



Geothermal Grant and Loan Program (GRDA)

Pre-Solicitation Staff Workshop

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Workshop Agenda

- I. Workshop Purpose
- II. Program Background
- III. Overall Mission of the GRDA Program
- IV. Program Statute and Regulations
- V. Who Can Apply
- VI. Eligibility Requirements
- VII. Eligible Activities
- VIII. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
- IX. Upcoming GFO
- X. Application/Award Process
- XI. Application Elements
- XII. Technical Scoring Criteria
- XIII. Suggestions for Preparing Applications
- XIV. Things to Remember
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I. Workshop Purpose

- Opportunity to learn about the Geothermal Grant and Loan Program requirements and process.
- Heads-up on upcoming grant solicitation.
- Chance to think ahead for project planning and development of grant applications.



II. Program Background

- Established by the California Legislature in 1980.
- First decade provided funding and technical assistance to local jurisdictions for geothermal direct use, planning, and mitigation projects.
- In 1992, program expanded to provide grants and loans to private entities and local jurisdictions for both geothermal direct use and electrical generation projects and technologies.



II. Program Background (cont.)

- Also known as the GRDA Program after its Geothermal Resources Development Account funding source.
- Uses revenues paid to the state from geothermal royalties and leases on federal lands in California.
- Program currently awards grant funding every 2 - 3 years using competitive solicitations called Grant Funding Opportunities (GFO).



III. Overall Mission of the GRDA Program

- Promote development and maintenance of California's vast geothermal energy resources;
- Mitigate any adverse impacts caused by geothermal development; and
- Help local jurisdictions offset the costs of providing public services necessitated by geothermal development.



IV. Program Statute and Regulations*

Statute:

- Public Resources Code (PRC), Sections 3800 – 3827
- Defines who can apply and what activities can be funded.

Regulations:

- Title 20, California Code of Regulations (CCR), Sections 1660 – 1665 and Appendix A
- Defines application and award procedures, and scoring criteria.

*** GRDA Program statute and regulations are available at:
http://www.energy.ca.gov/geothermal/grda_regs.html**



Questions ?



V. Who Can Apply

Local Jurisdiction*:

- Any unit of Indian govern.
- Any city, county, or district, including, but not limited to, regional planning agencies and public utility districts.
- Excludes public utility districts that generate for sale more than 50 MW of electricity.

* PRC 3807

Private Entity*:

- Any individual or organization engaged in the exploration and development of geothermal energy for profit.

*PRC 3809



V. Who Can Apply (cont.)

- Counties of origin are not restricted from applying for funding.
- Federal agencies and labs, state universities, and state agencies:
 - ✗ not eligible to apply for funding;
 - ✓ may be eligible as a project partner or subcontractor.



VI. Eligibility Requirements

Local Jurisdiction:

- Must provide a resolution from its governing body authorizing submittal of the grant application. (Resolution must also designate an authorized representative to execute the grant agreement.)
- Must provide a minimum match contribution of 20% of the total project cost.

Private Entity:

- Must provide a minimum match contribution of 50% of the total project cost.
- Grant project must provide tangible benefits to a local jurisdiction.
- Receipt of grant award must be approved by the city, county or Indian reservation where the project is to be located.



Questions ?



VII. Eligible Activities*

- a) Undertaking R&D projects relating to geothermal resource assessment and exploration, and direct-use and electric generation technology.
- b) Local and regional planning and policy development and implementation necessary for compliance with programs required by local, state, or federal laws and regulations.
- c) Identification of feasible measures that will mitigate the adverse impacts of the development of geothermal resources and the adoption of ordinances, regulations, and guidelines to implement those measures.
- d) Collecting baseline data and conducting environmental monitoring.

*per PRC 3823



VII. Eligible Activities (cont.)

- e) Preparation or revision of geothermal resource elements, or geothermal components of energy elements, for inclusion in the local general plan, zoning and other ordinances, and related planning and environmental documents.
- f) Administrative costs incurred by the local jurisdiction that are attributable to the development or production of geothermal resources.
- g) Monitoring and inspecting geothermal facilities and related activities to assure compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and ordinances.
- h) Identifying, researching, and implementing feasible measures that will mitigate the adverse impacts of geothermal development or production.



VII. Eligible Activities (cont.)

- i) Planning, constructing, providing, operating, and maintaining those public services and facilities that are necessitated by and result from geothermal development or production.
- j) Undertaking projects demonstrating the technical and economic feasibility of geothermal direct heat and electrical generation applications.
- k) Undertaking projects for the enhancement, restoration, or preservation of natural resources, including, but not limited to, water development, water quality improvement, fisheries enhancement, and park and recreation facilities and areas.



VIII. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

- Before approving a grant agreement, the Energy Commission must make a determination whether or not a decision approving an award for a project is in compliance with CEQA.
- All applications must provide documentation of project compliance with CEQA.
- Cannot “piecemeal” CEQA – compliance for the entire project must be demonstrated.
- Should consider CEQA compliance when planning project activities and scope of work.
- Contact CEQA lead agency in the area of project activities for guidance and preparation of appropriate documents.



Questions ?



IX. Upcoming GFO

- Anticipate GFO publication in mid to late November, 2016.
- GFO is a competitive grant solicitation. Minimum passing score is 70%.
- Approximately \$4.7 million available to fund selected projects.
- Grant agreements expected to start in late July 2017 and end in March 2020.



X. Application/Award Process

- Publication of GFO
- Pre-Application Workshop
- GFO Questions/Answers
- Applications Due (approx. 2 months from GFO publication)
- Application Evaluation
 - Administrative Screening
 - Technical Evaluation and Scoring
- Notice of Proposed Award (NOPA)
- Grant Agreement Development
 - CEQA compliance required
- Approval at a Business Meeting
- 30-day Review/Comment Period (DOF, Leg Analyst, and Leg Budget Committee)
- Execute Agreement



XI. Application Elements

- Application Form
- Project Narrative (no more than 25 pages)
- Scope of Work
- Schedule
- Project Team
- Budget Forms
- Contacts List
- CEQA Worksheet and Documentation
- Resolution (for Local Jurisdictions)



XII. Technical Scoring Criteria

- Demonstrated Need or Value (20 points)
- Proven Extent of Resource (15 points)
- Contribution to Geothermal Energy Development (15 points)
- Likelihood of Success (15 points)
- Public Involvement (10 points)
- Payback and Cost Effectiveness (10 points)
- Economic and Employment Benefit (10 points)
- Match Contribution (5 points)



Questions ?



XIII. Suggestions for Preparing Applications

- Read the GFO and all attachments carefully before starting application.
- If you have any questions about the GFO documents or what is required, please submit a formal question by the due date.
- Ensure that all application elements are clear, logical and well written.
- Be sure to submit the application and all attachments in the required formats.
- Fill out all required forms and attachments completely, especially the budget template.
- Provide thoughtful discussion and information in the project narrative that is responsive to the scoring criteria questions.



XIV. Things to Remember

- Local jurisdiction applications must include a resolution from their governing body approving submittal of the application. Resolution must also name a representative to act on behalf of the local jurisdiction for grant matters.
- Private entity applications need to show how project provides tangible benefits to a local jurisdiction, per PRC 3822(g)(2).
- Private entity applications must discuss how applicant will obtain local agency approval if awarded funding, per 20 CCR 1665(a)(8).
- Applications must include CEQA compliance documentation, per 20 CCR 1665(a)(9).



XV. Information Resources

- **California Energy Commission/GRDA Program**
<http://www.energy.ca.gov/geothermal/grda.html>
- **CEQA**
California Natural Resources Agency CEQA FAQs:
<http://resources.ca.gov/ceqa/more/faq.html>
- **California Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR)**
<http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dog/geothermal>



Questions ?