Sea Grant
CALIFORNIA

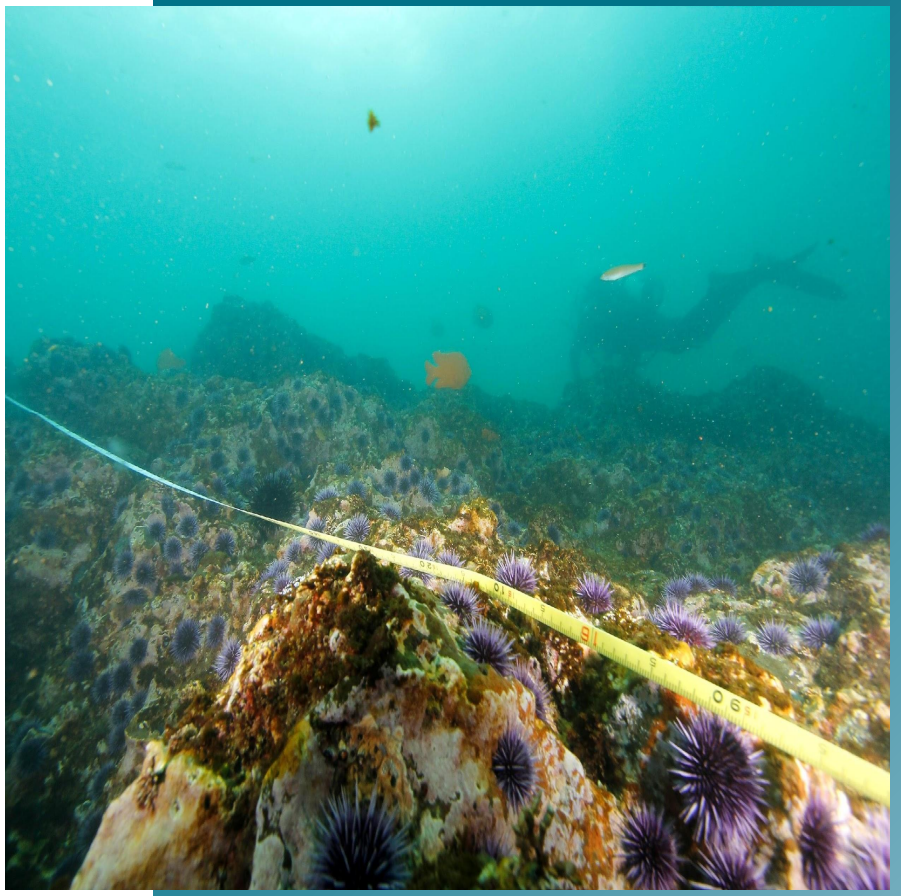
2026 California Sea Grant Biennial Request for Proposals

INFORMATIONAL WEBINAR | FEB 14, 2025

LIAN GUO | RESEARCH PROGRAM SUPERVISOR
EMAIL: SGPROPOSAL@UCSD.EDU

Please note:

- The information in this presentation is accurate as of February 14, 2025
- The timeline and details of the 2026 California Sea Grant Biennial Request for Proposals (RFP) are subject to change
- Any updates to the timeline or the RFP will be listed on our website:
  - https://caseagrant.ucsd.edu/funding/2026-california-sea-grant-biennial-request-proposals
- We urge potential applicants to refer to the RFP itself when preparing proposals and not solely rely on the information in this presentation.



Zoom Meeting Guidelines

- All participants automatically muted during presentation
- “Show captions” to enable transcription
- Ask questions using the Q&A box
- Recording of the presentation will be made available on California Sea Grant website
- Please reserve very specific questions for email (sgproposal@ucsd.edu)

Sea Grant
CALIFORNIA

WEBINAR OUTLINE

01 | Funding Overview

02 | Review Process

03 | Orientation to the Proposal

04 | Additional Q&A

Sea Grant
CALIFORNIA

01 | FUNDING OVERVIEW

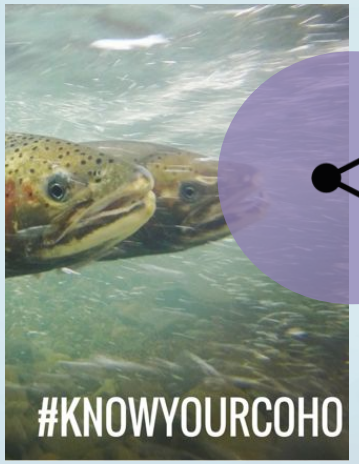
Sea Grant
CALIFORNIA

Mission

To provide the information, tools, training, and relationships needed to help California conserve and sustainably prosper from our coastal and marine environments.

Grants & Funding

Fellowships



Communications

Extension

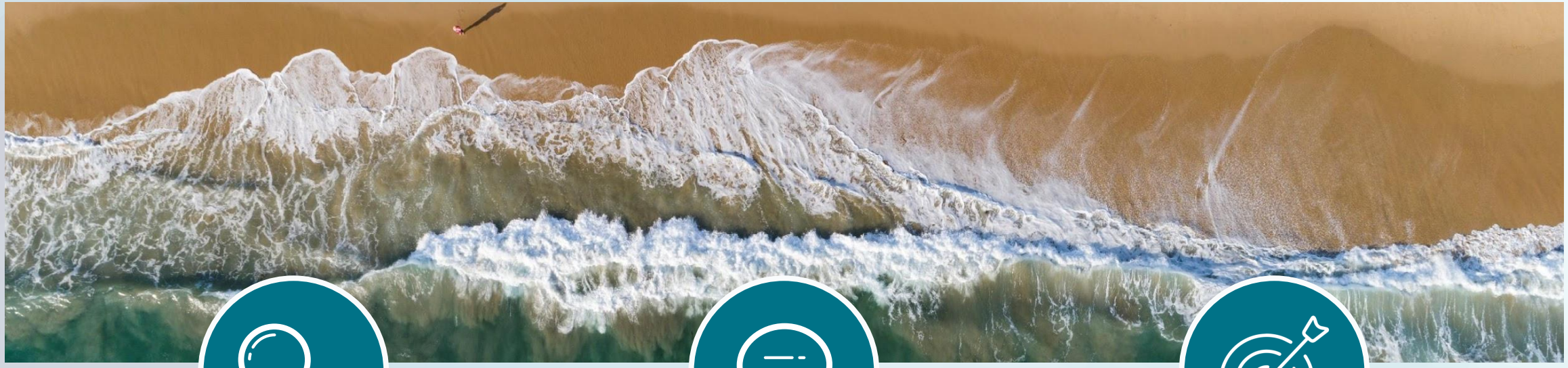
Sea Grant
CALIFORNIA

California Sea Grant

serves all of coastal California

UC San Diego | SCRIPPS INSTITUTION OF OCEANOGRAPHY

Eligible Research Funding



Applied research

Original investigation undertaken in order to acquire new knowledge, directed primarily towards a specific practical aim or objective

Community-engaged

Research is led by, developed with, and/or benefitting coastal communities in California

Meets priorities

Research addresses one or more of CASG's focus areas and solicitation priorities

California Sea Grant's Strategic Focus Areas

Sustainable Fisheries & Aquaculture (SFA)

Goal 1: California's fisheries, aquaculture, seafood systems and the environments that support them are environmentally, economically and socially more sustainable and resilient to future change through the facilitation of partnerships and the (co-) production of knowledge.

Goal 2: California's fishing, aquaculture and seafood industries have evidence-based information, partnerships and tools needed to support decision-making and a sustainable path forward through community engagement, collaboration and education.

Resilient Communities and Economies (RCE)

Goal 1: California's coastal communities are better prepared for extreme and chronic weather and coastal hazards, climate change, economic disruptions and other threats to community health and well-being with support from science partnerships and the (co-) production of knowledge.

Goal 2: California's coastal communities have the information, partnerships and tools needed to support planning, policy and actions for emerging marine and coastal industries and resource management that ensure an equitable and resilient path forward.

2026 Research Tracks

Indigenous Fisheries and Aquaculture

Graduate Research Fellowship

Cultivate Award

Award dates: *2/1/2026 - 1/31/2028*

Award Amount:
up to $150,000 per year

Match Requirement:
25% in non-federal funds

Anticipated # of Projects:
2 - 3 projects

Indigenous Fisheries and Aquaculture Research Awards

- Support research projects that address Indigenous goals and objectives specific to the Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture (SFA) focus area
- Center Indigenous methodologies, protocols, and values in research
- Requires the participation of at least one California Native American tribe or tribally-led entity

Graduate Research Fellowship

- Supports graduate students engaged in applied research that furthers the SFA or RCE strategic goals
- For full-time Masters and Ph.D students at any California academic institution who are engaged in coastal and marine research relevant to California
- By working with a research mentor and community mentor, the fellowship provides hands-on experience in translating research results to coastal and marine communities

Award Amount:
up to $50,000 per year

Match Requirement:
25% in non-federal funds

Anticipated # of Projects:
up to 10

Award Amount:
up to $100,000 per year

Match Requirement:
None

Anticipated # of Projects:
up to 5 projects

Cultivate Awards

- Support transformative collaborative research projects that are driven by and/or addressing the needs of California coastal communities
- Focus on relationship and trust-building around community-driven research topics that fall within SFA or RCE focus areas
- Requires the participation of at least one community partner
- Should result in deliverable(s) that will serve as a launching point for continued meaningful collaboration among the project team

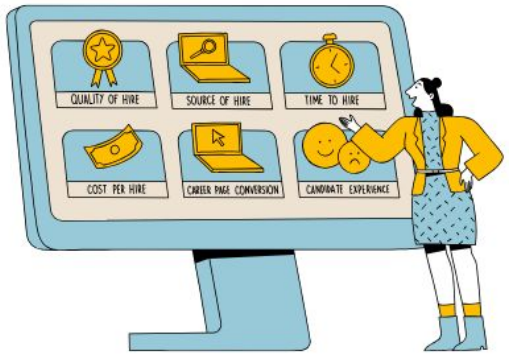
Sea Grant
CALIFORNIA

02 | REVIEW PROCESS

Review and Selection Process

Request for proposals

Reviewer recruitment & onboarding



Written review & technical panel

Advisory panel

Selection and award

Research!

EVALUATION CRITERIA

To be funded, research must be consistent with the mission of California Sea Grant and the funding goals of this request for proposals. In addition, evaluation of proposals will be based on the following criteria:

1. **[30%] Relevance and alignment of proposed project to the priority goals of the research track:** The degree to which the proposed activity aligns with the priority areas of the research tracks, including the relevant California Sea Grant strategic focus areas. The degree to which the proposed project tangibly addresses the needs of end-users and important California coastal communities.
2. **[25%] Scientific merit**: The degree to which the proposed activity is evidence-based and justified with respect to western and/or Indigenous science. The degree to which the activity will advance the state of the science or discipline through use of state-of-the-art and/or community-engaged methods.
3. **[25%] Community engagement:** The degree to which community partners are engaged in various stages of the proposed research. The degree to which an ethical and culturally responsive approach is taken to engage community partners. The degree to which the proposed activity broadens participation in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), and/or incorporates strategies to create/foster partnerships that center the needs and interests of Indigenous and under-resourced communities.
4. **[10%] Overall qualifications of the project team:** The degree to which the team of investigators and partners are qualified by experience, knowledge, and/or skills to execute the proposed activity, including all science and community engagement components.
5. **[10%] Project costs and justification.** The degree to which the project costs are appropriate for the scope of work proposed. The degree to which community partner(s) time and contributions will be fairly and equitably compensated.

SELECTION CRITERIA

California Sea Grant shall award in the rank order unless the proposal is justified to be selected out of rank order based on one or more of the following factors:

1. Availability of funding
2. Balance/distribution of funds:
    1. Geographically
    2. By type of institution
    3. By type of partners
    4. By research priority
    5. By project types
3. Targeting gaps in priority strategic plan goals.
4. Applicants that represent groups with a high potential to benefit from research funding, such as new faculty and individuals representing community partners.
5. Applicant's prior award performance.
6. Adequacy of information necessary for NOAA staff to make a NEPA determination and draft necessary documentation before recommendations for funding are made to the Grants Officer.

Sea Grant
CALIFORNIA

03 | ORIENTATION TO THE PROPOSAL

Letter of Intent - due April 7th 5PM PT

Required to be eligible to submit a full proposal

Significant changes to the LOI after submission should be shared

Submitted via eSeaGrant

Provides information to recruit relevant reviewers

Will not be evaluated, except for relevance

Full Proposal - due June 2nd 5PM PT

Submitted via eSeaGrant

Templates are provided for some elements

Evaluated based on evaluation criteria

Pay attention to word / page limits, or risk redaction

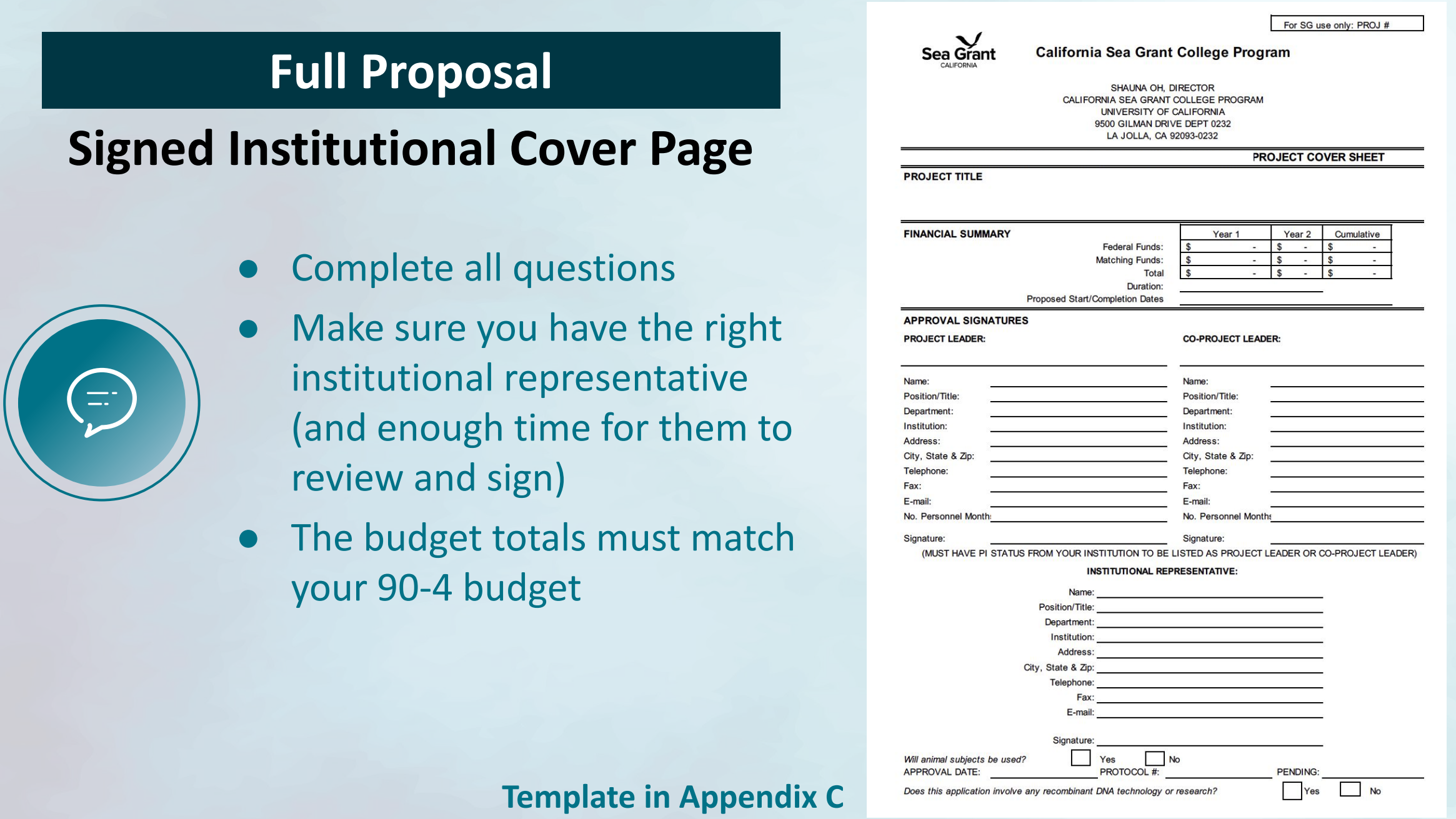
12 required elements

Full Proposal

Signed Institutional Cover Page

- Complete all questions
- Make sure you have the right institutional representative (and enough time for them to review and sign)
- The budget totals must match your 90-4 budget

Template in Appendix C



For SG use only: PROJ #

Sea Grant CALIFORNIA

California Sea Grant College Program

SHAUNA OH, DIRECTOR
CALIFORNIA SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
9500 GILMAN DRIVE DEPT 0232
LA JOLLA, CA 92093-0232

PROJECT COVER SHEET

PROJECT TITLE

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	Year 1	Year 2	Cumulative
Federal Funds:	$ -	$ -	$ -
Matching Funds:	$ -	$ -	$ -
Total	$ -	$ -	$ -

Duration:
Proposed Start/Completion Dates

APPROVAL SIGNATURES

PROJECT LEADER:

Name:
Position/Title:
Department:
Institution:
Address:
City, State & Zip:
Telephone:
Fax:
E-mail:
No. Personnel Months:
Signature:

CO-PROJECT LEADER:

Name:
Position/Title:
Department:
Institution:
Address:
City, State & Zip:
Telephone:
Fax:
E-mail:
No. Personnel Months:
Signature:

(MUST HAVE PI STATUS FROM YOUR INSTITUTION TO BE LISTED AS PROJECT LEADER OR CO-PROJECT LEADER)

INSTITUTIONAL REPRESENTATIVE:

Name:
Position/Title:
Department:
Institution:
Address:
City, State & Zip:
Telephone:
Fax:
E-mail:

Signature:

Will animal subjects be used? ☐ Yes ☐ No
APPROVAL DATE: PROTOCOL #: PENDING:

Does this application involve any recombinant DNA technology or research? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Full Proposal

Project Narrative

- The meat and potatoes!
- Template is required
- 10 page limit - how can this complement other parts of the proposal package?

Template in Appendix B

Appendix B: Full Proposal Narrative Template

CALIFORNIA SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM
Full Proposal Narrative: 2026 Biennial Request for Proposals

Provide up to 10 pages of proposal narrative using the template below. The project narrative template must not be altered other than to add the requested information--do not modify or delete any headings. Text must be formatted in *Arial*, 11-point font. Shaded text is explanatory detail only. Please delete all shaded text before uploading your letter of intent to eSeaGrant.

PROJECT TITLE:

PROJECT LEAD:

CO-INVESTIGATOR(S):

DURATION:

A. RATIONALE:

(Summarize the problem or important opportunity that will be addressed and its relation to Sea Grant's mission to provide information, tools, training and relationships needed to help California conserve and sustainably prosper from our coastal and marine environments. Proposed research must be driven by clear research questions and generate new, solutions-based knowledge. Explain how the data collected will be applicable to the problem or opportunity, identify potential users of the results of your research, and how they might use them.)

B. OBJECTIVES:

(Provide a list of clearly defined research questions and associated objectives. Objectives should lead to measurable outcomes at project completion.)

C. RESEARCH METHODS/APPROACH:

(Present the scientific/technical approach, including experimental design(s) and/or research protocols fully and clearly, including special equipment, procedures or assays, etc. that may be used to accomplish your goals/objectives. Be concise, but specific enough to satisfy reviewers that your methods have been validated and will enable you to achieve your goals. Identify pitfalls and limitations in your approach and methodology and how you will address them. Applicants must demonstrate that the project team has the experience, facilities, materials, equipment, and the capacity to successfully perform the proposed tasks within the term of the project. Discuss any relevant prior projects, prior publications or examples of productivity, or previous collaborations that the work leverages. Please make clear what other sources of support (fiscal, personnel or logistical), if any, will be used to help support the work proposed.)

Full Proposal

Key Personnel

- Key personnel = PIs, co-PIs, Associate PIs
- Key personnel must be evaluated as part of the proposal (CVs, current and pending support, role described in narrative)
- Other individuals who are part of the project team (e.g., graduate student) can add their documents in the associated personnel sections

Project leads (i.e., principal investigators) must have principal investigator (or equivalent) status at their institution.

- Lead PI's are at the lead institution and have ultimate responsibility for the overall project.
- Co-PI's make significant contributions but do not have overall responsibility for the project. They ensure the project is conducted appropriately and in compliance with applicable laws and regulations, and policies.
- Associate PI's may be involved in the project but wouldn't have the same responsibilities as the lead PI or co-PI.

Full Proposal

Community Engagement Plan

The level of community engagement in research falls on a continuum:

- Community Informed - community role as audience
- Community Consulted - community role as advisor
- Community Involved - community role as collaborator
- Shared Leadership - community role as equal partner
- Community Led - community role as leader

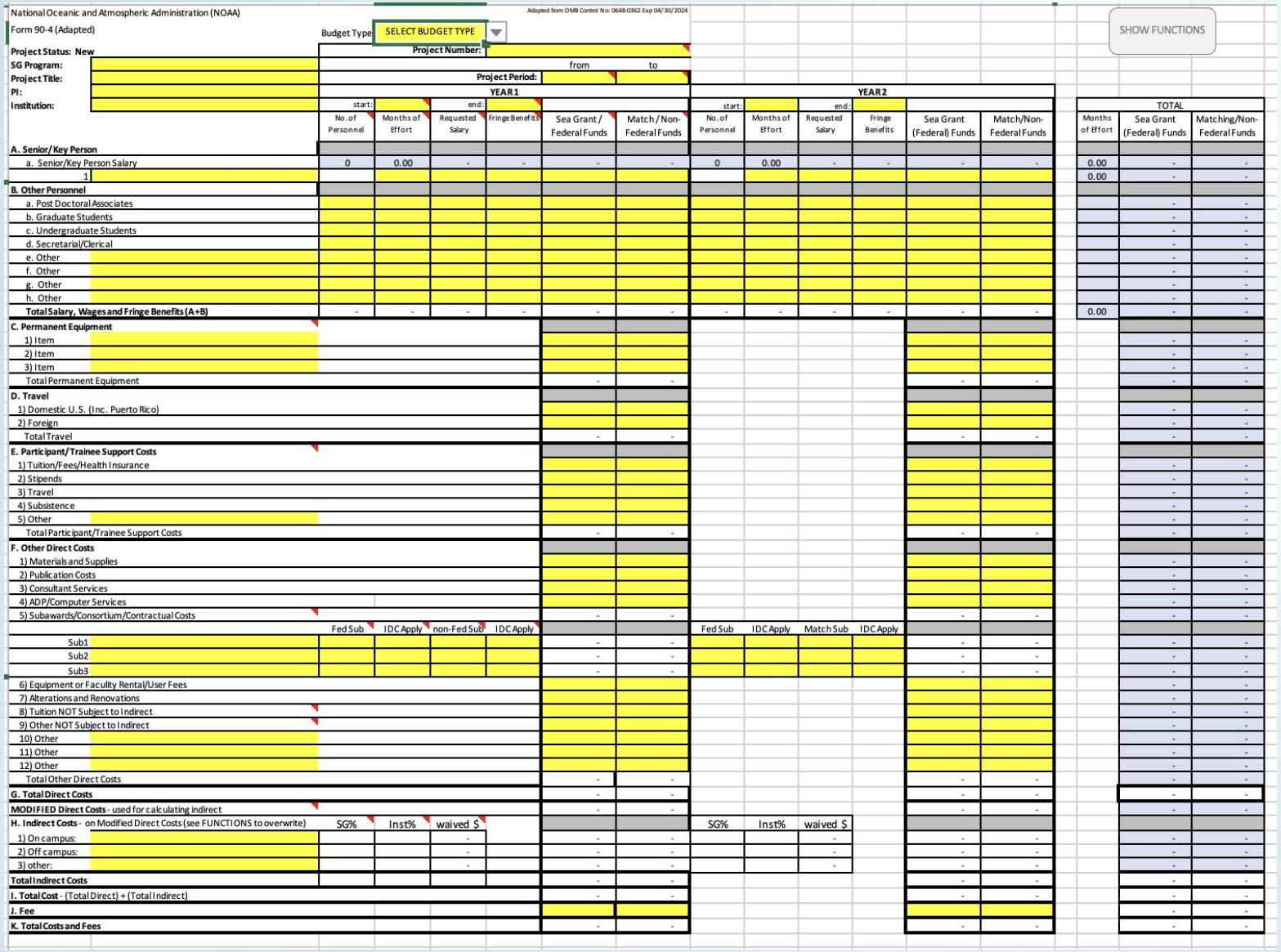
- See resources!
- Complement other proposal components

- What is the identified need of the community partners(s) and how will the information generated by this project be used by and/or benefit them?
- Where does the proposed research approach fall on the community engagement continuum, as described in the "Co-Production and Community Engagement" section of this Request for Proposals, and why is that the appropriate level of engagement?
- What principles will guide community engagement to ensure an ethical and culturally responsive approach (such as those described in the Community-Engaged Research Framework)?
- How will community partner(s) time and contributions be fairly and equitably compensated, as reflected in the proposed budget? If funds are not budgeted for community partners, explain why.
- What community engagement activities will occur as part of the proposed project and how will the project team and community partner(s) participate?

Full Proposal

Budgets

- 90-4 budget spreadsheet
- Associated budget justification
- Ensure time for institutional review



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

Adapted from OMB Control No: 0648-0362 Exp 04/30/2024

Form 90-4 (Adapted)

Budget Type: SELECT BUDGET TYPE

SHOW FUNCTIONS

Project Status: New

Project Number:

SG Program:

Project Period: from to

Project Title:

PI:

Institution:

	YEAR 1						YEAR 2						TOTAL		
	start:		end:				start:		end:						
	No. of Personnel	Months of Effort	Requested Salary	Fringe Benefits	Sea Grant / Federal Funds	Match / Non-Federal Funds	No. of Personnel	Months of Effort	Requested Salary	Fringe Benefits	Sea Grant (Federal) Funds	Match/Non-Federal Funds	Months of Effort	Sea Grant (Federal) Funds	Matching/Non-Federal Funds
A. Senior/Key Person															
a. Senior/Key Person Salary	0	0.00	-	-	-	-	0	0.00	-	-	-	-	0.00	-	-
1													0.00	-	-
B. Other Personnel															
a. Post Doctoral Associates														-	-
b. Graduate Students														-	-
c. Undergraduate Students														-	-
d. Secretarial/Clerical														-	-
e. Other														-	-
f. Other														-	-
g. Other														-	-
h. Other														-	-
Total Salary, Wages and Fringe Benefits (A+B)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	-	-
C. Permanent Equipment															
1) Item														-	-
2) Item														-	-
3) Item														-	-
Total Permanent Equipment					-	-					-	-		-	-
D. Travel															
1) Domestic U.S. (Inc. Puerto Rico)														-	-
2) Foreign														-	-
Total Travel					-	-					-	-		-	-
E. Participant/Trainee Support Costs															
1) Tuition/Fees/Health Insurance														-	-
2) Stipends														-	-
3) Travel														-	-
4) Subsistence														-	-
5) Other														-	-
Total Participant/Trainee Support Costs					-	-					-	-		-	-
F. Other Direct Costs															
1) Materials and Supplies														-	-
2) Publication Costs														-	-
3) Consultant Services														-	-
4) ADP/Computer Services														-	-
5) Subawards/Consortium/Contractual Costs					-	-					-	-		-	-
	Fed Sub	IDC Apply	non-Fed Sub	IDC Apply			Fed Sub	IDC Apply	Match Sub	IDC Apply					
Sub1					-	-					-	-		-	-
Sub2					-	-					-	-		-	-
Sub3					-	-					-	-		-	-
6) Equipment or Faculty Rental/User Fees														-	-
7) Alterations and Renovations														-	-
8) Tuition NOT Subject to Indirect														-	-
9) Other NOT Subject to Indirect														-	-
10) Other														-	-
11) Other														-	-
12) Other														-	-
Total Other Direct Costs					-	-					-	-		-	-
G. Total Direct Costs					-	-					-	-		-	-
MODIFIED Direct Costs - used for calculating indirect					-	-					-	-		-	-
H. Indirect Costs - on Modified Direct Costs (see FUNCTIONS to overwrite)	SG%	Inst%	waived $				SG%	Inst%	waived $						
1) On campus:			-		-	-			-		-	-		-	-
2) Off campus:			-		-	-			-		-	-		-	-
3) other:			-		-	-			-		-	-		-	-
Total Indirect Costs					-	-					-	-		-	-
I. Total Cost - (Total Direct) + (Total Indirect)					-	-					-	-		-	-
J. Fee														-	-
K. Total Costs and Fees					-	-					-	-		-	-

Full Proposal

Budgets

- Subawards must also complete 90-4, justification, and include a scope of work

Lead Entity

- 90-4
- Justification

Subaward Entity

- 90-4
- Justification
- Brief scope of work

Subaward Entity

- 90-4
- Justification
- Brief scope of work

Sea Grant
CALIFORNIA

04 | Q&A

Sea Grant
CALIFORNIA

Thank you for joining!

LIAN GUO | RESEARCH PROGRAM SUPERVISOR
EMAIL: SGPROPOSAL@UCSD.EDU