

GRANT GUIDELINES UPDATE

Background

California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy) staff drafted updates and revisions to the Conservancy's Grant Guidelines (Guidelines). The draft Guidelines revisions comprise information that has been updated since the Guidelines were adopted in 2019, including a new strategic plan, Racial Equity Action Plan (REAP), updated application processes, and new funding sources. Staff intends to recommend the Board adopt the revised Grant Guidelines at its December 2025 meeting.

In 2019, the Board approved and adopted the Conservancy's Guidelines. The Conservancy developed the Guidelines to provide foundational information and ensure accountability to partners and the citizens of California. The Guidelines identify funding priorities and explain how the Conservancy evaluates proposals, as well as basic information regarding all grants and submittals. The Guidelines apply generally to all Conservancy grants, including those funded with Proposition 68 and other funding sources. The current Guidelines include goals from the Conservancy's 2018-2023 Strategic Plan along with other policy drivers from that time.

Summary

Conservancy staff sees value in updating the Guidelines. This provides an opportunity to include and better advance goals within the Conservancy's 2024-2029 Strategic Plan and REAP. Conservancy funding sources and associated requirements have also evolved with the passage of the Proposition 4, the Climate Bond, and with the rollout of the Conservancy's Tahoe for All grant program. Updates to the Guidelines can help Conservancy grant applicants by clarifying the various conditions, processes, and obligations of Conservancy grant funding.

Staff drafted updates and revisions to the Guidelines (Attachment 1) for the Board's consideration. These modifications incorporate goals and guidance from the 2024-2029 Strategic Plan and REAP, along with information about primary grant funding sources. The draft updates also present additional guidance on the Conservancy's grant process and legal and administrative requirements. One of these is the new pre-application process, which provides efficiencies to both applicants and the Conservancy.

Following this Board update, staff will further revise the Guidelines based on input from the Board and public related to the content within the revised Guidelines. Staff intends to return to the Board in December of this year, to present, and recommend the Board adopt, the final revised Guidelines.

List of Attachments

Attachment 1 – Draft 2025 Grant Guidelines

Conservancy Staff Contact

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