

NATURE EDUCATION FACILITIES PROGRAM
FINAL APPLICATION GUIDE
REVISION HIGHLIGHTS
03/01/10

INTRODUCTION

The final Nature Education Facility Program (NEF) Application Guide (Guide) (03/01/10) is now available on our website at www.parks.ca.gov/grants.

This document highlights the revisions made to the NEF Draft Guide #2 (01/11/10) after our second public review period. We very much appreciate the public's comments, questions and suggestions. We thank all of the agencies who helped us to meet our goal of a clearly written, user friendly Guide that meets the intent of Proposition 84.

Our public review process included two separate public comment periods during which we held public hearings in five 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 from our second public comment period, 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. These more significant changes are highlighted below. In addition, minor changes in language that promote clarity and provide direction were made as necessary throughout the Guide.

Eligible Applicants

The definition of districts has been broadened to include special districts with the authority to develop, operate and maintain a nature education facility.

Grant Scope/Cost Estimate Form

The Grant Scope/Cost Estimate Form instructions have been edited and clarified to provide additional direction on the types of projects allowed under this program.

Criteria:

Criterion #5 B. The prompts and scoring rubric have been changed. The scores will be based on how the project includes interpretation that increases public understanding and knowledge of the sustainable design practices, techniques or materials listed by the applicant.

Definitions:

- Challenges
- District