

This is a summary of the comments that were made during the public comment period for the Outdoor Environmental Education Facilities Program. Hearings were held at Oakland on January 5, 2017, Dana Point on January 10, 2017, Burbank on January 11, 2017, and Sacramento on January 18, 2017. Additionally, an e-mail invitation was sent to 1,930 OGALS contacts via Survey Monkey on 12/9/2016 and again on 1/3/2017 inviting them to attend a hearing or to provide comment via e-mail. All comments were considered and incorporated into the guide.

Minimum/Maximum Grant Amount

Maximum grant amount seems a little low, but also respect that there is only \$10,000,000 available. May turn away a lot of worthy, long-term projects.

Flip side is that \$500,000 seems great.

Comment that grant amount could be up to \$750,000. Recognize the difficulty in that it makes it more competitive.

Consider tiered grants.

Match

No comments

Eligible/Ineligible Projects

It isn't clear whether a native plant garden in an urban setting would be eligible.

Clarifying or further defining the intent of the program may better illustrate the types of projects eligible/competitive for this program.

Including the definition of outdoor education in the eligible projects section would help to clarify what projects are eligible.

Eligible projects doesn't seem specific enough, it seems vague. Is there a preferred method OGALS would like to see?

How about "please contact OGALS with questions regarding eligible projects"?

Perhaps add in the eligible projects section, "For more information on eligible projects, see Grant Scope/Cost Estimate form."

Further clarification on the Competitive Program Intent would be helpful in identifying projects to submit.

Great job on keeping the projects very narrow.

Are nature trails really eligible? Or is the intent to have amenities to go with nature trails? Trail construction doesn't seem to be what OGALS really wants. Interpretive elements or amenities along trail to facilitate educational programming or be educational in and of itself. If the intent is not to fund a "trail," maybe put that in the ineligible projects.

Similarly, habitat improvement is a fine line between restoration and education.

Habitat restoration and trail construction could be eligible as only a support element to the educational element. Could use a percentage to prevent submission of projects that are only trail construction or habitat restoration.

Clarify the ineligibility of community gardens or learning gardens, these are a popular/trendy facility right now, in high demand, so might be good to call it out up front as ineligible.

Eligible projects, would trailheads or staging areas be eligible? What about classroom staging areas?

Trail projects, accessibility to natural facilities is a big issue, so perhaps have a percentage of the funds be allowed for these costs (trail bridges, etc.)

Word it carefully to say what "trail projects" would not be eligible.

You need to get to the campfire somehow, would a trail to the campfire be allowed?

How competitive would an interpretive sign program on an inaccessible trail be?

ADA trail requirements include a 20% amount of trail needs to be accessible, so consider that percentage as an eligible cost amount.