

NATURE EDUCATION FACILITIES PROGRAM  
DRAFT APPLICATION GUIDE #2 (01/11/10)  
REVISION HIGHLIGHTS  
01/11/10

**INTRODUCTION**

This document highlights the revisions made to the Nature Education Facility Program Application Guide (09/01/09) after our first public review period. Draft Guide #2 (01/11/10) is now available on our website at [www.parks.ca/grants](http://www.parks.ca/grants). We very much appreciate the public's input to date which helps us to meet our goal of a clearly written, user friendly guide that meets the intent of Proposition 84. We look forward to hearing additional comments and suggestions during our second review period which begins 01/11/10 and ends 02/11/10.

Our public review process to date included a five week public comment period during which we held public hearings in four locations across the state. Hearing attendees represented the concerns of public agencies and non-profit organizations of all sizes. We received comments and suggestions by email, mail and phone. After recording and collating each comment, we reviewed and considered each suggestion made within the context of all comments received. The collated comments along with our responses are available on our website.

In considering the comments and suggestions we looked to the intent of the underlying legislation. Where we felt it was feasible and where we felt that the suggested change helped us to better meet that intent, we revised and edited the guide. We are highlighting those more significant changes below. In addition, minor changes in language that promote clarity and provide direction were made as necessary throughout the guide.

**Funding Tiers**

1. Grant amounts were raised or lowered as follows:
  - Tier A
    - Maximum grant amount rose to \$7 million.
    - Total estimated funds available for Tier A increased to \$42 million.
  - Tier D Minor change to minimum amount
  - Tier E
    - Minimum grant amount \$25,000
    - Maximum grant amount \$100,000.
    - Total estimated funds available \$2 million
  - Reserve funds
    - Reduced to \$10 million to allow additional funds to Tier A and to fund Tier E.
2. Application submission within funding tiers revised as follows:
  - Applicants may no longer submit projects in more than one tier at the same site location, i.e., the specific property, park or place where a PROJECT will be located.
  - New rule: Applicants may submit only one application, in any one tier, for any one site location.

**Eligible Applicants**

A joint powers authority may be an eligible applicant if at least one of the members qualifies as an eligible applicant, and subject to review and approval of the underlying joint powers authority agreement.

**Eligible Projects**

The eligible projects section has been edited and clarified to provide additional direction on the types of projects allowed under this program.

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**Match:**

There is no match required under this program. This has been emphasized throughout the Guide.

**Land Tenure:**

Language has been added that allows agencies with lease agreements that differ from the listed alternatives to submit the agreement along with a letter describing the circumstances that may prevent meeting the standard requirements. All land tenure agreements are subject to review and approval to insure that they fulfill the intent of the grant program, insure the viability of the project and are accessible by the public.

**Project Summary:**

Section describing how project will meet program objectives moved to Criterion #1.

**Criteria changes:**

Criterion #1: Section describing how project will meet program objectives moved from summary.

Criterion #6: The total amount of points available was split into two sections, timelines and grant management.

**Eligible Costs:**

This section has been updated and clarified to more clearly delineate eligible and ineligible costs.

**Definitions Added:**

- Joint Powers Authority
- Marine
- Site Location