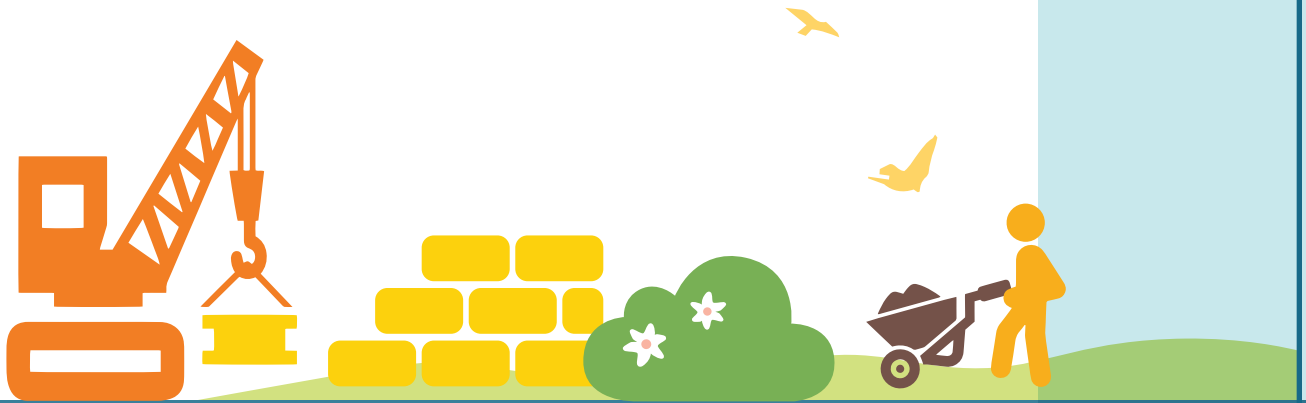# RESTORE
Program Guidelines

RECOVERY AND EMERGENCY SUPPORT FOR TRAILS, OPEN SPACE, AND RECREATION

Funded by

MEASURE A

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Contents

RESTORE Program Guidelines

Recovery and Emergency Support for Trails, Open Space, and Recreation

In the wake of the devastating January 2025 wildfires, the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District (RPOSD) is launching the Recovery and Emergency Support for Trails, Open Space, and Recreation Program (RESTORE) to support recovery, resilience, and access to parks, trails, and open space. RPOSD is committed to ensuring that wildfire-impacted communities are not left behind. RESTORE reflects RPOSD's mission to equitably invest in the long-term health and accessibility of public lands by supporting local recovery efforts that align with regional priorities and leverage future Measure A funding.

While this investment represents a fraction of the overall need, RPOSD believes that targeted, well-timed investments like those offered through RESTORE can catalyze additional funding and momentum. RPOSD's role is not only to invest, but to stand alongside our grantees to support recovery, resilience, and the restoration of equitable access to parks, trails, and open spaces for all communities.

I. Purpose & Objectives

RESTORE will support wildfire recovery and resilience efforts for parks, trails, and open spaces impacted by the January 2025 wildfires (Wildfire(s)). RESTORE aims to:

1. Restore and enhance public recreation lands affected by the Wildfires.

2. Improve climate resilience through sustainable land management and fire mitigation strategies.

3. Increase accessibility and multi-use trail connectivity in Wildfire-impacted areas.

4. Support ecological and cultural restoration efforts in Wildfire-impacted areas.

II. Total Available Funding and Performance Period

RESTORE is funded at **$4.25 million** from Category 4 of Measure A, distributed as follows: $3M for non-competitive direct allocations to eligible entities based on Wildfire impacts in geographic areas listed in Section III-A; $1M for partnership allocations; and $250,000 for nonprofit landowners. Direct allocation recipients and non-profit landowner recipients are collectively "Eligible Entities."

A. Direct Allocations ($3,000,000 total):

    a. $1,000,000 to the City of Los Angeles

    b. $1,000,000 to the County of Los Angeles

    c. $400,000 to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority

    d. $200,000 to the City of Malibu

    e. $200,000 to the City of Pasadena

    f. $200,000 to the City of Sierra Madre

B. Partnership Allocation ($1,000,000 total). Direct Allocation recipients listed above qualify for an additional allocation if they partner with eligible non-profit organizations or a certified Conservation Corps for eligible projects (Partnership Allocations). The Partnership Allocations available for each Direct Allocation recipient is as follows:

    a. $350,000 to the City of Los Angeles

    b. $350,000 to the County of Los Angeles

    c. $150,000 to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority

    d. $50,000 to the City of Malibu

    e. $50,000 to the City of Pasadena

    f. $50,000 to the City of Sierra Madre

C. **Nonprofit Landowner Allocation ($250,000 total).** This category provides allocations of up to $40,000 per eligible nonprofit organization that owns and maintains publicly accessible land (Nonprofit Landowner).

    a. Funds distributed on a first come, first served basis.

    b. Nonprofit Landowners are limited to one allocation.

The performance period for Eligible Entities begins upon NTP issuance or agreement execution and ends on December 31, 2025. Eligible Entities have until June 30, 2026, to submit reimbursement claims for eligible expenses incurred during the performance period.

III. Geographic & Wildfire Impact Eligibility

To qualify for funding, projects must meet the requirements listed below (A) – (D):

(A) Geographic Nexus Requirement

Eligible Projects (Projects) must be located within areas impacted by one of the following Wildfire incidents (as determined by CalFire Historical Fire Perimeter map: https://www.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/fire-resource-assessment-program/fire-perimeters): (1) Eaton, (2) Palisades, (3) Franklin, (4) Lidia, (5) Hurst, (6) Kenneth, (7) Sunset, and (8) Hughes.

(B) Direct Wildfire Impact Requirement

Projects must address **one or more** of the following:

1. Direct Damage Recovery

   The Project site experienced physical damage from the Wildfires, such as:

       i. Burned parkland, trails, or open spaces.

       ii. Destroyed or severely damaged recreation infrastructure (e.g., buildings, restrooms, bridges, signage, benches).

       iii. Erosion or habitat loss due to post-fire effects.

2. Fire Resilience & Mitigation Improvements

   The Project enhances the long-term wildfire resilience in the Wildfires area, such as:

       i. Fuel reduction and defensible space improvements.

       ii. Reforestation and erosion control in post-fire landscapes.

       iii. Emergency access road creation or improvements within a previously burned area.

       iv. Strategic firebreak installations to protect recreational areas from future wildfires.

3. Public Access & Safety Restoration

    The Project addresses public safety issues caused by the Wildfires, such as:

    i.   Restoring ADA-accessible paths damaged by Wildfires.

    ii. Rebuilding safe trail connections in burned areas.

    iii. Removing hazardous trees and debris in recreation areas.

    iv. Enhancing emergency evacuation routes for public parks and trailheads.

4. Watershed Management and Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs)

    The Project improves watershed resilience and addresses stormwater runoff following fire disasters, such as:

    i.   Implementing post-fire watershed management techniques to reduce erosion and sedimentation.

    ii. Restoring riparian habitats to improve water quality and ecosystem function.

    iii. Constructing green infrastructure to mitigate post-fire flooding risks.

    iv. Stabilizing slopes and installing check dams or other stormwater BMPs to control flows after fire events.

While RPOSD recognizes the importance of direct relief and service delivery to impacted communities, programmatic and direct services expenses are not eligible for funding under RESTORE. All expenses submitted to RPOSD for reimbursement must be eligible under the terms and conditions outlined in the Development and Planning & Design grant sections of the Grants Administration Manual (GAM).

(C) Required Documentation for Eligibility

Eligible Entities must provide **at least one** of the following:

1. Damage assessment report from a public agency or State-licensed professional.
2. Before-and-after maps and imagery showing fire damage.
3. Statement from a relevant public agency confirming the site's wildfire impact.
4. Fire response reports, evacuation orders, or FEMA/CAL FIRE documentation for the site.
5. Other documentation to the satisfaction of RPOSD.

(D) Category 4 Eligibility Requirement

In addition to the requirement that Projects must be located within areas impacted the Wildfires, Projects must be located in an area consistent with Category 4 of Measure A, including:

1. Regional parks, regional facilities, museums, environmental education facilities, or other cultural facilities.

2. Multi-use sports facilities, including golf facilities or other community recreational facilities.

3. Multi-use trails, bike paths, equestrian trails, or other connectivity opportunities.

4. Regional, ecological, zoological, geological, archeological, anthropological, paleontological, and cultural sites of countywide significance.

5. Trail or accessibility facilities that connect river, mountain, and urban areas, especially those linking County Parks, State Parks, National Forests, National Recreation Areas, National Monuments, or Canyons and regional/local parks throughout the County.

IV. Best Fire Management Practices Requirement

To ensure resilience and sustainability, Projects must demonstrate that best fire management practices will be utilized, including without limitation:

1. Utilizing fire-resistant native vegetation for reforestation and habitat restoration.

2. Incorporating firebreaks and defensible space zones to minimize wildfire spread.

3. Designing fire-adapted infrastructure, such as fire-resistant building materials for recreation facilities.

4. Enhancing community fire awareness and preparedness through signage and education components.

5. Adhering to CAL FIRE and federal fire management guidelines for post-fire land restoration.

V. Land Ownership and Deed Restriction Requirements

Eligible Entities must demonstrate site control or land access for proposed projects. Title, deed, or property tax records may serve as acceptable supporting documentation.

Projects funded through RESTORE are subject to recordation of a deed restriction. The deed restriction must ensure the funded site remains dedicated to public park, open space, trail, or recreational use for a period consistent with the requirements outlined in the GAM. The restriction must be recorded prior to the final reimbursement of funds.

VI. Application Process and Requirements

Direct allocation recipients (with the exception of MRCA) must apply using the processes outlined in the GAM. The application must include a detailed budget, scope, timeline, clear demonstration of how the project meets RESTORE requirements and supporting documents. Upon approval by RPOSD, a Notice to Proceed will be issued, which authorizes the expenditure of funds consistent with RESTORE and the GAM.

1. **Direct Allocations ($3,000,000 total):**
    a) Direct Allocation entities will utilize the Master Agreement process which ensures a streamlined and standardized approach for fund distribution while maintaining compliance with RPOSD grant management policies.
    b) Up to 25% of Direct Allocation may be used for soft costs. Eligible soft costs include the preparation of tangible work products such as technical studies, cost estimates, conceptual designs, architectural or engineering documents, geotechnical reports, community engagement, and other materials that inform project readiness or implementation. Staff time, overhead, administrative costs, and incidental expenses of the Direct Allocation recipient or any sub-contractor are not eligible for reimbursement.
    c) Funds not encumbered by May 30, 2025, may be redistributed at RPOSD's sole discretion.

        HOW TO APPLY (Using the Grants Management System)
        1. Go to https://grantfunding.rposd.lacounty.gov.
        2. Enter your User ID and password.
        3. Click on "Funding Opportunities".
        4. Click on "RESTORE Work Plan" link under the Opportunity Title. (ID #11361)
        5. Complete the RESTORE Work Plan and submit.

2. **Partnership Allocation ($1,000,000 total).**
    a) Nonprofit organizations and certified Conservation Corps (Partners) are not eligible to apply directly for RESTORE funding but may be included as partners in applications submitted by Direct Allocation entities under the Partnership Allocation.
    b) Partnership Allocation funds must be primarily used by Partners, rather than Direct Allocation recipients. However, Direct Allocation entities may retain up to 10% of the Partnership Allocation as an administrative cost to support the contracting, oversight, and reporting responsibilities associated with managing the partnership.
    c) Direct Allocation entities may only contract with Partners that have a direct mission focus on park restoration, land conservation, trail rehabilitation, or fire resilience.
    d) Up to 25% of Partnership Allocation may be used for soft costs. Eligible soft costs include the preparation of tangible work products such as technical studies, cost estimates, conceptual designs, architectural or engineering documents, geotechnical reports, community engagement, and other materials that inform project readiness or implementation.
    e) With the exception of 2(b) above, staff time, overhead, administrative costs, and incidental expenses of the Direct Allocation recipient or its Partner are not eligible under this program.
    f) To ensure accountability and transparency, Direct Allocation entities utilizing Partnership Allocation funding must include a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or similar agreement executed by the Direct Allocation entity and the Partner. The agreement must specify the budget, scope, term and timeline of the proposed Project and clearly define the nature of the partnership, including the Direct Allocation entity's ability to directly contract with the Partner.

g) Funds not encumbered by June 30, 2025, may be redistributed at RPOSD's sole discretion.

HOW TO APPLY (Using the Grants Management System)
1. Go to https://grantfunding.rposd.lacounty.gov.
2. Enter your User ID and password.
3. Click on "Funding Opportunities".
4. Click on "RESTORE Work Plan" link under the Opportunity Title. (ID #11361)
5. Complete the RESTORE Work Plan and submit.

3. **Nonprofit Landowner Allocation ($250,000 total)**
   a) Funds are available on a first-come, first-served basis until the Nonprofit Landowner Allocation is exhausted.
   b) Nonprofit Landowners must become eligible through the RPOSD eligibility process defined in the GAM.
   c) Up to $40,000 is available per eligible Nonprofit Landowner.
   d) Funds not encumbered by June 30, 2025, may be redistributed at RPOSD's sole discretion.

HOW TO APPLY (Using the Grants Management System)
Contact tap@rposd.lacounty.gov to obtain access to the RESTORE Work Plan.

The application process for the MRCA and eligible Nonprofit Landowners requires the submission of an application that includes a detailed budget, scope, timeline, a clear demonstration of how the project meets RESTORE Program requirements and supporting documentation. Upon approval by RPOSD, an agreement will be executed authorizing the expenditure of funds in accordance with RESTORE guidelines and the GAM.

For questions, please contact tap@rposd.lacounty.gov

RESTORE Program
Project Eligibility Checklist

A. Geographic Nexus Requirement
Projects must be located within areas impacted by one of the following Wildfire incidents (as determined by CalFire Historical Fire Perimeter map): ☐ Hughes Fire ☐ Sunset Fire ☐ Kenneth Fire
☐ Eaton Fire ☐ Palisades Fire ☐ Franklin Fire ☐ Lidia Fire ☐ Hurst Fire

B. Direct Wildfire Impact Requirement
Projects must address one or more of the following. Select all that apply:
- ☐ Direct Damage Recovery
- ☐ Fire Resilience & Mitigation Improvements
- ☐ Public Access & Safety Restoration
- ☐ Watershed Management and Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs)
- ☐ Technical Assistance, Project Readiness, and Rebuilding

C. Required Documentation of Impacted Area
Eligible entities must upload at least one of the following to confirm eligibility of project:
- ☁ ☐ Damage assessment report from a public agency or State-licensed professional
- ☁ ☐ Before-and-after maps and imagery showing fire damage
- ☁ ☐ Statement from a relevant public agency confirming the site's wildfire impact
- ☁ ☐ Fire response reports, evacuation orders, or FEMA/CAL FIRE documentation for the site

D. Facility Eligibility Requirement Projects
Projects must be located at one or more of the following:
- ☐ Regional parks, regional facilities, museums, environmental education facilities, or other cultural facilities
- ☐ Multi-use sports facilities, including golf facilities or other community recreational facilities
- ☐ Multi-use trails, bike paths, equestrian trails, or other connectivity opportunities
- ☐ Regional, ecological, zoological, geological, archeological, anthropological, paleontological, and cultural sites of countywide significance
- ☐ Trail or accessibility facilities that connect river, mountain, and urban areas, especially those linking: County Parks, State Parks, National Forests, National Recreation Areas, National Monuments, Canyons, and Regional/Local Parks throughout the County

E. Land Access & Tenure Requirements
Eligible entities must demonstrate site control or land access for proposed projects.
- ☁ ☐ Proof of land ownership (title, deed, or property tax records)
- ☁ ☐ Executed lease or land use agreement with a public land-owning entity

F. Partnership Allocation (if applicable)
Direct allocation recipients partnering with nonprofits or Conservation Corps must provide:
- ☁ ☐ Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), or similar document signed by authorized representatives from the direction allocation recipient and the Partner

G. Documents that must be submitted to complete registration
Submit the following if applicant is not a current RPOSD grantee:
- ☁ ☐ Proof of Mission: Documentation showing a mission statement that related to nonprofit focus areas
- ☁ ☐ Articles of Incorporation: Documents as files with the State of California
- ☁ ☐ Proof of 501(c)3 status: If applicable, also provide Conservation Corps Certification

RPOSD may request and require additional information if necessary.   ☁ Required document upload in GMS by grantee