



# Announcement

*Attention Sacramento County Teachers...*

## Educational Grant Opportunity Available

Up to \$2,500 Awarded Per Recipient!

*If you or your students are interested in the water quality of our creeks and rivers,  
and you want to develop a project for your classroom, we can help.*

The Sacramento County Stormwater Quality Program is offering financial support to teachers seeking to do creative projects that increase students' awareness of the importance of local waterways.

The grant award—up to \$2,500 per recipient—can help fund projects that educate students about protecting and enhancing local creeks, rivers and watersheds.

### ***There's a very good chance that Your Project Will Be Awarded!***

Applying for a grant takes time away from your curriculum, but be assured that you have a good chance of having your project funded. In previous years, 75 percent of qualifying grant applications submitted received funding for projects.

### **It's as Easy as 1-2-3!**

We understand that you are busy, but we've made the grant process simple:

- 1) Determine if your school is eligible to receive funding.
- 2) Submit your application
- 3) Develop a summary report at the end of the project.

### **For More Information**

On the back of the flyer, you will find detailed requirements and commonly asked questions about the educational grant opportunity. If you have additional questions, please contact Janet Parris at 874-5733 or by e-mail, [parrisj@saccounty.net](mailto:parrisj@saccounty.net).

**To get started, please visit: [www.sactostormwater.org/schools](http://www.sactostormwater.org/schools)**

# Project Requirements and Commonly Asked Questions:

## Which schools are eligible for this grant?

Schools grades K-12 that are located within the Sacramento County Stormwater Utility boundaries (including the city of Rancho Cordova) are eligible for this grant. To find out if your school is eligible, please visit our website at [www.sactostormwater.org/schools](http://www.sactostormwater.org/schools).

## Projects eligible for funding

There are several ways you can benefit our local waterways. Below are some examples to help you get started. We welcome new ideas and encourage innovation. Eligible projects must in some way protect or enhance local creeks, rivers, or watersheds.

School Projects:

- Go on a field trip to learn about Sacramento's watersheds, creeks, or rivers
- Conduct an in-class activity that involves student participation with hands-on activities
- River-Friendly Landscape or Rain Garden
- Purchase a watershed model for classroom use
- Adopt a creek, river, or watershed near your school
- Organize an invasive species plant removal and revegetation project for creeks or rivers
- Conduct monitoring activities on a local creek or river
- Conduct a water quality related experiment
- Create a school watershed club
- Develop a wildlife habitat, hummingbird, butterfly, or beneficial insect demonstration garden
- Evaluate the condition of the natural vegetation, native species, and habitat of a specific creek, river, or watershed

## Does it matter where the project is located?

Yes. Eligible projects must be implemented within the County of Sacramento.

## When does the project have to be completed?

Projects must be completed by May 18, 2012 and final reports must be submitted by June 6, 2012.

## Can a school be awarded more than one grant?

It is possible — the number of grants awarded to each school will be based on the number of applications received. We encourage that classes with similar projects partner and apply for a grant together.

## How much will be awarded to grant recipients?

A maximum of \$2,500 will be awarded to each recipient.

## What are eligible\* expenses?

Eligible uses of grant monies include:

- purchase of materials and supplies related to watershed education activities
- equipment rental
- bus rental
- tours/field trips
- purchase of native vegetation

Grant money does not cover the following expenses:

- wages or salaries for labor (includes substitute teachers)
- personal mileage
- refreshments or food
- purchasing of cameras, video equipment, printers, and computer hardware
- administrative processing fees
- activities required for compliance with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits or other regulatory requirements will not be funded through the grant program.

*\*All eligible items are at the discretion of the grant administrator.*

## When will funds be disbursed?

Funds are anticipated to be disbursed in November/December 2011.

## How do I apply?

By completing the application at the back of this announcement.

The Sacramento County Stormwater Quality Program reserves the right to disqualify applications if we feel the proposed project does not promote awareness and stewardship of Sacramento's waterways.

## When are applications due?

Applications must be submitted by October 7, 2011.

## Is a project report required for this grant?

Yes. Each recipient is required to submit the following:

- 1. A narrative report** at the end of the project, which must include a project description and (at minimum) responses to the questions below.
  - a. What was learned from this project?
  - b. If you could repeat the project, what would you do differently? Why?
  - c. Did you meet your expectations?
  - d. Did you encounter any challenges or problems during your project? If so, please explain.
  - e. How many people were involved or reached?
  - f. Identify members of your school or community (parent, staff, faculty, clubs, etc.) who will be key participants in establishing /maintaining project.
  - g. Identify how this project will provide ongoing value to the school
  - h. Identify ties to the curriculum
- 2. Attachments:**
  - a. a copy of the before and after student quiz and a summary of the results (see page 5, question 1.e)
  - b. a detailed report of expenses including copies of receipts
  - c. samples of materials or work pertaining to the project
  - d. photos or video of project activities on CD-ROM or DVD

Since the Sacramento County Stormwater Quality Program recognizes grant recipients by including a summary highlighting their projects and results on our website at the end of the grant cycle, recipients should submit their report in **both paper and electronic formats.**

## Additional requirements

Each project must complete the following requirements when applicable:

- Obtain appropriate permissions and/or permits for the project where applicable
- Use only native and/or Mediterranean type species in restoration projects
- Follow safety precautions for all projects
- All purchases must remain property of the school

## Award criteria

All submitted applications will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria (100 points possible):

### A. Education about Stormwater Pollution Prevention (30 points)

1. Does the project spread a message about reducing stormwater pollution?
2. How well does the project encourage reducing stormwater pollution?
3. Will innovative approaches to improving water quality be used?

### B. Clarity of Project Description (30 points)

1. Is the project clearly described?
2. Are the proposed tasks reasonable?
3. Are the tasks clearly defined?
4. Is the schedule of work/timeline complete?
5. Does the project include an assessment plan to measure effectiveness?

### C. Budget (20 points)

1. Does the project achieve its stated goals in a cost-effective manner?
2. Could the project or activity be used again or continued in the future?

### D. Publicity/Community Outreach (20 points)

1. How many people will be involved or reached?
2. How will the project be publicized?

## Schedule

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Application Deadline	October 7, 2011
Awards Announced	October 17–21, 2011
Project Completed	May 18, 2012
Final Report Due	June 6, 2012

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### Safety Guidelines

For your safety, please use the following safety guidelines if your project involves being outdoors.

- Have an adult supervise the activity.
- Never perform activities alone. Its fun to work with partners and much safer.
- Do not perform the activity in heavy rain or if a storm is expected.
- Let someone else know where you are, when you intend to return, and what to do if you don't come back at the appointed time.
- Do not walk on steep, slippery or unstable stream banks. Streams and rivers can be dangerous due to cold water, strong currents, and obstructions.
- Do not walk into streams or rivers. Stream and river bottoms are slippery, can contain deep pools or sink holes, and can also have sensitive habitats that should not be disturbed.
- Do not touch or eat any plants you see while on the activity. Be cautious of poison ivy and other poisonous plants. Also be aware of plants with thorns such as blackberry bushes.
- Wear boots or other closed-toed shoes, long pants, and shirts during the activity.
- Watch for bees and other insects that may bite or sting.
- Wildlife should be observed but not disturbed. Watch for animals that can pose a danger to humans such as coyotes, deer, dogs, and snakes.
- Never enter private property without the permission of the landowner.

**Project activities funded by this grant are strictly voluntary. The County of Sacramento is not responsible to participants or others for any injuries, damages, or loss of property.**

# 2011–12 Watershed Education Grant Application

1. Write a brief statement (no more than 2 pages typed) on the purpose and content of your project, including a description of:

- a) The problem or issue your project will address
- b) How many students will be reached
- c) Proposed tasks (including a timeline of work to be completed)
- d) What you hope to accomplish
- e) The student quiz that you will use to demonstrate an increased awareness of stormwater quality as the result of your school project — must show before and after quiz/test scores
- f) Any other means that you plan to use to assess and measure the effectiveness of the project.

2. Grant amount requested (Maximum: \$2,500):

Please provide a detailed accurate list of any expense items for the grant amount requested. Make sure to include shipping, handling, and taxes, where applicable. Remember eligible items include: purchase of materials and supplies, equipment rental, bus rental, tours/field trips, and purchase of native vegetation. You may use additional sheets if necessary.

Expense Item	Purpose	Cost
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____
6. _____	_____	_____
<b>Total</b>		_____

## Contact Information

### Project Leader/Manager

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Grant Manager\*

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

School District \_\_\_\_\_

School Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Grade level(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Subject(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Project Title \_\_\_\_\_

Federal Employer Identificaiton Number (FEIN) \_\_\_\_\_

*\* i.e., school secretary or other responsible individuals who are responsible for handling funds*

Please return completed applications to:

Attn: Janet Parris, 827 7th St., room 301, Sacramento, CA 95814