



**Instructions for requesting an Acknowledgement Letter from
The San Francisco Estuary Partnership
for submission to
Restore America's Estuaries
in response to the
Coastal Watershed Grant Program Call for Proposals**

2022

The National Estuary Program was established in 1987 by Congress to restore and protect estuaries of national significance. To date, 28 estuaries have been designated of national significance and are part of the National Estuary Program. Under the Clean Water Act, each NEP develops a comprehensive plan to advance the health and resilience of their Estuary, known as Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plans (CCMP). NEP's leverage funding and resources and work with myriad partners to advance the actions in their CCMPs.

The 2016 reauthorization of the National Estuary Program under the Clean Water Act included the addition of a competitive award to address urgent and challenging issues. Restore America's Estuaries is administering this competitive award process through the National Estuary Program Coastal Watersheds Grant Program (NEP CWG). Complete information on NEP CWG, including specific priorities for the 2022 Request for Proposals, is available at <https://estuaries.org/initiatives/watershedgrants/2022-coastal-watersheds-grant/>.

Eligibility for funding is based on a map provided by Restore America's Estuaries that includes the boundaries of the 28 National Estuary Programs as well as some adjacent watersheds outside of those boundaries. Proposed projects must demonstrate how they relate to and carry out the priority actions in one of the 28 NEP Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan's (CCMPs), "or other existing State or locally approved community-based watershed management plan." In addition, all proposed projects must include a letter of acknowledgement from the NEP located within the eligible geographic area for CWG funding.

The San Francisco Estuary Partnership (SFEP) (sfestuary.org) was established in 1988 as the NEP for the San Francisco Estuary, which includes the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, Suisun Bay, San Pablo Bay, and San Francisco Bay. SFEP builds partnerships and leverage federal

funding with millions of dollars in state and local funds for regional-scale restoration, water quality improvement, and resilience-building projects. The Partnership's work is guided by the development and implementation of our CCMP, or "Estuary Blueprint," a comprehensive, collective vision for the Estuary's future. The 2022 Estuary Blueprint is available at:

<https://www.sfestuary.org/estuary-blueprint-2022-update/>.

To help us make informed acknowledgement of your application, please provide the following to SFEP Director, **Caitlin Sweeney** (caitlin.sweeney@sfestuary.org) by **May 20, 2022**. We will respond with a letter of acknowledgement by May 26, 2022 which you can include with your submitted letter of intent (LOI).

1. Applicant Information

- a. Organization
- b. Contact name, title
- c. Contact email address

2. Project Description

- a. Title
- b. Objective
- c. Geographic Area
 - i. Provide a map of project area.
 - ii. Does the proposed project fall within the [planning area](#) of SFEP? (a more detailed map of NEP boundaries is available on EPA's website at <https://www.epa.gov/nep/nepmap>)
If Yes, go to Section 3.
If No, skip to Section 4.

3. For projects within SFEP's planning area

- a. Indicate how the proposed project will advance the Estuary Blueprint - be as specific as possible including referencing Estuary Blueprint goals, objectives and/or priority actions.
- b. List any other State or locally approved community-based watershed management plan referenced in your project description.

4. For projects outside SFEP's planning area

- a. Identify the State or locally approved community-based watershed management plan referenced for your project.
- b. Indicate how the proposed project may help advance the Estuary Blueprint, for example by describing the transferability of proposed methods or project results.

Please note that a letter of acknowledgement is not a recommendation from SFEP.

Thank you for your interest in working with us toward improving the health of our Estuary

