



January 29, 2026

Re: Request for Proposals for Wetland Improvement Projects

Dear Suisun Marsh Landowners:

Ducks Unlimited (DU) is in the process of applying for a NAWCA (North American Waterfowl Conservation Act) grant. This proposal is being developed in collaboration with the Suisun Resource Conservation District (SRCD), and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW).

This grant proposal will be designed to benefit Suisun Marsh waterfowl through projects that will restore or enhance permanent, semi-permanent, and seasonal wetlands, and may include upland nesting cover as a component.

DU's partners in this effort will include SRCD, CDFW, California Wildlife Conservation Board, and private landowners in the Suisun Marsh. If this proposal is funded by NAWCA, up to \$3 million could be available for habitat improvement in the Suisun Marsh. Ducks Unlimited anticipates submitting a proposal to NAWCA in July 2026. If the grant is awarded, funding is likely to be available by July 2027. On-the-ground work is anticipated to be undertaken in the 2028 and 2029 work seasons or subsequent seasons as necessary.

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY:

Any privately managed wetlands within SRCD's boundaries will be eligible for this program under the following conditions:

1. The landowner must commit in writing to a cost-share match.
2. Landowners will be required to actively cooperate and be in good standing with SRCD and follow the SRCD management plan written for their property.
3. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Regional General Permit 3 (RGP 3) must permit all proposed work activities necessary to complete the projects proposed by landowners.
4. Landowners will be required to sign a 30-year agreement to maintain the projects completed under this program.

Generally, the types of projects eligible under this program include:

- Pond bottom contouring and grading
- Cutting new circulation, drainage, and swales
- Cleaning and improving existing water conveyance ditches
- Improving interior water control structures
- Discing and seeding upland areas for improved nesting habitat

- Installation of new exterior water control structures (including non-mobile pumps and drain gates)

These funds will not be eligible for expenditure on exterior levee flood damage repairs, routine maintenance, or activities that have impacts to sensitive species habitats. These funds can not reimburse landowners for work that has previously been completed or is to be completed in the 2026 work season.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

To be considered for funding, the following information must be submitted to Ducks Unlimited. If the package is incomplete, the proposed project is ineligible for grant funding, or if it cannot be constructed under existing permits, it will not be considered for funding.


Interested landowners will submit a detailed proposal to DU, identifying:


- 1) Club/Property Name and SRCD parcel number,
- 2) The person authorized to sign legal contracts of the property
- 3) Proposal contact person,
- 4) Address, email, and phone numbers for both contact and authorized legal contact,
- 5) A written description of the proposed work activities, (with volumes and lengths)
 - a. (all activities must be in compliance with the USACE Regional General Permit 3), the RGP 3 can be found on the SRCD website:
<http://www.suisunrcd.org/permits.html>
- 6) Detailed map showing site location and elements of the project, and
- 7) Estimate the cost to complete the work, all work is subject to Davis Bacon Prevailing Wage Law
- 8) A written description of how the project is expected to benefit waterfowl. Upon the completion of an initial project proposal review, DU and SRCD will contact you to discuss the proposal and conduct a site inspection if necessary.

Each proposal submitted will be evaluated by DU and SRCD staff and biologists based upon consistency with NAWCA program objectives and benefits to waterfowl habitat. A project evaluation will be necessary, and a site inspection may be needed to approve or disapprove the project and ensure that it meets eligibility criteria, prior to the submittal of the grant application.

All application packages should be received No Later than **March 6, 2026**. If landowners need assistance in application preparation or have questions about project design, contact the DU at (916) 494-3293 or SRCD at (707) 425-9302. Submittal of this proposal to DU in no way assures project funding or that the proposed project will be included in the final grant application to NAWCA. Please submit proposals to awill@duck.org or by mail to 3074 Gold Canal Drive, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670.

Sincerely,


Aaron Will
Regional Biologist – DU


Steven Chappell
Executive Director – SRCD