

RTP PROJECT PROPOSAL CRITERIA – RESPONSE CONSIDERATIONS FOR APPLICANTS

Criteria #1: Deficiency.

- Types of projects listed in bulleted sentences are of equal weight/importance.
- Deficiencies are in comparison to other applications.

Criteria #2: Solutions to the Deficiency.

- Must be a relevant solution to deficiencies mentioned in Criteria #1.
- Describe the degree of improvement in relation to the deficiencies mentioned in Criteria #1.

Criteria #3: Connectivity.

- What kind of connection is this project?
- For Development projects, focus of this criterion is to describe how this Project connects with or will be part of a trail system by the time the Project/Grant Scope is completed (not planned, future connections).
- “Park” is not defined by the guide or by OGALS, so a generic definition must be used. “Park” is property that is designated for active and/or passive recreation. Other uses (such as commercial, industrial or residential) would not be allowed. If a property is designated as “open space” and this open space is designated for active and/or passive recreation, then the open space can be considered a “park” for purposes of RTP’s criterion #3. “Channels”, “easements”, “greenbelts” etc. could also be considered “parks” in this case, provided the designated use is active and/or passive recreation.
- If an “open space” is not designated for recreation use, then it is not considered a “park” for RTP purposes. Not all open spaces are designated for recreation; designations can be verified at site visits.
- A “regional trail” is one that goes throughout a region (crosses city, county or other jurisdictional lines). For example, the Bay Area Ridge Trail crosses city and/or county lines and is therefore designated as a regional trail.

Criteria #4: Linkages.

- “...linkages to population centers or gathering areas” means ‘people areas’ to ‘non-people’ areas. This could include campgrounds to ‘open-space’ areas. This criterion is not about ‘people areas’ to ‘people areas’ or ‘open space’ areas to ‘open-space’ areas. As in the Connectivity Criterion, for Development projects, linkages shall be present by the time the Project/Grant Scope completion (vs. planned, future linkages).
- Part 2 of this criterion is essentially asking “is there a separation between this project and the highway, roadway, etc.?”
 - Trails that are next to a highway/roadway without a separation are less of a priority in the RTP and would be less competitive unless no other feasible route exists.
 - Trails that are separated from a highway/roadway are more of a priority in the RTP and would be more competitive.
 - “Separation” can be distance or physical barrier.
 - A lack of separation from the roadway/highway, due to the need to avoid a sensitive habitat, land ownership/avoid private property, or for or accessibility reasons is OK.

RTP PROJECT PROPOSAL CRITERIA – RESPONSE CONSIDERATIONS FOR APPLICANTS

- A “highway” has been designated as such by an entity such as CalTrans or FHWA. Federal highways include interstate highways. State highways include, for example, CA 99. “Arterials” are highways in rural or urban areas which provide access to other major transportation routes (like ports, airports, etc.) A “roadway” is not considered a “highway” if the roadway does not have a highway designation.
- “Transportation routes” are not eligible under the RTP. In the RTP, the purpose of a trail (or proposed trail) must be primarily for recreational purposes in order to be an eligible Project.

Criteria #5: Numbers of Project Users.

- Applicants should quote numbers of users. The numeric figure(s) should reflect the estimated average annual use. The numbers could also reflect (but don’t have to) “by season”, by “time of day” or “day of the week”.
- Describe methodology on how the figures were determined.
- “High”, “Medium”, “Low” is in relation to other RTP applications.

Criteria #6: Project User Accessibility.

- The intent of the Federal Access Board (FAB) guidelines is to enable non-paved trail developers/builders to make their trails fully accessible.
- The FAB guidelines allow departures. To ensure that the character and setting of the outdoor recreation area is not changed solely for the purpose of making that area accessible. The FAB guidelines outline the conditions that permit departures and which/what type of departures are qualified.
- The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) design standards must be used for paved trails.
- If the applicant does not provide any response at all or fails to attempt to follow the FAB or AASHTO guidelines this project can be determined to be ineligible.

Criteria #7: Access to the Project.

- The intent of this criterion is to describe access to the trail/trailhead.
- Projects will be given greater consideration if they address each of the four bullets under this criterion.
- If there is no response or absolutely no access (no way to get to the project) the project may be considered ineligible.

Criteria #8: Points of Interest.

- Provide details of significance of the natural, cultural, historic or scenic characteristic(s) that are relevant to the Project Grant Scope (vs. points of interest in the general vicinity, town, city, etc.).

Criteria #9: Sustainable Design.

- The intent of this criterion is to encourage applicants to use sustainable design principles in designing, developing, constructing, and/or rehabbing their trails.
- In responding to this criterion, applicants will need to provide a response to each of the principles listed (A – J). Some of the responses may say “NA”; that is an acceptable response

RTP PROJECT PROPOSAL CRITERIA – RESPONSE CONSIDERATIONS FOR APPLICANTS

if it also includes an explanation as to why that item is “NA”. The key words in the scoring rubric also include “all”, “most”, “some” and “does not meet”.

- For more information, see the RTP PowerPoint presentation on the OGALS website at http://www.parks.ca.gov/?Page_id=24324.

Criteria #10: Diversified Use.

- Greater consideration will be given to multiple use-types.

Criteria #11: Including Stakeholders in the Project.

- Describe the degree of effort that the applicant expended to include stakeholders.
- Ways to determine the degree of effort include a focus on three areas:
 - Methods: How many and what types. Were the “types” ones that fostered a high degree of participation and human interaction? For example, sending out a paper survey has less human interaction than an in-person focus group or public hearing.
 - Notification: Look for a variety of methods and how many people were notified such as direct, in-person notification, door hangers, PTA meeting, publishing an ad in a newspaper.
 - Volunteers: Projects which utilize volunteers in some way will receive more consideration than projects that do not utilize them at all. The ways in which volunteers may help are of equal value. For example, a volunteer who helps design the trail route and a volunteer who helps haul soil during trail construction are of equal value for this criterion.

Criteria #12: Consistency with Other Plans.

- Project must be consistent with the Applicant’s general plan or the equivalent planning document to be considered eligible.
- RTP law requires this criterion. If the applicant does not respond, or the project is not consistent with any plan, this project can be determined to be ineligible.

Criteria #13: Management Capacity.

- This criterion assesses the applicant’s (and/or partners) capability to manage the project.
- Whether an applicant has partners or not does not affect the score of this criterion.
- More competitive applications will include a thorough description of the “**elements**” examples provided within the criteria.

Criteria #14: Service Corps Involvement.

- The applicant is instructed to provide a “description” of the involvement, not just a “Yes” answer. In order to receive points, the applicant must provide at least a brief description.
- The intent of the RTP is that applicants contact a service corps prior to the application due date to discuss how and when the corps could assist. If that occurs, then applicants would be aware of how (and to what degree) the corps will help, even if a signed agreement for work is not executed yet. **Applicants should provide more detail than** “we used a corps before” or “we hope to use a corps;” those statements don’t demonstrate a commitment to use a corps on the Project.

RTP PROJECT PROPOSAL CRITERIA – RESPONSE CONSIDERATIONS FOR APPLICANTS

- The RTP does NOT intend to dictate the degree of involvement of a corps on a Project or the actual activities. The RTP supports any and all involvement, whether it is designing the trail, constructing the trail or maintaining the trail, for example.