Links to external websites or content will not be reviewed or considered. Any pages beyond the page limitations will not be reviewed by the Review Panel. It is recommended that applicants use a standard font (e.g., Times New Roman, Calibri, and Arial) and a 12-point font size with 1- inch margins. While these guidelines establish the acceptable type size requirements, applicants are advised that readability is of paramount importance and should take precedence in selection of an appropriate font for use in the application. **The grant application forms and other attachments identified in Section IV.A.4: *Required Forms and Documents* above are not included in the Project Narrative page limits for Track I and II applications.**

To assist EPA reviewers, applicants should reference the numbers and titles of the evaluation criteria identified in Section V.C in their Project Narratives (and attachments) to help identify where the criteria are being addressed as applicable. Applicants should contact EPA with any questions about the application content requirements.

Track I Project Narrative

Track I applications include a Project Narrative with two sections as identified below: (A) Executive Summary and (B) Project Workplan. Together these cannot exceed 20 pages as described above.

Section A. Executive Summary

The Executive Summary should contain the elements below and should not exceed three pages.

- **Application Title:** Provide a name for the application.
- **Lead Applicant:** Name of the Lead Applicant.
- **Statutory Partner to the Lead Applicant**: Name of the Statutory Partner.
- **Contact Information:** Include a name, title, email address, and phone number for key personnel for the Lead Applicant and, Statutory Partner.
- **Eligibility:** Describe how the Lead Applicant and Statutory Partner meet the eligibility requirements in Section III.A of the NOFO.
- **Climate Action Strategy:** Specify which Climate Action Strategy(ies) is addressed in the application.
- **Pollution Reduction Strategy:** Specify which Pollution Reduction Strategy(ies) is addressed in the application.
- **Grant Award Period and Completion:** Provide estimated beginning and ending dates for the period of performance for your proposed grant. Given the requirement under CAA § 138(b)(1) that all grants must be completed within three years, all applications must state how the projects in the application, including any construction projects, can be completed within three years of award.
- **Amount of EPA Funding Requested:** See award sizes specified in Section II.A.
- **Target Investment Area:** If the application is for a Target Investment Area as defined in Section II.A, please identify which one. If the application is not for a Target Investment Area, put N/A.
- **Disadvantaged Community to benefit from the projects:** Identify and describe the disadvantaged community, as defined in Appendix A, intended to benefit from the projects in the application.
- **Other Sources of Funding:** Briefly explain, to the extent you can, whether funding for the projects in your application is available under the Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act (IIJA), other IRA programs, or other funding streams and if so your reasons for seeking funding for these projects under this NOFO. Please also note the Duplicate Funding clause included in Section IV of the EPA Solicitation Clauses incorporated by reference in this NOFO and referenced in Section V.E.
- **Resubmission Status:** Specify if the application is for a resubmission of a previously submitted and reviewed application. If so, please identify the date of the original submission and the date of EPA debriefing of the previously submitted application (See Section II.C for further information on the resubmission process).

Section B. Project Workplan

The Project Workplan should contain the elements below.

Part 1. Community-Driven Investments for Change

1.1 Community Vision Description.

- **Community Description**: Provide an overview of the Project Area described in Appendix A,

including its resources, assets, and characteristics. Describe how the boundary of the Project Area was determined and demonstrate how the project activities in the Project Area are designed and focused to provide impactful benefits to the residents of disadvantaged communities in the Project Area as defined in Appendix A.[15]

Applicants should note that while they can determine the Project Area for their projects consistent with the instructions in Appendix A, concentrated and compact Project Areas may maximize benefits to the residents of the disadvantaged communities in the Project Area. Activities spread across a large Project Area may be more dispersed and less impactful. As described in Section V.C, EPA will evaluate applications based in part on the extent and quality to which project benefits will accrue to the residents of disadvantaged communities in the Project Area as defined in Appendix A in an impactful manner.

- **Community Challenges:** Describe the needs and challenges the Project Area is facing, including climate impacts, climate change risks / exposures, and / or localized pollution. Describe the impact of these challenges on the residents of the disadvantaged communities in the Project Area as defined in Appendix A and particularly on priority populations within the Project Area who are acutely exposed to and impacted by climate, pollution, and weather-related threats, and / or who exhibit acute vulnerabilities or susceptibilities to the impacts of environmental pollution. See footnote 3 for more information on priority populations.

- **Community Vision:** Articulate an overall vision for the impact and benefits the grant would have on the Project Area in the near and long term, including the effect it will have on reducing and preventing pollution; building resilience to climate change and mitigating current and future climate risks; creating high-quality jobs and expanding economic opportunity through workforce development; and bolstering Project Area strength by ensuring that residents of the disadvantaged communities in the Project Area receive the benefits of investments and have the opportunity to build on them for current and future generations.

1.2 **Selected Strategies:** As described in Section I.G, applications must address at least one Climate Action Strategy and at least one Pollution Reduction Strategy. Accordingly, applications should address the following requirements:

- **Strategy Overview –** for each selected Climate Action and Pollution Reduction Strategy:
  - Provide an overview of the strategy and associated projects and describe how they will be implemented during the grant term.
  - Describe how the strategies and associated projects in the application are integrated and / or designed to complement each other to provide impactful benefits to the residents of disadvantaged communities within the Project Area as defined in Appendix A and describe how the scale and scope of the Project Area was designed to accomplish this.

  - Explain how the amount / proportion of the requested funding was determined for each strategy and associated project in the application.

- **Climate Action Strategies**

[15] Disadvantaged communities as defined in Appendix A include census block groups designated as geographically defined disadvantaged communities, as well as farmworker communities and DUCs.

- Describe how the project(s) associated with the Climate Action Strategy(ies) will address the climate impacts, risks, and / or challenges facing the Project Area and especially the residents of disadvantaged communities within the Project Area as defined in Appendix A; will decrease GHG emissions within the Project Area and increase the overall resilience of the Project Area to current and anticipated climate impacts; and are responsive to the Project Area needs and challenges identified in the Community Vision Description.

- **Pollution Reduction Strategies**
  - Describe how the project(s) associated with the Pollution Reduction Strategy(ies) will address the localized pollution challenges facing the Project Area and especially the residents of disadvantaged communities within the Project Area as defined in Appendix A; will make substantial and measurable (i.e., quantifiable) progress towards preventing, reducing, and / or mitigating existing and future sources of pollution to benefit the Project Area; and are responsive to the Project Area needs and challenges identified in the Community Vision Description.

Part 2. Program Management, Capability and Capacity

2.1 **Performance Management Plan, Outputs / Outcomes**: Applicants should describe the environmental results of the proposed project in terms of well-defined outputs and, to the maximum extent practicable, well-defined outcomes that will demonstrate how the project will contribute to the Community Change Grants goals and objectives. (See Section I.I and Appendix F for more detail on expected outputs and outcomes). In addition to identifying expected project outputs and outcomes, applicants should describe how they plan to track and measure their project performance, including through indicator tracking, to monitor progress towards achieving the expected outputs and outcomes throughout the performance period.

Applicants should also:

- Describe how they selected the expected outputs and outcomes and how they will lead to improvements to the environmental conditions and public health of the community members of the Project Area in the short and long term.
- Describe how the expected project outputs and outcomes are specific and include achievable and reasonable target measures within the project period.
- Describe how the recipient will use program evaluation activities (e.g., utilizing proper evaluation tools and personnel / organizations with experience in evaluating program and project progress / success) from project initiation through project completion to meaningfully document and measure their progress towards achieving project goals.

2.2 **Project Linkages to the EPA Strategic Plan:** Applications should describe how the proposed project activities support and advance EPA Strategic Plan Goal 2 (Take Decisive Action to Advance Environmental Justice and Civil Rights), Objective 2.1, (Promote Environmental Justice and Civil Rights at the Federal, Tribal, State, and Local Levels). See Section I.I. In addition, applications, depending on the projects included in them, should also address how they support and advance the following EPA Strategic Plan Goals as applicable:

- Goal 1 - Tackle the Climate Crisis

- Goal 4 - Ensure Clean and Healthy Air for All Communities
- Goal 5 - Ensure Clean and Safe Water for All Communities
- Goal 6 - Safeguard and Revitalize Communities; and
- Goal 7 - Ensure Safety of Chemicals for People and the Environment

Refer to the EPA Strategic Plan.

2.3 **CBO Experience and Commitment:** Applications should describe the following for the Lead Applicant and / or Statutory Partner for the proposed grant:

- Their history and experience as a CBO.
- The depth of their commitment, connections, and relationships with the disadvantaged communities the application is intended to benefit.

2.4 **Programmatic and Managerial Capability and Resources:** Applications should provide information demonstrating the Lead Applicant's and Statutory Partner's ability to successfully complete, oversee, and manage the award including:

- Their organizational experience and capacity related to performing the proposed projects or similar activities (e.g., experience in managing projects and activities like those in the application).

- Their resources, capacity, capabilities, staff (e.g., project manager and other key personnel), expertise, and skills to perform and manage the award activities effectively during the three-year award period. For Lead Applicants submitting two applications under this NOFO, this includes how they demonstrate they have the above attributes to perform, manage, and oversee two awards effectively within the three-year award period.

- Their financial stability, controls in place, and capacity to manage taxpayer dollars ethically and efficiently as well as the policies and controls to be in place for project oversight and to manage program risk. This includes controls to identify waste, fraud, and abuse, and reduce the potential for waste, fraud, and abuse, by including plans and policies for program oversight, including confidential reporting (e.g., whistleblower protections), and risk management.

- A projected milestone schedule for the proposed projects (up to three years) with a breakout of the project activities into phases with associated tasks and timeframes for completion of tasks, including the approach, procedures, and controls for ensuring that the award funds will be expended in a timely and efficient manner while ensuring that costs are eligible, reasonable, and allowable.

2.5 **Past Performance**: Describe federally funded and / or non-federally funded assistance agreements (assistance agreements include grants and cooperative agreements but not contracts) that the Lead Applicant performed within the last three years (no more than three agreements in total) and provide the information below for them. EPA agreements are preferred to be included.

- Describe whether, and how, the Lead Applicant was able to successfully complete and manage the agreements.

- Describe the history of the Lead Applicant in meeting the reporting requirements under the agreements including submitting acceptable final technical reports.

- Describe how the Lead Applicant documented and / or reported on whether progress towards achieving the expected results (i.e., outputs and outcomes) under those agreements was being made. If progress was not made, please indicate whether, and how, that was documented.

Note: In evaluating the Lead Applicant's past performance, the Agency will consider the information provided in the application and may also consider relevant information from other sources, including information from EPA files and / or from current and prior federal agency grantors (e.g., to verify and / or supplement the information provided by the applicant). If there is no relevant or available past performance information, please indicate this in the application, and you will receive a neutral score for these factors under Section V. Failure to provide any past performance information, or to include a statement that you do not have any relevant or available past performance or reporting information, may result in a zero score for these factors (see also Section V).

Part 3. Feasibility, Sustainability, and Budget: Provide the following information:

3.1 **Feasibility**: Demonstrate that all the projects in the application can be successfully and effectively performed within the three-year grant period of performance, and the degree of risk that they cannot be. This includes describing how the strategies and associated projects can individually and collectively be completed within three years.

3.2 **Sustainability:** Demonstrate the extent to which the benefits and outcomes from the projects can be sustained after the three-year grant period of performance based on factors including but not limited to whether (i) the applicant will leverage funding and / or resources from other sources to ensure the sustainability of the projects beyond the three-year grant term and (ii) the description of an operations and maintenance approach including plans and commitments to ensure there is continued funding available for operation and maintenance activities of infrastructure activities for the projects after the grant term is over (e.g., are there demonstrated commitments for continuing operation and maintenance funding / resources from the appropriate parties after the three year grant term is over) including coordination with appropriate responsible parties.

3.3 **Program Budget Description:** Provide a detailed budget description and estimated funding amounts for each project component / task similar to that on the budget found in SF-424A, which includes the EPA funding requested to be expended over the three-year period of performance. This section provides an opportunity for a narrative description of the budget or aspects of the budget found in the SF-424A. In the description, explain how the budget is reasonable to accomplish the projects, and the cost-effectiveness of the budget in terms of maximizing the share of funds used for the delivery of benefits to disadvantaged communities (both the direct costs of funds passed through for financial assistance as well as associated indirect costs).

Note: A template to depict the program budget description is included as Appendix G and may be used to supplement the budget description in the Project Narrative. Applicants that do not use the template will not be penalized and applicants can convey the information in other forms. While the program budget description is part of the Project Narrative page limit, the template is not part of the page limit for the Project Narrative and will not count against the 20-page Project Narrative page limit for Track I applications.

C. Track I Application Attachments. These attachments must be submitted with the application as stated in Section IV.A.4 above and are not part of the Project Narrative described above. Please note any page limits that apply to these attachments.

- Project Area Map (Attachment D). Submit a Project Area Map as described in Appendix A.

- Community Engagement and Collaborative Governance Plan (Attachment E)**.** Applications must include a Community Engagement and Collaborative Governance Plan that should address the elements of the plan as described in Section I.G. This plan cannot exceed 10 pages (excess pages will not be reviewed).

- Community Strength Plan (Attachment F). Applications must include a Community Strength Plan that should address the elements of the plan as described in Section I.G. This plan cannot exceed 5 pages (excess pages will not be reviewed).

- Readiness Approach (Attachment G). Applicants must demonstrate, based on the Readiness Approach Requirements described in Section I.G, their ability and readiness to proceed with grant performance for the projects in the application upon receiving an award, and generally no later than 120 days after award, in order to ensure that the projects can be completed within the statutory three-year grant period. As appropriate, this may include a description of the completed project planning and design phases related to the project(s) as well as demonstrating that the applicant has obtained and / or complied with the necessary approvals, permits, permissions, and any other applicable requirements, to commence project performance upon award, and if not their plan for doing so within 120 days of award. There is no page limit for this information, but applicants should be as concise as possible.

- Compliance Plan (Attachment H). Applications must include a Compliance Plan as described in Section I.G that does not exceed 5 pages (excess pages will not be reviewed).

Track II Application Requirements

Track II applications include a Project Narrative with two sections as identified below: (A) Executive Summary and (B) Project Workplan. Together these cannot exceed 15 pages as described above.

Section A. Executive Summary

The Executive Summary should contain the elements below and should not exceed two pages.

- **Application Title:** Provide a name for the application.
- **Lead Applicant:** Name of the organization applying.
- **Statutory Partner to the Lead Applicant**: Name of the Statutory Partner.
- **Contact information:** Include a name, title, email address, and phone number for key personnel for Lead Applicant, Statutory Partner.
- **Eligibility:** Describe how the Lead Applicant and Statutory Partner meet the eligibility requirements in Section III.A of the NOFO.
- **Disadvantaged Community to benefit from the projects:** Identify and describe the disadvantaged communities, as defined in Appendix A, intended to benefit from the projects in the application.
- **Grant Award Period and Completion:** Provide estimated beginning and ending dates for the period of performance for your proposed grant. Given the requirement under CAA § 138(b)(1) that

all grants must be completed within three years, all applications must state how the projects in the application can be completed within three years of award.

- **EPA Funding Requested:** See award sizes specified in Section II.A.
- **Other Sources of Funding** Briefly explain, to the extent you can, whether funding for the projects in your application is available under the Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act (IIJA), other IRA programs, or other funding streams and, if so, your reasons for seeking funding for these projects under this NOFO. Please also note the Duplicate Funding clause included in Section IV of the EPA Solicitation Clauses incorporated by reference in this NOFO and referenced in Section V.E.
- **Resubmission Status:** Specify if the application is for a resubmission of a previously submitted and reviewed application. If so, please identify the date of the original submission and date of EPA debriefing of the previously submitted application (See Section II.C for further information on the resubmission process).

Section B. Project Workplan

1. **Track II Program Objectives:** Applications should describe the following:

    - How the application addresses the Track II objectives identified in Section I.H.
    - What methods, tools, and trainings the applicant will use to facilitate the engagement of disadvantaged communities in state and Federal advisory groups, workshops, rulemakings, and / or other public processes, including local, Tribal, and other governmental processes, related to environmental and climate justice.
    - How the application addresses the disadvantaged community's lack of access to, or weak relationships with, governmental entities, including how the application improves those relationships, increases points of access for disadvantaged communities with government entities, and creates channels to work cooperatively to promote environmental and climate justice
    - How the application will result in governmental entities better understanding the root causes of environmental and climate justice issues that impact disadvantaged communities, so government leaders and decision-makers are better prepared to proactively address concerns before issues materialize.

2. **Project Collaboration and Participation:** Applications should describe the following:

    - How meaningful input and feedback was considered from the disadvantaged community and other stakeholders in designing and developing the project and how input will continue to be obtained and considered during grant performance.
    - The facilitation and accountability measures to establish and maintain trust between the disadvantaged community and government officials to ensure the community can collaborate in an authentic and meaningful way, rather than an insincere manner, on environmental and climate justice issues with governmental bodies.
    - The applicant's and any Collaborating Entities' history of relationships and collaborations with disadvantaged communities, governmental bodies, and other stakeholders to address environmental and environmental / climate justice issues.

3. **Project linkages**: Applicants should describe how their application supports and advances EPA Strategic Plan Goal 2 (Take Decisive Action to Advance Environmental Justice and Civil Rights), Objective 2.1, (Promote Environmental Justice and Civil Rights at the Federal, Tribal, State, and Local Levels).

4. **Program Budget Description**: Provide a detailed budget description and estimated funding amounts for each project component / task similar to that on the budget found in SF-424A, which includes the EPA funding requested to be expended over the three-year period of performance. This section provides an opportunity for a narrative description of the budget or aspects of the budget found in the SF-424A. In the description, explain how the budget is reasonable to accomplish the projects, and the cost-effectiveness of the budget in terms of maximizing the share of funds used for the delivery of benefits to disadvantaged communities (both the direct costs of funds passed through for financial assistance as well as associated indirect costs).

   Note: A template to depict the program budget description is included as Appendix G and may be used to supplement the budget description in the Project Narrative. Applicants that do not use the template will not be penalized and applicants can convey the information in other forms. While the program budget description is part of the Project Narrative page limit, the template is not part of the page limit for the Project Narrative and will not count against the 15-page Project Narrative page limit for Track II applications.

5. **Environmental Results:** Applicants should describe the following:
   - Their plan, with associated timeframes, for tracking and measuring their progress in achieving the expected project outcomes and outputs for Track II applications. See Section I.I and Appendix F for more detail on expected outputs and outcomes.
   - Whether and how the projects and their outcomes are sustainable beyond the three-year grant period, and how they will leverage resources, community support, etc. to facilitate this. The quality and specificity of the proposed outputs and outcomes, and how they will lead to the success of the grants, should also be addressed.

6. **CBO Experience and Commitment:** Applicants should describe the following for the Lead Applicant and / or Statutory Partner for the proposed grant:
   - Their history and experience as a CBO.
   - The depth of their commitment, historical connections, and relationships with the disadvantaged community the application is intended to benefit.

7. **Programmatic and Managerial Capability and Resources:** Provide information demonstrating the Lead Applicant's and Statutory Partner's ability to successfully complete, oversee, and manage the award including:
   - Their organizational experience and capacity related to performing the proposed projects or similar activities (e.g., experience in managing projects and activities like those in the application).
   - Their resources, capacity, capabilities, staff (e.g., project manager and other key personnel), expertise, and skills to perform and manage the award activities effectively during the three-year award period. For Lead Applicants submitting two applications under this NOFO, this includes how they demonstrate they have the above attributes to perform, manage, and oversee two awards effectively within the three-year award period.
   - Their milestone schedule for the proposed projects (up to three years) including the breakout of the project activities into phases and timeframes for completion of tasks, and the approach, procedures, and controls for ensuring that the award funds will be expended in a timely and efficient manner while ensuring that costs are eligible, reasonable, and allowable.
   - Their legal and financial controls in place, and capacity to manage taxpayer dollars ethically and efficiently as well as the policies and controls for project oversight and program risk. This includes the extent and quality to which the application includes controls to identify waste, fraud, and abuse, and reduce the potential for waste, fraud, and

abuse by including plans and policies for program oversight, including confidential reporting (e.g., whistleblower protections).

8. **Past Performance**: Describe federally funded and / or non-federally funded assistance agreements (assistance agreements include grants and cooperative agreements but not contracts) that the Lead Applicant performed within the last three years (no more than three agreements in total) and provide the information below for them. EPA agreements are preferred to be included.
    - Describe whether, and how, the Lead Applicant was able to successfully complete and manage the agreements.
    - Describe the Lead Applicant's history of meeting the reporting requirements under the agreements including submitting acceptable final technical reports.
    - Describe how the Lead Applicant documented and / or reported on whether progress towards achieving the expected results (i.e., outputs and outcomes) under those agreements was being made. If progress was not being made, please indicate whether, and how, this was documented.

    Note: In evaluating the Lead Applicant's past performance, the Agency will consider the information provided in the application and may also consider relevant information from other sources, including information from EPA files and / or from current and prior federal agency grantors (e.g., to verify and / or supplement the information provided by the applicant). If there is no relevant or available past performance information, please indicate this in the application, and you will receive a neutral score for these factors under Section V. Failure to provide any past performance information, or to include a statement that you do not have any relevant or available past performance or reporting information, may result in a zero score for these factors (see also Section V).

C. Informational Webinars and Application Assistance

EPA will host and/or participate in a series of webinars about this NOFO while it remains open for application submission. EPA will post information about the webinars, schedule for webinars, as well as additional information about this NOFO (e.g., frequently asked questions, technical assistance) on the Inflation Reduction Act Community Change Grants Program page. A recording of each webinar will be posted at the link above along with presented materials.

In addition, EPA's technical assistance contractor may host webinars related to the NOFO and information on that will be posted on their website.

Please note that in accordance with EPA's Policy for Competition of Assistance Agreements, EPA Order 5700.5A1, EPA staff will not meet with individual applicants to discuss draft applications, provide informal comments on draft applications, or provide advice to applicants on how to respond to evaluation criteria. Please note, however, that as stated in Section I, technical assistance will be available to eligible applicants for help with this NOFO.

Applicants are responsible for the contents of their applications. However, consistent with the provisions in the NOFO, EPA will respond to questions from individual applicants regarding threshold eligibility criteria, administrative issues related to the submission of the application, and requests for clarification about this NOFO.

Section V. Application Review Information

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Note: Additional provisions that apply to this section can be found at EPA Solicitation Clauses.

A. Threshold Eligibility Review Process

All applications will be evaluated for threshold eligibility purposes based on the threshold eligibility criteria described in Section III.D.

B. Review Panel and Evaluation Process

All applications that pass the threshold eligibility review process will be evaluated and scored by review panels, on a rolling basis, using the track-specific evaluation criteria and processes described below. Review panels will be comprised of EPA staff and / or external reviewers. See below for additional detail about the evaluation criteria and processes for each track.

C. Track I Application Review Process and Evaluation Criteria

All eligible Track I applications (including those for the TIAs described in Section II.B) will be evaluated, on a rolling basis, based on the155 point scale described below.

Track I Application Criteria

Section	Possible Points
Part 1. Community Driven Investments for Change	**80 total**
1.1 Community Overview	10
1.2 Selected Strategies	45
1.3 Community Engagement and Collaborative Governance Plan	15
1.4 Community Strength Plan	10
Part 2. Program Management, Capability, and Capacity	**35 total**
2.1 Performance Management Plan, Outputs / Outcomes	6
2.2 Project Linkages to the EPA Strategic Plan	4
2.3 CBO Experience and Commitment	5
2.4 Programmatic and Managerial Capability and Resources	15
2.5 Past Performance	5
Part 3. Readiness to Perform, Feasibility, and Sustainability	**40 total**
3.1 Readiness Approach	8
3.2 Feasibility	9
3.3 Sustainability	5
3.4 Program Budget Description	8
3.5 Compliance Plan	10
TOTAL	**155**

Evaluation Criteria for Track I Applications (155 points total)

Part 1. Community Driven Investments for Change (80 points total)

1.1 Community Vision Description (10 points)

- **Community Description:** Applications will be evaluated based on their description of the Project Area including its resources, assets, and local characteristics, as well as how the project activities in the Project Area are designed and focused to maximize benefits for the residents of disadvantaged communities in the Project Area. Please note that in evaluating applications under this criterion, EPA will evaluate the extent and quality to which project benefits will accrue to the residents of the disadvantaged communities in the Project Area, as defined in Appendix A, in an impactful manner. (4 points)
- **Community Challenges:** Applications will be evaluated based on how well they describe the challenges and needs the residents of the disadvantaged communities in the Project Area, as defined in Appendix A, are facing, including climate impacts, climate change risks / exposures, and / or localized pollution, and the impact these challenges have on priority populations within the Project Area who are acutely exposed to and impacted by climate, pollution, and weather-related threats, and / or who exhibit acute vulnerabilities or susceptibilities to the impacts of environmental pollution. See footnote 3 for more information on priority populations. (3 points)
- **Community Vision:** Applications will be evaluated based on the quality and extent to which they articulate an overall and clear vision for the impacts and benefits the grant would have on the residents of the disadvantaged communities in the Project Area as defined in Appendix A in the near and long term. (3 points).

1.2 Selected Strategies (45 points)

- **Strategy Overview (15 points).** Applications will be evaluated based on the quality and extent to which they:
  - Provide an overview of the strategies and associated projects and describe how they will be implemented during the grant term. (5 points)
  - Describe how the strategies and associated projects in the application are integrated and / or designed to complement each other to benefit the residents of the disadvantaged communities in the Project Area, and how the scale and scope of the Project Area was developed to accomplish this. (7 points)
  - Explain how the amount / proportion of the requested funding was determined for each strategy and aligned project in the application. (3 points)

- **Climate Action Strategies (15 points).** Applications will be evaluated based on the quality and extent to which they:
  - Describe how the associated projects will address the identified climate impacts and / or climate change risk(s) / exposure(s) within the Project Area, and especially those facing residents of disadvantaged communities in the Project Area as defined in Appendix A and explain how the project(s) will decrease GHG emissions within the Project Area and / or increase overall Project Area resilience to current and anticipated climate impacts. (8 points)
  - Describe how the selected Climate Action Strategies and associated projects help meet the needs and challenges of the Project Area as articulated in the Community Vision Description. (7 points)

- **Pollution Reduction Strategies (15 points).** Applications will be evaluated based on the

quality and extent to which they:

- Describe how the associated project(s) will address the identified localized pollution challenges facing the Project Area, and especially the residents of disadvantaged communities within the Project Area as defined in Appendix A, and will make substantial and measurable (i.e., quantifiable) progress towards preventing, reducing, and / or mitigating existing and future sources of pollution to benefit the Project Area. (8 points)
- Describe how the selected Pollution Reduction Strategies help meet the needs and challenges of the Project Area as articulated in the Community Vision Description. (7 points)

1.3 **Community Engagement and Collaborative Governance Plan (15 points):** The Community Engagement and Collaborative Governance Plan described in Section I.G will be evaluated based on the quality and extent to which it demonstrates:

- **Past Community Outreach and Engagement Conducted:** How the applicant's past engagement with the Project Area community impacted the Strategy and associated project selection and implementation approach included in the application, including the outreach and engagement methods used for the Project Area and specific neighborhoods or groups within the Project Area. (4 points)
- **Community Engagement Plan Implementation**: The specific community engagement methods used by the applicant, as well as how they will mitigate barriers and involve relevant governmental stakeholders necessary to support overall project implementation. (6 points)
- **Collaborative Governance Structure**: The details regarding the roles and responsibilities of the Lead Applicant, Collaborating Entities, and community residents and / or community-selected representatives for implementing, managing, and overseeing the application's project activities, including how regularly they will meet to discuss project implementation. (5 points)

1.4 **Community Strength Plan (10 points):** The Community Strength Plan as described in Section I.G will be evaluated based on the quality and extent to which it demonstrates:

- **Maximizing Economic Benefits of Projects:** How the projects included in the application are intended to provide economic benefits for individuals in the Project Area, including priority populations as defined in footnote 3. (5 points)
- **Displacement Avoidance:** The measures for mitigating potential near-term and long-term risks associated with the proposed projects to residents, small businesses, nonprofits, and other community members, the vulnerability the community faces to rising costs attributable to their proposed project, and the potential project impacts to households, small businesses, and other existing groups. (5 points)

Part 2. Program Management, Capability, and Capacity (35 points total)

2.1 Performance Management Plan and Outputs / Outcomes (6 points): Applications will be evaluated based on:

- Whether the application describes an effective plan, with associated timeframes, for tracking and measuring progress in achieving the expected project outcomes and outputs including those identified in Appendix F, as appropriate, and any additional ones identified in the application. (2 points)
- The quality and specificity of the proposed outputs and outcomes and how they will lead to improvements to the environmental conditions and public health of the disadvantaged communities in the short and long term. (2 points)
- Whether, and how, the applicant has incorporated program evaluation activities (e.g., utilizing proper evaluation tools and personnel / organizations with experience in evaluating program and project progress / success) from project initiation through project completion to meaningfully document and measure their progress towards achieving project goals and how they will use the results of the evaluations to meet the project goals within the required timeframes. (2 points)

2.2 **Project Linkages to the EPA Strategic Plan (4 points):** Applications will be evaluated based on the extent and quality to which the proposed project activities support and advance EPA Strategic Plan Goal 2 (Take Decisive Action to Advance Environmental Justice and Civil Rights), Objective 2.1, (Promote Environmental Justice and Civil Rights at the Federal, Tribal, State, and Local Levels).

In addition, applications, depending on the projects included in them, will also be evaluated based on the quality and extent to which they also support and advance the following EPA Strategic Plan Goals as applicable:

- Goal 1 - Tackle the Climate Crisis
- Goal 4 - Ensure Clean and Healthy Air for All Communities
- Goal 5 - Ensure Clean and Safe Water for All Communities
- Goal 6 - Safeguard and Revitalize Communities; and
- Goal 7 - Ensure Safety of Chemicals for People and the Environment

2.3 **CBO Experience and Commitment (5 points):** The CBO(s) that are either the Lead Applicant and / or Statutory Partner for the proposed grant will be evaluated based on their history and experience as a CBO and the depth of their commitment, connections, and relationships with the disadvantaged communities the application is intended to benefit.

2.4 **Programmatic and Managerial Capability and Resources (15 points)**: The Lead Applicant and Statutory Partner will be evaluated based on their ability to successfully complete, oversee, and manage the award considering:

- Their organizational experience and capacity related to performing the proposed project(s) or similar activities (e.g., experience in managing projects and activities like those in the application). (4 points)
- Their resources, capacity, capabilities, staff (e.g., project manager and other key personnel), expertise, and skills to perform and manage the award activities effectively during the three-year award period. For Lead Applicants submitting two applications under this NOFO, this includes how they demonstrate they have the above attributes to perform, manage, and oversee two awards effectively within the three-year award period (4 points)

- The milestone schedule for the proposed projects (up to three years) including the breakout of the project activities into phases and timeframes for completion of tasks, and the approach, procedures, and controls for ensuring that the award funds will be expended in a timely and efficient manner while ensuring that costs are eligible, reasonable, and allowable. (3 points)
- Their financial stability, controls in place, and capacity to manage taxpayer dollars ethically and efficiently as well as the policies and controls for project oversight and program risk. This includes the extent and quality to which the application includes controls to identify waste, fraud, and abuse, and reduce the potential for waste, fraud, and abuse by including plans and policies for program oversight, including confidential reporting (e.g., whistleblower protections). (4 points)

2.5 **Past Performance (5 points)**: The Lead Applicant will be evaluated based on their ability to successfully complete and manage the proposed projects considering their:

- Past performance in successfully completing and managing the assistance agreements identified in response to Section IV.B. (3 points)
- History of meeting the reporting requirements under the assistance agreements identified in response to Section IV.B including whether the applicant submitted acceptable final technical reports under those agreements and the extent to which the applicant adequately and timely reported on their progress towards achieving the expected outputs and outcomes under those agreements and if such progress was not being made whether the applicant adequately reported why not. (2 points)

Note: The focus of this criterion is on the Lead Applicant's past performance and not that of any other Collaborating Entities or contractors / consultants who may be assisting the applicant with performance of the award. In evaluating the Lead Applicant under these factors, EPA will consider the information provided in the application and may also consider relevant information from other sources, including information from EPA files and from current / prior grantors. If the Lead Applicant does not have any relevant or available past performance related to federal or non-federal grants, this should be stated explicitly in the application (e.g., our organizations have no relevant past grants experience). Including this statement will ensure you receive a neutral score for these factors (a neutral score is half of the total points available in a subset of possible points). Failure to include this statement may result in your receiving a score of 0 for these factors.

Part 3. Readiness to Perform, Feasibility, and Sustainability (40 points total):

3.1 **Readiness Approach (8 points):** Applications will be evaluated based on the applicant's ability and readiness to proceed with grant performance for the projects in the application, based on the Readiness Approach Requirements described in Section I.G, upon receiving an award, or generally no later than 120 days after award, to ensure that the projects can be completed within the statutory three-year grant period. As appropriate, this may include evaluating the description of the completed project planning and design phases related to the project(s) as well as demonstrating that the applicant has obtained and / or complied with the necessary approvals, permits, permissions, and any other applicable requirements, to commence project performance upon award, and if not generally within 120 days of award.

3.2 **Feasibility (9 points):** Applications will be evaluated based on whether it is demonstrated that all the projects in the application can be successfully and effectively performed within the three-year grant period of performance, and the degree of risk that they cannot be. This includes also

evaluating how the strategies and associated projects can individually and collectively be completed within three years.

3.3 **Sustainability (5 points):** Applications will be evaluated based on whether it is demonstrated that the benefits and outcomes from the projects in the application can be sustained after the three-year grant period of performance based on factors including but not limited to whether (i) the Applicant will leverage funding and / or resources from other sources to ensure the sustainability of the projects beyond the three-year grant term and (ii) the description of an operations and maintenance approach including the plans and commitments to ensure there is continued funding available for operation and maintenance activities of infrastructure activities for the projects after the grant term is over (e.g., are there demonstrated commitments for continuing operation and maintenance funding / resources from the appropriate parties after the three year grant term is over) including coordination with appropriate responsible parties.

3.4 **Program Budget Description (8 points):** The program budget will be evaluated based on:

- The reasonableness of the budget and allowability of the costs for each component / activity of the projects in the application. This includes evaluating whether funding is well balanced and equitably distributed to project partners, including sub-awardees, commensurate with their role in the project, and whether funding is categorized into the proper budget categories providing clarity, accuracy, and granularity on the applicant's planned use of the grant funds during the project period. (4 points)
- The cost effectiveness of the budget / project in terms of maximizing the share of funds used for the delivery of benefits to disadvantaged communities (both the direct costs of funds passed through for financial assistance as well as associated indirect costs to the greatest extent practicable). (4 points)

3.5 **Compliance Plan (10 points):** Applications will be evaluated based on the quality and extent to which the Compliance Plan addresses the elements for the Compliance Plan described in Section I.G.

D. Track II Application Review Process and Evaluation Criteria

All eligible Track II applications will be evaluated, on a rolling basis, based on a 100-point scale using the criteria specified below.

Evaluation Criteria for Track II Applications

Track II applications will be evaluated using the criteria below on a 100-point scale.

Track II Evaluation Criteria

Section	Possible Points
1. Program Objectives	**35**
2. Project Collaboration and Participation	**20**
3. Project Linkages	**4**
4. Budget	**8**
5. Environmental Results	**6**

6. CBO Experience & Commitment	**5**
7. Programmatic and Managerial Capability and Resources	**16**
8. Past Performance	**6**
TOTAL	**100**

1. **Track II Program Objectives (35 points):** Applications will be evaluated based on the quality and extent to which they demonstrate:

    - How the project(s) in the application address the Track II objectives identified in Section I.H. (10 points)
    - The methods, tools, and trainings, the applicant will use to facilitate the engagement of disadvantaged communities in state and Federal advisory groups, workshops, rulemakings, and / or other public processes, including local, Tribal, and other governmental processes, related to environmental and climate justice. (10 points)
    - How the project(s) in the application address and improve the disadvantaged community's lack of access to, or weak relationships with, governmental entities and changes those relationships to increase points of access for disadvantaged communities with government to work cooperatively to promote environmental and climate justice. (8 points)
    - Will result in governmental entities better understanding the root causes of environmental and climate justice issues that impact disadvantaged communities, so the communities are better prepared to proactively address them before the issues materialize. (7 points)

2. **Project Collaboration and Participation (20 points):** Under this criterion, applications will be evaluated based on the quality and extent to which they:

    - Demonstrate that meaningful input and feedback was considered from the disadvantaged community and other stakeholders in designing and developing the applications and how feedback / input will continue to be obtained and considered during grant performance. (10 points)
    - Describe the facilitation and accountability measures to establish and maintain trust between the disadvantaged community and government officials to ensure the community can collaborate in a meaningful manner on environmental and climate justice issues with governmental bodies. (5 points)
    - Demonstrate the applicant's and Collaborating Entities relationships and history of collaborations with disadvantaged communities, governmental bodies, and other stakeholders to address environmental and environmental / climate justice issues. (5 points)

3. **Project linkages (4 points):** Applications will be evaluated based on the extent and quality to which the proposed project activities support and advance EPA Strategic Plan Goal 2 (Take Decisive Action to Advance Environmental Justice and Civil Rights), Objective 2.1, (Promote Environmental Justice and Civil Rights at the Federal, Tribal, State, and Local Levels).

4. **Budget (8 points):** Under this criterion, applicants will be evaluated based on:

- The reasonableness of the budget and allowability of the costs for each component / activity of the project and their approach, procedures, and controls for ensuring that awarded grant funds will be expended in a timely and efficient manner to comply with the statutory 3-year project period limitation. (4 points)
- The cost effectiveness of the budget / project in terms of maximizing the share of funds used for the delivery of benefits to disadvantaged communities (both the direct costs of funds passed through for financial assistance as well as associated indirect costs to the greatest extent practicable). (4 points)

5. **Environmental Results (6 points):** Applications will be evaluated based on the quality and extent to which:

    - They describe an effective plan, with associated timeframes, for tracking and measuring their progress in achieving the expected project outcomes and outputs for Track II applications including those identified in Appendix F. (2 points)
    - They demonstrate that the project can ensure sustainability of outcomes beyond the three-year grant period, and how they will leverage resources, community support, etc. to facilitate this. (2 points)
    - The quality and specificity of the proposed outputs and outcomes, and how they will lead to the success of the grants, are described. (2 points)

6. **CBO Experience and Commitment (5 points):** The CBO(s) that are either the Lead Applicant and / or Statutory Partner for the grant will be evaluated based on their history and experience as a CBO and the depth of their commitment, connections, and relationships with the disadvantaged communities the application is intended to benefit.

7. **Programmatic and Managerial Capability and Resources (16 points):** The Lead Applicant and Statutory Partner will be evaluated based on their ability to successfully complete, oversee, and manage the award considering:

    - Their organizational experience and capacity related to performing the proposed projects or similar activities (e.g., experience in managing projects and activities like those in the application). (4 points)

    - Their resources, capacity, capabilities, staff (e.g., project manager and other key personnel), expertise, and skills to perform and manage the award activities effectively during the three-year award period. For Lead Applicants submitting two applications under this NOFO, this includes how they demonstrate they have the above attributes to perform, manage, and oversee two awards effectively within the three-year award period. (4 points)

    - The milestone schedule for the proposed projects (up to three years) including the breakout of the project activities into phases and timeframes for completion of tasks, and the approach, procedures, and controls for ensuring that the award funds will be expended in a timely and efficient manner while ensuring that costs are eligible, reasonable, and allowable. (3 points)

    - Their legal and financial controls in place, and capacity to manage taxpayer dollars ethically and efficiently as well as the policies and controls for project oversight and

program risk. This includes the extent and quality to which the application includes controls to identify waste, fraud, and abuse, and reduce the potential for waste, fraud, and abuse by including plans and policies for program oversight, including confidential reporting (e.g., whistleblower protections). (5 points)

8. **Past Performance (6 points total):** The Lead Applicant will be evaluated based on their ability to successfully complete and manage the proposed projects considering their:

   - Past performance in successfully completing and managing the assistance agreements identified in response to Section IV. (3 points)
   - History of meeting the reporting requirements under the assistance agreements identified in response to Section IV including whether the applicant submitted acceptable final technical reports under those agreements and the extent to which the applicant adequately and timely reported on their progress towards achieving the expected outputs and outcomes under those agreements and if such progress was not being made whether the applicant adequately reported why not. (3 points)

   The focus of this criterion is on the Lead Applicant's past performance and not that of any other Collaborating Entities or contractors / consultants who may be assisting the applicant with performance of the project. In evaluating the Lead Applicant under these factors, EPA will consider the information provided in the application and may also consider relevant information from other sources, including information from EPA files and from current / prior grantors. If you do not have any relevant or available past performance related to federal or non-federal grants, you should state this explicitly in your application (e.g., our organization has no relevant past grants experience). Including this statement will ensure you receive a neutral score for these factors (a neutral score is half of the total points available in a subset of possible points). Failure to include this statement may result in your receiving a score of 0 for these factors.

E. Final Selection Process and Other Factors

The Selection Official will make the final selection recommendations for Track I and II applications based on the evaluation criteria and process described above on a rolling basis. In addition, in making the final selection recommendations for award, the Selection Official may also consider any of the "other" factors below.

Further, as noted in Sections I.G and II.A, EPA anticipates making a minimum of fifteen awards for high-ranking applications that include a workforce training project(s) as described in Section I.G. In addition, as noted in Sections II.B and Appendix H, EPA anticipates making a minimum of five awards for high-ranking applications under the Target Investment Area A-Tribes in Alaska (projects benefitting Alaska Tribal lands) that include projects to assess and/or clean up lands conveyed under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act that were contaminated at the time of their conveyance from the federal government to an Alaska Native Corporation.

In making the final selection recommendations for award, the Selection Official may consider any of the following "other factors":

1. Geographic diversity to promote a mix of high-scoring applications benefitting disadvantaged communities located in urban, rural, or remote areas, different regions of the country, territories, as well as the geographical nature or impact of the project(s).

2. Program priorities- how the application supports and advances EPA and OEJECR's goals and priorities, including those in EPA's Strategic Plan that focus on environmental climate and justice issues. This may also include considering how the application promotes Community Change Grant program objectives, the depth and extent of community involvement in project development and implementation, the extent and quality to which the project activities will provide impactful benefits to the residents of disadvantaged communities in the Project Area as defined in Appendix A rather than attenuated benefits spread out throughout a large Project Area, and the priority that the grants must be able to be successfully completed within three years to meet CAA § 138 statutory requirements.
3. Organizational diversity in terms of applicant type and size to ensure a broad representation of applicants receiving awards to improve program effectiveness and equity.
4. Whether the applicant is participating in a federal capacity building program as part of the Thriving Communities Network (please see complete list at Federal Interagency Thriving Communities Network or the Rural Partners Network).
5. Whether the projects support, advance, or complement funding related to Community Disaster Resilience Zones (CDRZs) as designated by FEMA.
6. The capacity and capabilities of Lead Applicants, who are selected for two awards under this NOFO, to successfully perform, manage, and oversee both grants within the three-year grant term and the risks posed by multiple awards to successful grant performance.
7. The extent to which the EPA funding may complement or be coordinated with other EPA funding or other Federal and / or non-Federal sources of funds / resources to leverage additional resources to contribute to the performance and success of the grant. This includes but is not limited to funds and other resources leveraged from businesses, labor organizations, non-profit organizations, education and training providers, and / or Federal, state, Tribal, and local governments, as appropriate.
8. Duplicate funding considerations as stated in Section IV of the EPA Solicitation Clauses incorporated by reference in this NOFO. This includes considering whether funding for the projects in the application is available under the Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act (IIJA), other IRA programs, or other funding streams and if so the applicant's reasons for seeking funding for these projects under this NOFO.
9. Consistent with the language in Section II.B and Appendix H for Target Investment Area A-Tribes in Alaska (projects benefitting Alaska Tribal lands), whether an application includes projects to assess and/or clean up lands conveyed under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act that were contaminated at the time of their conveyance from the federal government to an Alaska Native Corporation.
10. Availability of funds.

In addition, because the objectives of this NOFO are part of a government-wide effort to address environmental and climate justice concerns and challenges, information pertaining to proposed selection recommendations may be shared by EPA with other Federal, state, local, territorial, or Tribal governmental departments or agencies before final selections are made in order to determine whether potential selections under this NOFO: (1) are expected to be funded by another department or agency to minimize the possibility of duplicate funding, (2) could be affected by permitting, regulatory or other issues involving another department or agency, and / or (3) will complement or can be used to leverage funding and capacity-building by another department or agency to maximize value. Note that this process is separate from the Intergovernmental Review requirements in 40 CFR Part 29.

F. Anticipated Announcement and Federal Award Date

As stated in Section II.C, applications will be reviewed and selected on a rolling basis and may be submitted through November 21, 2024. EPA announced initial selection decisions for awards in July 2024 and expects initial awards being made in November 2024.

Section VI. Award Administration Information

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Note: Additional provisions that apply to this section of the NOFO, including those related to responsibilities under civil rights laws, can be found in the EPA Solicitation Clauses.

A. Award Notification and Disputes

EPA anticipates that the first notification of selected applicants will be made via electronic mail in July 2024 and will continue to be done on a rolling basis. The notification will be sent to the original signer of the application, or the contact listed in the application. This notification, which informs the applicant that its application has been selected, is not an authorization to begin work. The official notification of an award will be made by the EPA Award Official. Applicants are cautioned that only a grants officer is authorized to bind the Government to the expenditure of funds; selection does not guarantee an award will be made. For example, statutory authorization, funding, readiness to perform projects, or other issues discovered during the award process may affect the ability of EPA to make an award to an applicant. The award notice, signed by a grants officer, is the authorizing document and will be provided through electronic mail. The successful applicant may be requested to prepare and submit additional documents and forms that must be approved by EPA before the grant can officially be awarded. The time between notification of selection and finalization of the award agreement can take up to 90 days or longer.

Assistance agreement competition-related disputes will be resolved in accordance with the dispute resolution procedures published in 70 FR (Federal Register) 3629, 3630 (January 26, 2005), which can be found at Grant Competition Dispute Resolution Procedures. Copies of these procedures may also be requested by contacting the person listed in Section VII of the announcement. Note, the FR notice references regulations at 40 CFR Parts 30 and 31 that have been superseded by regulations in 2 CFR Parts 200 and 1500. Notwithstanding the regulatory changes, the procedures for competition-related disputes remain unchanged from the procedures described at 70 FR 3629, 3630, as indicated in 2 CFR Part 1500, Subpart E.

Non-profit applicants that are recommended for funding under this announcement are subject to pre-award administrative capability reviews consistent with Section 8b, 8c, and 9d of EPA Order 5700.8: EPA's Policy on Assessing Capabilities of Non-Profit Applicants for Managing Assistance Awards. In addition, non-profit applicants selected for awards over $200,000 may be required to fill out and submit to the grants management office EPA Form 6600.09, United States Environmental Protection Agency Administrative Capability Questionnaire with supporting documents as required in EPA Order 5700.8.

Depending on the projects in the grant award, EPA will impose programmatic terms and conditions to ensure successful and timely grant performance. In addition, if applicants have any questions about whether a proposed project cost is eligible or allowable, they should contact EPA for clarification prior to application submittal.

B. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Grantees will be subject to administrative and national policy requirements. Note that EPA plans to establish programmatic requirements in the terms and conditions of each grant agreement to implement these administrative and national policy, and other relevant, requirements, which will include but not be limited to: this award is subject to the requirements of the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost

Principles and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards; Title 2 CFR, Parts 200 and 1500. EPA also has programmatic regulations located in 40 CFR Chapter 1 Subchapter B.

A listing and description of general EPA regulations applicable to the award of assistance agreements is available on the EPA Policies and Guidance for Grants page.

Readiness to Perform Requirements: Following selection and before award, EPA may work with selected applicants to ensure that all approvals, requirements, permits, and permissions that are needed to begin performance will, if not already obtained or complied with, be resolved by the time of award, and if not generally within 120 days of award (unless extended by EPA). A term and condition may also state that EPA may terminate the award for the recipients' failure to meet these requirements.

State / Territories Operation and Maintenance: Because of their unique roles, State and territorial governments may receive subawards to help implement specific project activities such as an infrastructure project in which they own the land or where they have governmental technical expertise and staffing necessary to effectively implement activities of an infrastructure or other type of project. The terms of the EPA award will also require, if applicable, that state and territorial subrecipients commit to operation and maintenance funding for any infrastructure constructed or improved on land they own with funding available under the NOFO.

Build America, Buy America Act (BABA): Certain projects under this NOFO may be subject to the Buy America domestic content sourcing requirements under the Build America, Buy America (BABA) provisions of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) (P.L. 117-58, §§ 70911-70917). These provisions apply when using Federal funds for the purchase of goods, products, and materials on any form of construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of infrastructure in the United States. BABA requires that all iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials consumed in, incorporated into, or affixed to federally funded infrastructure projects must be produced in the United States. Please consider this information when preparing budget information and your application. The award recipient must implement these requirements in its procurements, and these requirements must flow down to all subawards and contracts at any tier. For more information, consult EPA's Build America, Buy America website. When supported by rationale provided in the Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act (IIJA) §70914, the recipient may submit a BABA waiver request to EPA. The recipient should request guidance on the submission instructions of an EPA waiver request from their EPA Project Officer. A list of approved EPA waivers is available on the BABA website. In addition to BABA requirements, all procurements under grants may be subject to the domestic preference provisions of 2 CFR §200.322.

Davis-Bacon and Related Acts (DBRA): The Davis-Bacon and Related Acts (42 U.S.C. §§ 3141-3144) set labor standards, including prevailing wages and fringe benefits, and apply to most federally funded contracts for construction of public works. The DBRA labor standards and reporting requirements apply to construction projects assisted with grants authorized by the CAA, including this program, as provided in CAA § 314 (42 U.S.C. § 7614).[16] A term and condition specifying DBRA compliance requirements will be included in the grant agreement.

Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act (URA): The URA applies to acquisitions of property and displacements of individuals and businesses that result from federally

[16] EPA will use the definition of *Construction* in 40 CFR 33.103 to determine whether funding will be for a construction project. That definition defines *Construction as* ". . . erection, alteration, or repair (including dredging, excavating, and painting) of buildings, structures, or other improvements to real property, and activities in response to a release or a threat of a release of a hazardous substance into the environment, or activities to prevent the introduction of a hazardous substance into a water supply."

assisted programs. The URA and Federal Highway Administration's implementing regulations at 49 CFR Part 24 require grantees to follow certain procedures for acquiring property for grant purposes, such as notice, negotiation, and appraisal requirements. The statute and regulations also contain requirements for carrying out relocations of displaced persons and businesses, such as reimbursement requirements for moving expenses and standards for replacement housing. A term and condition specifying URA compliance requirements will be included in the grant agreement.

National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA): Section 106 of the NHPA requires all federal agencies to consider the effects of their undertakings, including the act of awarding a grant agreement, on historic properties. If NHPA compliance is required, necessary Section 106 consultation activities, such as historic or architectural surveys, structural engineering analysis of buildings, public meetings, and archival photographs, can be considered allowable and allocable grant costs. A term and condition specifying NHPA compliance requirements will be included in the grant agreement.

Note that Section 7(c) of the Energy Supply and Environmental Coordination Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. § 793(c)(1)) exempts all actions under the CAA from the requirements of NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act). This Section states: "No action taken under the Clean Air Act shall be deemed a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment within the meaning of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969." Therefore, as a grant program authorized under the CAA, NEPA will not apply to projects funded under the Community Change Grants.

Justice40 Reporting: The activities to be performed under the awards are expected to contribute to the President's goal that 40% of overall benefits of certain federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities (the Justice40 Initiative. See Section I.A). Recipients, therefore, will be expected to report on certain metrics to demonstrate to what extent the activities contribute to the 40% goal. A term and condition specifying reporting of metrics demonstrating the extent to which the grant's activities advance this 40% goal will be included in each grant agreement.

Signage: The activities to be performed under the awards are expected to publicize that they were funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Inflation Reduction Act (e.g., via signs at the place(s) of performance. The award will include appropriate terms and conditions about signage requirements.

Environmental Justice Grant Applicant Database: The Community Change Grants program strives to support as many CBOs that apply regardless of their ultimate success in receiving a grant, by, as appropriate 1) familiarizing applicants with federal grant application requirements, 2) sharing expectations and responsibilities of managing federal grants, 3) providing constructive feedback and recommendations on ways to strengthen unselected applications, 4) helping organizations build sustainability into projects so they continue to grow and develop after the project period is over, and 5) facilitating connections with other potential resources that can help organizations address community needs. To facilitate the achievement of these, all applicants who apply under this NOFO will be added to our Environmental Justice Grant Applicant Database.

Reporting Requirements: Grantees will be subject to both program performance as well as financial and administrative reporting requirements, as described below. Note that EPA will only collect reporting information from the Lead Applicant (rather than from any subrecipients), but each Lead Applicant may need to collect reporting information from subrecipients (e.g., Collaborating Entities, Statutory Partners) to meet these reporting requirements.

Program Performance Reporting: In accordance with 2 CFR § 200.329, each grantee will be subject to program performance reporting requirements. Reporting requirements effective during the period of

performance will be established in the grant agreement's terms and conditions, and reporting requirements effective after the period of performance will be established in a closeout agreement.

During the period of performance, EPA will require each grantee to submit quarterly performance reports within 30 days after the end of each reporting period (and with additional requirements every fourth quarterly report i.e., annually) as well as a final performance report within 90 days after the end of the period of performance. EPA will require that each grantees chief executive officer or equivalent review and submit each of these reports. EPA will use information from these reports as part of program-wide public reporting, except to the extent such information includes confidential business information (CBI) or personally identifiable information (PII) pursuant to 2 CFR § 200.338.[17] Included below is information that EPA may require in these reports.

Financial and Administrative Reporting Requirements: Each grantee will be subject to financial and administrative reporting requirements, which will be included in the grant agreement's terms and conditions (EPA's General Terms and Conditions). These requirements will include, but not be limited to:

- **Federal Financial Report**: In accordance with 2 CFR § 200.328 and 2 CFR § 200.344, each grantee must submit the Federal Financial Report (SF-425) at least annually and no more frequently than quarterly. The frequency of reporting and report submission instructions will be specified in the terms and conditions.
- **Financial Records Retention**: In accordance with 2 CFR § 200.334, each grantee will be required to retain financial records, supporting documents, statistical records, and all other non-Federal entity records pertinent to the grant award for a period of three years from the date of submission of the final expenditure report. Additional record retention requirements on program income used after the end of the period of performance will be specified in close-out agreements.
- **MBE / WBE Utilization**: When required, each grantee must complete and submit a "MBE/WBE Utilization Under Federal Grants and Cooperative Agreements" report (EPA Form 5700-52A) on an annual basis.
- **Real Property Status Report**: In accordance with 2 CFR § 200.329, each grantee must submit a "Real Property Status Report" (SF-429) to report real property status or request agency instructions on real property that was / will be provided as Government Furnished Property (GFP) or acquired (i.e., purchased or constructed) in whole or in part under a federal financial assistance award.

C. Audit Requirements

In accordance with 2 CFR § 200.501(a), each grantee will be required to obtain a single audit from an independent auditor, if the grantee expends $750,000 or more in total federal funds in the grantee's fiscal year. Audits will be made public in accordance with the process described in 2 CFR § 200.512. The grantee must submit the form SF-SAC and a Single Audit Report Package within 9 months of the end of the grantee's fiscal year or 30 days after receiving the report from an independent auditor. The SF-SAC and a Single Audit Report Package MUST be submitted using the Federal Audit Clearinghouse's Internet Data Entry System. In addition, each grantee may be subject to additional audit requirements, including but not limited to compliance requirements as part of any compliance supplement to the single audit.

D. Remedies for Non-Compliance

[17] Information claimed as CBI in accordance with this Notice will be disclosed only to the extent, and by means of the procedures, set forth in 40 CFR Part 2, Subpart B.

In accordance with 2 CFR § 200.208, 2 CFR § 200.339, and 2 CFR § 200.340, EPA is provided authority for multiple potential responses if a grantee violates the terms of the grant agreement.

E. Program Administration Activities

Under 2 CFR § 200.403 and other applicable provisions of 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart E, costs are allowable under federal awards so long as they are necessary and reasonable for the performance of the grant award. Under this NOFO, consistent with these regulations, program administration activities are allowable costs, with such activities supporting administration of the grant program. Program administration activities include (but are not limited to) conducting due diligence and underwriting financial transactions; establishing and convening advisory councils; conducting program performance and other reporting activities (e.g., expenditures for personnel and equipment to procure technology infrastructure and expertise for data analysis, performance, and evaluation); and supporting, monitoring, overseeing, and auditing subrecipients, contractors, and program beneficiaries.

F. Fraud, Waste, and Abuse Awareness

Recipients of awards under this NOFO need to be alert and sensitive to indicators of fraud, waste, and abuse regarding the use of federal funds under the award. Fraud generally is a false representation about a material fact and can be any intentional deception designed to unlawfully deprive the United States or the EPA of something of value or to secure for an individual a benefit, privilege, allowance, or consideration to which he or she is not entitled. Waste generally involves the taxpayers not receiving a reasonable value for money in connection with any government-funded activities due to an inappropriate act or omission. Most waste does not involve a violation of law; rather, waste relates primarily to mismanagement, inappropriate actions, and inadequate oversight. Abuse generally involves behavior that is deficient or improper when compared with behavior that a prudent person would consider reasonable and necessary business practice given the facts and circumstances. Abuse may also include misuse of authority or position for personal financial interests of those of an immediate or close family member or business associate. Abuse does not necessarily involve fraud or violation of always, regulations or grant provisions. Indicators of fraud, waste, and abuse can be found on the EPA Office of Inspector General website. Recipients should report any suspected fraud, waste, and / or abuse to the EPA Project Officer for the award or the EPA Office of Inspector General. Note that EPA Project Officers will refer matters to the EPA Office of Inspector General as appropriate.

G. Quality Management Plans (QMPs) & Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPPs)

Quality assurance documentation is required for awards that involve environmental information operations. EPA Project Officers will work with all selected recipients on quality assurance (QA) requirements. Once the award is made, if a QMP and / or QAPP is required for the project, the applicant will develop the document and submit for EPA's approval. Selected applicants cannot begin environmental information operations until EPA approves the QMP and / or QAPP.

Environmental Information Operations: A collective term that encompasses the collection, production, evaluation, or use of environmental information and the design, construction, operation, or application of environmental technology. Environmental information includes data and information that describe environmental processes or conditions. Examples include but are not limited to: direct measurements of environmental parameters or processes, analytical testing results of environmental conditions (e.g., geophysical, or hydrological conditions), information on physical parameters or processes collected using environmental technologies, calculations or analyses of environmental information, information provided by models, information compiled or obtained from databases, software applications, decision support tools,

websites, existing literature, and other sources, and development of environmental software, tools, models, methods, and applications.

Quality Management Plan (QMP): The recipient may need to develop a QMP. The QMP describes an organization's Quality Program. Requirements for QMPs are found in the most recent version of EPA's Quality Management Standard. A QMP documents the technical activities to be performed and how the program will integrate QA, quality control, QAPPs, training, etc., into all its environmental information operations.

Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPP): The recipient may need to develop a QAPP(s). A QAPP describes how environmental information operations are planned, implemented, documented, and assessed during the life cycle of a project. Requirements for QAPPs are found in the most recent version of EPA's Quality Assurance Project Plan Requirements / Standard Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPP). Quality assurance is sometimes applicable to assistance projects (see 2 CFR 1500.12). Quality assurance requirements apply to the collection of environmental data. Environmental (data are any measurements or information that describe environmental processes, location, or conditions; ecological or health effects and consequences; or the performance of environmental technology. Environmental data include information collected directly from measurements, produced from models, and compiled from other sources, such as databases or literature. Once the award is made, if a Quality Assurance Project Plan is required for the project, the applicant will have to draft a QAPP prior to beginning work on the project. You must reserve time and financial resources in the beginning of your project to prepare your QAPP and include the cost for developing your QAPP in your Detailed Budget. Selected applicants cannot begin data collection until EPA approves the QAPP.

Section VII. Contact Information

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For information or questions about this NOFO, please email: CCGP@epa.gov

Appendix A. Definition of Disadvantaged Communities and Mapping Requirements

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Applicants must demonstrate that the projects in their application would benefit a disadvantaged community. EPA is defining a disadvantaged community as one that meets at least one of the following criteria:

1. A geographically defined community designated as disadvantaged by the EPA Disadvantaged Community Environmental and Climate Justice Program Map, which includes the following components:
    a. EPA IRA Disadvantaged Communities 1.0 map
    b. EPA IRA Disadvantaged Communities 2.0 map
    c. Any area of American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or the U.S. Virgin Islands.
2. A community that falls into one of the following two categories:
    a. A farmworker community comprised of individuals with no fixed work address, who travel from their permanent residence to work in agriculture on a temporary or seasonal basis and may relocate several times throughout the year. Applicants can demonstrate that a farmworker community is comprised of such individuals by submitting verification documentation from an authorizing governmental entity or through comparable means.
    b. A Disadvantaged Unincorporated Community (DUC). For purposes of this NOFO, DUCs are generally defined as Census Designated Places[19] that lack fixed legally determined geographic boundaries and have certain common characteristics and conditions (e.g., the absence of adequate potable permanent water, adequate sewage systems, or acceptable housing). For example, all areas defined as Colonias by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD),[20] and Colonias that are not defined by HUD but are identifiable on the "Colonias" layer in EJScreen, are considered DUCs for purposes of this NOFO. In other cases, DUC status can be demonstrated through submitting localized data that represent similar characteristics. Applicants who seek funding for projects benefitting DUCs need to explain in their Project Narrative (e.g., in the Executive Summary) that the projects will either benefit Colonias as defined above or show how the projects otherwise meet the DUC criteria listed above, including demonstrating how the area to be benefitted is both unincorporated and shares "common characteristics and conditions" with DUCs as described above.

Project Area and Project Area Map for Track I Applications

Track I Applications

For Track I applications to benefit geographically defined communities identified as disadvantaged communities on the EPA Disadvantaged Community Environmental and Climate Justice Program Map,

[19] Census Designated Places (CDPs) are statistical equivalents of incorporated places and represent unincorporated communities that do not have a legally defined boundary or an active, functioning governmental structure.
[20] Colonias History – HUD Exchange.

applicants must identify the specific census block groups designated as disadvantaged communities that the projects and supporting activities will benefit by submitting to EPA one contiguous Project Area Map with an outlined boundary as instructed below. Applicants should note that while they can determine the Project Area for their projects consistent with the instructions in Appendix A and the other relevant parts of the NOFO, concentrated and compact Project Areas may maximize benefits to the residents of the census block groups designated as disadvantaged communities in the Project Area. Activities spread across large Project Areas may be more dispersed and less impactful to the residents of the census block groups designated as disadvantaged communities in the Project Area.

The Project Area Map should also reflect where each project submitted under the application is located within the Project Area. The Project Area may include multiple census block groups that are designated as a disadvantaged community by EPA as defined above, but the disadvantaged census block groups need not be fully contiguous with each other.

For Track 1 applications addressing farmworker communities or DUCs as defined above, applicants must submit a Project Area Map specifying where the communities and projects designed to benefit them are located. Applications addressing these communities are not required to submit a map showing census block groups designated as disadvantaged. [21]

All projects and activities should be located within the Project Area, except in cases where the project is located outside of the Project Area to address the localized pollution (or other) issue at the source, or where otherwise necessary to ensure and/or facilitate that disadvantaged communities as defined above will benefit from the project. One such example is if the project addresses water quality issues upstream to benefit a downstream disadvantaged community. While projects and activities may have an incidental benefit to census block groups (or other areas) that are not considered disadvantaged communities, the applicant must demonstrate that the projects' primary benefits will flow to disadvantaged communities in the Project Area.

Applicants may submit a map generated in EPA's EJScreen tool. Applicants also have the option to submit a map in another geospatial format such as a shapefile (.shp), geodatabase (.gbd), or map service.

The submitted Project Area Map should include the following:

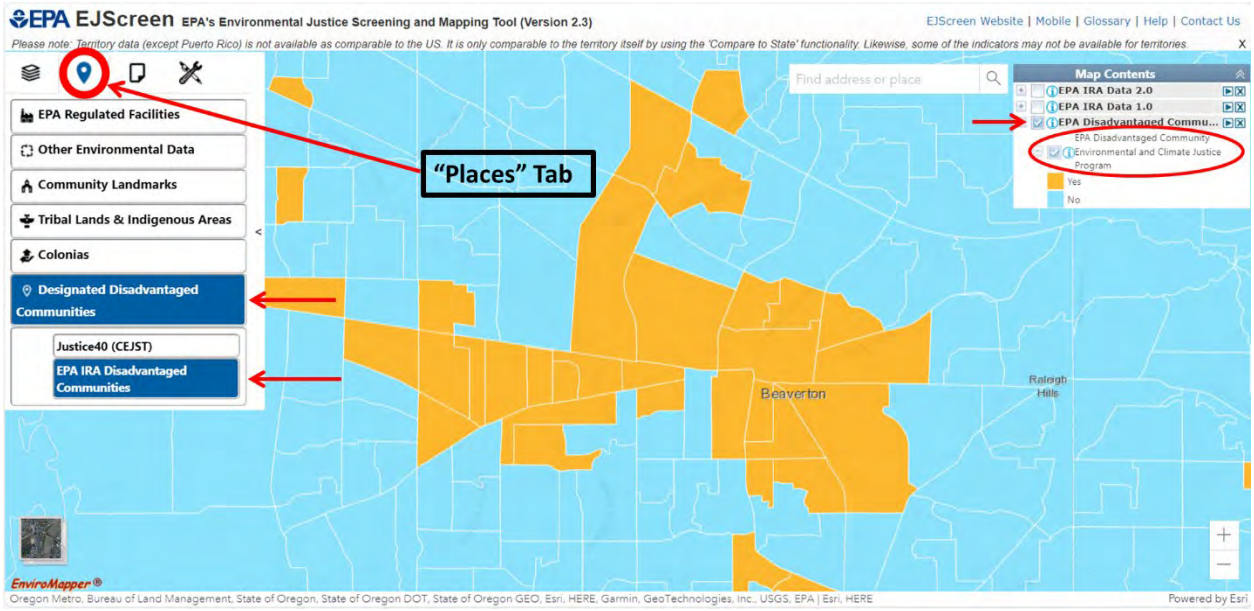
a. The Project Area with an outlined boundary.
b. The disadvantaged communities intended to benefit from the projects as identified on the EPA Disadvantaged Community Environmental and Climate Justice Program Map.
c. Main streets, landmarks, community assets (e.g., parks or play areas, schools, community centers), and/or any other attributes that may provide important context about the Project Area.
d. Jurisdictional boundaries, including incorporated and unincorporated areas.

Note: While Track II applications are not required to submit a Project Area Map, they must still use the EPA Disadvantaged Community Environmental and Climate Justice Program Map layer in EJScreen to describe and identify in their application (e.g., Executive Summary) the disadvantaged communities as defined above that will benefit from the projects as required by Section III.D.

[21] However, applicants are encouraged to indicate in the relevant portion of the Executive Summary whether projects benefitting DUCs or farmworkers would also benefit areas identified as disadvantaged as described in #1.

EPA's Disadvantaged Community Environmental and Climate Justice Program Map Availability

Within EJScreen, the EPA Disadvantaged Community Environmental and Climate Justice Program Map can be found in the "Places" tab by clicking the "Designated Disadvantaged Communities" category and then "EPA IRA Disadvantaged Communities. Please note, applicants must turn on the layer in the legend on the right of the screen. See screenshot below.



Please see the video that EPA's technical assistance contractor prepared that may be useful in helping to create a Project Area Map.

If you would like the data products and technical document associated with this map layer, please visit: Inflation Reduction Act Disadvantaged Communities Map.

Appendix B. Partnership Agreement between the Lead Applicant and Statutory Partner

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To be eligible for funding, the Lead Applicant must include in the application a copy of a written and signed Partnership Agreement with the Statutory Partner that is legally binding. At a minimum, the Partnership Agreement must specify the following:

- Who will be the Lead Applicant and the Statutory Partner.
- The Lead Applicant is responsible for the overall management, performance, oversight, and reporting responsibilities under the grant, and for making subawards to Collaborating Entities.
- The Lead Applicant will be responsible for the receipt of federal funds from EPA and the proper expenditure of these funds and will bear liability for unallowable costs.
- The roles and responsibilities of the Lead and Statutory Partner for project activities and how disputes between them will be handled and resolved. Please note that EPA is not a party to the Partnership Agreement, and any disputes between the parties must be resolved under the law applicable to the Partnership Agreement.
- The Lead Applicant is responsible for compliance and legal issues, and managing risks associated with the project. It must also describe the procedures for replacing a Statutory Partner with another Statutory Partner, and for ensuring the replacement has the comparable expertise, experience, knowledge, and qualifications of the replaced Statutory Partner to ensure successful grant completion within 3 years. Replacement may be necessary for various reasons including performance issues. Note that replacement requires prior approval by an authorized EPA official pursuant to 2 CFR 200.308(c)6).
- The Lead Applicant and Statutory Partner's agreement, if the proposed application is selected for award, to enter a subaward that complies with the subaward requirements in the grant regulations at 2 CFR 200.331 and in EPA's Subaward Policy and related guidance and that contains terms and conditions including those above.

Appendix C. Climate Action Strategies and Associated Project Activities

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Eligible project activities associated with each Climate Action Strategy identified in Section I.G. of the NOFO could include but are not limited to the following examples. Applicants may propose different activities as long as they are consistent with the applicable Climate Action Strategy as described in Section I.G of the NOFO and are eligible for funding under section 138(b)(2) of the Clean Air Act.

Strategy 1: Green Infrastructure and Nature-based Solutions

Examples:

- **Building climate resilience and carbon sequestration through tree planting**
  - Mitigate urban heat islands through reflective surfaces and shade trees or other vegetation, including preparing planting sites and establishing and caring for trees and other vegetation.
  - Plant trees in public spaces.
  - Plant trees in sites that are strategically selected to shade buildings (i.e., planted within 60 feet of a building).
- **Multi-benefit stormwater projects**
  - Construct permeable surfaces, collection basins, rain gardens, bioswales and other green infrastructure.
  - Restore and / or protect wetlands.
  - Improve urban forest site(s) to create new or more functional planting locations for trees and other vegetation, such as bioswales, which contribute to:
    - Greening to protect and conserve community lands and water;
    - Watershed protection that supports sensitive wildlife habitat and enhances water access.; and / or
    - Replacement of concrete or pavement and restoring spaces to more natural conditions to restore water to the community, reduce flooding, and improve public greenspace.
- **Public parks and open spaces**
  - Create new parks or enhance / expand existing parks to provide climate resilience benefits like heat island reduction and flood mitigation or other demonstrable environmental benefits.
  - Green existing schoolyards to protect vulnerable populations by adding nature-based solutions.

Strategy 2: Mobility and Transportation Options for Preventing Air Pollution and Improving Public Health and Climate Resilience

Examples:

- Construct new, expanded, or enhanced bikeways, walkways, or non-motorized urban trails that reduce vehicle miles traveled and related air pollution by providing safe routes for zero-emission travel between residences, workplaces, commercial and community centers, and schools.
- Implement "Complete Streets" projects to improve walkability, bike-ability, and transit use, including improved access for people with disabilities. projects to improve walkability, bike-ability, and transit use, including improved access for people with disabilities that reduce vehicle miles traveled and related air pollution.

- Implement climate resilience measures on bikeways or trailways such as raising the elevation or installing permeable pavers to reduce flooding or increasing shade coverage to mitigate extreme heat.
- Conduct the measurement, analysis, design, planning and engineering work necessary to submit a competitive application for state and / or federal funding that will fund large-scale improvements (larger than this competition is able to fund) to significantly reduce a community's Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and / or improve climate resilience.
- Purchase, lease, or contract for the use of zero-emission vehicles for community car sharing, vanpooling, ride-sharing, and related mobility options.
- Purchase, construct, and / or install infrastructure, equipment, or facilities to create and / or support low or zero-emission transportation options.

Guidelines:

- Transportation projects that involve public transit or improvements to public property should include a governmental agency as a Collaborating Entity that will help perform and oversee the project.

Strategy 3: Energy-Efficient, Healthy, Resilient Housing and Buildings

Examples:

- Install energy efficiency measures such as insulation, double or triple glazed windows, "cool roofs" that reflect sunlight, and energy management systems in public buildings.
- Install ventilation systems to help improve indoor air quality during pollution-related events such as wildfires.
- Install or retrofit homes or multi-family housing with higher-efficiency electric heating, cooling, and cooking systems (e.g., heat pumps, heat pump water heaters, electric and induction stoves, electric clothes dryers).
- Reduce heat island effects by installing cool roofs on homes, multi-family housing, or public buildings.
- Implement other similar projects qualified under HUD's Green and Resilient Retrofit Program (GRRP). Note that applicants who have received or will receive HUD funding under this program must have internal controls in place to ensure that the same costs are not charged to more than one Federal grant.[26]

Guidelines:

- In their Project Narrative, applicants should describe how low-income residents will directly benefit from the project through lower costs and how residents will be trained on how to operate and maintain new technology and equipment, where applicable.
- For projects that will fund home or multi-family housing improvements, applicants should include details of their target tenants or homeowners, such as with those incomes at or below the greater of:
    - For Metropolitan Areas: (1) 80% Area Median Income (AMI) and (2) 200% of the Federal Poverty Level

[26] Refer to 2 CFR 200.403(f).

    - For Non-Metropolitan Areas: (1) 80% AMI; (2) 80% Statewide Nonmetropolitan Area AMI; and (3) 200% of the Federal Poverty Level
- Applicants may also target community housing (e.g., land bank, housing conservancy, cooperative, or other community-based nonprofit) or public housing for this strategy.
- Applicants should refer to the description of the Community Strength Plan in the NOFO, particularly the need to minimize the risks associated with displacing current residents due to EPA-funded investments for this strategy.

Strategy 4: Microgrid Installation for Community Energy Resilience

Examples:

- Construct microgrid infrastructure.
- Install microgrids with onsite renewable energy generation and storage.
- Install ancillary energy infrastructure necessary to support microgrids.
- Install other energy infrastructure for microgrid operations.

Guidelines:

- The application should include details that demonstrate the extent to which the microgrid will serve the target community, such as: that the microgrid will be used to ensure that reliable power is provided for any community-serving buildings or critical facilities during extreme weather emergencies or any weather-related outages; that the community lacks an external grid, and the microgrid will be used to meet local energy consumption needs during normal or "blue sky" conditions; or where an external grid is available, that the microgrid will be capable of interconnecting with that grid to meet peak energy consumption demands and increase grid reliability.

Strategy 5: Community Resilience Hubs

Examples:

- Assess the most acute climate risks facing a community (e.g., extreme heat, flooding, wildfire), identify where the community has gaps in its resilience strategy, then design a plan to mitigate specific risks by creating or upgrading community facilities to serve as resilience hubs that remain operable during an emergency.
- Purchase and install backup power equipment such as generators or onsite solar and storage at one or more resilience hubs.
- Implement structural and non-structural retrofits to enhance the resilience of the hub (e.g., raise the building elevation to reduce flood risk, improve cooling systems and / or insulation to reduce extreme heat risk).
- Implement wildfire mitigation measures such as retrofitting the hub to reduce flammability, creating a defensible space between the hub and its surrounding environment, and installing air filtration equipment to reduce the risks of smoke inhalation.
- Purchase and install communications devices that can operate even with loss of local power and telecommunications systems.

Guidelines:

- The resilience hubs should be operable during an emergency. Applicants are encouraged to develop plans that will help ensure the facility is operable, including an emergency communications plan,

plan for backup power during emergencies, and agreements and processes for activating the facility in the event of an emergency.
- The community resilience hub should be a community-convening space that provides climate resilience and related resources and services to community residents.
- Applicants should demonstrate how they will work with relevant emergency response organizations to maximize the efficacy and use of the resilience hub.

Strategy 6: Brownfields Redevelopment

Examples:

- Build and / or upgrade existing structures and sites to improve community use while reducing GHG emissions and / or improving climate resilience.
- Implement greening efforts (tree-planting, park construction or renovations, community garden developments, etc.) that mitigate GHG emissions and / or improve climate resilience.
- Install low or zero emission energy infrastructure such as solar and storage.
- Conduct deconstruction and green demolition activities to support adaptive reuse or new construction. Applicants can refer to EPA's Climate Smart Brownfields Manual for information about green demolition activities.
- Acquire land to enable a brownfield redevelopment that has emissions mitigation and / or climate resilience benefits.

Guidelines:

- Redevelopment sites eligible for funding must be consistent with the federal definition of a Brownfield site in 42 U.S.C. 9601(39) as follows: a brownfield is a property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant.
- Projects for adaptive reuse should explore and can leverage national and state historic preservation tax credits to maximize funding streams.[27]
- In order for a Brownfields Redevelopment project to be eligible, the applicant must demonstrate at time of application submission that all cleanup activities have been completed at the site and / or that cleanup activities are not necessary at the site for the intended use or reuse. This can be demonstrated by, for example, one of the following:
    - A completed Phase I Environmental Site Assessment with no recognized environmental conditions (RECs) at actionable levels;
    - A completed Phase II Environmental Site Assessment with sampling result levels below actionable levels;
    - Lead or asbestos building survey or equivalent environmental or building investigation to determine no likely sources of contamination or hazardous materials will be encountered on site that pose risks to the adjacent community or occupational health and safety risks to workers; or
    - No Further Action letter from the state or Tribal Brownfields response program.

[27] See guidelines for Tax Incentives for Preserving Historic Properties.

Strategy 7: Waste Reduction and Management to Support a Circular Economy[28]

Examples:

- Implement a community-scale composting program to reduce emissions from food waste that includes an educational campaign to inform Project Area residents about climate benefits of reducing food waste.
- Implement a community-scale recycling program.
- Reduce emissions from food waste by implementing programs that distribute unused food to project area residents.

Guidelines:

- Where relevant, applicants should demonstrate that all inedible food scraps derived from projects are composted, and that other materials are diverted from landfills and support a circular economy.
- Where relevant, project activities should demonstrate how they are using EPA best practices related to the circular economy or other sources of guidance.[29] Resources include the Planning for Natural Disaster Debris Sustainable and Resilient Communities Through Solid Waste Investments and Best Practices After Disasters.
- Applicants should consider EPA's ranking of wasted food management pathways and EPA Waste Management hierarchy for sustainable materials management.

Strategy 8: Workforce Development Programs for Occupations that Reduce GHG Emissions and Air Pollutants

This strategy allows applicants to propose workforce development programs that will help reduce GHG emissions and other air pollutants to benefit disadvantaged communities.

This strategy allows applicants to propose workforce development programs for employment in fields that will help reduce GHG emissions and other air pollutants to benefit disadvantaged communities. A wide range of occupations support the reduction of GHG emissions and air pollutants. Because EPA cannot provide an exhaustive list of such occupations, applicants should describe how their workforce development program will support the reduction of GHG emissions or other air pollutants.

Examples of career pathways that may be part of a workforce development program include but are not limited to: electricians, steamfitters, pipefitters, laborers, and other skilled trades occupations that support building electrification, renewable energy projects, and other similar activities; occupations related to the manufacturing of low- and zero-emission technologies; careers in low- and zero-emissions transportation such as vehicle mechanics supporting electric vehicle technologies; community health and outreach workers that assist households in reducing their emissions and addressing sources of pollution; and other careers related to emissions reduction, such as methane mitigation or agricultural carbon mitigation. Applicants should describe how their workforce development program will support the reduction of GHG emissions or other air pollutants.

Guidelines:

[28] A circular economy is generally described as a model of production and consumption, which involves sharing, leasing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing, and recycling materials and products as long as possible and based on three main principles: eliminate waste and pollution, circulate products and materials, and regenerate nature.
[29] Refer to EPA's guidance on the Circular Economy | US EPA

As noted in Section I.G of the NOFO, strong workforce development programs should include the following three features at a minimum:

1. Multi-sectoral partnerships that bring together workforce expertise and enable pathways into high-quality careers.

The foundation of a strong workforce development initiative is a set of partners that represent diverse expertise, community and worker voice, and employer needs. For these programs, applicants may collaborate with organizations with workforce development expertise, such as labor unions, tradeswomen organizations, local workforce development boards (locate yours using this U.S. Department of Labor search tool), career and technical schools, community colleges, workforce development nonprofits, and other similar organizations.

Examples of the types of expertise and experience that are important for a successful workforce development program include, but are not limited to:

- Technical skills and experience to lead classroom and on-the-job training, including equipping students and individuals with the skills needed to succeed and be safe on the job, including knowledge of new and emerging greenhouse gas and other air emissions-reduction technologies;
- Knowledge of the local, State, and regional labor market and relevant relationships to have a deep understanding of employer hiring, staffing, and skilling needs, emerging trends especially related to the clean energy transition, and considerations for local job quality and worker voice;
- Strong awareness of the barriers individuals in the community face to training and employment, including an understanding of unique barriers specific populations face, and clear strategies for how to address those barriers; and
- Established relationships of trust within the community, including knowledge of relevant history and community dynamics, in addition to meaningful, long-lasting relationships in the community that will support trainee recruitment and participation.

2. High-quality training models that are worker-centered, demand-driven, and lead to good jobs.

Workforce development projects should be focused on training individuals for high-quality, long-term career pathways in family-sustaining jobs, rather than short-term or temporary, low-wage jobs. Applications should demonstrate that the workforce development project fulfills an industry demand in the Project Area and surrounding region, is informed and supported by employers, and has a clear pathway to long-term employment with family-sustaining wages. This will be key to delivering programs that enable true economic mobility for individuals in disadvantaged communities and bolster the capacity of communities to respond to environmental justice concerns in a sustained fashion.

Examples of high-quality, evidence-backed training models are: Apprenticeship readiness programs (or "pre-apprenticeships") with a connection to one or more Registered Apprenticeship Programs; Registered Apprenticeship Programs (registered via the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) Office of Apprenticeship or State Apprenticeship Agency); Joint Labor-Management Training Programs; paid internships; partnerships with community colleges or vocational schools that award an industry-recognized credential; and similar models that combine on-the-job learning, classroom learning, and mentorship. DOL has a resource on "high-road training programs" that applicants are invited to review here.

Workforce development programs can serve adult or youth populations. Applicants may consider high-quality youth-serving training models, including: pre-apprenticeship programs that prepare young people to enter Registered Apprenticeship Programs; career and technical education programs (as described by the

U.S. Department of Education); and other similar models. Please note that applicants may propose programs to be included in the American Climate Corps (ACC), which is a federal government initiative focused on training young people for high-demand skills for jobs in the clean energy economy. To qualify as an ACC program, the program must provide youth with at least 300 hours of paid skills-based training and / or service. Applicants submitting a workforce development project to be considered for the ACC should note that in their application.

3. Strategies for recruiting and retaining individuals from disadvantaged communities, especially for populations that face disproportionate barriers to employment.

It is a statutory requirement (section 138(b)(1) of the Clean Air Act) for this program to benefit disadvantaged communities. These benefits may include providing opportunities to individuals with barriers to training and / or employment, so they can find long-term employment and economic opportunity in fields associated with air pollutants and GHG reduction. Projects should be designed with comprehensive research and evidence-based strategies for addressing barriers to recruitment, training, employment, and retention. Examples include supportive services to meet the needs of the disadvantaged community, such as childcare and transportation assistance; life skills and basic skills training, such as financial literacy and job readiness, to prepare for a career related to GHG and air pollutant reduction; career services, such as developing individualized employment plans; peer-to-peer mentorship programs to connect experienced workers with new workers to help them learn the job and find a sense of belonging in the workplace; reasonable accommodations consistent with federal equal employment opportunity laws; coaching to support work-based learning; and case workers to support workers with barriers to employment.

Applicants proposing a workforce development project are encouraged to describe the following elements and any additional details identified by the applicant:

- Design of the program, including if the applicant is proposing a high-quality, evidence-backed training model as described above, and a description of the credential(s) the participants will earn.
- Duration of the program and program components, such as time spent in classroom and on-the-job training. Applicants are encouraged to also describe ongoing support participants will receive once they exit the training program and connect to full-time employment to support retention.
- How applicants will engage employers and how the program will connect to high-quality jobs. Applicants can review the federal Good Jobs Principles here.
- Estimated number of participants that will be trained in the program.
- Plan for how the program will recruit participants and how the program will build visibility and trust among residents of the Project Area.
- Curriculum the program will use and how it is informed by industry standards and employer demand.
- Wages or stipends for the duration of the program. Applicants are strongly encouraged to provide reasonable compensation for time spent in training to increase participation and retention.
- Strategies the program will use to meet the needs of populations that experience barriers to training and employment.
- Applicant's approach to administering supportive services to mitigate barriers to training and employment.
- Indicators the program will use to evaluate success as well as the methodology the program will use to track the progress of participants during and after the program. Applicants may review the Six Primary Indicators of Performance used by the public workforce system, as described by the Department of Labor here.

Appendix D. Pollution Reduction Strategies and Associated Project Activities

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Eligible project activities associated with each Pollution Reduction Strategy could include but are not limited to the following examples. Applicants may propose different activities as long as the activities are consistent with the applicable Pollution Reduction Strategy described in Section I.G of the NOFO and are eligible for funding under section 138(b)(2) of the Clean Air Act.

Strategy 1: Indoor Air Quality and Community Health Improvements

Examples:

- Remediate or mitigate harmful substances in buildings, including lead, mercury, pesticides, radon, mold, PCBs (caulk, flooring, etc.), lead-based paint, asbestos, and other toxic substances.[30]
- Install, upgrade, or replace HVAC and / or filtration systems that improve indoor quality in schools, community-serving buildings, and single-and-multifamily homes. These upgrades may be done in conjunction with climate strategies that reduce building GHG emissions.
- Equip community centers and community buildings in agricultural worker communities with decontamination stations (e.g., publicly available shower and laundry stations) to eliminate take-home pesticide exposures.
- Purchase equipment that can enable "do-it-yourself" upgrades using research-based methods, to distribute within communities impacted by smoke.
- Replace wood heaters that do not meet EPA's New Source Performance Standards with more efficient, cleaner heaters certified by EPA, and independently verified to meet (or to have emissions below) the most stringent Step 2 emission reduction standards described in Standards of Performance for New Residential Wood Heaters, New Residential Hydronic Heaters, and Forced-Air Furnaces heaters.

Strategy 2: Outdoor Air Quality and Community Health Improvements

Examples:

- Reduce exposure from mobile and stationary sources by:
  - developing or expanding vegetative barriers.
  - creating alternate truck route programs to decrease impacts to sensitive communities.
  - providing grants, rebates, or subsidies for households, small businesses, public partners, and community organizations to replace portable diesel equipment such as leaf blowers and lawn mowers with zero-emission alternatives.
  - retrofitting spray booths in local small businesses to reduce VOC contamination from auto body painters.
  - providing grants, rebates, or subsidies for backup battery systems to replace diesel backup generators in homes, public facilities, or small businesses.
- Create clean air zones or low-emission zones such as:

[30] The prohibition on using Community Change Grant funding to remediate Brownfields sites does not apply to this activity.

    - Encouraging "last-mile" delivery through electric delivery vehicles (e.g., trucks, vans, cargo bikes).
    - Electrifying local government-owned fleets providing services to communities (e.g., sanitation trucks, public buses).
    - Implementing urban designs that promote air flow and reduce the concentration of pollution along street corridors (e.g., remove or reduce costly parking mandates, reduce idling of diesel vehicles).
- Implement sustainable construction practices such as minimizing dust and emissions during building projects (e.g., electrify equipment, cover construction sites, utilize water sprays, properly manage waste).
- Replace toxic play surfaces that emit harmful pollutants (e.g., tire crumb and certain turfs at schools, community playgrounds, and fields) with non-toxic, permeable options to provide safe places for children to play.
- Develop other policies that promote reductions in air pollution from transportation such as land use and zoning policies that enable households to live in affordable, dense, and vibrant communities within urban and rural areas.

Guidelines:

- Communities seeking funding for zero-emission school buses should encourage their local school district apply to EPA's $5 billion Clean School Bus program.

Strategy 3: Clean Water Infrastructure to Reduce Pollution Exposure and Increase Overall System Resilience

Examples:

- Perform targeted infrastructure upgrades such as:
    - Replacing private-side lead lines in a home, childcare facility, school, or other community-serving building during full lead service line replacement[31]
    - Septic to sewer conversions that connect homes to nearby community water systems.
    - Installing working water fountains at schools and parks where there are no fountains or they are inoperable, malfunctioning, or contaminated.
    - Installing water conservation and efficiency technologies that will allow utilities to better monitor and reduce energy consumption onsite.
    - Installing water reuse technologies that allow for system decreases in both energy and water use efficiencies through water capture, loss prevention, and closed loop approaches.
- Prepare and apply for state and / or federal water infrastructure funding to address larger community needs (e.g., a leak detection and pipe replacement plan, a PFAS action plan, or upgrades to water and wastewater treatment facilities that reduce pollution) by:
    - Assessing the problem through water sampling and monitoring.
    - Developing a plan, which could include the necessary design and engineering work.
    - Preparing an application for federal funding to one of several sources such as to EPA's State Revolving Loan funds.
- Provide emergency interventions such as:

[31] EPA's Drinking Water Regulations for Lead. Lead Service Lines. Strategies to Achieve Full Lead Service Line Replacement.

- providing recurring point-of-use filters while communities await lead service line replacement.
- providing alternate water supplies for communities and buildings that have contaminated water (PFAS, lead, PCBs, arsenic, nitrates, etc.) in communities with contaminated water systems.
- adopting facility procedures or system upgrades that allow for service flexibilities, mobility, and continuity in the event of an emergency due to climate-related disaster events.

Guidelines:

- The projects should also include a public outreach / education campaign on safe drinking water and / or wastewater, working with the public water system where possible.[32] [33]
- Activities should be coordinated with the EPA funded Environmental Finance Centers to minimize duplication of effort.

Strategy 4: Safe Management and Disposal of Solid and Hazardous Waste

Examples:

- Purchase equipment for hazardous waste sampling to determine classification.
- Collect, process, recycle, or otherwise dispose of household hazardous waste and electronics programs and infrastructure.
- Conduct compliance oversight for the collection, processing, recycling, storage and disposition of household hazardous waste and electronics.
- Develop or expand hazardous waste collection, recycling, and safe recycling programs and infrastructure.
- Develop or expand safe disposal technologies for hazardous waste.
- Reduce demand for single-use plastic products (by installing public water bottle refill stations and water fountains or implementing community and city-scale water reuse and refill systems) and phasing out single-use products that may be unnecessary.

[32] EPA on Reducing Lead in Drinking Water. EPA Communication Plan 3Ts. Basic Information about Your Drinking Water.
[33] Drinking Water Analytical Methods.

Appendix E. Job Quality & Equitable Employment Opportunities

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It is a priority of the EPA that this grant program supports high-quality, family-sustaining, community-strengthening jobs with the free and fair choice to join a union, consistent with Executive Order 14082, *Implementation of the Energy and Infrastructure Provisions of the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022*. As such, EPA is interested in funding proposals that have a commitment to creating good jobs and utilizing a diverse, highly skilled workforce, including an emphasis on creating employment opportunities for populations living in communities that are disadvantaged.

This supports the broader goals of environmental justice by making sure federal funds are spent on Climate Action and Pollution Reduction projects that have a commitment to strong labor standards, creating stronger communities where worker, employer, and community needs are collectively met. Characteristics of a good job include strong wages and family-sustaining benefits; worker empowerment and neutrality with respect to union organizing and collective bargaining; work environments that promote worker health and safety; job security; equitable workforce development pathways and opportunities for career advancement; and supportive services, such as childcare and transportation, to support individuals that face barriers to employment; among others. When considering how to support job quality, EPA encourages applicants to review the eight Good Jobs Principles developed by the U.S. Department of Labor and Department of Commerce. The Department of Labor has produced several resources that help potential applicants understand the Good Jobs Principles and implement them through federal funding programs including: Good Jobs in Federal Investments: A Toolkit for Employers, Workers, and Government; Good Jobs Initiative Job Quality Check List; Good Jobs in Federal Investments: Data and Reporting Appendix.

Grant funding for construction projects under this program is subject to Davis Bacon and Related Acts prevailing wage laws as provided in Section 314 of the Clean Air Act. Beyond this requirement, applicants are encouraged to articulate additional strategies they will use to deliver on the goals outlined above, including ensuring high labor standards and a diverse workforce to benefit the local community where the EPA funded work is taking place. These commitments should be concrete, specific, and measurable rather than vague statements, and may be integrated into EPA's agreement with the recipient through programmatic terms and conditions.

Appendix F. Track I and II Outputs and Outcomes

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The term "output" means an environmental activity, effort, and / or associated work product related to an environmental / public health goal and objective that will be produced or provided over a period or by a specified date. Outputs may be quantitative or qualitative but must be measurable during the assistance agreement funding period.

The term "outcome" means the result, effect, or consequence that will occur from carrying out an environmental / public health program or activity that is related to an environmental / public health programmatic goal or objective. Outcomes may be environmental, behavioral, health-related, or programmatic in nature, but must be quantitative. They may not necessarily be achievable within the assistance agreement funding period.

Examples of expected outputs and outcomes for the Track I and II awards under this NOFO include but are not limited to the following as applicable depending on the strategies and projects in the application. Applicants may identify additional outputs and outcomes as relevant to their specific strategies and projects in their application.

Track I Output and Outcome Examples

Strategy	Output Examples	Outcome Examples
Climate Action Strategies		
Strategy 1: Green Infrastructure and Nature-based Solutions	▪ Coastal green infrastructure projects, including blue-green trails (#) ▪ Green / complete streets, sidewalks, bus stops (#) ▪ Green / cool roofs (#) ▪ Area of impermeable surfaces replaced with vegetation (acres) ▪ New parks and / or public green space developed (acres) ▪ New shade tree canopy (square footage, # of shade trees planted) ▪ Area under implementation of low tillage / composting practices (acres) ▪ New community gardens and greenhouses (#)	▪ Increased green space as measured by square footage of added greenspace ▪ Increased resilience to extreme weather and climate conditions as measured by reduction in flash flooding events, improved groundwater recharge, and cooler ambient temperatures during heat waves ▪ Increased community resilience as measured by reduced damage and recovery costs for infrastructure, property, and cultural resources
Strategy 2: Mobility and Transportation Options for Preventing Air Pollution and Improving Public Health and Climate Resilience	▪ New EVs, bikes / electric bikes, and other low-and-zero emissions vehicles that are available via carsharing / bike sharing programs (#)	▪ Reduced air pollution from transportation (e.g., GHG reductions, reduced number of days with unsafe air quality for vulnerable populations) ▪ Increased use of public transportation services and

	▪ Streets improved to encourage walkability, bike-ability, and transit use (#, miles) ▪ EVs that can be used as backup power in lieu of diesel generators (#)	programs that promote electric vehicles, car sharing, and bike sharing
Strategy 3: Energy-efficient, Healthy, Resilient Housing and Buildings	▪ Home energy audits performed (#) ▪ Air sealings completed (#) ▪ Homes insulated (#) ▪ Natural gas appliances replaced with electric equivalents (#) ▪ Mobile homes retrofitted with solar panels and storage (#) ▪ Electrification, weatherization, and HVAC upgrades / replacements of low-income houses, apartments, small businesses, and other community buildings (#) ▪ Energy efficient home-heating appliances installed (#) ▪ Homes or units converted to electric heating (#)	▪ Lower consumption of home heating fuels (propane, heating oil, natural gas, and wood) and reduction in associated climate pollutants (e.g., black carbon, methane, CO2), as well as ambient and indoor emissions of Hazardous Air Pollutants and PM2.5. ▪ Decreased incidence of asthma
Strategy 4: Microgrid Installation for Community Energy Resilience	▪ Renewable energy capacity installed (MW) ▪ Battery storage installations (MWh) ▪ GHG emissions reductions (ton CO_2)	▪ Enhanced resilience during extreme weather events as measured by fewer power disruptions ▪ Increased number of homes connected to a resilient power source
Strategy 5: Community Resilience Hubs	▪ Space built or converted into a community resilient hub (square ft) ▪ Disaster preparedness trainings delivered (#) ▪ Stormwater management flood preparedness training delivered (#)	▪ Enhanced physical safety during natural disasters as measured by the number of hospitalizations and lives lost among vulnerable populations ▪ Increased community awareness of emergency preparedness
Strategy 6: Brownfield Redevelopment	▪ Impervious surface reduced (square footage) ▪ Community meetings to involve impacted residents (#) ▪ Green demolition activities to support adaptive reuse or new construction (#) ▪ Shade trees planted (#) and new vegetation (square footage)	▪ Square footage of space redeveloped for resilience purposes, such as heat-reducing shade ▪ New economic opportunities created through the redevelopment of previously polluted land (e.g., number of business or low-income housing units)

Strategy 7: Waste Reduction and Management to Support a Circular Economy	▪ Waste diverted from landfills (pounds / tons) ▪ Waste recycled (pounds / tons) ▪ Food waste composted (pounds / tons)	▪ Cleaner communities with less trash / waste on land and in waterbodies as measured by litter surveys ▪ Reduced food waste and associated emissions as measured by weight of compost diverted from landfills
Strategy 8: Workforce Development Programs for Occupations that Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Air Pollutants	▪ Individuals in disadvantaged communities that participate in workforce training in sectors related to GHG emissions and air pollution reduction who are currently unemployed, under-employed, or face employment barriers (#) ▪ People in disadvantaged communities hired and retained into high-quality jobs to reduce air pollution and GHG emissions based on participation in a workforce training program (#) ▪ Individuals who receive ages / stipends and supportive services delivered to enable community members' participation in workforce training programs (# individuals receiving such wages / stipends)	▪ Increased literacy among community members about environmental sectors and skills required to pursue these jobs ▪ Increased number of high-quality workforce training programs, such as pre-apprenticeship and Registered Apprenticeship, in disadvantaged communities ▪ Increased wages, benefits, job quality, and job security for participants in workforce training programs
Alaskan-specific Climate Action Strategies	▪ Renewable generation capacity installed (MW) ▪ Fuel storage facilities repaired (#) ▪ Greenhouses constructed (#) ▪ Portable micro-water treatment systems installed (#)	▪ Improved water and soil quality so water / land can be used for Alaskan Native traditional uses ▪ Increased access to energy sources with low air pollution and carbon emissions ▪ Protection of cultural resources including environmental habitats
Pollution Reduction Strategies		
Strategy 1: Indoor Air Quality and Community Health Improvements	▪ [Type of] trainings implemented (#) ▪ Classrooms with air cleaners (#) ▪ Houses / schools with upgraded / improved HVAC systems (#) ▪ Homes in which moisture issues have been addressed (#) ▪ Wood appliance upgraded or replaced (#)	▪ Increased public and environmental health literacy ▪ Decreased incidence of asthma symptoms as measured by doctor visits or school nurse visits for asthma symptoms ▪ Reduced exposure to radon and risk of developing radon-induced lung cancer
Strategy 2: Outdoor Air Quality and Community Health Improvements	▪ Clean air zones or low-emission zones created (#)	▪ Increased public and environmental health literacy

	▪ Abandoned oil / gas wells plugged (#) ▪ Toxic play surfaces replaced (#) ▪ Community monitoring and alert systems installed to alert households to increasing pollution levels (#) ▪ Wildfire smoke preparedness trainings delivered (#)	▪ Reduced exposure to PM, carbon dioxide, VOCs, ozone, nitrogen dioxides, and toxics. ▪ Increased skill development and improvements in community capacity to independently assess air pollution reduction options
Strategy 3: Clean Water Infrastructure to Reduce Pollution Exposure and Increase Overall System Resilience	▪ Clean water fountains installed in schools / parks (#) ▪ Full lead service lines replaced for low-income homes (miles) ▪ Private wells tested for PFAS (#) ▪ Stormwater management / flood preparedness trainings delivered (#) ▪ Water efficiency systems installed (e.g., drought mitigation systems, rain capture installations) (#)	▪ Decreased levels of water contamination and pollution as measured by boil water advisories, lead poisoning, or water quality monitoring results ▪ Increased availability of clean, safe drinking water
Strategy 4: Safe Management and Disposal of Solid and Hazardous Waste	▪ Lead paint remediations completed (#) ▪ Tires diverted from landfills / the environment to disposal facilities (#, weight) ▪ Neighborhoods / cities / residents served through residential waste composting / chipping program (#) ▪ Waste transfer, material reuse, and / or recycling stations installed in underserved communities (#)	▪ Decreased exposure to toxics and hazardous chemicals ▪ Reduced odors and pathogens ▪ Increased residential waste composting
Strategy 5: Eliminate Harmful Chemicals through Product Replacements	▪ Conventional products replaced with Safer Choice-certified or other EPA recommended products (#, volume, customers impacted) ▪ Units of PFAS food contact materials replaced (#)	▪ Reduced exposure to hazardous chemicals for those who live and work in and near places with chemical use and application
ANCSA-Specific Pollution Reduction Strategies	▪ Homes served with micro-water treatment systems (#) ▪ Planning documents and Environmental Information Document created (#) ▪ Site assessments and initial cleanups completed (#)	▪ Improved water and soil quality so water / land can be used for Alaskan Native traditional uses ▪ Protection and preservation of cultural resources including environmental habitats

	▪ Reduced exposure to harmful chemicals and pollutants on Alaskan Native lands through remediation of contaminated lands and buildings (acres of land, # buildings)	

Track II Output and Outcome Examples

Outputs

- New policies developed and implemented in response to community recommendations (e.g., through a new advisory council, participatory budgeting) (#)
- Community benefits agreements or memoranda of understanding signed (#)
- Number of community residents who complete a training that builds their capacity to participate in government processes (#)
- Amount of new funding allocated to benefit disadvantaged communities (dollars)
- Number of residents who participate in a community-based participatory research initiative that informs a government process and / or priority (#)
- Research products published with data reflecting community opinions and preferences (#)
- Number of educational forums and / or meetings held between governmental officials and community members (#)

Outcomes

- Increased involvement of individuals from disadvantaged communities in local, state, federal and other governmental environmental public processes
- Expanded knowledge of local, state, federal and other governmental environmental public processes among disadvantaged communities
- Stronger relationships and trust between disadvantaged communities and government entities on matters relating to environmental protection
- More transparent processes for governmental decision-making on environmental protection policies and greater governmental focus on inclusivity
- Increased accountability and community input into governmental decision-making on environmental protection policies
- More informed decisions made, and environmental actions taken, by government bodies to benefit disadvantaged communities
- Enhanced capacity in disadvantaged communities to be involved in local, state, federal, and other governmental environmental public processes
- Increased funding to enable disadvantaged communities to address environmental and climate justice issues
- New environmental or climate policies developed to be responsive to community needs

Appendix G. Budget Template

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(This template is optional, and applicants may use a different format for the template).

Category	Description	Total
Personnel		
Fringe Benefits		
Travel		
Equipment		
Supplies		
Contractual		
Construction		
Other (separate by participant support costs, subawards, and other costs)		
Total Direct Costs (sum of the above categories)		
Indirect Costs		
Total Project Costs (sum of direct and indirect costs)		

Guidance for Budget Template

The budget template is an attachment to the application and does not count toward the Project Narrative's page limit as described in Section IV of the NOFO. Applicants should include applicable rows of costs for each budget category in their budget template to accurately reflect the proposed application budget for each year of the grant. EPA provides detailed guidance on budget development in the Interim General Budget Development Guidance for Applicants and Recipients of EPA Financial Assistance, but applicants may use other forms instead of this template as long as total costs per category (and specific descriptions of costs) are included.

Applicants must itemize costs related to personnel, fringe benefits, travel, equipment, supplies, contractual costs (including acquisitions of intangible property), construction, and other costs (including subawards and participant support costs) as direct costs. Direct costs plus the indirect costs equal the total project costs. Descriptions of these cost categories are below. Applicants should be aware that if their projects include using federal funds to purchase goods, products, and materials on any form of construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of infrastructure in the United States, they must comply with the Build America, Buy America Term and Condition if they are selected for an award.

To facilitate consideration of an application for partial funding, EPA recommends that applicants separate costs for financial assistance in the program budget by project category, to the extent practicable.

- **Personnel - List all staff positions by title. Give annual salary, percentage of time assigned to the project, and total cost for the budget period**. This category includes only direct costs for the salaries of those individuals who will perform work directly for the program (paid employees of the applicant organization as reflected in payroll tax records). Personnel costs do not include: (1) costs for services of contractors (including individual consultants), which are included in the "Contractual" category; (2) costs for employees of subrecipients under subawards or non-employee program participants (e.g., interns or volunteers), which are included in the "Other" category; or (3) effort that is not directly in support of the proposed program, which may be covered by the organization's negotiated indirect cost rate. The budget table must identify the personnel category type by Full Time Equivalent (FTE), including percentage of FTE for part-time employees, number of personnel proposed for each category, and the estimated funding amounts.

- **Fringe Benefits - Identify the percentage used, the basis for its computation, and the types of benefits included**. Fringe benefits are allowances and services provided by employers to their employees as compensation in addition to regular salaries and wages. Fringe benefits may include, but are not limited to, the cost of leave, employee insurance, pensions, and unemployment benefit plans. If the applicant's fringe rate does not include the cost of leave, and the applicant intends to charge leave to the agreement, it must provide supplemental information describing its proposed method(s) for determining and equitably distributing these costs.

- **Travel - Specify the mileage, per diem, estimated number of trips in-state and out-of-state, number of travelers, and other costs for each type of travel**. Travel may be integral to the purpose of the proposed program (e.g., site visits); related to proposed program activities (e.g., attendance at community engagement meetings); or for a technical training or workshop that supports effective implementation of the program activities (e.g., consumer awareness activities). Only include travel costs for employees in the travel category. Travel costs do not include: (1) costs for travel of contractors (including consultants), which are included in the "Contractual" category; or (2) travel costs for employees of subrecipients under subawards and non-employee program participants (e.g., trainees), which are included in the "Other" category. Further, travel does not

include bus rentals for group trips, which would be covered under the "Contractual" category. Finally, if the applicant intends to use any funds for travel outside the United States, it must be specifically identified. All proposed foreign travel must be approved by EPA's Office of International and Tribal Affairs prior to being taken.

- **Equipment - Identify each item to be purchased that has an estimated acquisition cost of $5,000 or more per unit and a useful life of more than one year**. Equipment also includes accessories necessary to make the equipment operational. Equipment does not include: (1) equipment planned to be leased / rented, including lease / purchase agreement; or (2) equipment service or maintenance contracts that are not included in the purchase price for the equipment. These types of proposed costs must be included in the "Other" category. Items with a unit cost of less than $5,000 must be categorized as supplies, pursuant to 2 CFR § 200.1. The budget table must include an itemized listing of all equipment proposed under the program. If installation costs are included in the equipment costs, labor expenses shall be itemized with the detailed number of hours charged and the hourly wage. If the applicant has written procurement procedures that define a threshold for equipment costs that is lower than $5,000, then that threshold takes precedence.

- **Supplies - "Supplies" means all tangible personal property other than "equipment." The budget detail should identify categories of supplies to be procured (e.g., laboratory supplies or office supplies)**. Non-tangible goods and services associated with supplies, such as printing services, photocopy services, and rental costs must be included in the "Other" category.

- **Contractual - Identify proposed contracts, specifying the purpose and estimated cost for typical contractual services and disaggregating any costs for acquisitions of intangible property**. Contractual services (including consultant services) are those services to be carried out by an individual or organization, other than the applicant, in the form of a procurement relationship. The EPA Subaward Policy and supplemental frequently asked questions have detailed guidance available for differentiating between contractors and subrecipients. Leased or rented goods (equipment or supplies) must be included in the "Other" category. EPA does not require applicants to identify specific contractors, but if an applicant does so they must demonstrate that the contractor was selected in compliance with competitive procurement requirements in 2 CFR Parts 200 and 1500. Subcontracts are not subawards and belong in the "Contractual" category.

  In the budget description, the applicant should list the proposed contract activities along with a brief description of the anticipated scope of work or services to be provided, proposed duration, and proposed procurement method (competitive or non-competitive), if known. Any proposed non-competed / sole-source contracts more than the applicant's 2 CFR § 200.320(a) micro-purchase threshold (generally $10,000) must include a justification. Note that EPA rarely accepts proposed sole source contracts for goods and services (e.g., consulting) that are widely available in the commercial market absent a copyright, patent, or equipment warranty requirement or similar restriction that establishes that only one source can provide the necessary good or service; unique qualifications or long-standing relationships with a grantee do not provide an adequate basis for a sole source contract. Applicants must provide the aggregate amount they propose to issue as acquisitions of intangible property as a separate line item in the "Contractual" category. Refer to the EPA Best Practice Guide for Procuring Services, Supplies, and Equipment Under EPA Assistance Agreements for EPA's policies on competitive procurements and encouraging the use of small and disadvantaged business enterprises.

• **Construction.**

Include costs for activities that fall under the definition of construction in EPA's Small and Disadvantaged Business (DBE) rule at 40 CFR 33.103 which defines construction as " . . . erection, alteration, or repair (including dredging, excavating, and painting) of buildings, structures, **or other improvements to real property**, and activities in response to a release or a threat of a release of a hazardous substance into the environment, or activities to prevent the introduction of a hazardous substance into a water supply." (Emphasis added). As stated on p. 32 of the **Interim General Budget Development Guidance for Applicants and Recipients of EPA Financial Assistance mentioned above:**

> Construction costs may include site preparation, demolishing and building facilities, making permanent improvements to facilities or other real property, major renovations of existing facilities, remediation of contamination and related architectural or engineering services. With very few exceptions, recipients carry out construction projects by hiring contractors which typically include a general contractor and an architectural or engineering firm for design work and in some cases purchasing equipment for installation at the site.
>
> Construction costs are to be categorized on the SF 424A budget table as follows:
>
> 1. Anticipated costs for hiring general contractors and other contractors performing activities described in the DBE Rule's definition of Construction will be categorized as "Construction".
>
> 2. Anticipated costs for pre-construction architectural and engineering Services as defined in the DBE rule for design and specifications documents will be categorized as "Contractual".
>
> 3. Anticipated costs for separately purchased Equipment as defined in the DBE Rule that will be installed in a facility or used to remediate contamination will be categorized as "Equipment".
>
> 4. Anticipated costs for land acquisition or relocation assistance paid to individuals or businesses will be categorized as "Other".

- **Other - List each item in sufficient detail for EPA to determine the reasonableness and allowability of the cost**. This category should include only those types of direct costs that do not fit in any of the other budget categories including subawards, participant support costs, and additional costs (e.g., insurance, costs for acquiring real property, rental / lease of equipment or supplies, equipment service or maintenance contracts, and printing or photocopying).

- **Subawards -** 2 CFR § 200.1 defines a subaward as "an award provided by a pass-through entity to a subrecipient for the subrecipient to carry out part of a federal award received by the pass-through entity." 2 CFR § 200.1 defines a Pass-through entity as "a non-federal entity that provides a subaward to a subrecipient to carry out part of a federal program" and a Subrecipient as "an entity…that receives a subaward from a pass-through entity to carry out part of a federal award; but does not include an individual that is a beneficiary of such award." Identify each major subaward including those with the Collaborating Entities. Applicants must show the individual and aggregate amounts they propose to issue as subawards. Additional guidance is available in the EPA Subaward Policy and below.

- **Participant Support Costs** - 2 CFR § 200.1 defines participant support costs as "direct costs for items such as stipends or subsistence allowances, travel allowances, and registration fees paid to or on behalf of participants or trainees (but not employees) in connection with conferences, or training

projects." EPA regulations at 2 CFR § 1500.1(a)(1) expands the definition of participant support costs to include "[S]ubsidies, rebates, and other payments to program beneficiaries to encourage participation in statutorily authorized environmental stewardship programs." Additional guidance is available in the EPA Guidance on Participant Support Costs.

Indirect Costs

If indirect costs are budgeted, indicate the approved rate and distribution base. Indirect costs are those incurred by the grantee for a common or joint purpose that benefit more than one cost objective or project and are not readily assignable to specific cost objectives or projects as a direct cost. Indirect costs must be based on a rate approved by the applicant's cognizant federal agency, or the 10% de-minimus rate authorized by 2 CFR § 200.414(f). Additional indirect cost guidance is available in Indirect Cost Guidance for Recipients of EPA Assistance Agreements and in Section VI.u, "IDC Competition Clause," of the EPA Solicitation Clauses.

Notwithstanding this, indirect costs have been capped as described below based on a deviation approved per 2 CFR 200.414:

Limitation on indirect costs for grants and cooperative agreements

a. In general: Except as otherwise provided by statute, indirect costs charged against any grant and / or cooperative agreement awarded under this NOFO shall not exceed 20 percent of the total amount of the federal award.
b. Exception: Subsections (a) and (c) shall not apply to Indian Tribes as defined in section 302(r) of the Clean Air Act who serve in the role of direct recipient and / or subrecipient under the program or to Intertribal consortia that meet the requirements of 40 CFR 35.504(a) and (c) even if the Intertribal consortia is eligible for funding as a Community Based Nonprofit Organization.
c. Treatment of subawards: In the case of a grant and / or cooperative agreement described in subsection (a), the limitation on indirect costs specified in such subsection shall be applied to both the initial direct assistance award amount and any subaward of the federal funds provided under the initial assistance award so that the total of all indirect costs charged to each of the federal awards (i.e., both the initial direct assistance award amount and any subawards) funded under the initial assistance award does not exceed such limitation. As provided in 2 CFR 200.332(a)(2) pass-through entities are responsible for ensuring compliance with the indirect cost limitation by their subrecipients.

Note: This limit does not extend to indirect costs on procurement contracts.

Appendix H. Alaska Tribal Lands Target Investment Area

(*back to the Table of Contents*)

As noted in Section II.B, this NOFO includes a Target Investment Area for projects benefitting Alaska Tribal lands that are defined as disadvantaged communities in Appendix A. Under this Target Investment Area, EPA is accepting applications that include projects focusing on the clean-up of contaminated lands conveyed through the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA).

Applications submitted by eligible applicants including Alaska Native Villages (ANVs), Alaska Native Nonprofit Organizations, and Alaska Native Nonprofit Associations for the Alaskan Target Investment Area must include, like all other Track I applications, at least one Climate Action Strategy and at least one Pollution Reduction Strategy and meet the other Track I application requirements in Section I.G of the NOFO, to be eligible for funding. Applicants are not limited to a single project activity under a strategy and may select several project activities associated with a strategy. Note that the for-profit Alaska Native Corporations are not eligible to be Lead Applicants or Statutory Partners for this NOFO. The Climate Action and Pollution Reduction Strategies addressed in applications for the Alaskan Target Investment Area can address either the Climate Action and Pollution Reduction Strategies (and project activities referenced in Appendices C and D) in Section I.G, or any specific Alaskan ones described below under paragraphs 1 and 3. EPA strongly encourages applications that include Pollution Reduction strategy projects to clean up contaminated lands conveyed through ANCSA as addressed in Section 1 below. Consistent with this priority, EPA anticipates making a minimum of 5 awards for high-ranking applications that include projects to assess and/or clean up contaminated lands conveyed under ANCSA in furtherance of the federal government's interest in addressing this historic injustice as noted in Sections II.B and V.E.

1. **ANCSA-Specific Pollution Reduction Strategy and Associated Project Activities**

This section describes project activities specific to the assessment and cleanup of sites covered by the Contaminated ANCSA Lands Assistance Program. The specific requirements that apply to ANCSA cleanup projects are below.

ANCSA was enacted in 1971 to settle aboriginal claims to public lands through the conveyance of 46 million acres of land to Alaska Native regional and village corporations and the transfer of one billion dollars from the state and federal governments as compensation for lands which could not be returned to Alaska Native ownership. Many of the lands promised and conveyed to corporations pursuant to the settlement in ANCSA were contaminated. The contaminants on some of these lands—which include arsenic, asbestos, lead, mercury, pesticides, polychlorinated biphenyls, and petroleum products—pose health and other concerns to Indigenous Alaskans and communities and are present in quantities above state and federal clean-up levels, negatively impacting subsistence resources and hampering cultural, social, and economic activities.

In 2023, EPA initiated a new Contaminated ANCSA Lands Assistance Program (ANCSA Program) to assist with addressing contamination on lands conveyed pursuant to ANCSA and provide funding to (1) characterize, assess, and conduct planning and community involvement activities related to these lands and (2) to carry out cleanup activities at ANCSA sites contaminated at the time of conveyance. The statutory authority for the ANCSA Program (Public Law 117-328) states that recipients of grants awarded under the ANCSA Program may use the funding to ". . . supplement other funds provided by the Environmental Protection Agency through individual media or multi-media grants or cooperative agreements."

Eligible ANSCA project activities:

- Conducting Planning and Developing Site Plans:
    - Planning and site plan development for individual contaminated sites.
    - Where multiple sites are connected through location, infrastructure, or economic, social, and environmental conditions, planning and site plan development can take an area-wide approach for multiple sites. Applicants must demonstrate how work conducted at several sites will benefit the primary site selected for investment. Project Area requirements are outlined in I.D of the NOFO but may be waived for purposes of coordinated cleanup.

- Conducting Site Assessments and Related Activities:
    - Conducting site assessment and sampling activities
    - Developing a Health and Safety Plan, Quality Assurance Project Plan and / or Sampling Plan prior to conducting any environmental sampling and analysis (a requirement for any projects conducting sampling).
    - Submitting samples for analysis to an EPA accredited laboratory. Analytical costs from evaluating site samples.
    - Developing a report of the sample results and conclusions based on analysis (i.e., Conceptual Site Model, Assessment report, Site Inspection or Sampling Summary Report).
    - Supporting planning for future cleanup activities such as analysis of cleanup alternatives.

- Conducting Initial Cleanup Activities:
    - Developing a site cleanup approach and documenting the approach in a Site Cleanup Plan to include agreed upon cleanup endpoints, aligned with Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) cleanup process.
    - If necessary, procuring contract services to conduct cleanup activities such as contaminated material removal, sampling, or health and safety monitoring.
    - Conducting environmental confirmation sampling post-cleanup activities to determine if further action is required. If necessary, planning for next phase of site cleanup.
    - Developing a report documenting removal and / or cleanup activities.

- Conducting Community Engagement Activities:
    - As noted in Section I of the NOFO, all applicants are required to develop a Community Engagement Plan. Effective community engagement is vital to working effectively with Alaska Native communities. Therefore, for ANCSA-related cleanup projects, Community Engagement Plans should include community engagement activities and / or development of culturally sensitive protocols for project implementation of cleanup activities.
    - Costs of conducting community engagement activities, including training for workforce development, youth engagement, elder engagement in documentation of Traditional Knowledge, and other costs associated with meaningfully engaging the community in the project can be included in the proposal budget.

- Compiling Information to Use to Comply with NEPA
    - The projects funded under this NOFO do not require Environmental Information Documents (EID) because EPA awards under this NOFO are not subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), under Section 7(c) of the Energy Supply and Environmental Coordination Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 793(c)(1)). However, applicants may seek funding to prepare EIDs as needed to comply with NEPA in connection with other federal grant-funded projects in Alaska. EPA awards under the ANCSA program, for example, are subject to NEPA, as are programs funded by other federal agencies.

Additional Eligibility Requirements for ANCSA-related projects and activities:

Applicants proposing ANCSA-related cleanup projects must provide the following documentation of eligibility in their application. Failure to do so may render the application ineligible for funding. Specifically, applicants must provide the following site-specific information for where the cleanup activities will be performed, demonstrating that the site:

- was conveyed pursuant to ANCSA;
- was contaminated by hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or petroleum at the time of conveyance; and
- is listed on the interim EPA inventory of Contaminated ANCSA Lands (for more information on EPA's interim inventory and program related to cleaning up contaminated lands conveyed pursuant to ANCSA, visit EPA Region 10's website).
- If the applicant is not the owner of the contaminated site(s) to be addressed, EPA will require proof that the landowner will provide access to the site and supports taking action to address contamination.

2. **General Alaskan Pollution Reduction Strategies**

In addition to the ANCSA land contamination projects identified above, applicants for the Alaskan Tribal Lands Target Investment Area may include Pollution Reduction Strategies as identified in Section I.G of the NOFO.

3. **Alaska-Specific Climate Action Strategies**

Below are examples of additional Alaska-specific Climate Action Strategies and project activities that may be included in applications for the Alaskan Tribal Lands Target Investment Area, which are in addition to the Climate Action Strategies described in Section I.G of the NOFO.

- Community energy resilience, which may include activities such as:
    - Multi-energy systems including renewable (solar, wind, etc.) and traditional (bulk fuel) sources to increase resilience during extreme events and support a clean energy transition.
    - Power system projects, including renewable energy projects, and the construction, repair, and maintenance of fuel storage facilities in rural areas.
- Improving human health and climate resilience, which may include activities such as:
    - Construction of greenhouses that enable sustainable food growth that can promote healthy foods, food accessibility, and food availability.
    - Food storage facilities to enable sustainable access to traditional foods to support places where permafrost degradation is destroying traditional ice cellars. New food storage facilities may be constructed to support the access and availability of traditional foods. Selection of this project component must include a permafrost mitigation strategy.
    - Projects to support new and improved access points to traditional food resources, such as construction of new fishing docks or river / lake boat ramps to allow for improved fishing opportunities in places that have a high reliance on traditional foods, where climate change has degraded access and availability of food sources.
- Permafrost degradation management strategies that may include strategies such as:
    - Source water protection (impacts from landfills, thawing of permafrost, and potential impacts to traditional drinking water sources as well as established drinking water systems).

    - Portable micro-water treatment systems applicable to those impacted by emergencies which impact drinking water systems, with the ability to treat water until system repairs are complete or new systems built.
    - Manage and monitor contamination impacting land, food, and water backhaul / removal of waste materials not suitable for disposition in permitted landfills in Alaska.
- Climate emergency management and response strategies that may include activities such as:
    - Purchase of emergency response cargo containers with materials ready to deploy, including four-wheeler, snowmachine, communications, temporary office location, boat, oil spill response materials, smoke management equipment, etc.
    - Development of emergency alert and warning systems for wildfires, flooding and other emergencies stemming from climate change.
- Nature-based resilience strategies that may include activities such as:
    - Restoration of natural systems to help protect coastal communities from the impacts of storms, floods, and other natural hazards.
    - Storm damage prevention and reduction, coastal erosion, and ice and glacial damage stemming from climate change.

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LESJWA BOARD MEMORANDUM NO. 2024.7

DATE: October 17, 2024

TO: LESJWA Board of Directors

SUBJECT: Lake Elsinore & Canyon Lake TMDL Task Force - Update

PREPARED BY: Rick Whetsel, Senior Watershed Manager

RECOMMENDATION
Receive and file.

DISCUSSION
LESJWA staff will be presenting an update on the Lake Elsinore & Canyon Lake Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Task Force to the LESJWA Board of Directors.

BACKGROUND
The Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board adopted a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for nutrient discharges to Canyon Lake and Lake Elsinore in 2004. The TMDL became effective when the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) gave it final approval on September 30, 2005.

The TMDL specified numeric targets for DO, Chlorophyll a, Ammonia, Total Phosphorus (TP) and Total Nitrogen (TN) concentrations in both lakes. It also established Load Allocations (LA) and Waste Load Allocations (WLA) to govern the discharge of excess nutrients from non-point sources and point sources, respectively.

In 2005, stakeholders formed the Lake Elsinore & Canyon Lake TMDL Task Force (Task Force). This Task Force, administered by LESJWA provides stakeholders an opportunity to coordinate and share the cost of all implementation efforts. The Task Force is comprised of all the dischargers identified in the TDML, including Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permittees, wastewater treatment plants, agricultural operators, concentrated animal feeding operations (dairies), and a number of other state, federal, or tribal agencies that own land or operate facilities that discharge in the watershed.

To date, LESJWA staff continues to administer the work of the Task Force and its consultants to implement work tasks as required by Regional Board to achieve compliance with the Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake TMDLs. Regular work funded and implemented by the task force includes:

- LESJWA staff time to administer the Task Force
- Regulatory Advisor, Tess Dunham, Kahn, Soares & Conway
- Annual watershed and in-lake water quality monitoring and compliance reporting
- Semi-annual alum applications to Canyon Lake
- Periodic fishery management studies

RESOURCE IMPACTS
None.

Attachments:
1. PowerPoint Presentation

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LAKE ELSINORE & SAN JACINTO WATERSHEDS AUTHORITY

City of Lake Elsinore • City of Canyon Lake • County of Riverside
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District • Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority

Lake Elsinore & Canyon Lake TMDL Task Force Status Update

Rick Whetsel, Senior Watershed Manager
LESJWA Board Meeting
October 17, 2024


Canyon Lake
Lake Elsinore
Lake St
Lincoln St
Riverside Dr
Corona Freeway
Central Ave
Collier Ave
N Main St
Greenwald Ave
Canyon Lake Dr S
Canyon Lake Dr
Goetz Rd
Railroad Canyon Rd
Canyon Hills Rd
Temescal Valley Fwy
Grand Ave
74
15
© 2017 Google
Google earth
lat 33.681316° lon 117.305024° elev 1744 ft eye alt 10.01 mi

- **Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake WQ Problems**
  - Algal blooms
  - Fish kills
- **Cause of WQ Problems**
  - Excessive phosphorus and nitrogen = nutrients
  - Depletion of oxygen
- **Sources of Nutrients**
  - Urban, agriculture, erosion, septic systems
  - Nutrient loading occurs during very large storm events

Purpose of the Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake TMDL Task Force

- 2004 - Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board amended the Water Quality Control Plan for the Santa Ana River Basin to incorporate nutrient TMDLs for Canyon Lake and Lake Elsinore.
  - Specified numeric targets for DO, Chlorophyll a, Ammonia, Total Phosphorus (TP) and Total Nitrogen (TN) concentrations in both lakes.
  - Established Load Allocations (LA) and Waste Load Allocations (WLA) to govern the discharge of excess nutrients from non-point sources and point sources, respectively.
  - Prescribed a detailed Implementation Plan which describes a variety of activities that must be undertaken to meet water quality standards in Canyon Lake and Lake Elsinore
- 2005 – Stakeholders identified in the Basin Plan Amendment collectively formed the Lake Elsinore & Canyon Lake TMDL Task Force
- Task Force, administered by LESJWA provides stakeholders an opportunity to coordinate and share the cost of all implementation efforts.
  - Implement TMDL Implementation Plan Tasks jointly assigned to Task Force Agencies
  - Review and develop recommendations to update the TMDL Basin Plan Amendment
  - Propose appropriate revisions to the TMDL Basin Plan Amendment

Task Force Agreement

Task Force Members for LECL TMDL Task Force

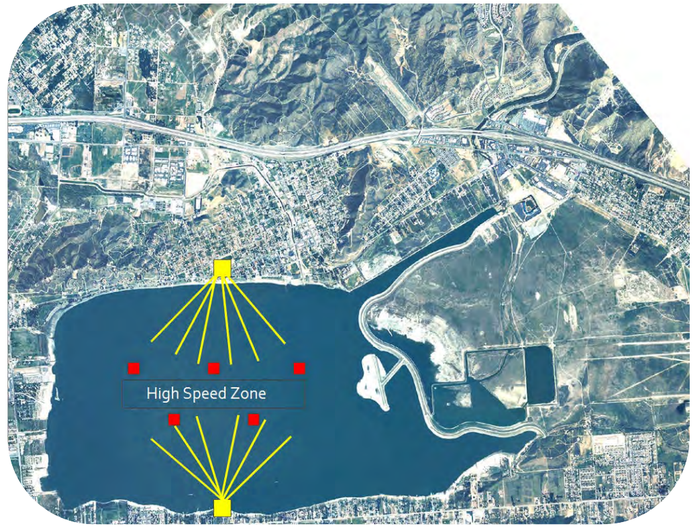
- Riverside County
- Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
- City of Beaumont
- City of Canyon Lake
- City of Hemet
- City of Lake Elsinore
- City of Moreno Valley
- City of Murrieta
- City of Menifee
- City of San Jacinto
- City of Riverside
- City of Perris
- City of Wildomar
- Caltrans
- CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
- Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District
- March Air Force Reserve JPA
- March Air Force Base
- Eastern Municipal Water District
- San Jacinto Ag Operators
- San Jacinto Dairy Operators

Update of Task Force Activities

- Final draft Basin Plan Amendment language and Technical TMDL Report submitted to Santa Ana Water Board staff.
- General Approach in the Draft Revised TMDL:
  - Numeric targets (chlorophyll a, dissolved oxygen, ammonia) expressed as cumulative distribution frequencies (CDFs)
  - Waste load and load allocations for Total N and Total P based on reaching the reference condition (i.e., natural occurring levels of Total N and P that would enter the lakes from the upper watershed)
  - Reference condition defined as being the median & 25th percentiles of TP and TN data at Cranston Guard Station

Update of Task Force Activities

- Ultimate Goals of Revised TMDL
  - Goal 1 – Identify and manage controllable watershed sources of nutrients that flow into Canyon Lake and Lake Elsinore
  - Goal 2 – Identify long-lasting in-lake controls that address sediment fluxes and dissolved oxygen levels for protection of aquatic life & recreational beneficial uses
  - Goal 3 – Identify appropriate water quality criteria for protecting beneficial uses in two dynamic lake systems
  - Goal 4 – Provide controllable sources with a reasonable, feasible and practical pathway for meeting appropriate water quality criteria



Schedule

AB 2108 Outreach	Public review and comment (45-day review period)	Santa Ana Water Board Adoption Hearing
Oct.–Nov. 2024	Oct.–Nov. 2024	Jan.–Feb. 2025

SAWPA

Questions?

Thank You

Rick Whetsel
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority
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@sawpa_water

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LAKE ELSINORE & SAN JACINTO WATERSHEDS AUTHORITY

City of Lake Elsinore • City of Canyon Lake • County of Riverside
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District • Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority

Lake Elsinore & Canyon Lake TMDL Task Force Status Update

Rick Whetsel, Senior Watershed Manager
LESJWA Board Meeting
October 17, 2024


Canyon
Lake
Lake
Elsinore
Lake St
Lincoln St
Riverside Dr
Corona Freeway
Central Ave
Dolores Ave
N Main St
Greenwald Ave
Canyon Lake Dr S
Goetz Rd
Railroad Canyon Rd
Canyon Hills Rd
Temescal Valley Fwy
Grand Ave
74
15
© 2017 Google
Google earth
lat 33.681316° lon 117.305024° elev 1744 ft eye alt 10.01 mi

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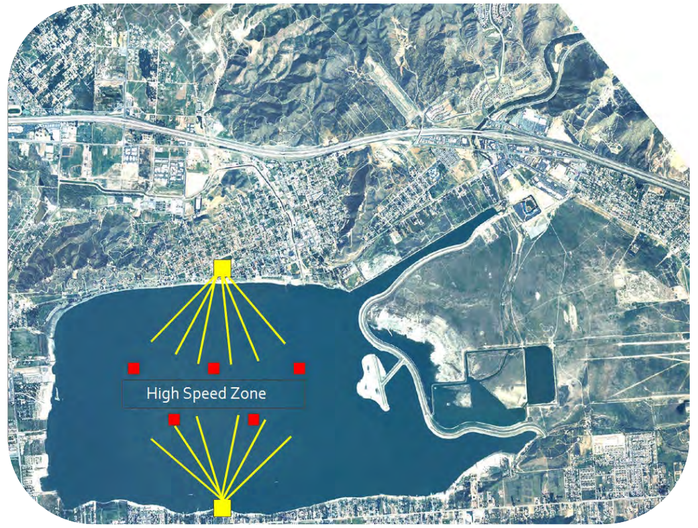

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SAWPA

Questions?

Thank You

Rick Whetsel
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LESJWA BOARD MEMORANDUM NO. 2024.8

DATE: October 17, 2024

TO: LESJWA Board of Directors

SUBJECT: LESJWA Outreach & Education Status Update

PRESENTED BY: Liselle DeGrave of DeGrave Communications

RECOMMENDATION
Receive and file.

BACKGROUND
Ms. Liselle DeGrave of DeGrave Communications will provide an overview and results of the LESJWA Water Summit at the Community Hall of the Launch Pointe Recreation Destination and RV Park in Lake Elsinore. Since the Summit is held every other year, the next Summit will be planned for Year 2026. Ms. DeGrave will also discuss other recent outreach activities where DeGrave Communication staffed and operated display booths on behalf of LESJWA.
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RESOURCES IMPACT
All funding for the LESJWA Water Summit was included in the task order with DeGrave Communications and augmented by event sponsorships. All other outreach activities are included under the current task order with DeGrave Communications.

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Public Education and Outreach Support Services

October 17, 2024

LAKE ELSINORE & SAN JACINTO WATERSHEDS AUTHORITY

City of Lake Elsinore • City of Canyon Lake • County of Riverside
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District • Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority

Presented By

DEGRAVE COMMUNICATIONS
PUBLIC RELATIONS

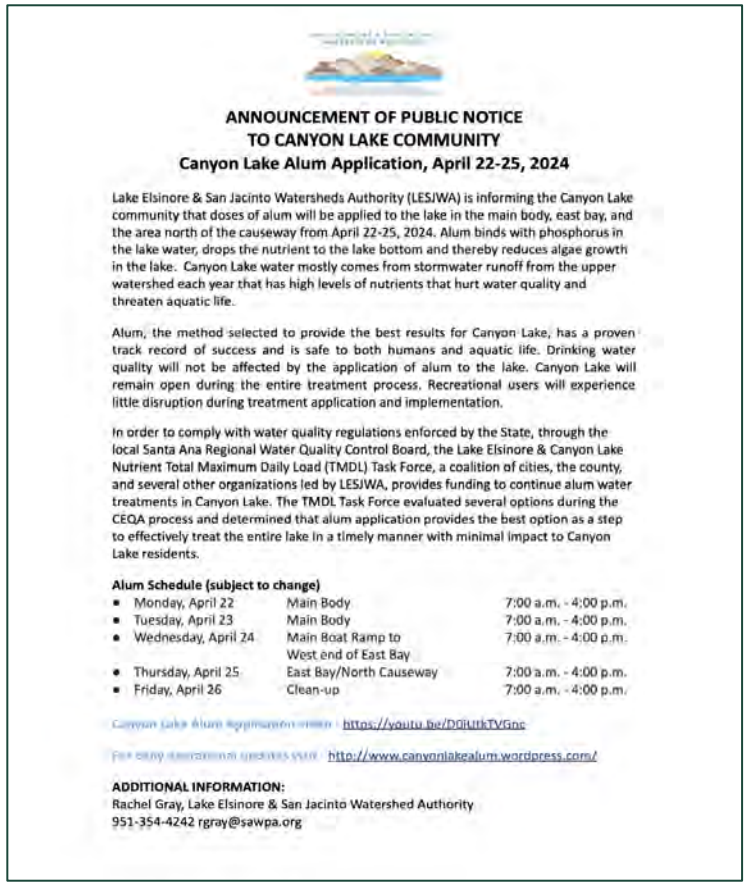
Communications Update

LAKE ELSINORE & SAN JACINTO WATERSHEDS AUTHORITY

City of Lake Elsinore • City of Canyon Lake • County of Riverside
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District • Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority

Task 1 – Community Outreach

Task 2 – Media and Social Media



ANNOUNCEMENT OF PUBLIC NOTICE
TO CANYON LAKE COMMUNITY
Canyon Lake Alum Application, April 22-25, 2024

Lake Elsinore & San Jacinto Watersheds Authority (LESJWA) is informing the Canyon Lake community that doses of alum will be applied to the lake in the main body, east bay, and the area north of the causeway from April 22-25, 2024. Alum binds with phosphorus in the lake water, drops the nutrient to the lake bottom and thereby reduces algae growth in the lake. Canyon Lake water mostly comes from stormwater runoff from the upper watershed each year that has high levels of nutrients that hurt water quality and threaten aquatic life.

Alum, the method selected to provide the best results for Canyon Lake, has a proven track record of success and is safe to both humans and aquatic life. Drinking water quality will not be affected by the application of alum to the lake. Canyon Lake will remain open during the entire treatment process. Recreational users will experience little disruption during treatment application and implementation.

In order to comply with water quality regulations enforced by the State, through the local Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board, the Lake Elsinore & Canyon Lake Nutrient Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Task Force, a coalition of cities, the county, and several other organizations led by LESJWA, provides funding to continue alum water treatments in Canyon Lake. The TMDL Task Force evaluated several options during the CEQA process and determined that alum application provides the best option as a step to effectively treat the entire lake in a timely manner with minimal impact to Canyon Lake residents.

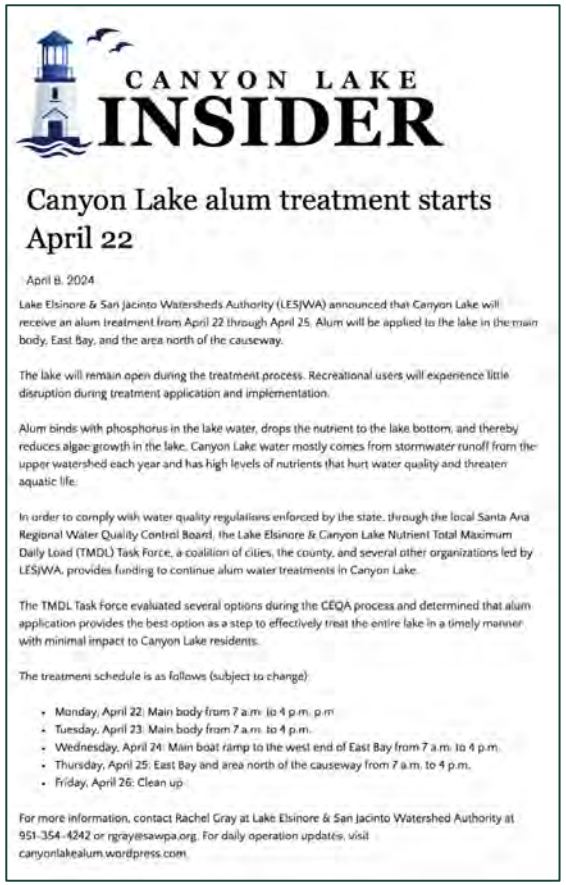
Alum Schedule (subject to change)

• Monday, April 22	Main Body	7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
• Tuesday, April 23	Main Body	7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
• Wednesday, April 24	Main Boat Ramp to West end of East Bay	7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
• Thursday, April 25	East Bay/North Causeway	7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
• Friday, April 26	Clean-up	7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Canyon Lake Alum Application video : https://youtu.be/D0iUtkTVGnc

For daily operational updates visit : http://www.canyonlakealum.wordpress.com/

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
Rachel Gray, Lake Elsinore & San Jacinto Watershed Authority
951-354-4242 rgray@sawpa.org



CANYON LAKE
INSIDER

Canyon Lake alum treatment starts April 22

April 8, 2024

Lake Elsinore & San Jacinto Watersheds Authority (LESJWA) announced that Canyon Lake will receive an alum treatment from April 22 through April 25. Alum will be applied to the lake in the main body, East Bay, and the area north of the causeway.

The lake will remain open during the treatment process. Recreational users will experience little disruption during treatment application and implementation.

Alum binds with phosphorus in the lake water, drops the nutrient to the lake bottom, and thereby reduces algae growth in the lake. Canyon Lake water mostly comes from stormwater runoff from the upper watershed each year and has high levels of nutrients that hurt water quality and threaten aquatic life.

In order to comply with water quality regulations enforced by the state, through the local Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board, the Lake Elsinore & Canyon Lake Nutrient Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Task Force, a coalition of cities, the county, and several other organizations led by LESJWA, provides funding to continue alum water treatments in Canyon Lake.

The TMDL Task Force evaluated several options during the CEQA process and determined that alum application provides the best option as a step to effectively treat the entire lake in a timely manner with minimal impact to Canyon Lake residents.

The treatment schedule is as follows (subject to change):

- Monday, April 22: Main body from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. p.m
- Tuesday, April 23: Main body from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 24: Main boat ramp to the west end of East Bay from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Thursday, April 25: East Bay and area north of the causeway from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Friday, April 26: Clean up

For more information, contact Rachel Gray at Lake Elsinore & San Jacinto Watershed Authority at 951-354-4242 or rgray@sawpa.org. For daily operation updates, visit canyonlakealum.wordpress.com

APRIL 19, 2024 THE F

Alum Treatment scheduled for lake next week

The Lake Elsinore & San Jacinto Watersheds Authority (LESJWA) has announced an alum treatment in Canyon Lake Monday through Friday. This effort aims to enhance water quality and reduce algae growth by addressing high nutrient levels predominantly introduced through stormwater runoff.

The treatment involves the application of alum, a substance that binds with phosphorus present in the water, effectively settling it to the lake's bottom and thus mitigating algae proliferation.

This method is chosen for its proven effectiveness and minimal risk to both humans and aquatic life, ensuring no impact on the quality of drinking water. The application is the regularly-scheduled treatment by LESJWA to help control the algae growth in the lake.

Canyon Lake will remain accessible to the public throughout the treatment, with recreational activities expected to experience minimal interruption.

The alum application is part of a broader strategy to comply with water quality standards set by the State, under the oversight of the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board.

The initiative is funded by the Lake Elsinore & Canyon Lake Nutrient Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Task Force, a coalition spearheaded by LESJWA and including cities, the county, and other entities.

The treatment schedule is subject to change, but is currently set for April 22: Main Body, 7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., April 23: Main Body, 7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., April 24: Main Boat Ramp to 7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., April 25: West end of East Bay and East Bay/North Causeway, 7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. and April 26: Clean-up, 7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

For more information, including daily operational updates, residents are encouraged to visit http://www.canyonlakealum.wordpress.com/ or watch the Canyon Lake Alum Application video at https://youtu.be/D0iUtkTVGnc.

Additionally, Rachel Gray of the Lake Elsinore & San Jacinto Watershed Authority can be contacted at 951-354-4242 or rgray@sawpa.go for further inquiries.

THE FRIDAY FLYER

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Home » April 26, 2024 Edition » Alum Treatment scheduled for lake next week

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Weather

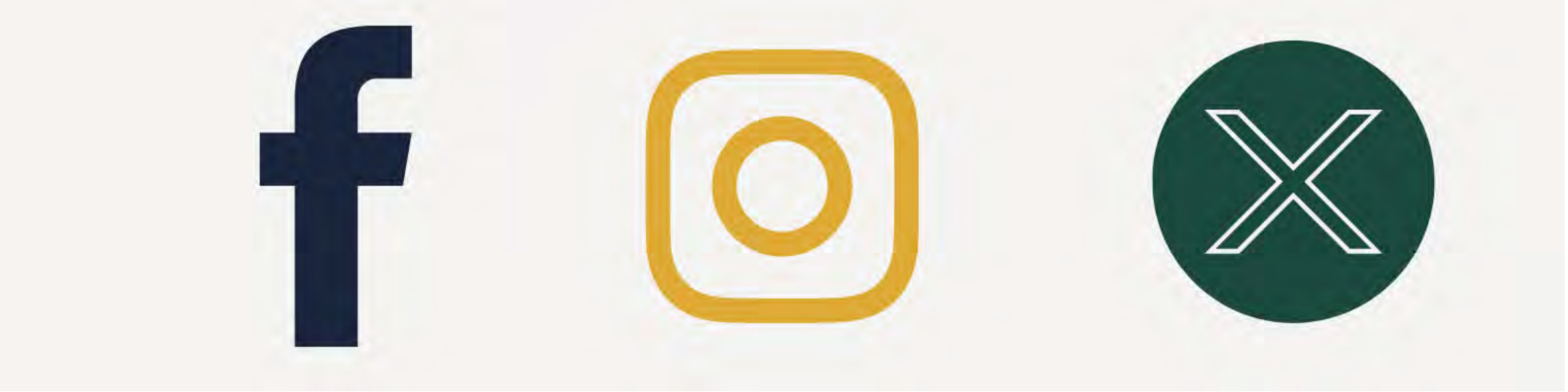
CANYON LAKE WEATHER 68°F clear sky

Thu Fri Sat Sun Mon

Facebook

DEGRAVE COMMUNICATIONS
PUBLIC RELATIONS

Task 2 – Media and Social Media



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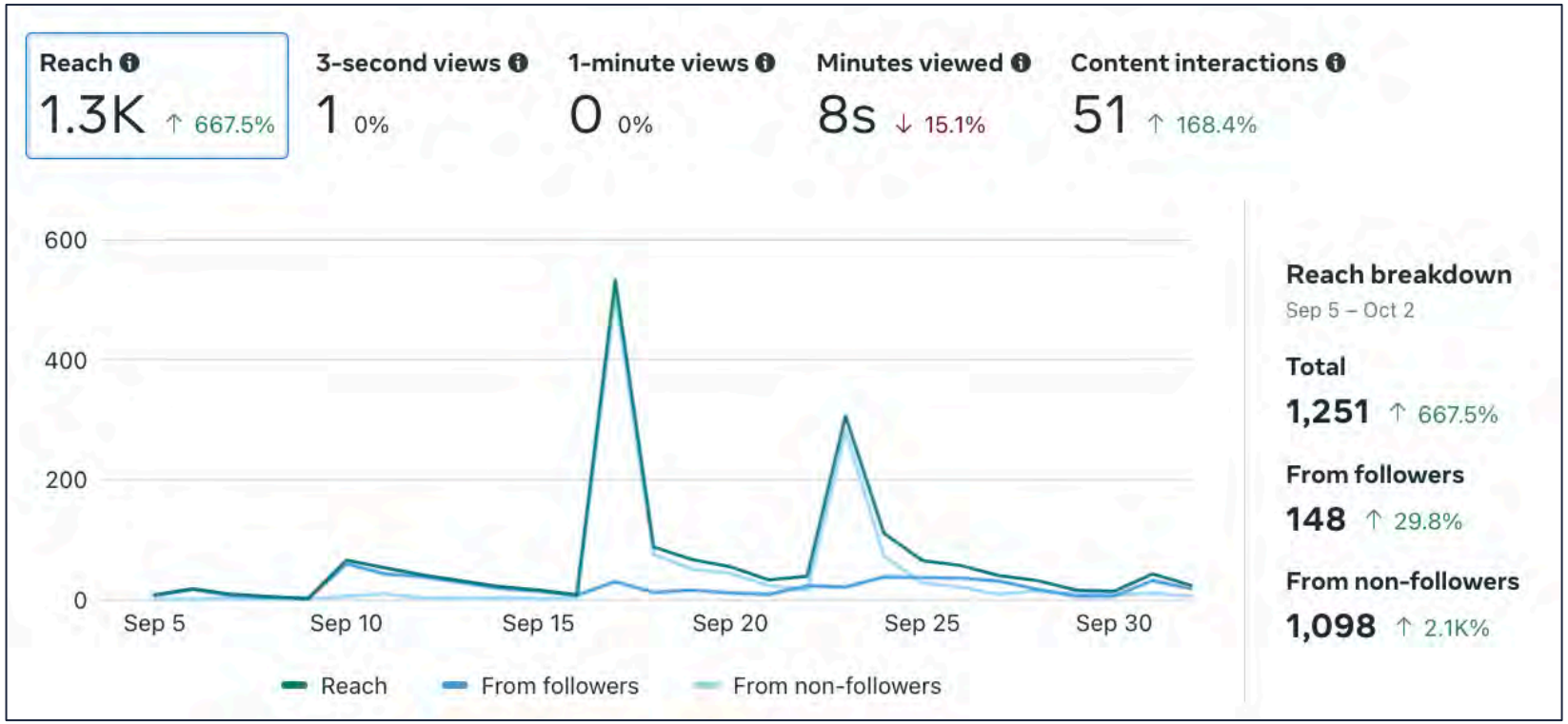

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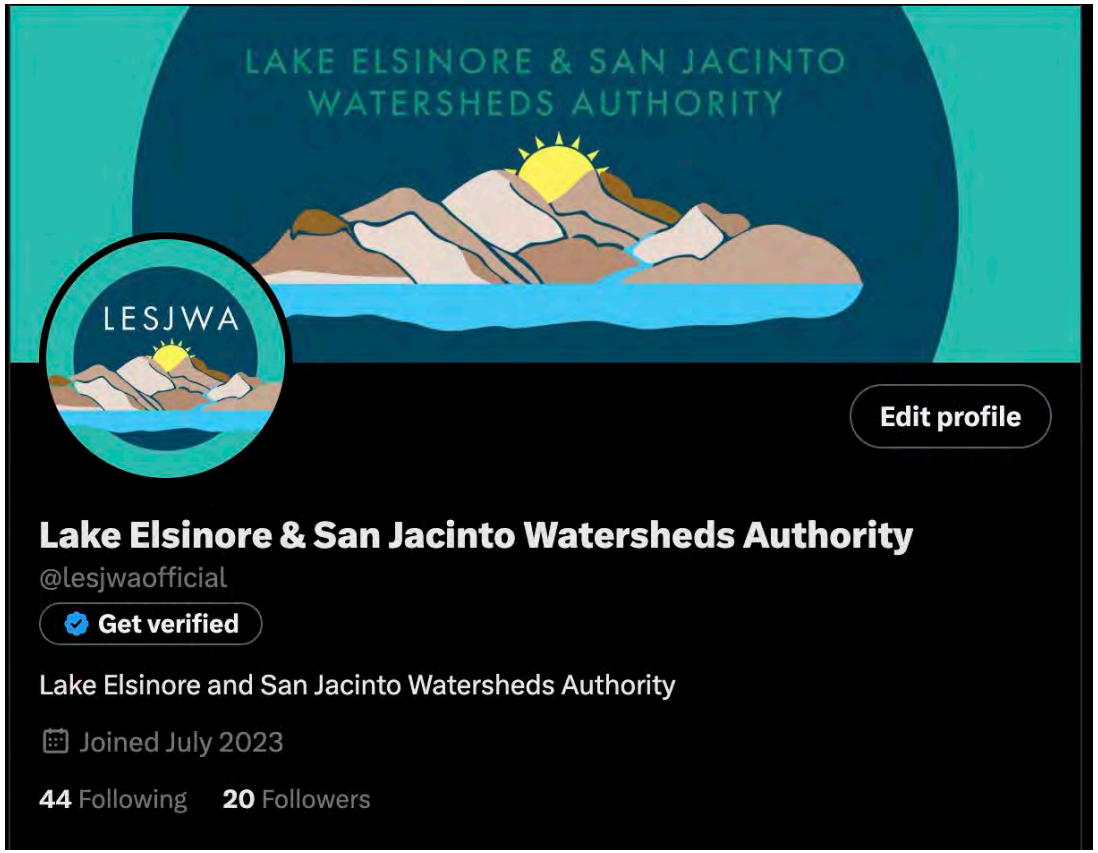

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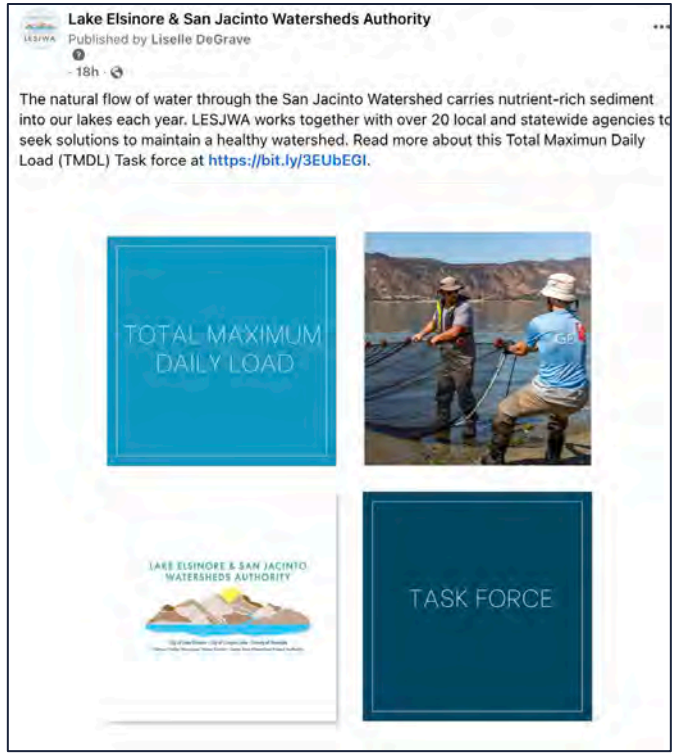
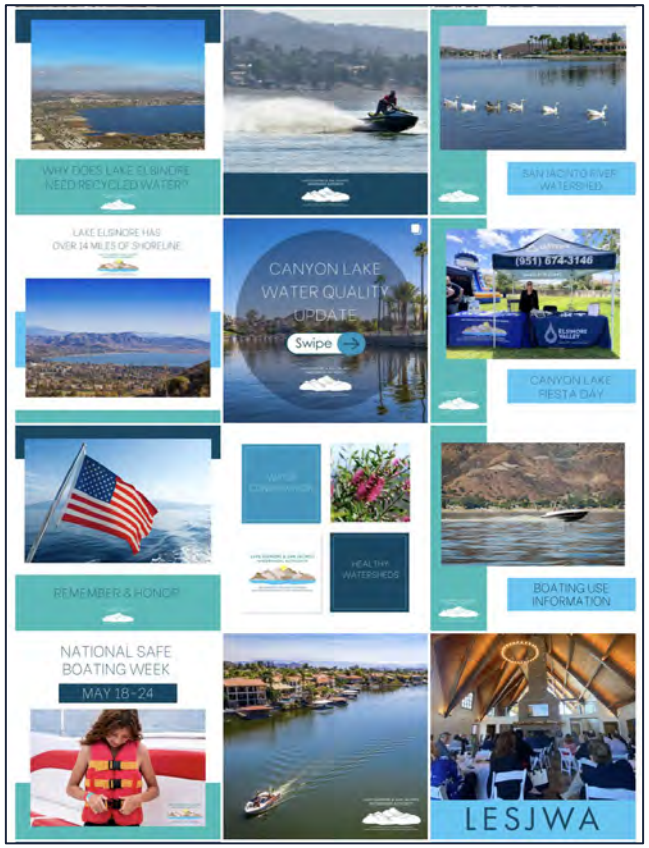


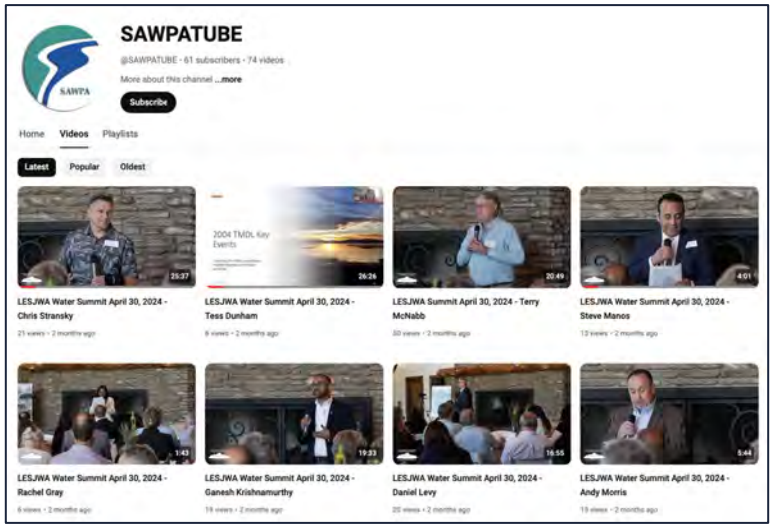


Task 3 – LESJWA Water Summit

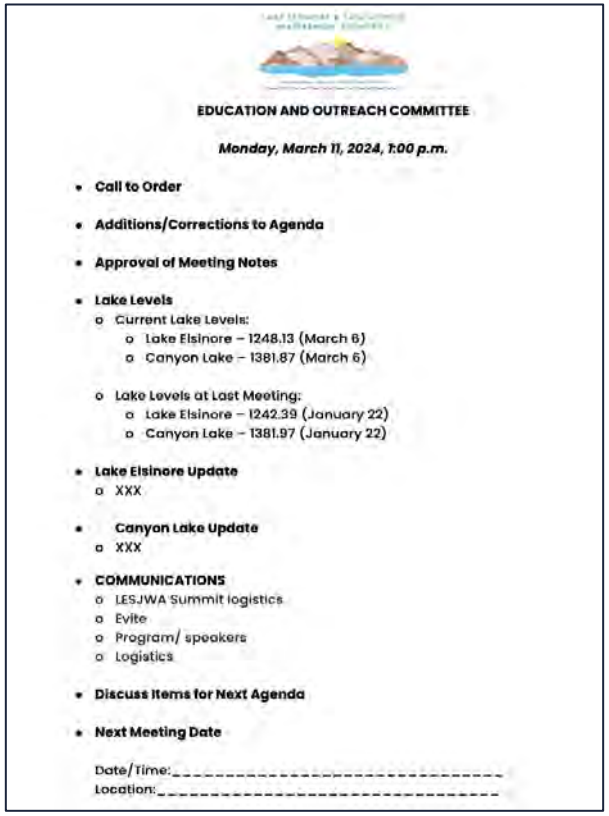
LAKE ELSINORE & SAN JACINTO WATERSHEDS AUTHORITY

LESWA SUMMIT SCHEDULE

- **8:00 – 8:30 a.m. Registration**
- **8:30 a.m. Steve Manos – Mayor, City of Lake Elsinore**
  Program Welcome
- **8:35 a.m. Andy Morris – Director, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District; LESJWA Vice Chair**
  Opening Remarks – LESJWA and Our Delicate Watershed
- **8:45 a.m. Chris Stransky- Aquatic Sciences & Toxicology Group Manager, WSP**
  Pilot Lake Treatability Studies in Lake Elsinore to Reduce Harmful Algal Blooms
- **9:30 a.m. Tess Dunham – Attorney, Kahn, Soares & Conway, LLP Attorney**
  State Compliance and Regulations
- **9:55 Break**
- **10:05 a.m. Terry McNabb, CLM - Aquatic Biologist/Certified Lake Manager, Aquatechnex**
  Alum Applications in Canyon Lake - Reducing Opportunities for Algae Blooms
- **10:30 a.m. Ganesh Krishnamurthy – Assistant General Manager Engineering and Operations, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District**
  Lake Elsinore Aeration and Mixing System (LEAMS) Overview
- **10:55 a.m. Break**
- **11:05 a.m. Adam Gufarotti – Community Support Manager, City of Lake Elsinore**
  Exploring Nano Bubble Technology on Lake Elsinore
- **11:30 a.m. Daniel J. Levy, PG - Vice President and Founder of AECOM's Algae Practice**
  Addressing Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) with Innovative Technology: A Solution for Lake Elsinore
- **11:55 a.m. Rachel Gray - LESJWA Administrator, SAWPA Closing/Dismiss for Lunch**
- **12:00 p.m. Lunch (In-Person / To-Go Options Available)**
- **1:00 p.m. Lake Elsinore Boat Ride (optional)**
- **Nano Bubble Technology Viewing - *Suitable Footwear is Recommended***



Task 4 – Outreach and Admin

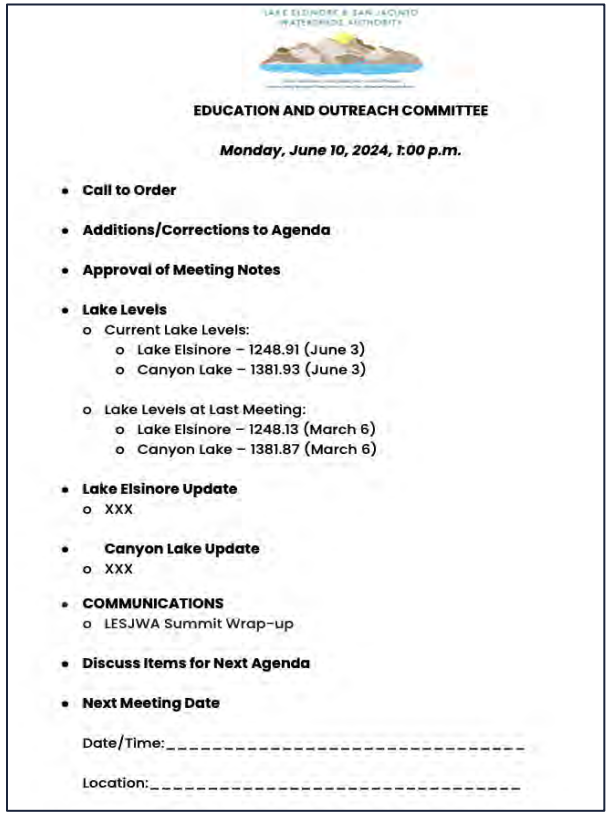


EDUCATION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Monday, March 11, 2024, 1:00 p.m.

- **Call to Order**
- **Additions/Corrections to Agenda**
- **Approval of Meeting Notes**
- **Lake Levels**
  - Current Lake Levels:
    - Lake Elsinore – 1248.13 (March 6)
    - Canyon Lake – 1381.87 (March 6)
  - Lake Levels at Last Meeting:
    - Lake Elsinore – 1242.39 (January 22)
    - Canyon Lake – 1381.97 (January 22)
- **Lake Elsinore Update**
  - XXX
- **Canyon Lake Update**
  - XXX
- **COMMUNICATIONS**
  - LESJWA Summit logistics
  - Evite
  - Program/ speakers
  - Logistics
- **Discuss Items for Next Agenda**
- **Next Meeting Date**

Date/Time:_____
Location:_____



EDUCATION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE

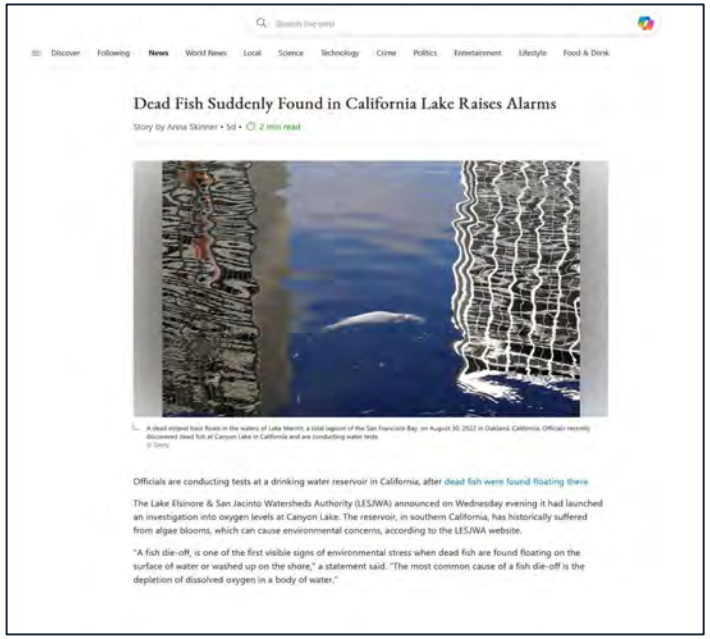
Monday, June 10, 2024, 1:00 p.m.

- **Call to Order**
- **Additions/Corrections to Agenda**
- **Approval of Meeting Notes**
- **Lake Levels**
  - Current Lake Levels:
    - Lake Elsinore – 1248.91 (June 3)
    - Canyon Lake – 1381.93 (June 3)
  - Lake Levels at Last Meeting:
    - Lake Elsinore – 1248.13 (March 6)
    - Canyon Lake – 1381.87 (March 6)
- **Lake Elsinore Update**
  - XXX
- **Canyon Lake Update**
  - XXX
- **COMMUNICATIONS**
  - LESJWA Summit Wrap-up
- **Discuss Items for Next Agenda**
- **Next Meeting Date**

Date/Time:_____

Location:_____

Task 4 – Outreach and Admin



Dead Fish Suddenly Found in California Lake Raises Alarms

Story by Anna Skinner • 5d • 2 min read

Officials are conducting tests at a drinking water reservoir in California, after dead fish were found floating there

The Lake Elsinore & San Jacinto Watersheds Authority (LESJWA) announced on Wednesday evening it had launched an investigation into oxygen levels at Canyon Lake. The reservoir, in southern California, has historically suffered from algae blooms, which can cause environmental concerns, according to the LESJWA website.

"A fish die-off, is one of the first visible signs of environmental stress when dead fish are found floating on the surface of water or washed up on the shore," a statement said. "The most common cause of a fish die-off is the depletion of dissolved oxygen in a body of water."

CALIFORNIA NEWS

State officials warn of 'dangerous' algae bloom in Southern California lake

Officials from the California Water Resources Control Board are urging people to avoid Lake Elsinore due to an algae bloom that's created dangerous levels of harmful toxins.

Visitors are urged to stay out of the water, keep their pets at a safe distance and do not drink water or eat any fish or shellfish from the lake.

Five "distinct areas" of Lake Elsinore were tested and high levels of toxins were detected that officials say pose a significant health risk.

"DANGER" signs have been placed at the lake to warn visitors about the elevated risks.

DANGER

Toxins from algae in this water can harm people and kill animals

Stay out of the water until further notice. Do not touch scum in the water or on shore.

Do not let pets or other animals drink or go into the water or go near the scum.

Do not eat fish or shellfish from this water.

Do not use this water for drinking or cooking. Boiling or filtering will not make the water safe.

For people, the toxins can cause: ... For animals, the toxins can cause: ...

Call your doctor or veterinarian if you or your pet got sick after going in the water.

For more information on harmful algae, go to https://mywaterquality.ca.gov/habs/index.html

For local information, contact:

Officials say the City of Lake Elsinore has been testing the lake regularly because it is particularly vulnerable to harmful algal blooms due to its shallow waters, warm temperatures and previous history of outbreaks.

"Most recent sampling results indicate that the lake contains extremely elevated levels of toxins associated with cyanobacteria, a group of organisms that form harmful algal blooms and can produce potent toxins," a release from the California Water Resources Control Board states.

A "danger" advisory goes into effect when officials detect at least 20 micrograms per liter of microcystin toxins, the latest results from testing in Lake Elsinore show the presence of as much as 36,750 micrograms per liter.

Toxic algal blooms can cause itchy skin and rashes, gastrointestinal distress, headaches, weakness and even abnormal breathing. Dogs and children are particularly at risk due to their smaller body size. If you, a loved one or pet have been exposed to harmful algae and begin experiencing symptoms, you should contact a health care provider immediately.

Officials say the algal bloom could change rapidly due to wind and waves which move the bloom into different parts of the lake. Heat and rainfall can also contribute to changing conditions.

For more on the current conditions at Lake Elsinore, click here.

Suggest a Correction

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NEWSLETTER TECH HOME OUTDOORS BUSINESS SHOP

OUTDOORS

Major freshwater lake hits record-breaking levels after years of chronic drought, but issues persist: 'It's changed'

The 3,000-acre lake, located 60 miles southeast of Los Angeles, is the largest freshwater lake in Southern California.

By Mike Taylor / April 24, 2024

Recent heavy rains in Southern California pushed Lake Elsinore water levels to record highs.

As KTLA reported in February, the surge, which raised the lake level to its highest mark in at least a decade, has prompted hopes of increased tourism but also concerns about flooding. Newsweek said atmospheric rivers were the source of the rain and that snowmelt drives the lake level.

The state had been in a prolonged drought, but the lake level, as of April 22, is just shy of 1,250 feet.

The Los Angeles Times reported that officials were prepared to divert excess water to the Santa Ana River to prevent flooding — with public areas already underwater — and business owners are anticipating a big summer, with the season having opened on April 14.

In 2022, a toxic algae bloom closed the lake for six months, according to KTLA, and the business community welcomes visitation.

"When the lake is thriving, the economy is thriving," Lake Elsinore spokesman Jovanny Huerta told the Los Angeles Times.

The 3,000-acre lake, located 60 miles southeast of Los Angeles, is the largest natural freshwater lake in Southern California. It approached its overflow mark of 1,255 feet above sea level in 2005, as the San Diego Union-Tribune reported.

Higher levels improve water quality and help balance the ecosystem, helping distribute oxygen, according to the San Diego news outlet.

But this year's levels have also meant that launches, walkways, and even a public beach went underwater.

David Bertoldo, a Lake Elsinore resident who frequents the lake, "has noticed the dramatic changes," KTLA reported.

"It's changed all the fishing spots, so everyone has to go find their new fishing spots," he told the news outlet.

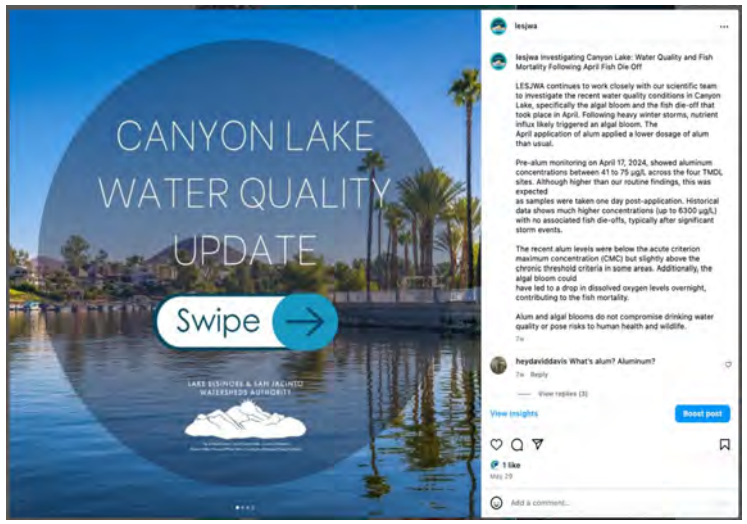
Lake Elsinore has dried up multiple times in the last century, and other lakes in the region have had water-level problems, from Lake Mead to Lake Powell, creating worries about energy production and water scarcity.

On the other hand, the same atmospheric rivers that filled the lake caused flooding and landslides in the L.A. Basin.

Such extreme weather events and their associated problems are only becoming more common and more intense as the planet warms because of human-produced gases. Higher temperatures mean more water gets held in the atmosphere, which can cause droughts but can also cause more severe storms and flooding. This "new normal" is ultimately less predictable than the status quo has been across recent centuries.

To address the problem, we can make changes to rely on clean sources of energy such as solar and wind instead of dirty coal and gas, hold companies that don't practice sustainability accountable, and vote for political candidates who practice environmentalism.

Task 5 – Issue Management



Questions?

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