

**CONSERVATION AND RESOURCE PROTECTION  
GRANT PROGRAM  
Question 1**

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Question 1 Summary**

**Introduction**

The Conservation and Resource Protection Grant Program became known as the “Question 1 Program” when the Proposal to Issue Bonds for Conservation and Resource Protection under Assembly Bill No. 9 of the 17th Special Session appeared number 1 on the State of Nevada voter’s ballot. Nevada voters passed Question 1, thereby authorizing the State of Nevada to issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$200 million

*“...to preserve water quality; protect open space, lakes, rivers, wetlands, and wildlife habitat; and restore and improve parks, recreational areas, and historic and cultural resources.”*

Of the total bond issue, funding allocations were made as follows:

1. \$27 million to the Nevada Division of State Parks for property acquisition or capital improvements and renovations;
2. \$27.5 million to the Nevada Department of Wildlife for property acquisition, facility development and renovation, or wildlife habitat improvements;
3. \$25 million to the Las Vegas Springs Preserve in Clark County for planning and developing the preserve, providing wildlife habitat, and constructing support facilities;
4. \$10 million to Clark County for development of a regional wetlands park at the Las Vegas Wash;
5. \$35 million to Nevada’s Department of Cultural Affairs to establish a museum at the Las Vegas Springs Preserve;
6. \$10 million to Washoe County for enhancement and restoration of the Truckee River corridor; and
7. \$65.5 million to the Nevada Division of State Lands to provide grants for state agencies, local governments, or qualifying private nonprofit organizations for various programs including recreational trails, urban parks, habitat conservation, open spaces, and general natural resource protection projects.

The Nevada Division of State Lands coordinates with the other divisions and departments as necessary to insure that Question 1 funding is optimally spent. Technical Advisory Groups and Coordination Committees are established to assist with project identification and ranking, and to maintain communication between divisions/departments to promote program success.

## **AB-9**

AB 9 (Which is also referred to as “Question 1”) was a landmark environmental initiative designed to benefit, protect, and preserve Nevada’s natural resources. It authorized the state to issue general obligation bonds up to \$200 million for natural resource projects.

Funds generated by the bond sales are used to conserve valuable environmental assets as well as support recreational and cultural facilities throughout Nevada. AB 9 provides a fiscally responsible mechanism for addressing the needs of environmental, historic, and cultural resources across the state.

### **AB 9 Highlights**

- Provides funds for development of habitat conservation and open space plans;
- Provides funds to protect drinking water supplies and enhance/restore river systems in Northern Nevada (Truckee and Carson Rivers) and Southern Nevada (Clark County Wetlands Park);
- Provides funds for development of the Las Vegas Springs Preserve and to establish a permanent state museum in Clark County; and
- Ensures the ability to leverage funds from other sources – helps recipients meet the matching requirements for federal/state/local grants as well as funds from public and private foundations.
- Requires almost half of the bond funds to be matched by recipients.

### **Program Workshops**

Once Question 1 passed, Nevada Division of State Lands staff was charged with developing regulations to implement the program. Twenty public workshops and two public hearings were held across the state to gather input and formulate the regulations. All meetings were noticed in compliance with open meeting laws. The resulting Question 1 Administrative Regulations implement the program in a consistent manner, and insure the intent of AB-9 is realized.

## **Program Objectives**

The premises of the Question 1 Program are explicit in the enabling legislation and Administrative Regulations. In addition, the Nevada Division of State Lands is committed to insuring that the State Lands Question 1 Program element, the distribution of \$65.5 million, is fair and equitable. Applicants are guided through the application process to make sure that their project meets the intent of the program, and that their applications can be fairly ranked. Applicants that were unsuccessful are encouraged to apply during future funding rounds.

The goal of Question 1 is to have all 17 counties receive grant funding.

Projects that leverage other funding sources and that are linked to past and future projects will rank higher by design, thereby stretching Question 1 dollars as far as possible, and maximizing the amount of public benefit achieved through the program.

It is the objective of the Nevada Division of State Lands to administer its element of the Question 1 Program towards the protection of natural resources and to maximize their conservation first. In most cases, the public will benefit immensely over time if not immediately, by insuring that critical private and public natural resources are managed using the best tools known today, including conservation easements.

## **Funding Available, Funding Cycles**

All Question 1 funds must be sold to projects by June 2014. Awarded funds are to be expended within three years of issuance. For this reason, projects that are deemed ready to implement should rank higher to insure timely expenditure of funding.

## **Question 1 Web Page**

For additional, up-to-date program information, the reader is advised to review the Question 1 Program web page that is linked to the Nevada Division of State Lands Home Page ([www.lands.nv.gov](http://www.lands.nv.gov).)

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **How much of the \$200 million of Question 1 funding is administered by the Nevada Division of State Lands?**

Only \$65.5 million of the \$200 million Question 1 appropriation is administered by the Nevada Division of State Lands. The \$65.5 million will be awarded to priority projects that have been ranked by staff and the Program Administrator.

### **Is all of the \$65.5 million available now?**

No. Only a portion of the \$65.5 million administered by the Nevada Division of State Lands will be awarded to grantees at a time. During the first grant round, \$6 million was initially authorized for expenditure. The metering out of grant funding is intentional to allow time for those applicants with fewer resources to plan for projects and prepare applications to be submitted in future rounds.

### **If \$6 million is available during a given grant round, can I submit an application requesting \$6 million?**

Yes, but the odds of being granted the full amount are low. The total funding amount available during a given grant round is allocated to several project types described in Assembly Bill 9 and the Administrative Regulations. For example, during the first round, \$1.38 million of the \$6 million was allocated to Nonprofit Acquisitions of Land and Water.

### **Where can I find an application?**

Question 1 Application Packets may be downloaded from the program's web page ([www.lands.nv.gov](http://www.lands.nv.gov). Click on "Question 1"), or requested from Question 1 staff. Application forms on the web page are word-fillable for your convenience. Electronic filing, however, is not available. The application must be printed out, original signatures must be obtained, and a hard copy submitted to the Nevada Division of State Lands. One complete original application only needs to be submitted.

Question 1 Administrative Regulations may be downloaded from the program's web page ([www.lands.nv.gov](http://www.lands.nv.gov). Click on "Question 1").

### **Where is the Nevada Division of State Lands Question 1 Office located?**

Question 1 Program Staff are located in Suite 5003 on the fifth floor of the Richard Bryan Building located at 901 South Stewart Street in Carson City.

### **Who can apply for Question 1 funding?**

Assembly Bill 9, and the Nevada Division of State Lands Question 1 Administrative Regulations (which mirrors AB-9) indicate eligible funding recipients for several different project types. For example, only counties, municipalities, and state agencies within a county with a population less than 100,000 can apply for funding to pay for the preparation of Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs). Nonprofit organizations pursuing HCPs must obtain a sponsor (typically a county) to apply for funding.

Grants may be awarded to counties, municipalities, state agencies, and non-profit conservation organizations for the purpose of protecting, preserving, and obtaining the benefits of the property and natural resources of the State of Nevada. Because funding through this program is limited, allocation of these funds will be competitively determined.

### **Where can I find the Nevada Division of State Lands Question 1 Administrative Regulations?**

Question 1 Administrative Regulations may be downloaded from the program's web page ([www.lands.nv.gov](http://www.lands.nv.gov)). Click on "Question 1".