



November 12, 2018

Sam Schuchat, Executive Officer
California State Coastal Conservancy
1515 Clay Street, Suite 1000
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: CLSN Comments on Coastal Conservancy Draft Proposition 68 Guidelines

Dear Mr. Schuchat and staff of the California State Coastal Conservancy,

On behalf of the Funding and Legislation Working Group and members of the California Landscape Stewardship Network, we thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Coastal Conservancy's Proposition 68 draft grant program guidelines. This input captures the perspective of the CA Network's six current member collaboratives, consisting of 192 organizations, and an additional 75-100 collaborators across the state. To provide you with more background on the CA Network, attached are documents that outline our vision and core principles. We appreciate language throughout the draft guidelines that speak directly to the values of our network members, and we feel the work of our members and collaborators can advance and add value to the goals established for this funding by voters and the Coastal Conservancy. Respectfully, our comments are as follows:

Section II.A. Conservancy Required Project Selection Criteria

- "Support from the public"- We encourage moving beyond projects that are born out of "support" to projects that are developed out of deep, long-term relationships formed by people stewarding landscapes over time. We have found that this deeper relationship with the land results in strong community ownership and long-term community investment in project sites. In our work, people are not just supportive of a project; they are integrally involved at a level meaningful to each individual.
- "Greater-than-local interest"- The scale of collaboration required for landscape-scale stewardship naturally demands project prioritization and community involvement at a "greater-than-local" scale. Projects developed from landscape-scale partnership efforts are also often based on a foundation of regional scientific data collection and research that provides a landscape-scale perspective on the regional value of a project. For this reason, we encourage the Coastal Conservancy to recognize that the landscape-scale stewardship approach is effective at delivering projects that serve a "greater-than-local interest."

- “Sea level rise vulnerability” and “Urgency”- We believe landscape-scale stewardship can address the pace and scale of climate change-related challenges and other urgent resource issues through regional collaboration, planning, and resource sharing. We encourage the Coastal Conservancy to recognize the benefits of this collaborative approach as it provides creative solutions to regional and local challenges and results in greater impact.
- “Resolution of more than one issue”- Landscape-scale stewardship collaboratives are known to address multiple resource and community issues during and beyond individual project timelines. Often, landscape-scale stewardship collaboratives combine baseline data with a high-level vision and broad community engagement to address long-term outcomes. This approach addresses both human and environmental needs. For instance, social research on the impacts of the One Tam collaborative in Marin County over a four-year period demonstrated that the partnership increased overall community cohesiveness, collaboration, and communication. We encourage the Coastal Conservancy to recognize the ability for a formal long-term landscape-scale partnership to address multiple environmental and social issues—beyond the scope of a single project—through ongoing successful collaboration and community engagement.
- “Leverage”- Supporting landscape-scale collaboration adds an additional dimension to matching funding. This collaborative approach actively pursues many types of resources (including funding with varying degrees of flexibility and in-kind resources such as human capital) to achieve a shared vision. This diverse funding stream can add value to and expand the impact of Prop 68 and other restricted funding sources.
- Other selection criteria- Several other selection criteria speak to our attached Principles of Investment, including conflict resolution (we value deep inclusion and recognize that everyone has a role to play), innovation (reflected throughout our approach to partnering at a landscape scale), readiness (long-term working relationships result in the ability to implement projects effectively), and cooperation (we seek to build upon initial cooperative behavior by deepening relationships, sharing and respecting partner organization cultures, and building trust).

Section II.B. Prop 68 Project Requirements & Priorities

A long-term collaborative approach to conservation and stewardship projects, implemented by our members and network of practitioners, delivers on Prop 68 requirements and priorities in the following ways:

- Landscape-scale stewardship collaboratives creatively leverage contributions from private, local, and federal funding sources as well as a variety of in-kind matching support.
- Practitioners prioritize long-term partnership, deep inclusion, and creative outreach to build a lasting community of stewards that supports a long-term vision of landscape conservation and stewardship.
- As organizations across the state seek to “identify and implement improvements to existing programs to increase visitation and access by diverse populations,” our network members would benefit from knowing what is and isn’t working across the state. We

have recently coordinated similar types of learning conversations and would be interested in helping to coordinate one or more conversations on this topic to allow our network members and organizations across the state to learn and grow together.

- To the extent possible when dedicating project funding toward community access projects, whether administered through the Explore the Coast grant program or other programs, we encourage looking beyond the individual grantee receiving project implementation funding to other local or regional organizations that have demonstrated success in meeting community access needs. Partners within landscape-scale stewardship collaboratives learn from and build upon the strengths of one another by coming together to accomplish shared objectives. Investing in landscape-scale collaboratives that prioritize including all members of communities within and neighboring a landscape will mean this funding is effectively serving a longer-term vision to include, provide access for, and nourish the entire community beyond a specific project timeline.

The members of the California Landscape Stewardship Network appreciate your time and consideration of these suggestions and thoughts on our alignment. We would also welcome the opportunity to meet to discuss how the CA Network can be a resource for the Coastal Conservancy, including helping to take advantage of regional science efforts and plugging into regionally held conservation visions. We look forward to sharing more information with you in the near future, including examples of projects and programs that illustrate our priorities and values, and impacts of the landscape-scale stewardship approach.

Sincerely,



Kevin Wright
Chair, Funding and Legislation Working Group of the CLSN
Tamalpais Lands Collaborative (One Tam)

Cc:

Darcie Collins, League to Save Lake Tahoe
Josh Hugg and Mel Askay, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
Shelana deSilva, Save the Redwoods League
Mike O'Connell, Irvine Ranch Conservancy
Kim Caringer, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
Matt Sagues, Marin Municipal Water District
Lisa Baldinger, East Bay Regional Park District
Matt Leffert and Sharon Farrell, Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy

Note: This feedback does not replace any feedback submitted by individual agencies and organizations included on this letter.

Attachments:

- Meeting the Challenges of 21st Century Conservation
- CLSN Vision and Core Principles
- CLSN Principles of Investment