

*This is a summary of the comments that were made during the public comment period for the 2015 Youth Soccer Program. Hearings were held at Fresno on November 4, 2015, Hayward on November 5, 2015, Sacramento on November 17, 2015, and Los Angeles on December 15, 2015. Additionally, an e-mail invitation was sent to 2,187 OGALS contacts via Survey Monkey on 10/28/2015 and again on 11/16/15 inviting them to attend a hearing or to provide comment via e-mail. An invitation was also posted on the OGALS website. All comments were considered and incorporated into the guide.*

## **Combined list of Public Hearing Comments for 2015 Youth Soccer Program**

### **General:**

Why is it called soccer? Can the other sports available be made clear?

Consider electronic filing. Most participants felt it wasn't particularly onerous to file manually, but it can be a waste of paper. Some other state agencies do offer electronic filing, it ensures that applicants know the application is received, and gives them all the way up to 4:59pm before they have to hit the send button. Electronic filing facilitates working with a consultant or others who may be in offices in other areas.

We like how easy it is to apply for your grant programs. Your agency has the most user friendly application guides

Would the program favor partnerships, like joint use agreements?

### **Page 1:**

How are you defining "heavily-populated" areas? Concern that less populated areas are disadvantaged

How will agencies be establishing the crime rate?

While there are a lot of low-income neighborhoods in Hayward, but the parks are generally just outside of the high density regions. Those parks serve the low-income neighborhoods, but they aren't immediately adjacent. Concerned that the legislative intent will reduce their competitiveness.

Youth Soccer Program Competitive intent: It is often hard for small cities to be competitive; the central valley is generally rural. While the understanding is that the language is from the legislation, the rural cities tend to be left out of the mix.

Even though Fresno is a large city, it seems that the legislation gives preference to the even larger cities.

When selecting a due date, be sure that not all grant programs have the same due date

Concern regarding small amount of money available statewide and low maximum grant request

If there are different parks, would you submit each application separately?

Applications must be submitted hard copy? Yes.

Are there amounts or percentages specified for certain regions of the state?

Are there more specifics about what is considered youth crime and what is high unemployment rate?

Are you talking about only building soccer fields with artificial turf?

**Page 2:**

Projects that support facilities are eligible? We can build a restroom to support an existing ball field.

Opportunities to renovate is great, better than only building new facilities.

Confirmation that acquisition projects are not eligible

If you are working together, would a letter of support be needed or do they apply together, or is there another method that would be used to determine the relationship?

**Page 3**

What is the deed restriction?

**Page 4**

**Page 5 Checklist**

Maybe include information that there is a drop dead date for items not submitted by the deadline

Good to have a separate timeline later for the remaining required documents, because some items may not be fully complete, like the agreement with the non-profit to operate a field if the field isn't yet existing

Why not just one drop dead date, then it's on the applicant to plan accordingly. Seems like a lot of work to you (OGALS)

Have two dates, these items are due by X, the remaining items are due by X

If you include later dates, then there may be too many dates and it gets confusing

Might be a good idea to say here's the date that you must have it by.

By putting later dates, it may be encouraging those that put things off until the end to wait to submit those items

Like it just the way it is, in previous years I've had to submit a separate sheet explaining when something would be submitted. Agree that having additional submit by dates can be confusing.

Used to the old checklist, at first it looks overwhelming but then it all makes sense

Do signatures have to be "wet" signatures?

Do we need to submit more than one copy?

If it says “no” it seems like maybe it isn’t necessary. Maybe add language that all items on the checklist must be enclosed, or state “required at time of application.” And put deadline date when the other items must be submitted by.

There could be a caveat allowing items to still be considered on a case by case basis if received after the deadline indicated

#### **Page 6**

Is there such a thing as a joint application with a non-profit? Should clarify that only one entity can be the applicant, no co-applicants allowed.

#### **Page 7 Application**

If the field is also being used for football is that okay?

Is there any limitation on what types of soccer teams, private for profit leagues vs. locals

#### **Page 8-9 Resolution**

Can one resolution be used for multiple projects?

#### **Page 10 Grant Scope/Cost estimate**

Estimated costs column, column should be more clear that the cost per item should be specified what is charged to the grant

Or, should costs show total costs of entire project. For some applicants, they are using funds from multiple sources and may not yet be able to commit with how much would be asked for on this grant.

Very much easier than previously

A new opportunity allows for renovation as well. Clarification that the renovation needs to create a new opportunity or prevent an opportunity from going away. Grants like this provide a real opportunity to fund fields renovations.

Is there any negative or positive effect regarding artificial turf, considering proposed legislation?

Is there an impact in scoring if you include non-construction costs?

Clarify indoor soccer or outdoor soccer maybe?

Do we need to clarify total costs and grant amount requested? They should correspond. What if the soccer turf is going to cost \$2,000,000 but only asking for \$1,000,000?

Another reason to consider having the total amount is it may show that there is a much larger project this is associated with.

If the amount is larger than the grant amount requested, we would need a method to show committed funds for the total project amount.

### **Page 11 Match**

Think that this match process is fair

Not sure if the word “match” is the best word. In my mind, that means I’m matching dollar for dollar as opposed to making a commitment to cover all construction fees.

Could define match to make it more clear

It’s nice not to have that burden to keep track of the match percentage

The word “match” is scary to an agency that doesn’t think they have the match, who hasn’t read what it means in this program

This idea seems pretty innovative

Like it much better than requiring the flat percentage of match amount.

Match form is clear and understandable. Our district has always done a lot of the prep work on our own, and then looked to getting additional funds just for construction. Works out well for us

Like this approach to match better, it allows the applicant to go in right away understanding what their responsibility towards match would be.

I think it’s a great Idea, That’s what we always struggle with. This gives us a chance to find ways to be creative to fill that void. Like that there is no percentage tied to it.

An agency has a lot of in-house talent that we aren’t utilizing that could be used to assist with keeping the non-construction costs down.

Can costs incurred for non-construction prior to the performance period be eligible for match?

It is good to be given the option to submit non-construction costs or not, and it shows commitment to the project while at the same time making it easier for OGALS to manage the grant.

### **Page 12-13 CEQA**

The Native American process regarding CEQA could delay completion of the process. With staffing levels reduced we just don’t have enough time to complete the CEQA. Due date for applications in March would be better for us. In the winter it is easier to pull staff for this process.

No problem with meeting the CEQA requirement prior to application.

All CEQA costs must be incurred prior to applying. It is okay with Selma to have CEQA done ahead of time. If it is a priority project, it has to be done no matter what. Concurrence from other attendees in the hearing

CEQA, is SCH needed?

But we can't do CEQA until we have completed plans, is that what OGALS expects?

Do projects have to be shovel ready? Or would an applicant lose points if a project is not immediately ready to go?

### **Page 14-16 Land Tenure**

Is there any preference to an agreement with another agency as opposed to ownership by the grantee?

Can there be two applicants for one project?

No comment except regarding some difficulty with getting long term agreement with a school district, will require a special agreement if applying for this program.

Some school districts are reluctant to establish long-term agreements with the agencies, but with others there are no issues.

If an agency is partnering with a non-profit, I understand the agreement with that agency would have to be for the 20-30 years

If it is an artificial turf project, it won't last 20-30 years, but the grantee would be required to maintain that turf for the full period.

No comments regarding not being able to have a lesser land tenure agreement for less than the 20-30 years as required.

### **Page 17 other application items**

Maybe specifically call out flood control agencies under sub-leases or other agreements

### **Page 18 criteria overview**

Point value for demographics could be reduced to increase organizational capacity

I might have the points distributed with a separate section showing data on the demographics of the users of the facility. Lower the demographics points a little bit or possibly have specific narrative describing the demographics of the users.

Restate understanding that the demographics criteria is based on legislative intent of the program.

Recommendation of 14 population, 13 income, 13 unemployment, for division of demographics criteria

If we own flood control basins, can we build soccer fields on those properties?

## **Page 19**

Are applicants required to use a full page for each criterion?

8 pages seems like plenty

8 page limit is fine.

8 pages double spaced is not a whole lot. I would prefer 10. Concurrence from second person in the room. Maybe 8-10?

Whether you disagree or agree with the legislative intent, it's nice having the points clear up front so we know what the priorities are and where the points are.

Is there a table of contents for the criteria that is part of the page limit?

Criteria, should each have the corresponding heading?

10 page limit seems okay

Discussion on the high weight for demographics. 40 points total. Consider distributing points more towards match, water conservation, etc.

## **Page 20-21 Demographics**

Clarification that the pin can be placed anywhere in the park, even if the park is 1400 acres?

Would you consider changing the points available for population to 15 points, give unemployment 13 and median income 12. Concurrence from second attendee.

Maybe an update to the factfinder that in addition to showing the data for the ½ mile, it would also show secondary data layer at 1 mile and 2 miles.

Agency might self-select out of applying because they don't feel that they would be competitive in the demographics

If you mention at the workshops what the pool will consist of, it may encourage people further to apply and not self-select out.

Is the population based on youth? Or is it overall population?

What if it is considered a regional park that looks at agencies outside of a ½ mile radius? Our regional parks tend to attract people from all over the city.

Sometimes a small circle may not truly show what the need is in a more rural area.

It can help the more rural areas to catch up in the unemployment and household income area.

Your half mile circle is awesome, we've used it for other grants. Not sure if there will ever be a fair way, but we know going in that we won't be the most competitive.

It is fair that only those that apply will be considered.

How current is the data on the FactFinder?

There is no narrative in criteria 1

## **Page 22 Community Challenges and Project Benefits**

I'm assuming we are talking specifically about only the challenges and benefits related to the project site?

So this is part of your 8 pages? This would probably be a big portion of the page limit

Crime statistics can be difficult to get because some agencies cannot get the data, and it can put an applicant at a disadvantage

Do we need to give more direction on resources for youth crime data...consider key indicators, school districts, police departments?

Think it's good to have a narrative for youth crime because even our district has two different police agencies and they both report youth crime statistics differently. The questions are clear. Would definitely keep and include this type of criteria

This gives applicants and opportunity to tell the story not seen in the fact finder. One because the amount of points is good. Two, there is plenty of space to write about this category.

Should the response to this category be specific to the ½ mile radius, or can the youth crime information go beyond the area close to the project site?

Leaving it broader for the narrative portion makes it a little bit better because you are not restricted in the response.

## **Page 23 Community involvement**

Should add nearby residents and businesses to the public involvement section

For some of our projects, we may be gathering input for a five year plus period. We do see that some projects that had the public process earlier, and the needs have changed. The way the question reads is that any community involvement prior to two years would not be considered.

What do you consider a concerted effort compared to some effort?

## **Page 24 Availability**

If I'm building a gymnasium that meets multiple needs including basketball. So would I only provide the schedule for the basketball.

Is there a specific breakdown for "primary" use?

Like example, it makes things very clear at a glance of what you might be looking for.

Clarified that school use during the day would not allow a project to get full points on that scoring rubric. Would apply to both school district applicants and recreation applicants

When talking about availability, is there any discussion of reservation fees? Thinks it is good that this criteria is not making any judgements based on fees

The guide doesn't specify whether the play is reserved for adult or youth, that is okay.

### **Page 25 Organizational Capacity**

Is this a disadvantage to an agency that has no experience?

Perhaps make it more clear to say something beyond project manager, perhaps consultant

Should this be higher weight?

Another person suggested increasing the point value on this criterion

It's a good thing to put in, we've seen projects in areas where they are good at writing grants but not at project administration, and the projects fail.

Will help eliminate any potential applicants that don't have never done this before

### **Page 26 Water Conservation**

Appreciate that the water conservation measures consider local regulations, as opposed to being a specific percentage

The water conservation mandates seem unfair, but it is still required

Glad explained, this is not showing how an applicant is going to use more water but how they are going to use even less. Perhaps change word "exceed" to "use even less water than mandated."

no comment, except concurrence that the word "exceed" may be misleading initially

Others agree about the word "exceed,"

If you are putting something where there is nothing, there will be an increase in water use.

Would you consider the water conservation efforts in the park overall? Or is only the project facility what you are talking about.



Some jurisdictions do not have use of non-potable irrigation available.

It's an important, it's the reality that all local agencies. The fact that we are reminded a little bit more is good.

Why only give 5 points? If the governor really wants this, it should be a lot more than 5 points because it costs an agency a lot to do the water reduction.

Maybe take out the water conservation criteria completely?

Instead of "describe" say "state"

Some cities say that mandates are unfair and arbitrary

### **Page 27 Match**

Maybe pull out in a separate sentence or paragraph what the applicant response should be

Shouldn't match be more points?

Think it's smart to keep it the way it is.

### **Page 29 Eligible/Ineligible costs**

Landscaping discussion, maybe clarify the distinction between support the recreation venue or strictly ornamental. Don't see much of a need for a lot of landscaping around any field

Ineligible cost for beautification/landscaping? Would trees adjacent to the field be considered eligible as necessary shade.

### **Definitions:**

Maybe define water reduction measures

Maybe define match.