

PLP Innovation and Technology Opportunity Grant Program Application

Library Name: San Bruno Public Library

Project Title: Reduce Plastic Pollution: Outdoor Water Station

Select category you are applying under:

Category A: Innovation and Technology Opportunity Grant

Category B: Grant Replication Program

If Category B is selected, enter the name of the grant you are replicating:

1. Please provide a one paragraph project summary.

Microplastic pollution poses a significant threat to environmental and human health due to its pervasive presence and toxic effects. A recent pilot study by the San Francisco Estuary Institute found that “San Francisco Bay has more microplastic pollution than other major water bodies in the U.S. (San Francisco Estuary Institute, sfei.org, 2024).” One of the many sources of this pollution is plastic water bottles. Installing a water bottle refilling station at the San Bruno Public Library’s outside plaza area would be a small yet impactful step in reducing plastic waste. Each refill at this station could mean one less water bottle in a landfill or waterway. The new station, which would include both a bottle filler and drinking fountain, would replace the existing fountain. Accessible 24/7, this refilling station would offer free potable water to anyone in our community.

2. Explain how this project fits with the library’s strategic directions.

The Library’s mission emphasizes the “Utilization of modern technology” and a “responsiveness to the community.” As the Library adapts to the changing needs of the San Bruno community, it has become clear that some older fixtures, like the current drinking fountain, no longer fully meet those needs. Today, many Library patrons, including school-age children and adults carry reusable water bottles. Providing an easy way to refill these bottles is a crucial step in addressing microplastic pollution. Additionally, the Library serves as an auxiliary emergency center. In the event of a disaster, having an outdoor water station offering free potable water at all times for the public would be invaluable to the community.

3. Please provide a detailed description of the proposed project including the population served and the demographics of that population.

Given the increasing concern over rising temperatures and drought conditions in California, the community is becoming more environmentally aware. This awareness extends to a growing need for accessible water bottle refill stations, which reduces waste. The San Bruno Public Library is ideally situated for such a water station, located between a school, City Hall, commercial properties, a residential neighborhood, and the major Peninsula thoroughfare, El Camino Real.

Installing a water bottle refill station at the Library's outdoor plaza would help reduce plastic waste by reducing the need for plastic water bottles, which can end up in landfills and waterways. This station, which would feature a bottle filler and a drinking fountain, replacing the current standard drinking fountain, would be available 24/7 at no cost to the individuals using it.

If this grant request is fulfilled, the City of San Bruno has preapproved and committed to the installation of a bottle filling station by December 2024. The filling station will be permanently attached to an outside wall of the San Bruno Library in its patio area, a location that sees high foot traffic and a place where many come to congregate.

The City of San Bruno is already planning to install water bottle filling stations in several parks within San Bruno. A similar water bottle filling station model has been specifically selected by the City's Facilities department to accommodate for the Library's particular building needs and application. This model is noted for its very low ongoing maintenance. The City will be financially and physically responsible for the installation and will perform any site modifications required for the installation, as well as cover any and all ongoing maintenance costs.

In addition to the water bottle filling station, the Library will spend \$1000 to obtain library materials on the topic of clean water/environmental stewardship/climate change. The Library will create a booklist in the Library's Bibliocommons catalog to provide easy access to these items in this collection.

San Bruno is a middle-class community with a population of approximately 43,000 people, including significant low-income areas. The nearby elementary schools, Belle Air and Allen, have reduced and free lunch rates of 59.4% and 59.8%, respectively (California Department of Education, 2024). The Library also serves a transient population, for whom having access to clean water is crucial, especially given the 18% increase in homelessness in San Mateo County over the past two years, according to the most recent San Mateo County "One Day Homeless Count."

4. What are the goals and objectives of the project?

Goal 1: Reduce community's reliance on single use water bottles.

- Objective 1a: Acquire water bottle refill station.
- Objective 1b: Install water bottle refill station.
- Objective 1c: Market water bottle refill station to patrons in English and Spanish.
- Objective 1d: Evaluate the project.

Goal 2: Encourage people to learn about the topic of clean water/environmental stewardship/climate change.

- Objective 2a: Establish collection of library materials on clean water/environmental stewardship/climate change.
- Objective 2b: Create Bibliocommons booklist featuring these materials.
- Objective 2c: Distribute survey to determine what borrowers learned and steps they took or plan to take to protect the environment after using the station or reading the books.

5. Please include your project timeline (include detail of activities).

ACTIVITY	MONTH(S)
Order the outdoor bottle filling station	October 2024
Order and process the related books and/or audiovisual materials	October 2024 – November 2024
Install the outdoor bottle filling station	October 2024 – December 2024
Create Bibliocommons booklist for the related books and/or audiovisual materials	November 2024
Promote the outdoor bottle filling station and booklist	January 2025 – June 2025
Distribute survey evaluations to patrons who use the filling station and/or check out the items on the booklist	Continuous
Prepare final report	June 2025

6. Please indicate how you will evaluate success of your project.

Library staff would use standardized outcomes measurement surveys from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Surveys would be available at the circulation desk and provided to patrons using the water station or borrowing materials from the related collection. The survey would ask what patrons learned from the materials and what actions they plan to take to protect the environment after engaging with the water station or related materials.

7. Please detail your project budget. (Note: Indirect costs are not allowed).

EXPENSE	GRANT FUNDS REQUESTED	IN-KIND
ELKAY LK4408BF Wall-mount Bottle Filling Station Filter less, Non-refrigerated SKU: LK4408BFBLU	\$5083.75	\$0.00
Books and/or audiovisuals related to clean water/environmental stewardship/climate change	\$1000.00	\$0.00
Labor and materials to install bottle filling station	\$0.00	\$1500.00
First year maintenance cost: .50 hr. Maintenance Worker, .50 hour at \$30/hr = \$15 = .0002 FTE	\$0.00	\$15.00
Processing of books and/or audiovisuals related to clean water/environmental stewardship/climate change for circulation: 2 hrs. Library Assistant, 2 hours at \$23/hr = \$46 = .001 FTE	\$0.00	\$46.00
Manage all aspects of the grant project: 10 hrs. Information Systems Librarian, 10 hours at \$49/hr = \$490 = .005 FTE	\$0.00	\$490.00
Assist with all aspects of the grant project: 5 hrs. Accounting and Customer Service Representative, 5 hours at \$36/hr = \$180 = .002 FTE	\$0.00	\$180.00
Assist with marketing of the grant project: 5 hrs. Librarian, 5 hours at \$40/hr = \$200 = .002 FTE	\$0.00	\$200.00
SUBTOTAL	\$6083.75	\$2431.00

GRANT FUNDS REQUESTED: \$6083.75

IN-KIND FUNDS: \$2431.00

GRAND PROJECT TOTAL: \$8514.75

8. Please indicate how the project will be sustained after the grant term is over.

Library staff would monitor the water filling station and report any issues to the city's facilities department, which would handle maintenance. Any maintenance costs, including parts and labor, will be covered by the City's general fund budget.

The Library would continue to promote and circulate the clean water materials after the grant term, using survey feedback to guide future collection additions.

Complete Only for Category B Grants:

9. Explain what grant was selected to replicate and why.

10. If there are changes or enhancements to the original grant, including budgetary changes, please detail the changes and your rationale for making them.