

COASTAL CONSERVANCY

Staff Recommendation
August 2, 2012

COMMUNITY WETLAND RESTORATION GRANT PROGRAM

Project No. 12-026-01
Project Manager: Greg Gauthier

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Authorization to disburse up to \$650,000 to Earth Island Institute to provide funding for the Community Wetland Restoration Grant Program, a program of the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project, for community-based restoration projects in Southern California coastal wetlands and watersheds; 2012 projects are located in Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange and San Diego Counties.

LOCATION: Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange and San Diego counties coastal wetlands and watersheds.

PROGRAM CATEGORY: Resource Enhancement

EXHIBITS

- Exhibit 1: Project Locations Map
 - Exhibit 2: Completed CWRGP Projects List
 - Exhibit 3: Project Letters
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RESOLUTION AND FINDINGS:

Staff recommends that the State Coastal Conservancy adopt the following resolution pursuant to Sections 31251-31270 of the Public Resources Code:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of up to six hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$650,000) to Earth Island Institute to implement a suite of community-based resource enhancement projects along the Southern California coast, subject to the condition that, prior to the disbursement of funds for each project, Earth Island Institute shall submit for review and approval by the Executive Officer of the Conservancy:

- a. A work program, including a project plan, schedule and budget;
- b. All contractors to be employed for the project;
- c. Evidence that all necessary permits and approvals have been obtained.”

Staff further recommends that the Conservancy adopt the following findings:

“Based on the accompanying staff report and attached exhibits, the State Coastal Conservancy hereby finds that:

1. The proposed project is consistent with the current Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.
 2. The proposed authorization is consistent with the purposes and objectives of Chapter 6 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding enhancement of coastal resources.
 3. Earth Island Institute is a nonprofit organization existing under Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code and whose purposes are consistent with Division 21 of the Public Resources Code.”
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PROJECT SUMMARY:

Staff recommends that the Conservancy authorize the disbursement of up to \$650,000 to Earth Island Institute to implement community-based resource enhancement projects along the Southern California coast through the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project’s Community Based Wetland Restoration Program (CWRGP).

CWRGP is a program of the Wetlands Recovery Project (WRP) jointly managed by the State Coastal Conservancy and Earth Island Institute, providing funding for community-based restoration projects in coastal wetlands and watersheds in the Southern California region. The purpose of the CWRGP is to further the wetland recovery goals of the WRP Regional Strategy; build local capacity to plan and implement wetland restoration projects; promote community involvement in wetland restoration activities; and foster education about wetland ecosystems. Projects funded through the program must include educational and community involvement elements as strong components of the project.

Southern California has lost approximately 90 percent of its historic wetlands due to urban development, in-fill, flood control practices, and habitat type conversion. The WRP funds projects that seek to recover fully functioning wetland ecosystems including upland areas surrounding the wetlands. Typical projects funded through the CWRGP include removal of invasive species, planting of native plant species, trash abatement, trails and interpretive element construction, and other efforts to restore or enhance wetland habitats.

The CWRGP typically funds 10 to 12 projects per year with an annual budget of approximately \$300,000. Each January the CWRGP solicits proposals from nonprofit organizations, university departments, and local agencies eligible to apply to the program. Proposals are reviewed by a technical advisory committee that includes staff from the State Coastal Conservancy, Earth Island Institute, the Wildlife Conservation Board, National Marine Fisheries Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Projects are selected by early summer and the work begins in late summer or early fall. Projects funded through this program are designed to be completed in one or two years. The total amount recommended for authorization is expected to fund at least 2 years of grant cycles, potentially lasting through 2015.

Exhibit 3: August 2, 2012 Authorization

Project selection for 2012–2013 was completed in June, 2012. The 10 projects selected which would be funded this year under this authorization are as follows:

Santa Barbara County

UC Santa Barbara (UCSB) Campus Lagoon Salt Marsh Restoration: This project will integrate a restoration and access project along the northeast shoreline of the Campus Lagoon by restoring a 1000-foot (3/4 acre) strip of iceplant to saltmarsh and coastal sage scrub. The area is the last remaining non-native-dominated zone along the campus shoreline of the lagoon. Implementing this project further protects this narrow edge of the lagoon from future infringement and impacts, while providing native habitat and ongoing educational opportunities. UCSB will collaborate with the Research Experience and Education Facility, better known as The REEF, UCSB's interactive aquarium facility to provide improved access to educational view points and sample collection areas for a coastal resource education program that will incorporate restoration activities during the project time period. Approximately 600 junior high school students and 90 elementary school programs from the REEF and Kids in Nature environmental education programs are expected to directly participate in the project. In addition, this project is highly visible due to its location adjacent to the well-used Campus Point Beach and the REEF touch tanks that are open to the public on Saturdays. By removing iceplant and revegetating with more than 20 native species, this area can provide more diverse resources for insects and birds while also completing the restoration of the northern shore of the lagoon. A total of approximately 9,000 native plants will be planted in this project. Plants will be grown in the Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration greenhouse and nursery, and collected from local sources.

Total project cost: \$43,500

Amount requested from CWRGP: \$30,000

Devereux Slough Margin Enhancement: Santa Barbara Audubon Society and community volunteers will enhance the slough margin at the UC Natural Reserve System Coal Oil Point Reserve (COPR) by removal of invasive plant species, primarily iceplant and New Zealand spinach, from approximately 8 acres, and intensive re-vegetation of two of the iceplant removal sites approximately 0.6 acres in size. The project will utilize 600 hours of volunteer time from approximately 200 volunteers, and will remove the remaining two patches of iceplant on the east margin of the Devereux Slough through tarping and manual removal. The project also will aid the Western Snowy Plover by cutting back Eucalyptus Trees, which provide skunk habitat. Skunks are a major predator of Snowy Plover eggs. Re-vegetation will include 1,000 plants consisting of sagebrush, Mugwort, Coast Goldenbush, California Morning-Glory, California sunflower, Seacliff Buckwheat and Santa Barbara Honeysuckle. In addition, seeds of species found at COPR will be collected on the reserve for propagation at the Reserve Plant Nursery.

Total project cost: \$56,600

Amount requested from CWRGP: \$29,400

Refugio Creek Mouth Restoration Project: South Coast Habitat Restoration, a California 501 (c)(3), will improve wetland habitat by increasing ecological diversity for native species by removing invasive non-native flora and installing native flora along the banks at the mouth of Refugio Creek, located on the Refugio State Beach, a State Park, through the use of volunteers.

Exhibit 3: August 2, 2012 Authorization

The goal of the project is to increase the ecological value of habitat at the mouth of Refugio Creek. The project area is roughly 2,100 square feet on either side of Refugio Creek. Non-natives at the site include Fan Palms, Guadalupe Palms, Myoporum, Arundo donax, Black Acacia, Pampas Grass, Fennel, Castor Bean, Brazilian Pepper trees, California Pepper trees, Eucalyptus, as well as annual grasses. Natives to be planted at the site include native riparian trees and coastal scrub species. The project also will allow for volunteers and visitors to the State Beach to learn about habitat restoration and the importance of the Refugio Creek Watershed. Two permanent interpretive signs will be installed to inform visitors about watershed resources and restoration activities.

Total Project Cost: \$62,210

Amount requested from CWRGP: \$28,022

Ventura County

Ormond Beach Native Plant Restoration: Channel Islands Marine Resource Institute will improve the quality of a coastal freshwater and brackish marsh, and bordering back dune area at Ormond Beach as an experiential education tool for local elementary school and college students. Depending upon the class level, students will be involved in different aspects of the restoration process including permitting, habitat surveys and evaluation, developing plant lists, mapping, obtaining seeds and cuttings, nursery cultivation and eradication of non-native invasive plant species such as Myoporum, ice plant, pampas grass and sweet clover. Restoration activities will include: Mapping of existing vegetation, removal of iceplant and Myororum, propagation and replanting with native plants, monitoring and maintenance, and Native Plant Nursery operation.

Total project cost: \$93,646

Amount requested from CWRGP: \$27,346

Los Angeles County

Lower Topanga Creek Restoration Project: TreePeople will lead volunteers in removing invasive species and planting native trees, plants, and shrubs in a buffer riparian zone along Topanga Creek in Topanga State Park. The project will increase native plant biodiversity and enhance habitat for native species. TreePeople estimates that at least 350 community volunteers will attend the 14 restoration events TreePeople will hold at the project site. Volunteers will learn how to remove invasive species, plant native species, and why restoring this coastal stream is important. Volunteers will consist of school groups, boy and girl scout groups, retirees, and local residents from the surrounding neighborhood. The project goals include: (1) Educate 350 volunteers about the Santa Monica Bay and the importance of restoring natural ecosystem functions in coastal stream areas; (2) Remove invasive plant species from the project site; and (3) Plant native species in the project area to connect the undisturbed coastal sage scrub with Topanga Creek. All of the invasive species at the site will be removed by the end of the grant period, and approximately 280 native plants will be planted. The invasive species that will be removed include Arundo donax, mustard, Bermuda grass, and euphorbia. The native species that will be planted include coast live oak, Chaparral yucca, Mugwort, Bush sunflower, scrub oak, California wild rose, and purple sage.

Exhibit 3: August 2, 2012 Authorization

Total project cost: \$62,000

Amount requested from CWRGP: \$12,300

Orange County

Invasive Removal in Bell Creek at Audubon Starr Ranch: The Audubon Starr Ranch Sanctuary and community volunteers will remove periwinkle, smilo grass, and English ivy from a 1.5 acre work area in Bell Creek, a tributary of San Juan Creek. A crew of at-risk young adults from the Orange County Conservation Corps will remove olive and palm trees from the entire length of the 4.71 miles (125 acres) of Bell Creek on Starr Ranch. Starr Ranch interns will recruit 300-500 volunteers from elementary schools, high schools, universities, scout groups, church groups and corporations. Starr Ranch will focus on non-chemical control of invasive plant species and rare habitat restoration. The project funds recent college graduates to serve as riparian interns for 8 months to cover the 2012-2013 season and a four-person Orange County Conservation Corps crew and supervisor.

Total project Cost: \$52,072

Amount requested from CWRGP: \$26,000

Bolsa Chica Dune Habitat Enhancement Project: The Bolsa Chica Dune Habitat Enhancement project is a community-based restoration and education project designed to expand dune habitat at the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve. The project targets expansion of areas for dune plants including the rare Coastal Woolly Head. In addition, it will increase nesting and foraging areas for the endangered California Least Terns, threatened Western Snowy Plovers and other migratory and resident shorebirds and waterfowl. The project goals are to: (1) Remove non-native plants, trash, and debris from the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve to increase habitat for rare dune plants such as the coastal woolly heads, and to improve water quality of the wetlands and adjacent marine areas; (2) Expand habitat for the endangered California Least Tern, the threatened Western Snowy Plover, as well as other migrating and resident shorebirds and waterfowl at Bolsa Chica; and (3) Educate youth and the general public through public outreach and participation in on-the ground restoration work at the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve.

Total project cost: \$100,000

Amount requested from CWRGP: \$30,000

San Diego County

Ocean Connectors Wetland Restoration Project: Ocean Connectors, a project of The Ocean Foundation, will involve low-income youth in San Diego County in wetland restoration in the Otay River and San Dieguito watersheds. In partnership with local organizations, Ocean Connectors will increase environmental awareness and educate the community through hands-on habitat restoration activities and lessons. This project will involve members of the San Diego community in on-the-ground wetland restoration efforts. The target audience is low-income K-12 students. The project also will involve other members of the community including volunteers, teachers, parents, and experts from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the San Dieguito River Park. The Ocean Connectors project will expand on past and future restoration efforts through litter and debris removal, invasive plant species removal and planting of native plant species.

Exhibit 3: August 2, 2012 Authorization

Total project cost: \$20,000 Amount requested from CWRGP: \$8,000

Watershed Avengers at Swan Canyon: Watershed Avengers is a program of the Ocean Discovery Institute that works to improve habitat quality, transforming degraded canyons into healthy places while protecting local downstream wetlands habitats. This project, to restore 4.87 acres in Swan Canyon, will be completed with a combination of contracted restoration labor and volunteer work from the local community. Work will target 4.87 acres within the 26-acre canyon. Areas of active restoration include 2.1 acres of disturbed riparian habitat impacted by *Arundo donax* and 2.77 acres of disturbed coastal sage scrub and chaparral habitat. Re-vegetation will take place in areas where non-native plants are removed and outside of brush management zones. Over the course of the project approximately 500 native plants will be planted. The project will engage 750 community members, primarily youth, from the low-income community of City Heights.

Total project cost: \$148,620 Amount requested from CWRGP: \$30,000

Citizens Restoring Coastal Habitat at San Elijo Lagoon: Over the last 10 years, the San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy (SELCO) has managed the invasive species control program for the entire Carlsbad Hydrological Unit in which San Elijo Lagoon's watershed, Escondido Creek, is located. SELCO will engage the community in this wetland habitat enhancement project by holding 18 monthly events aimed at restoring 10 acres of critical habitat for listed species, training and educating community members on the benefits of controlling invasive plants without the use of herbicides and restoration of the native plant community. Restored habitat will include 4 acres of Diegan Coastal Sage Scrub, 3 acres of Southern Coastal Salt Marsh, 2 acres of Southern Riparian Scrub and 1 acre of Coastal Strand. This project is expected to draw more than 1,000 community members over the 18-month period of the project. Eight long-term site leaders will be trained in maintaining restoration sites to lessen costs to the organization, while building capacity within the community. In addition, 4,500 native plants will be planted and 2,500 educational brochures will be created.

Total cost of Project: \$182,772 Amount requested from CWRGP: \$19,080

TOTAL PROJECT FUNDS REQUESTED FROM CWRGP: \$240,148

The proposal evaluation and project selection committee, described earlier in this report, will review and select projects from the 2013 project proposals consistent with this authorization for funding in the 2013 – 2014 program year. In addition to direct project costs, funding will help support project management and technical support. Earth Island Institute staff costs are covered by them as a part of matching funds. As stated earlier, this authorization will provide at least two years of CWRGP funding, depending on the number of projects selected for each year's program.

Earth Island Institute (EII) is uniquely qualified to manage the CWRGP and works in close collaboration with Conservancy staff. EII was founded in 1982 and acts as fiscal sponsor for many start-up organizations lacking the administrative expertise to carry out a suite of environmental initiatives. This experience ideally suits them to work with the many small

nonprofits and agencies through the CWRGP that have the passion but may need technical and administrative support to carry out stewardship and capacity building community-based resource enhancement projects. EII, in collaboration with the Conservancy, has managed the CWRGP for the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project since 2009.

Site Description:

The Community Wetlands Restoration Program (CWRGP) encompasses the Southern California coastal region from Point Conception in Santa Barbara County to the United States border with Mexico (Exhibit 1). This region includes Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego counties. Coastal watersheds that drain to the Pacific Ocean are included in the geographic scope of the program. Project locations include coastal wetlands, tidal marshes, rivers, streams, vernal pools as well as buffer zones including dunes, river banks and coastal sage scrub habitats.

Many of the project locations were historical flood plains and extensive wetland ecosystems that have been degraded and fragmented over the past 100 years. Others are discreet pocket wetlands that, while small and sometimes isolated from other habitat, cumulatively comprise a critical natural resource for native flora and fauna in a highly urbanized environment.

UC Santa Barbara Campus Lagoon Salt Marsh Restoration: The proposed project is located on the northeast shore of the UCSB Campus Lagoon in one of the few zones along the shore of the lagoon that hasn't been restored. The 31 acre estuarine lagoon supports a diversity of wildlife. Visitors each day include school groups, UCSB students, staff, faculty and recreational visitors. A new access stairway, funded by the Coastal Fund and the Coastal Conservancy, is under construction now and the restoration associated with it marks the southern edge of the project. The 1,000 foot-long project area is the last remaining non-native shore area adjacent to the campus and is currently dominated by iceplant. The project area borders the REEF (Research Experience and Education Facility), the University's aquarium and outreach center which educates several thousand students a year. In addition the area is adjacent to Campus Point Beach which receives hundreds of daily visitors during the summer. The campus lagoon supports a diversity of birds whose activities reflect a thriving food web. The evidence for this is reflected in the foraging activities of pelicans, cormorants and herons as well as mating behavior of red tail hawks, kestrels, cooper's hawks and recent visitation by loggerhead shrikes, Wilson's snipes and numerous shorebirds, sparrows and warblers. Over 200 different species of birds have been documented in monthly campus lagoon bird surveys with an average diversity of 50 species per survey.

Devereux Slough Margin Enhancement: Devereux Slough is a coastal estuary on the University of California Santa Barbara West Campus managed by the UC Natural Reserve System Coal Oil Point Reserve (COPR). The 157-acre reserve encompasses the estuary, dune habitat, seasonal wetlands and surrounding uplands. COPR has the primary missions of conservation, education, research and public outreach. The proposed project area is approximately 8 acres of the slough margin on both the eastern and western portions of the slough. Most of the slough margin has been the subject of intensive restoration by the COPR

and by Audubon on the western margin near the mouth. This project focuses on areas not yet restored.

Refugio Creek Mouth Restoration: The Refugio Creek Watershed is located in coastal Santa Barbara County, 20 miles west of the City of Santa Barbara. It drains a watershed of approximately 8.2 square miles. The watershed begins in the Santa Ynez Mountains at an elevation of approximately 4,300 feet and drains steep hillsides and canyons before flowing through orchards and agricultural fields. The creek flows into the Pacific Ocean at Refugio State Beach. The proposed project is located at the mouth of the creek at Refugio State Beach, on State Parks property. The creek mouth provides important habitat for a variety of species including the federally endangered Southern Steelhead trout and Tidewater Goby. The mouth of Refugio Creek is lined with approximately 150 feet of rocks on both of its banks confining it from its natural meandering state. Few native plant species are present on the banks of the creek mouth or surrounding area. The majority of vegetation on the banks of the creek mouth is non-native species including Fan Palms, Guadalupe Palms, Myoporum, Arundo donax, Black Acacia, Pampas Grass, Fennel, Castro Bean, Brazilian Pepper trees, California Pepper trees, Eucalyptus, as well as annual grasses. California State Parks purchased the property along the mouth of Refugio Creek in the 1960's. The park has a number of campsites on both sides of the creek mouth. To the North of the creek mouth there is a vehicular bridge which connects the two areas of the State Park.

Ormond Beach Native Plant Restoration: The Ormond Beach dunes and wetland complex is located in Ventura County. The sand dunes stretching from Port Hueneme to Mugu Lagoon are what remain of a much larger system that extended from the Ventura River to Mugu Lagoon. Ormond Beach represents one of the few functioning dune-building systems remaining in Southern California. Dunes, back dune swales, and seasonal wetlands are home to federally and state listed endangered bird and plant species including the Least Tern, Western Snowy Plover, Belding's Savannah Sparrow, Salt Marsh Bird's Beak, and the Tidewater Goby. The proposed restoration site is approximately 11.2 acres on the northwest boundary of the Ormond Beach Generating Station. The site includes portions of back beach swales and seasonal freshwater / brackish water marsh areas. The back beach area of the site includes three dune swales and encompasses about 2.7 acres. The freshwater and brackish water marsh area consists of 8.5 acres. The invasive plant species Myoporum is found adjacent to and in the wetland area. There are approximately 60 of these trees in the area. Ice plant is found in areas closest to the generating station. Twelve Myoporum were previously removed from the sand dune ridge bordering the wetland to the south. Although its coverage has been greatly reduced, ice plant is still found adjacent to the generating station, back beach swales, and marsh. Sweet clover is found in this habitat as are several clumps of Pampas grass. Except for the plants noted above, the area is largely free of the more invasive species.

Lower Topanga Creek Restoration Project: Topanga Creek is a coastal stream located in the Santa Monica Mountains in Los Angeles County that flows into the Pacific Ocean. The project site is a 1.5 acre riparian buffer zone that borders 200 feet of Topanga Creek in Topanga State Park. The project site is a disturbed area between the creek and undisturbed coastal sage scrub habitat. The site is a south/south east facing slope, through which rainwater flows into the creek. There is an undisturbed area of coastal sage scrub habitat at the top of the slope, and the project

Exhibit 3: August 2, 2012 Authorization

will connect the creek and the coastal sage scrub habitat. The project site is filled with invasive species, including *Arundo donax*, mustard, Bermuda grass, and euphorbia. Topanga Creek is one of only three creeks in the Santa Monica Bay Watershed that contains the endangered Southern Steelhead trout.

Invasive Removal in Bell Creek at Audubon Starr Ranch: Starr Ranch Sanctuary is a 4,000 acre preserve owned and operated by the National Audubon Society. It is located in the San Juan Creek watershed. The major riparian corridor within Starr Ranch, Bell Creek, is a tributary to San Juan Creek and formerly habitat for steelhead trout. Once the San Juan and Trabuco Creek steelhead barrier removal projects are completed downstream, Bell Creek will provide critical steelhead habitat and passage to upper reaches of the watershed. Starr Ranch is one of the few remaining large, protected open space areas in this region and the Bell Canyon riparian corridor is one of the few largely pristine, protected wildlife corridors in the area. Bordering the Santa Ana Mountains, the Cleveland National Forest, and two suburban developments, Starr Ranch preserves oak woodland, riparian forests, coastal sage scrub, chaparral, and needlegrass grassland. The Ranch is home to federally threatened California Gnatcatcher, as well as other native wildlife species including California tree frogs, Red-shouldered Hawks, and mountain lions. Since Audubon acquired Starr Ranch in 1973, it has operated as a nature preserve and an active ecological research station. Starr Ranch serves approximately 6,000 visitors each year through environmental education programs, citizen science projects, and volunteer programs.

Bolsa Chica Dune Enhancement Project: The Bolsa Chica wetlands are located in northern Orange County in the City of Huntington Beach and are one of the largest remaining coastal wetland systems in Southern California. The ecological reserve includes trails and boardwalks for visitor access. In August 2006 the first phase of restoration was completed, restoring nearly 600 acres of wetland habitat including a new inlet that provides tidal connection to the ocean on the southern end of the reserve. The wetlands provide habitat and feeding grounds for more than 200 species of birds as well as juvenile fish species. The 5-acre project area is characterized by coastal dune, upper salt marsh, coastal sage scrub, native grass and alkaline meadow habitats.

Ocean Connectors Wetland Restoration Project: Native habitats to be restored by the project include coastal wetland, freshwater marsh, saltwater marsh, mudflats, and stream corridor along the San Dieguito River and the Otay River in San Diego County. The San Dieguito River Valley site is located in north San Diego County. The project site is adjacent to salt ponds at the north end of the San Dieguito River Park. The San Dieguito River leads to a large coastal lagoon.

The second project site is located at the southern tip of the South San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge. This is an urban area near the Mexico border region, in South San Diego County adjacent to the city of Imperial Beach. The wetland is adjacent to the Bayshore Bikeway and the Otay River. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service currently conducts wetland restoration at this site, and Ocean Connectors will add to the current restoration efforts.

Watershed Avengers at Swan Canyon: This project will take place in Swan Canyon in City Heights, a highly urbanized area of central San Diego. The degraded canyon is at the headwaters of Chollas Creek, a sub-area of the Pueblo Watershed. Swan Canyon and the other canyons of City Heights drain to the Pueblo watershed and into San Diego Bay. Decades of development

Exhibit 3: August 2, 2012 Authorization

and anthropogenic impact have degraded the condition of the watershed for wildlife and people. Swan Canyon is a seasonally dry creek and is impacted by significant amounts of trash and large stands of the invasive plant species *Arundo donax*. The project area consists of 2.1 acres of disturbed riparian habitat and 2.77 acres of disturbed coastal sage scrub and chaparral habitat.

Citizens Restoring Coastal Habitat at San Elijo Lagoon: This project will take place at San Elijo Lagoon, one of the largest remaining coastal wetlands in San Diego County. The lagoon is part of the San Elijo Lagoon State Ecological Reserve. There are four distinct areas of the Reserve identified for this project. These include: the 45 acre Ford & SELC Wildlife Habitat Preserve on Escondido Creek; the 4 acre coastal strand area in the southwest corner of the Reserve between the Santa Fe Railroad and Pacific Coast Highway; upland buffer areas adjacent to the estuary; and coastal sage scrub areas of the Santa Carina and Stonebridge Mesas in the East Basin of the Reserve. The lagoon is the coastal terminus of the 54,000 acre Escondido Creek watershed and is habitat for more than 700 species of plants, birds and other fauna.

Project History:

The Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project is a partnership of 18 state and federal agencies, working in concert with local governments, environmental organizations and the business community to acquire, restore and enhance coastal wetlands and watersheds.

Exhibit 3: August 2, 2012 Authorization

At the WRP's October 2000 symposium, there was clear consensus that in order to be successful the WRP needed a strong education and community outreach component to its programs. The Small Grants Program, now named the Community Wetland Restoration Grant Program, was conceived as a way to further this objective while also building institutional capacity in the five counties for planning and implementing restoration projects.

In January 2001, at the same time that proposals were solicited to update the WRP Work Plan, applications for the formerly entitled Small Grant Program (now the CWRGP) were posted on the WRP's website and a program announcement was emailed to over 800 people. The WRP nonprofit partner, Environment Now, housed the program for the first 8 years.

Since its inception the CWRGP has completed 98 projects for a total of \$2,422,000 in funding. Several of the organizations initially funded through the CWRGP have gone on to develop and implement larger scale acquisition and restoration projects for inclusion on the WRP Work Plan. The list of such organizations includes the Huntington Beach Wetlands Conservancy, San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy, the City of Santa Barbara, South Coast Habitat Restoration, Mountains Restoration Trust, the City of Costa Mesa, and Orange County Coastkeeper. These and other organizations underscore the CWRGP's ability to help develop the skills and capacity in groups, through small project design and implementation, to take on larger projects for the purpose of Southern California wetlands recovery.

A list and brief description of completed projects is included with this staff recommendation as Exhibit 2. Additional completed project information and photographs are available on the WRP web site at: http://www.scwrp.org/small_grants.htm

PROJECT FINANCING

Coastal Conservancy	\$650,000
Earth Island Institute	\$900,000
Total Project Costs	\$1,550,000

Conservancy Funding Source

The anticipated source of the Conservancy's funds is the fiscal year 2009/2010 appropriation from the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 84). This funding source may be used for the protection of bays and coastal waters, including projects to prevent contamination and degradation of coastal waters and watersheds, projects to protect and restore the natural habitat values of coastal waters and lands, and projects and expenditures to promote access to and enjoyment of the coastal resources of the state pursuant to the Conservancy's enabling legislation, Division 21 of the Public Resources Code. See Public Resources Code section 75060. The proposed project protects coastal waters, restores natural habitat values and promotes access to and enjoyment of coastal resources through community-based restoration of coastal wetlands, rivers and associated habitats.

Exhibit 3: August 2, 2012 Authorization

Another requirement of Proposition 84 is that for projects that restore natural resources, the Conservancy is directed to give priority to projects that meet one or more of the criteria specified in Section 75071. The proposed restoration project satisfies the following specified criteria: (b) Watershed Protection – the project will contribute to long-term protection of and improvement to the water and biological quality of coastal watersheds and the near shore area of the Pacific Ocean; and (e) Non-State Matching Funds. The 2012-2013 CWRGP projects have significant non-state matching funds. Project costs total \$821,420 with \$581,272 of that coming from non-state sources (\$179,035 federal sources and \$402,237 from private or corporate sources).

The remainder of this project funding is anticipated to come from a Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) grant of \$400,000 to the Conservancy. In May, 2012 the WCB approved the grant with funds from the Habitat Conservation Fund Section 2786 (e/f)(Prop 50) Section 79572(a) – Aquatic/Riparian So Cal projects to fund the CWRGP. The purposes of the CWRGP are consistent with the authorized uses of that funding source, which allows for the acquisition, restoration, or enhancement of riparian habitat and aquatic habitat for salmonids and trout in coastal wetlands, upland areas adjacent to coastal wetlands and coastal watershed lands in Southern California. The CWRGP restores riparian and aquatic habitat and adjacent upland areas.

The ten projects selected for funding in June, 2012 as noted above total \$821,420. Of that, \$240,148 will come from this authorization and the remaining \$581,272 will come from private and federal funding sources. Future CWRGP projects funded under this authorization will be brought to the Conservancy for approval.

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S ENABLING LEGISLATION:

The proposed project is undertaken pursuant to Chapter 6 of Division 21, Sections 31251-31270 of the Public Resources Code, regarding coastal resource enhancement projects. Consistent with Section 31251, "(t)he conservancy may award grants to public agencies and nonprofit organizations for the purpose of enhancement of coastal resources that, because of indiscriminate dredging or filling, improper location of improvements, natural or human-induced events, or incompatible land uses, have suffered loss of natural and scenic values."

Consistent with Section 31251.2, the Conservancy may award grants to enhance a watershed resource partly outside of the coastal zone.

Consistent with Section 31253, the recommended amount of funding is determined by evaluating the total amount of funding available to the Conservancy for coastal resource enhancement projects, the fiscal resources of the applicant, the urgency of the project relative to other similar projects, and the application of other factors prescribed by the Conservancy for the purpose of determining project eligibility and priority. The Conservancy's funding is appropriate at this time because the project's benefits to coastal habitat are significant and the use of community volunteers provides added cost savings and an important public education component.

**CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S 2007
STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL(S) & OBJECTIVE(S):**

Consistent with **Goal 5, Objective B** of the Conservancy's 2007 Strategic Plan, the proposed project will enhance approximately 153 acres of coastal habitats including coastal wetlands and intertidal areas, stream corridors and dunes.

Consistent with **Goal 5, Objective D**, the proposed project will control or eradicate non-native invasive species that threaten important coastal habitats.

**CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S
PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA & GUIDELINES:**

The proposed project is consistent with the Conservancy's Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines, last updated on November 10, 2011 in the following respects:

Required Criteria

1. **Promotion of the Conservancy's statutory programs and purposes:** See the "Consistency with Conservancy's Enabling Legislation" section above.
2. **Consistency with purposes of the funding source:** See the "Project Financing" section above.
3. **Support of the public:** The proposed project is supported by elected officials, numerous community and nonprofit organizations, and local agencies (see Exhibit 3). Proposed projects for the CWRGP are vetted at local meetings to allow input from the local community and to ensure that projects represent local priorities.
4. **Location:** CWRGP projects are located within the coastal zone or coastal draining watersheds. CWRGP project locations span the five southernmost California coastal counties constituting the California Bight, from Point Conception in Santa Barbara County to the international border with Mexico.
5. **Need:** The CWRGP program is not sustainable without Conservancy funding.
6. **Greater-than-local interest:** The CWRGP is regional by design and serves greater than local interest through the cumulative benefits of its multiple small acreage projects. These projects help restore native wetland habitat critical for migratory birds and commercially and recreationally important fish species.
7. **Sea level rise vulnerability:** Three of the project sites detailed in the Project Summary section of this report are located in areas vulnerable to sea level rise. The Refugio Creek mouth, UCSB Campus Lagoon and Bolsa Chica projects are located at or near sea level. Each of these projects sites has adequate surrounding buffer zones to allow for habitat migration and/or conversion considering a range of sea level rise scenarios for the years 2050 and 2100.

Additional Criteria

8. **Urgency:** Many of the CWRGP projects target invasive species for removal. Timely implementation of small invasive removal projects before these species can further spread helps prevent widespread dispersal and habitat destruction.
10. **Leverage:** See the “Project Financing” section above.
12. **Innovation:** CWRGP projects demonstrate innovation through the inclusion of a wide range and diversity of volunteers often targeting low-income and underserved communities and multi-generational community members.
13. **Readiness:** All CWRGP projects described in the “Project Summary” are ready to implement and to be completed within one to two years.
14. **Realization of prior Conservancy goals:** See “Project History” above.”
16. **Cooperation:** The CWRGP projects by design foster cooperation between the lead organization and the community in helping to enhance coastal resources. Multiple community organizations, nonprofits and local agencies are involved in project implementation.

CONSISTENCY WITH LOCAL COASTAL PROGRAM POLICIES:

UC Santa Barbara Campus Lagoon Salt Marsh Restoration: The County of Santa Barbara Comprehensive Plan’s Conservation Element adopted in 1979 and amended August, 2010 identifies coastal salt marsh as one of the ecological communities of greatest interest that should be protected. The Plan’s Coastal Land Use Plan adopted in 1982 and republished in June, 2009 states that “the biological productivity and the quality of coastal waters, streams, wetlands, estuaries, and lakes appropriate to maintain optimum populations of marine organisms and for the protection of human health shall be maintained and, where feasible, restored...”. Consistent with the County’s Coastal Land Use Plan, this project will restore salt marsh and buffer habitat around Campus Lagoon.

Devereux Slough Margin Enhancement: The County of Santa Barbara Local Coastal Program (LCP) identifies Devereux Slough as an environmentally sensitive habitat area that should be protected. The Margin Enhancement project will enhance wetland habitat at Devereux Slough and is consistent with the goals of the County LCP.

Refugio Creek Mouth Restoration Project: The County of Santa Barbara LCP identifies streams as environmentally sensitive habitat areas that should be protected. Refugio Creek is identified in the plan. The plan outlines several policies directed at development within stream corridors, including protection of riparian vegetation. The Refugio Creek Mouth Restoration Project is consistent with the Santa Barbara County LCP because it will enhance the habitat resources at Refugio Creek by removing exotic plant species and re-vegetating with native species. The LCP further recommends that the County encourage and support efforts to increase public understanding of significant habitat areas in part through informal education programs. This project is consistent with that goal of the LCP.

Ormond Beach Native Plant Restoration: The Ventura County General Plan's Coastal Area Plan, last amended in September, 2008 states that "The County supports formal recognition of the value of the Ormond Beach saltmarshes and their enhancement or restoration." The plan further states that "Recreation in the Central Coast saltmarshes will include resource compatible uses such as nature observation, scientific study, educational trips, and possibly fishing. Appropriate public agencies will provide the public with off-site, as well as on-site, interpretive opportunities within existing programs as feasible. As funds become available, new programs should be developed. Consistent with the Coastal Area Plan goals, this project will enhance Ormond Beach saltmarsh habitat and provide hands-on interpretive educational opportunities for community youth.

Lower Topanga Creek Restoration Project: Lower Topanga Canyon is identified as a Sensitive Environmental Resource Area in the Malibu Local Coastal Program, 1986, and also is identified as a Sensitive Environmental Resource Area in the draft Santa Monica Mountains Local Coastal Program. The Topanga State Park General Plan, Draft Environmental Impact Report states that "Topanga Creek Watershed is one of the few watersheds remaining in Southern California with large sections publicly owned and protected. There are numerous intermittent, ephemeral, and a few perennial drainages within the Park. Topanga Creek is the largest perennial drainage in the Park and currently one of only two creeks left in the Santa Monica Bay Watershed supporting a reproducing population of steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)." This project is consistent with these habitat designations and will restore buffer zones important for native plant and endangered fish species.

Invasive Removal in Bell Creek at Audubon Starr Ranch: Starr Ranch is not located within the coastal zone. The Resources Element of the County of Orange General Plan, March, 2011 identifies Starr Ranch as a significant open space inland area and notes that "wildlife habitat is protected through the continued existence and operation of wildlife sanctuaries such as the Audubon Society's Starr Ranch Wildlife Sanctuary." It also points out the important buffer role the Ranch has in relation to the Cleveland National Forest. The plan states that "this area is valuable because of its scenic qualities, recreation opportunities, and for the preservation of important ecological habitats. The Caspers Wilderness Park area merits high-priority status through the combined efforts of County of Orange (Caspers Wilderness Park), U.S. Department of Agriculture (Cleveland National Forest), the National Audubon Society (Starr Ranch Audubon Sanctuary), and adjacent private landowners to create and operate a major conservation and recreation open space area for the benefit of County residents." This project is consistent with that priority status in that it helps restore portions of Starr Ranch through the removal of non-native plant species and re-vegetation with native plants. The project also will enhance steelhead habitat in Bell Creek, a tributary to San Juan Creek with direct connection to the Pacific Ocean.

Bolsa Chica Dune Habitat Enhancement Project: The County of Orange LCP, as well as the LCPs of several cities within the County, identifies wetlands as environmentally sensitive habitat areas that should be protected. The County of Orange General Plan also identifies Bolsa Chica as an important ecological reserve. The Bolsa Chica Dune Enhancement Initiative will promote preservation and good stewardship of wetland resources in the area and will further the goals of the County's and surrounding cities' LCPs.

Ocean Connectors Wetland Restoration Project:

The project does not fall within the jurisdiction of a local coastal program (LCP). However, the San Dieguito project area has a detailed long term management plan and this project is consistent with that plan. Likewise, the South San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge has a detailed long term management plan. Because the project will occur on a National Wildlife Refuge and will be managed in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, it will require a determination by the Coastal Commission that the project is consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the California Coastal Management Program. This determination is also known as “federal consistency review”.

Watershed Avengers at Swan Canyon:

Swan Canyon is not within the coastal zone and is not identified in any Local Coastal Plans. The City of San Diego’s Multi Species Conservation Program (MSCP), March, 1997 identifies Chollas Creek as “one of a variety of smaller canyon systems dispersed throughout the more urban areas of the City. These areas contain a mix of habitats including coastal sage scrub, grasslands, riparian/wetlands, chaparral, and oak woodland...The areas also contribute to the public’s experience of nature and the local native environment.” One of the Management Goals and Objectives of the MSCP is “to enhance and restore, where feasible, the full range of native plant associations in strategic locations and functional wildlife connections to adjoining habitat in order to provide viable wildlife and sensitive species habitat.” The Swan Canyon Watershed Avengers project is consistent with this goal. The project will remove non-native vegetation and enhance native plant biodiversity in Swan Canyon at the headwaters of Chollas Creek.

Citizens Restoring Coastal Habitat at San Elijo Lagoon: The City of Encinitas Local Coastal Program designates San Elijo Lagoon as an environmentally sensitive habitat and states that: “The City will encourage the preservation and the function of San Elijo Lagoon . . . as viable wetlands, ecosystems and habitat for resident and migratory wildlife. . . .” The proposed exotics removal and re-vegetation project is consistent with this program because it will further efforts to restore and enhance the lagoon.

COMPLIANCE WITH CEQA:

Projects considered for funding under this authorization can be classified as Minor Projects and are categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3), Section 15304, Class 4, as minor alterations to the land, water and/or vegetation. They can further be classified as Small Habitat Restoration Projects and are categorically exempt under Section 15333, Class 33, as habitat restoration or enhancement projects not exceeding five acres in size. Staff will file a Notice of Exemption upon approval. A further discussion of each project is provided below.

UC Santa Barbara Campus Lagoon Salt Marsh Restoration: The project will remove invasive plant species from 0.75 acres of lagoon shoreline and re-vegetate the area with native plant species. The project can be classified as a Minor Project and is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3), Section 15304, Class 4, as minor alterations of the

Exhibit 3: August 2, 2012 Authorization

land, water and/or vegetation. The project is further categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines, Section 15333, Class 33, as a Small Habitat Restoration Project that does not exceed five acres in size and assures the enhancement of habitat for plants, or wildlife. Also consistent with Section 15333, Class 33, the project will have no significant adverse impact on endangered, rare or threatened species or their habitat pursuant to section 1506; has no hazardous materials at or around the project site that may be disturbed or removed; and will have no significant impacts when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, current projects or probable future projects. Further, consistent with Section 15333, Class 33, the project involves wetland restoration with the primary purpose of improving conditions for species that rely on wetland habitats, and will be principally carried out with hand labor and not mechanized equipment.

Devereux Slough Margin Enhancement: The project will remove invasive plant species from approximately 8 acres of lagoon shoreline and re-vegetate the area with native plant species. The project can be classified as a Minor Project and is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3), Section 15304, Class 4, as minor alterations of the land, water and/or vegetation on existing officially designated wildlife management areas which result in improvement of habitat for wildlife resources. The project area is located within the Coal Oil Point Reserve and is managed by the UC Natural Reserve System.

Refugio Creek Mouth Restoration: The project will remove invasive plant species along the Refugio Creek mouth and re-vegetate the area with native plant species. The project can be classified as a Minor Project and is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3), Section 15304, Class 4, as minor alterations of the land, water and/or vegetation. The project is further categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines, Section 15333, Class 33, as a Small Habitat Restoration Project that does not exceed five acres in size and assures the enhancement of habitat for plants, or wildlife. Also consistent with Section 15333, Class 33, the project will have no significant adverse impact on endangered, rare or threatened species or their habitat pursuant to section 1506; has no hazardous materials at or around the project site that may be disturbed or removed; and will have no significant impacts when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, current projects or probable future projects. Further, consistent with Section 15333, Class 33, the project involves wetland restoration with the primary purpose of improving conditions for species that rely on wetland habitats, and will be principally carried out with hand labor and not mechanized equipment.

Ormond Beach Native Plant Restoration: The project will remove invasive plant species from approximately 11 acres of dune and wetland habitat and re-vegetate the area with native plant species. The project can be classified as a Minor Project and is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3), Section 15304, Class 4, as minor alterations of the land, water and/or vegetation on existing officially designated wildlife management areas which result in improvement of habitat for wildlife resources.

Lower Topanga Creek Restoration Project: The project will remove invasive plant species

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from approximately one and a half acres of creek bank within Topanga State Park. The project can be classified as a Minor Project and is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3), Section 15304, Class 4, as minor alterations of the land, water and/or vegetation on existing officially designated wildlife management areas which result in improvement of habitat for wildlife resources. The project is further categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines, Section 15333, Class 33, as a Small Habitat Restoration Project that does not exceed five acres in size and assures the enhancement of habitat for plants, or wildlife. Also consistent with Section 15333, Class 33, the project will have no significant adverse impact on endangered, rare or threatened species or their habitat pursuant to section 1506; has no hazardous materials at or around the project site that may be disturbed or removed; and will have no significant impacts when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, current projects or probable future projects. Further, consistent with Section 15333, Class 33, the project involves wetland restoration with the primary purpose of improving conditions for species that rely on wetland habitats, and will be principally carried out with hand labor and not mechanized equipment.

Invasive Removal in Bell Creek at Audubon Starr Ranch: The project will remove invasive plant species from one and a half acres adjacent to Bell Creek. The project also will remove invasive palm trees using nonchemical methods. Audubon Starr Ranch staff have consulted with the California Department of Fish and Game, the Regional Water Quality Control Board and the US Army Corps of Engineers on the tree removal portion of the project, as part of a previous effort to reduce excessive urban runoff into the project area, and determined that the project activities were minor alterations of the land on officially designated wildlife management areas that will result in improvement of habitat for wildlife resources. As such the project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3), Section 15304, Class 4.

Bolsa Chica Dune Habitat Enhancement: The project will remove invasive plant species from dune and wetland habitat in the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve. The project can be classified as a Minor Project and is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3), Section 15304, Class 4, as minor alterations of the land, water and/or vegetation on existing officially designated wildlife management areas which result in improvement of habitat for wildlife resources.

Ocean Connectors Wetland Restoration Project: The youth education project will include removal of invasive plant species and replanting with native vegetation at two sites totaling approximately three acres at the San Dieguito River Park and the South San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge. The project can be classified as a Minor Project and is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3), Section 15304, Class 4, as minor alterations of the land, water and/or vegetation on existing officially designated wildlife management areas which result in improvement of habitat for wildlife resources. The project is further categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines, Section 15333, Class 33, as a Small Habitat Restoration Project that does not exceed five acres in size and

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assures the enhancement of habitat for plants, or wildlife. Also consistent with Section 15333, Class 33, the project will have no significant adverse impact on endangered, rare or threatened species or their habitat pursuant to section 1506; has no hazardous materials at or around the project site that may be disturbed or removed; and will have no significant impacts when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, current projects or probable future projects. Further, consistent with Section 15333, Class 33, the project involves wetland restoration with the primary purpose of improving conditions for species that rely on wetland habitats, and will be principally carried out with hand labor and not mechanized equipment.

Watershed Avengers at Swan Canyon: The project will remove trash and invasive non-native *Arundo donax* from less than five acres of habitat in the Swan Canyon, and re-vegetation with native plant species. The project can be classified as a Minor Project and is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3), Section 15304, Class 4, as minor alterations of the land, water and/or vegetation on existing officially designated wildlife management areas which result in improvement of habitat for wildlife resources. The project is further categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines, Section 15333, Class 33, as a Small Habitat Restoration Project that does not exceed five acres in size and assures the enhancement of habitat for plants, or wildlife. Also consistent with Section 15333, Class 33, the project will have no significant adverse impact on endangered, rare or threatened species or their habitat pursuant to section 1506; has no hazardous materials at or around the project site that may be disturbed or removed; and will have no significant impacts when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, current projects or probable future projects. Further, consistent with Section 15333, Class 33, the project involves wetland restoration with the primary purpose of improving conditions for species that rely on wetland habitats, and will be principally carried out with hand labor and not mechanized equipment.

Citizens Restoring Coastal Habitat at San Elijo Lagoon: This project will remove non-native invasive plant species from approximately 10 acres of four habitat types including coastal sage scrub, coastal salt marsh, riparian scrub and coastal strand. The project is part of the San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy's invasive species program and can be classified as a Minor Project and is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3), Section 15304, Class 4, as minor alterations of the land, water and/or vegetation on existing officially designated wildlife management areas which result in improvement of habitat for wildlife resources.

2001 CWRGP PROJECTS

Refugio Creek Arundo Removal Project

CWRGP Cost: \$9,500 **Total Cost:** \$9,500

Local Lead: Land Trust of Santa Barbara County

Prepared an enhancement plan for removing Arundo donax from the Refugio Creek watershed in Santa Barbara County and replanting with native species.

Carpinteria Creek Steelhead Barrier Project

CWRGP Cost: \$17,825 **Total Cost:** \$22,825

Local Lead: County of Santa Barbara

Completed planning for the removal of an Arizona Crossing and replacement with a span bridge on the Bliss Property reach of Carpinteria Creek.

Goleta Slough Borgaro Parcel Transaction

CWRGP Cost: \$10,000 **Total Cost:** \$10,000

Local Lead: County of Santa Barbara

Transferred ownership a 0.2 acre riparian parcel along San Jose Creek in downtown Goleta to the County of Santa Barbara.

Native Plant Nursery

CWRGP Cost: \$30,000 **Total Cost:** Unknown

Local Lead: Growing Solutions

Expanded a nonprofit nursery growing native riparian and wetlands plants from stock indigenous to specific sites and watersheds in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties.

Ventura River Watershed Monitoring Project

CWRGP Cost: \$22,350 **Total Cost:** Unknown

Local Lead: Santa Barbara ChannelKeeper

Funded a volunteer water quality monitoring program at 14 sites as part of the Ventura River Watershed Restoration project.

Sespe Creek Interpretive Program

CWRGP Cost: \$9,500 **Total Cost:** \$9,500

Local Lead: Keep Sespe Wild Committee

Developed and installed interpretive kiosks along Sespe Creek to increase awareness about the arroyo toad, southern steelhead, and the Sespe watershed.

Nicholas Canyon Creek Stream Restoration

CWRGP Cost: \$30,000 **Total Cost:** \$30,000

Local Lead: Ventura County CoastKeeper.

Removed invasive, non-native plants along the lower reach of Nicholas Canyon Creek and re-established native species.

San Joaquin Marsh Interpretive Docks

CWRGP Cost: \$30,000 **Total Cost:** \$30,000

Local Lead: University of California, Irvine

Installed two movable floating docks in San Joaquin Freshwater Marsh Reserve for education programs related to the marsh restoration.

Cottonwood Creek Enhancement

CWRGP Cost: \$10,000 **Total Cost:** \$10,000

Local Lead: Cottonwood Creek Conservancy

Removed invasive, non-native plants along the lower reach of Cottonwood Creek and re-established native species.

Lopez Canyon Streambed Restoration

CWRGP Cost: \$15,000 **Total Cost:** \$203,000

Local Lead: City of San Diego

Prepared plans and permits for Lopez Canyon Stream Restoration Project, completed environmental review, initiated volunteer program for the project, and developed a public education program about the project.

2002 CWRGP PROJECTS

Devereux Slough North Shore Restoration

CWRGP Cost: \$28,820 **Total Cost:** \$41,020

Local Lead: Santa Barbara Audubon Society

Removed non-native invasive plant species from a seasonal wetland and revegetated the salt marsh and willow woodland plant communities with native species.

Goleta Slough High Marsh Restoration Project

CWRGP Cost: \$21,000 **Total Cost:** \$124,000

Local Lead: County of Santa Barbara

Restored and enhanced high marsh and slough margin habitat near the mouth of Goleta Slough.

Creek Watchers-Latino Outreach

CWRGP Cost: \$29,990 **Total Cost:** \$54,610

Local Lead: Community Environmental Council

Conducted a volunteer water quality monitoring and watershed education program targeted for the local Latino community.

Wildwood Creek Restoration Project

CWRGP Cost: \$19,945 **Total Cost:** \$22,220

Local Lead: Conejo Open Space Conservation Agency

Remove exotic species from Wildwood Creek and its tributaries including Washingtonia palms and Arundo donax.

Nicholas Canyon Creek Stream Restoration

CWRGP Cost: \$30,000 **Total Cost:** \$155,000

Local Lead: Ventura CoastKeeper

Exhibit 3: August 2, 2012 Authorization

Completed a demonstration project highlighting the effectiveness of volunteer community restoration of streambeds.

Cold Creek Resource Enhancement Program

CWRGP Cost: \$30,000 **Total Cost:** \$100,000

Local Lead: Mountains Restoration Trust

Enhanced habitat conditions by informing the public of local environmental issues and high-priority restoration opportunities.

Orange County Wetlands Map and Outreach

CWRGP Cost: \$7,700 **Total Cost:** \$13,700

Local Lead: Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks

Promoted wetlands recovery through the Orange County GreenMap producing effective graphic depictions of existing watersheds, wetlands and needs for recovery.

Agua Hedionda Educational Signs

CWRGP Cost: \$25,000 **Total Cost:** \$59,440

Local Lead: Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation

Developed and constructed 12 educational signs for display around Agua Hedionda Lagoon.

Dog Beach Wetland Restoration and Education

CWRGP Cost: \$25,000 **Total Cost:** \$50,000

Local Lead: Aquatic Adventures

Organized volunteer education and restoration events at the marsh which included removal of invasive plants and trash, restoration of unnecessary paths, and trail enhancement.

Mission Valley Preserve Restoration

CWRGP Cost: \$17,050 **Total Cost:** \$27,050

Local Lead: San Diego River Park Foundation

Built community involvement and stewardship of the San Diego River through three community restoration events on approximately 3.2 acres.

2003 CWRGP PROJECTS

Arroyo Burro Watershed Enhancement Project

CWRGP Cost: \$10,000 **Total Cost:** \$31,888

Local Lead: Santa Barbara County Weed Management Area

Removed pampas grass, Cortaderia selloana, from Elings Park in Santa Barbara.

Creek Watchers Stream Team

CWRGP Cost: \$15,000 **Total Cost:** \$67,925

Local Lead: Santa Barbara ChannelKeeper

Educated volunteers about local watershed issues and trained them to collect water quality data in the Goleta Slough Watershed and the Arroyo Burro Creek Watershed.

Piedra Blanca Stream Restoration and Youth Employment Program

CWRGP Cost: \$22,540 **Total Cost:** \$158,840

Local Lead: The CREW

Conducted stream bank environmental restoration over a 9.5 mile section adjacent to the Piedra Blanca Trail.

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Ormond Beach Wetlands Restoration

CWRGP Cost: \$10,000 **Total Cost:** \$17,135

Local Lead: Wishtoyo Foundation

Removed old abandoned automobiles, concrete pipe, debris, non-native vegetation and an illegally constructed paint ball battlefield on recently acquired habitat.

Ballona Wetlands WOW Team

CWRGP Cost: \$1,623 **Total Cost:** \$48,892

Local Lead: Ballona Wetlands Foundation

Purchased “children friendly” binoculars to be utilized during guided field trips through the coastal marsh where they observe wildlife.

Forrestal Nature Preserve Wetland Restoration

CWRGP Cost: \$9,950 **Total Cost:** \$20,700

Local Lead: Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy

Removed non-native plants from a riparian area on the Forrestal Nature Preserve,

Stream Spirit Rising

CWRGP Cost: \$30,000 **Total Cost:** \$67,890

Local Lead: North East Trees

Created public support for the daylighting of the North Branch Creek through a watershed education and celebration effort.

San Gabriel River Restoration at Whittier Narrows

CWRGP Cost: \$6,500 **Total Cost:** \$10,700

Local Lead: Whittier Narrows Nature Center Associates

Removed invasive plants and trash from a 40 acre area of the San Gabriel River using volunteers and “At Risk Youth” crews.

Think River! Integrated Youth Watershed Education Program

CWRGP Cost: \$14,375 **Total Cost:** \$206,550

Local Lead: San Gabriel Mountains Regional Conservancy

Conducted a watershed education program for youth in the San Gabriel Valley regarding water supply and quality, plants and wildlife habitat, and other related watershed system elements.

Miracles of a Marsh

CWRGP Cost: \$9,910 **Total Cost:** \$20,500

Local Lead: Bolsa Chica Land Trust

Conducted slide presentations at a school, tours of Bolsa Chica wetlands and mesas, and hands on planting of drought resistant plants.

Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve Trailside Habitat Restoration

CWRGP Cost: \$9,900 **Total Cost:** \$29,900

Local Lead: Bolsa Chica Conservancy

Enhanced visitor and student experiences at the wetlands through a restoration and wetlands enhancement program.

Restoration of Native Habitat at Shipley Nature Center

CWRGP Cost: \$15,000 **Total Cost:** \$39,000

Local Lead: Friends of Shipley Nature Center

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Replaced non-native vegetation with California native plants in the 18-acre Shipley Nature Center in Huntington Beach Central Park

Go Wetlands – Restore Now for Tomorrow

CWRGP Cost: \$13,123 **Total Cost:** \$32,951

Local Lead: Bataquitos Lagoon Foundation

Restored 1.72 acres of coastal sage scrub habitat with native plants and installed a rope-based trail access restriction fence.

San Dieguito River Creekside Restoration

CWRGP Cost: \$25,180 **Total Cost:** \$32,380

Local Lead: San Dieguito River Park Foundation

Removed an old farm dump from the river bank and restored the area with native plants using volunteer labor from a nearby local high school.

Wetland Avengers, Restoration and Education

CWRGP Cost: \$25,000 **Total Cost:** \$58,000

Local Lead: Aquatic Adventures

Held a large community event to mobilize volunteers to restore salt marsh and upland habitat in Sweetwater Marsh National Wildlife Refuge, followed with the planting of native species.

2004 CWRGP PROJECTS

Coal Oil Point Reserve West Slough Margin Restoration

CWRGP Cost: \$24,000 **Total Cost:** \$50,500

Local Lead: Community Environmental Council

Restored native plants at Devereux Slough, along 0.3 miles of the western slough margin.

Goleta Slough Watershed Stream Walking Program

CWRGP Cost: \$12,200 **Total Cost:** \$22,500

Local Lead: Santa Barbara Channelkeeper

Mapped and collected data at locations of ecological degradation throughout creeks of the Goleta Slough Watershed.

North Fork Matilija Creek Watershed Restoration

CWRGP Cost: \$29,000 **Total Cost:** \$21,500

Local Lead: The C.R.E.W.

CREW workforce of 85 predominantly disadvantaged youth restored a 3 to 4 mile reach of the North Fork Matilija Creek including debris and non-native plant removal.

Ormond Beach Wetlands Restoration, Part 2

CWRGP Cost: \$15,000 **Total Cost:** \$75,000

Local Lead: Wishtoyo Foundation

Removed invasive vegetation, specifically Pampas Grass, Myoporum, and Ice Plant at recently acquired habitat.

Alhambra Wash Oasis Project

CWRGP Cost: \$14,950 **Total Cost:** \$27,345

Local Lead: Amigos de los Rios

Organized "Conozca a su Vecino Natural - Know Your Natural Neighbor" community clean up and planting days to initiate restoration at the confluence of Alhambra Wash and the Rio Hondo.

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Los Angeles River Enhancement and Interpretive Signage

CWRGP Cost: \$30,000 **Total Cost:** \$133,000

Local Lead: The River Project

Removed invasive, non-native plants and trees along the Los Angeles River in the westerly portion of the Sepulveda Basin and developed interpretive sign,

Lunada Canyon Nature Preserve Wetlands Restoration

CWRGP Cost: \$11,600 **Total Cost:** \$23,200

Local Lead: Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy

Removed non-native plants from a riparian area in the Lunada Canyon Nature Preserve.

CBREP at Upper Newport Bay

CWRGP Cost: \$16,800 **Total Cost:** \$23,900

Local Lead: Tides Center/Marine Education Project

Restored habitat for native wildlife at the Newport Valley project site at Upper Newport Bay,

Laguna Creek Restoration and Outreach Project

CWRGP Cost: \$25,000 **Total Cost:** \$66,000

Local Lead: SOCWC/City of Laguna

Organized restoration and education events to remove non-native species within the project area and replanted with native plants and shrubs.

Tijuana Estuary Wetland Restoration

CWRGP Cost: \$20,000 **Total Cost:** \$56,600

Local Lead: T. R. Nat Estuarine Research Reserve

Removed non-native vegetation from a two acre site in the northeastern most corner of the reserve.

Mission Valley Preserve Enhancement Project

CWRGP Cost: \$25,000 **Total Cost:** \$33,900

Local Lead: San Diego River Park Foundation

Removed 20 tons of trash from abandoned transient camps and 0.8 acres of non-native plants in a cottonwood-willow riparian corridor along the San Diego River. Installation 3 interpretive panels to promote community stewardship.

2005 CWRGP PROJECTS

Camino Lindo Vernal Pool Restoration

CWRGP Cost: \$21,950 **Total Cost:** \$63,150

Local Lead: Growing Solutions

Restored and enhanced a coastal vernal pool and associated uplands in Isla Vista.

Mission Creek Fish Passage Improvement Project

CWRGP Cost: \$25,700 **Total Cost:** \$42,639

Local Lead: Community Environmental Council

Modified an existing grade control structure acting as a fish barrier on Mission Creek at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History.

Ventura River Confluence Preserve Invasive Plant Eradication

CWRGP Cost: \$29,915 **Total Cost:** \$37,910

Local Lead: Ojai Valley Land Conservancy

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Removed non-native plants from a 14 acre riparian corridor adjacent to the Ventura River in the Confluence Preserve.

Stone Canyon Creek – Rediscovering a Natural Resource

CWRGP Cost: \$29,700 **Total Cost:** \$45,200

Local Lead: UCLA

Restored a section of Stone Canyon Creek which runs through UCLA.

Upper Salt Marsh Restoration at Bolsa Chica

CWRGP Cost: \$17,800 **Total Cost:** \$55,700

Local Lead: Bolsa Chica Conservancy

Restore approximately one acre of coastal salt marsh and adjacent upland habitat on Little Mesa in the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve.

Habitat Restoration at Thorton Park

CWRGP Cost: \$25,000 **Total Cost:** \$116,200

Local Lead: City of Santa Ana

Restored wetland and riparian habitat at Carl Thorton Park located in Santa Ana.

Bolsa Chica Coastal Sand Dunes Restoration Project

CWRGP Cost: \$3,300 **Total Cost:** \$3,300

Local Lead: Bolsa Chica Land Trust

Remove non-native plant material and debris from coastal sand dunes habitat on the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve and restored the area with native plants.

Chollas Creek Wetlands Recovery and Student Stream Restoration Team

CWRGP Cost: \$28,000 **Total Cost:** \$95,000

Local Lead: Urban Corps

Restored 1 acre of coastal stream corridor.

Wetland Avengers / Campeones de los Canones

CWRGP Cost: \$30,000 **Total Cost:** \$28,000

Local Lead: Aquatic Adventures

Restored stream corridor and salt marsh habitat through the mobilization and education of a non-traditional environmental constituency by engaging San Diego and Tijuana youth and adults in a bi-national restoration event.

2006 CWRGP PROJECTS

Arroyo Hondo Preserve West Riparian Corridor Sediment Control and Restoration

CWGRP Cost: \$4,600 **Total Cost:** \$8,000

Local Lead: Land Trust for Santa Barbara County

Restored 0.25 acres of habitat using biotechnical soil stabilization techniques and invasives removal in the western riparian corridor of Arroyo Hondo Creek at the Arroyo Hondo Preserve.

Storke Ranch Vernal Pool Restoration

CWGRP Cost: \$24,900 **Total Cost:** \$74,000

Local Lead: Community Environmental Council

Exhibit 3: August 2, 2012 Authorization

Excavated to restore two vernal pools, inoculated pools with material from established pools, removed weeds, planted native plants around the edges of the pools, and restored a portion of the buffer area with coastal scrub and oak woodland species.

West Storke Wetland Enhancement Project

CWGRP Cost: \$24,000 **Total Cost:** \$41,000

Local Lead: University of California

Removed spoil piles from within the wetland and restored heavily invaded wetland edges with native transitional species.

Ventura River Preserve - Rice Creek Realignment and Restoration

CWGRP Cost: \$30,000 **Total Cost:** \$54,000

Local Lead: Ojai Valley Land Conservancy

Removed *Arundo donax* from 4.99-acres of Rice Creek.

Bolsa Chica Pocket Wetlands Restoration

CWGRP Cost: \$10,807 **Total Cost:** \$14,587

Local Lead: Bolsa Chica Land Trust

Restore an approximately one-acre site in the historic pocket wetlands at Bolsa Chica.

Restoration of marsh/coastal strand interface at south Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve

CWGRP Cost: \$18,700 **Total Cost:** \$40,600

Local Lead: Orange County Conservation Corps

Restored approximately 4.5 acres of the marsh-coastal strand interface at the southern end of Bolsa Chica.

San Dieguito North Bank Restoration

CWGRP Cost: \$19,350 **Total Cost:** \$27,250

Local Lead: San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy

Restored 2.0 acres of disturbed wetland and upland by removing non-native vegetation and replanting with native salt marsh and coastal sage scrub species.

Habitat Heroes---The Return of Natives Environmental Education Project

CWRGP Cost: \$25,000 **Total Cost:** \$61,800

Local Lead: Friends of San Diego Wildlife Refuges

Designed and implemented a habitat restoration and interpretation plan for approximately 3.4 acres of transitional upland, maritime succulent scrub and coastal sage scrub communities in the San Diego National Wildlife Refuge (NWR).

Stevenson Canyon Wetlands Restoration Project

CWGRP Cost: \$26,000 **Total Cost:** \$28,500

Local Lead: Sierra Club - SD Chapter

Remove invasive plants and planted native species, restoring 7/10s acre of riparian stream corridor and 3/10s acre upland buffer area in Stevenson Canyon.

2007 CWRGP PROJECTS

Important Bird Area Enhancement-Coal Oil Point Reserve

CWRGP Cost: \$9,500 **Total Cost:** \$16,700

Exhibit 3: August 2, 2012 Authorization

Local Lead: SB Audubon

Improved nesting and roosting habitat for sensitive shorebirds and estuary birds through habitat restoration near the mouth of the Devereux Slough.

Toro Canyon Cape ivy control and riparian restoration

CWRGP Cost: \$30,000 **Total Cost:** \$61,000

Local Lead: Santa Barbara Botanic Garden

Restored habitat in the Toro Canyon watershed by eradicating invasive plants from eight acres of riparian woodland along Garrapata Creek and revegetating the site with native riparian species.

Ojai Meadows Preserve Vernal Pool Restoration

CWRGP Cost: \$20,000 **Total Cost:** \$51,900

Local Lead: Ojai Valley Land Conservancy

Restored a vernal wetland within a previously weed infested 1.5-acre field.

Ormond Pointe Native Plant Nursery and Restoration Project

CWRGP Cost: \$10,000 **Total Cost:** \$15,000

Local Lead: CNPS

Removed non-native plants at the Ormond Beach Wetlands project site and restored the area with appropriate native plants

Pioneer Park Wetlands Restoration

CWRGP Cost: \$20,000 **Total Cost:** \$48,000

Local Lead: Carden Academy

Removed non-native invasive plants and the restored native plants at the project site.

Orange Coast River Park Native Plant Propagation Nursery

CWRGP Cost: \$30,000 **Total Cost:** \$67,600

Local Lead: FHBP

Constructed and supplied a Native Plant Propagation Nursery that will provide a permanent native plant supply for the Orange Coast River Park ecosystem.

Mangrove Removal at the Northern Wildlife Preserve

CWRGP Cost: \$29,600 **Total Cost:** \$46,000

Local Lead: San Diego Audubon Society

Enhanced 1.2 acres of low-to-high salt marsh habitat through the eradication of invasive mangrove plants.

Changing Historical Perceptions through Infrastructure Removal, Education and Restoration

CWRGP Cost: \$21,235 **Total Cost:** \$109,745

Local Lead: San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy

Removed an old sewage treatment facility from within the San Elijo Lagoon State Ecological Reserve and restored critical buffers by removing invasive plant species and revegetating with native plant species.

City and Stream

CWRGP Cost: \$30,000 **Total Cost:** \$91,113

Local Lead: Groundwork Chollas

Revegetated a section of coastal canyon wetland with volunteer residents and students.

2008 CWRGP PROJECTS

Carpinteria Creek Mouth – Native Plant Restoration

Exhibit 3: August 2, 2012 Authorization

Local Lead: South Coast Habitat Restoration

CWRGP Cost: \$25,000 **Total Cost:** \$42,480

Removed invasive non-native flora species and installing native flora along the banks at the mouth of Carpinteria Creek on State Parks property through the use volunteers.

Santa Cruz Island-Canada Del Puerto Creek Restoration and Education Project

CWRGP Cost: \$26,400 **Total Cost:** \$42,480

Local Lead: Growing Solutions

Implemented a restoration project on the banks of Canada Del Puerto on Santa Cruz Island.

Las Positas Creek Restoration at Adams School

Local Lead: City of Santa Barbara

CWRGP Cost: \$20,000 **Total Cost:** \$117,000

Restored 800 linear feet of a highly degraded stream channel with over 300 elementary school students in collaborative, hands-on learning activities.

Once Upon a Watershed

CWRGP Cost: \$28,400 **Total Cost:** \$66,400

Local Lead: Ojai Valley Land Conservancy

Conducted on-the-ground (hands-on) restoration activities including native planting, invasive plant removal and creek, estuary and beach cleanups within the Ventura River watershed.

Colorado Lagoons Champions Curriculum

CWRGP Cost: \$29,800 **Total Cost:** \$43,900

Local Lead: Friends of Colorado Lagoon

Removed ice plant and salvaged native salt marsh plants, by initiating a community-oriented program focused on service learning and supported by the City of Long Beach.

Adopt the Creek: Community Stewards for Stream Restoration in Calabasas

Local Lead: Mountains Restoration Trust

CWRGP Cost: \$29,300 **Total Cost:** \$43,800

Restored wetland and riparian habitat along Las Virgenes Creek in the Malibu Creek watershed.

Big Canyon Bluffs Restoration

CWRGP Cost: \$22,824 **Total Cost:** \$27,330

Local Lead: Newport Bay Naturalists and Friends

Removed non-native, invasive species from the bluffs area immediately upslope from the Big Canyon Creek Restoration Project.

Starr Ranch Sanctuary Riparian Invasive Weed Removal

CWRGP Cost: \$28,400 **Total Cost:** \$83,800

Local Lead: Audubon California (Starr Ranch Sanctuary)

Removed invasive non-native plants, mainly Vinca major, from the riparian corridor along Bell Creek to improve habitat for native fauna.

Oak Restoration Service Learning Project

CWRGP Cost: \$2,000 **Total Cost:** \$3,000

Local Lead: Back to Natives Restoration

Completed a service learning project to restore Oak Woodland to Caspers Wilderness Park.

The Chollas Walk Education and Restoration Project

Exhibit 3: August 2, 2012 Authorization

Local Lead: Groundwork San Diego - Chollas Creek

CWRGP Cost: \$27,000 **Total Cost:** \$54,250

Restored 2.5 acres of Chollas Creek, supported by a student propagation center, a community education and habitat and water quality monitoring effort, and long-term maintenance.

Restoration of Riparian Habitat in Buena Vista Ecological Reserve

Local Lead: Preserve Calavera

CWRGP Cost: \$30,000 **Total Cost:** \$50,100

Conducted pre-project monitoring of agricultural land on the site and restored 1 acre.

Carmel Valley Road Salt Marsh and Wetland Buffer Restoration

Local Lead: Los Penasquitos Lagoon Foundation

CWRGP Cost: \$20,000 **Total Cost:** \$30,000

Removed Hottentot Fig and other non-native plant biomass and facilitated the growth and abundance of native salt marsh and wetland bugger plant and animal species.

2009 CWRGP PROJECTS

Carpinteria Salt Marsh Transitional Habitat Enhancement and Community Outreach Program

Local Lead: Land Trust for Santa Barbara

CWRGP Cost: \$22,000 **Total Cost:** \$22,000

Restored disparate patches of upland and transitional-to-upland vegetation communities, totaling 2 acres, through removal of invasives and installation of natives.

Ojai Creek Riparian Habitat Restoration Project

Local Lead: Ojai Valley Green Coalition

CWRGP Cost: \$28,250 **Total Cost:** \$50,550

Eradicated non-native plants and restored the riparian ecosystem of the Ojai Creek riparian corridor within Libbey Park in Ojai, California.

Community Based Restoration Planning and Outreach, Ventura River Parkway Properties

Local Lead: Ventura Hillside Conservancy

CWRGP Cost: \$6,900 **Total Cost:** \$14,100

Completed a baseline biological survey and restoration needs assessment and site cleanup activities for approximately 18 acres of riparian/wetland habitat located within the Ventura River Parkway Plan area.

Ventura Harbor Community Wetland Restoration

Local Lead: Resource Conservation Partners

CWRGP Cost: \$24,500 **Total Cost:** \$81,000

Conducted non-native plant removal at wastewater treatment ponds located adjacent to the Santa Clara River Estuary to enhance habitat and promote community stewardship.

Grand Canal Restoration

Local Lead: Growing Solutions

CWRGP Cost: \$3,000

(Note: this project was added to the Program off-cycle to facilitate the completion of a stalled project at the Grand Canal). Trained more than 150 volunteers on proper planting techniques and site preparation, and installed native plants

Los Cerritos Wetlands Stewardship Program

Exhibit 3: August 2, 2012 Authorization

Local Lead: Los Cerritos Wetland Stewards

CWRGP Cost: \$28,500 **Total Cost:** \$67,400

Implemented program focused on wetlands education, community outreach, stewardship and conservation at Los Cerritos Wetlands. Removed non-native plant species, developed a weed management program, and established a Southern tarplant seed conservation program.

Coyote Creek Restoration Phase 1: Upland Habitat Project

Local Lead: City of La Habra

CWRGP Cost: \$18,250 **Total Cost:** \$91,800

Restored upland riparian habitat (removal of non-native vegetation and planting of native upland species) along Coyote Creek as it runs through the City of La Habra's Vista Grande Park.

Tucker Wildlife Sanctuary Riparian Restoration Education Project

Local Lead: Tucker Wildlife Sanctuary

CWRGP Cost: \$8,500 **Total Cost:** \$54,200

Remove non-native plants and to restore willow, mulefat, sycamore habitat that was denuded after the Oct. 2007 fire and May 2008 flash flood. Tucker also proposes to expand its K-12 education program to include the topic of watershed health.

Teens Restoring Sensitive Wetlands Habitat at San Elijo Lagoon

Local Lead: San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy

CWRGP Cost: \$24,475 **Total Cost:** \$33,375

Implemented restoration events providing local teenagers with the opportunity to restore degraded habitat while learning ecological concepts.

2010 CWRGP PROJECTS

San Nicholas Wetland Enhancement

Local Lead: UCSB

CWRGP Cost: \$24,000

Restored a degraded, weed-dominated, ½ acre freshwater wetland on the north shore of UCSB Campus Lagoon.

Ormond Beach Native Plant Restoration

Local Lead: Channel Islands Marine Resource Institute (CIMRI)

CWRGP Cost: \$12,420

Removed non-native invasive plant species from back dunes and from a seasonal wetland bordering the back dunes at Ormond Beach; planted native dune and salt marsh plants.

Watershed Avengers – Swan Canyon

Local Lead: Ocean Discovery Institute

CWRGP Cost: \$25,000

Conducted restoration in highly degraded canyon Swan Canyon, engaging non-traditional environmental constituency through hands-on education and involvement in local wetland restoration.

2011 CWRGP PROJECTS

Mission Creek Steelhead Recovery Project

Local Lead: Environmental Defense Center

CWRGP Cost: \$1,000

Exhibit 3: August 2, 2012 Authorization

Enhanced public awareness and engaged the Santa Barbara community in the goal of restoring migratory access for Steelhead in

LOIS CAPPS
23RD DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

Exhibit 3: August 2, 2012 Authorization



2231 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0522
(202) 225-3601
www.capps.house.gov

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

July 26, 2012

- DISTRICT OFFICES:
- 1411 MARSH STREET, SUITE 205
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA 93401
(805) 546-8348
 - 301 EAST CARRILLO STREET, SUITE A
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93101
(805) 730-1710
 - 2675 NORTH VENTURA ROAD, SUITE 105
PORT HUENEME, CA 93041
(805) 985-6807

Douglas H. Bosco
Chairman
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

RE: Community Wetland Restoration Grant Program

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I am writing to express my support for Earth Island Institute's proposal for funding under the Community Wetland Restoration Grant Program (CWRGP) to help implement restoration projects along the Southern California coast.

The CWRGP is an innovative program that helps build strong communities and connections to natural resources by fostering education about wetland ecosystems and involving community members in hands-on wetland restoration projects.

For the last 11 years, Earth Island Institute has been solely funding the CWRGP, which has funded over 90 wetland restoration projects from Point Conception to Tijuana. During this time, outstanding work has been completed in my own congressional district (CA-23), such as restoration of vernal pools in and near Isla Vista, wetland and riparian restoration in Carpinteria Creek and Carpinteria Slough, invasive plant removal at Arroyo Hondo Preserve on the Gaviota Coast, and the construction of a native plant nursery at Ormond Pointe and restoration activities at Ormond Beach.

Through the removal of invasive species, planting of native plants, trash abatement, trails and interpretive element construction, and other efforts to restore and enhance wetland habitats, the CWRGP is helping to bring back some of the wetlands we have lost. These resources are critical for the health of humans and wildlife as well as for recreational and educational opportunities.

Many local non-profit organizations and agencies in my district have been past recipients of CWRGP funding and our community continues to benefit from this important program. I urge you to consider funding for the CWRGP through Earth Island Institute to ensure the long-term sustainability of the program. Therefore, I respectfully request that you give Earth Island Institute's application full and fair consideration, consistent with all rules and regulations.

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JUL 30 2012

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

Exhibit 3: August 2, 2012 Authorization

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my staff in the Santa Barbara District Office at (805) 730-1710.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lois Capps". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

LOIS CAPPS
Member of Congress

COMMITTEES
EDUCATION
HEALTH
RULES
VETERANS AFFAIRS

Exhibit 3: August 2, 2012 Authorization

Assembly
California Legislature



DAS WILLIAMS
ASSEMBLY MEMBER, THIRTY-FIFTH DISTRICT

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0035
(916) 319-2035
FAX (916) 319-2135

DISTRICT OFFICES
101 WEST ANAPAMU STREET, SUITE A
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93101
(805) 564-1649
FAX (805) 564-1651

OXNARD TRANSPORTATION CENTER
201 EAST FOURTH STREET, SUITE 209A
OXNARD, CA 93030
(805) 483-9808
FAX (805) 483-8182

July 6, 2012

Douglas Bosco
Chairman of the Board
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chairman Bosco,

I am writing to express my support for the Community Wetland Restoration Grant Program (CWRGP) and Earth Island Institute's proposal for a grant to help implement community-based resource enhancement projects along the Southern California coast.

The CWRGP is an innovative program that fosters education about wetland ecosystems and gets community members involved in hands-on wetland restoration projects. These educational and community involvement elements help build strong communities and connections to natural resources.

Through the removal of invasive species, planting of native plant species, trash abatement, trails and interpretive element construction, and other efforts to restore or enhance wetland habitats the CWRGP is helping to bring back some of the wetlands we have lost. These resources are critical for the health of humans and wildlife as well as for recreational and educational opportunities.

Conservancy funding for the CWRGP is needed to ensure the long-term sustainability of the program. Many of our local non-profit organizations and agencies have been past recipients of CWRG funding and our community continues to benefit from this important program.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal. Please do not hesitate to contact my office with any questions.

Sincerely,

DAS WILLIAMS
Assemblymember, 35th District

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JUL 11 2012
COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.



DOREEN FARR
Third District Supervisor



OFFICE OF THE
THIRD DISTRICT SUPERVISOR
County Administration Building
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, California 93101
Telephone: (805) 568-2191
Fax: (805) 568-2883
www.countyofsb.org

July 16, 2012

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

Douglas Bosco
Chairman of the Board
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chairman Bosco,

I am writing to express my support for the Community Wetland Restoration Grant Program (CWRGP) and Earth Island Institute's proposal for a grant to help implement community-based resource enhancement projects along the Southern California coast.

The CWRGP is an innovative program that fosters education about wetland ecosystems and gets community members involved in hands-on wetland restoration projects. These educational and community involvement elements help build strong communities and connections to natural resources.

Through the removal of invasive species, planting of native plant species, trash abatement, trails and interpretive element construction, and other efforts to restore or enhance wetland habitats the CWRGP is helping to bring back some of the wetlands we have lost. These resources are critical for the health of humans and wildlife as well as for recreational and educational opportunities.

Conservancy funding for the CWRGP is needed to ensure the long-term sustainability of the program. Many of our local non-profit organizations and agencies have been past recipients of CWRG funding and our community continues to benefit from this important program.

In Santa Barbara County, the Third District includes 304 square miles of ocean area along the southern California coastline from Guadalupe to Goleta Beach. Earth Island Institute has partnered and provided funds to many projects in our community through the Community Wetland Restoration Grant Program. Valuable watershed projects at Coal Oil Point, the UCSB Campus Lagoon, Arroyo Hondo, Refugio beach and many others have benefitted wildlife, residents and visitors to our area by restoring ecological function and promoting environmental stewardship. Please contact my office at (805)568-2192 if you have any questions about my support for Earth Island Institute's proposal.

Sincerely,

Doreen Farr, Chair
Third District Supervisor

SALUD CARBAJAL
First District Supervisor

JEREMY TITTLE
Executive Staff Assistant

MARY ELLEN WYLIE
Administrative Assistant

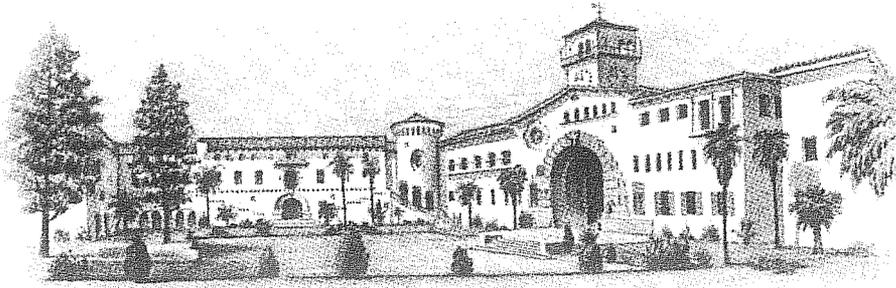
ERIC FRIEDMAN
Administrative Assistant

Exhibit 3: August 2, 2012 Authorization

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, California 93101

TELEPHONE: (805) 568-2186
FAX: (805) 568-2534

E-mail:
supervisorcarbajal@sbcbos1.org



COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

July 11, 2012

Douglas Bosco, Chair
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chairman Bosco,

I am writing to express my support for the Community Wetland Restoration Grant Program (CWRGP) and Earth Island Institute's proposal for a grant to help implement community-based resource enhancement projects along the Southern California coast.

As First District Supervisor for Santa Barbara County, and Co-Chair of the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project Santa Barbara County Task Force, I know firsthand the benefits that the CWRGP and Earth Island Institute have had on our local environment. The CWRGP is an innovative program that fosters education about wetland ecosystems and gets community members involved in hands-on wetland restoration projects. These educational and community involvement elements help build strong communities and connections to natural resources.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, California has lost over 90% of its historic wetlands. To protect the remainder of these critical ecosystems, programs like the CWRGP and organization like Earth Island Institute must be sustained. The benefits to our wetlands include the removal of invasive species, planting of native plant species, trash abatement, trails and interpretive element construction, and other efforts to restore, enhance and bring back some of the wetland habitats that have been lost. These resources are critical for the health of humans and wildlife as well as for recreational and educational opportunities.

Thank you for your consideration of this important program.

Sincerely,

Salud Carbajal
First District Supervisor



Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve

California Department of Parks and Recreation
301 Caspian Way • Imperial Beach • CA • 91932
(619) 575-3613 • Fax (619) 575-6913 • www.TRNERR.org



July 21, 2012

Douglas Bosco
Chairman of the Board
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chairman Bosco,

I am writing to express my support for the Community Wetland Restoration Grant Program (CWRGP) and Earth Island Institute's proposal for a grant to help implement community-based resource enhancement projects along the Southern California coast.

The CWRGP is an innovative program that fosters education about wetland ecosystems and gets community members involved in hands-on wetland restoration projects. These educational and community involvement elements help build strong communities and connections to natural resources.

Through the removal of invasive species, planting of native plant species, trash abatement, trails and interpretive element construction, and other efforts to restore or enhance wetland habitats the CWRGP is helping to bring back some of the wetlands we have lost. These resources are critical for the health of humans and wildlife as well as for recreational and educational opportunities.

Conservancy funding for the CWRGP is needed to ensure the long-term sustainability of the program. Many of our local non-profit organizations and agencies have been past recipients of CWRG funding and our community continues to benefit from this important program.

This program has funded habitat restoration within the Research Reserve resulting in a significant contribution to the high quality coastal sage scrub and salt marsh transitional habitat that exists around our visitors center, laboratory, and training facility. Those restoration actions provided important outreach opportunities and continue to serve as educational elements of our interpretation program.

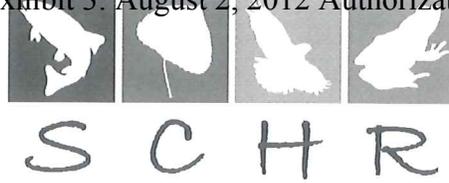
Additionally, this program has supported much-needed restoration efforts in Mexico, stabilizing the highly erosive slopes associated with the un-checked development pressures on the International Border around Tijuana. These cross-border funding opportunities are critical to the health of the Tijuana Estuary. A consistent source of small grants that can be directed into Mexico provides extremely valuable leverage to engage matching funding sources and in-kind labor in Mexico, as was the case with our recent grant with match from SEMARNAT's temporary workers program.

We hope you support this important program.

Sincerely,

Chris Peregrin, Acting Reserve Manager
Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve

Exhibit 3: August 2, 2012 Authorization



July 11, 2012

Coastal Conservancy
Douglas Bosco, Chairman of the Board
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Subject: Support Letter for SCWRP's CWRGP/EII's Proposal

Dear Chairman Bosco,

On behalf of South Coast Habitat Restoration I am writing to express our support for the Community Wetland Restoration Grant Program (CWRGP) and Earth Island Institute's proposal for a grant from the California Coastal Conservancy to help implement community-based resource enhancement projects along the Southern California coast. South Coast Habitat Restoration is a small local non-profit based in Santa Barbara County that manages on the ground habitat restoration projects. We have been a past recipient of funding from the CWRGP and as a result of the funding have been able to work with community members and educated them on the importance of wetlands to our natural biodiversity.

The CWRGP is an innovative program that fosters education about wetland ecosystems and gets community members involved in hands-on wetland restoration projects. These educational and community involvement elements help build strong communities and connections to natural resources.

Through the removal of invasive species, planting of native plant species, trash abatement, trails and interpretive element construction, and other efforts to restore or enhance wetland habitats the CWRGP is helping to bring back some of the wetlands we have lost as well as building partnerships amongst regional and local partners. These resources are critical for the health of humans and wildlife as well as for recreational and educational opportunities.

Conservancy funding for the CWRGP is needed to ensure the long-term sustainability of the program. Many local non-profit organizations and agencies have been past recipients of CWRG funding and our community continues to benefit from this important program.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and if you have any questions please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Mauricio Gomez, Director
South Coast Habitat Restoration
805-729-8787
mgomez@schabitatrestoration.org
www.schabitatrestoration.org

South Coast Habitat Restoration, PO Box 335, Carpinteria, CA 93014
www.schabitatrestoration.org, (805)729-8787

SCHR is a project of Earth Island Institute, a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization



July 23, 2012

Douglas Bosco
Chairman of the Board
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chairman Bosco,

I would like to express my support of the Community Wetland Restoration Grant Program (CWRGP) and Earth Island Institute's proposal for a grant to help implement community-based resource enhancement projects along the Southern California coast.

Ocean Discovery Institute is a San Diego-based 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that addresses a pressing need to prepare young people, from urban and diverse backgrounds, to become tomorrow's environmental and scientific leaders. The demographic we serve has historically been non-participatory in environmental stewardship opportunities. But with the support of the CWRGP, over the last ten years we have been able to dramatically expand participation in hands-on stewardship experiences, engaging over 10,000 underserved young people, their families, and neighbors.

In addition, this support has enabled our organization to collaborate with a multitude of community partners and build capacity for long-term stewardship of local wetland habitats within the highly urbanized and low-income community of City Heights in central San Diego.

Conservancy funding is necessary to ensure the future of the CWRGP program and the continued impacts on the habitats of Southern California.

Sincerely,



Shara Fisler
Executive Director

2211 Pacific Beach Drive, Suite A • San Diego, CA 92109
Office (858) 488-3849 • Fax (858) 488-4265
www.oceandiscoveryinstitute.org

Proud recipient of the *Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring*.



Concerned Resources & Environmental Workers

Serving Youth and the Environment

Winner of the 2004 Governor's Award for Environmental and Economic Leadership

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Mike Mayers

Caitlin Pohle

July 16, 2012

Douglas Bosco
Chairman of the Board
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chairman Bosco,

I am writing to express my support for the Community Wetland Restoration Grant Program (CWRGP) and Earth Island Institute's proposal for a grant to help implement community-based resource enhancement projects along the Southern California coast.

CWRGP's outstanding and innovative community projects help build strong communities and connections to natural resources.

The CREW has been actively involved in the removal of invasive species, planting of native plant species, trash abatement, trails and interpretive element construction, and other efforts to restore or enhance wetland habitats. CWRGP is helping to bring back some of the wetlands we have lost.

Conservancy funding for the CWRGP is needed to ensure the long-term sustainability of the program. Non-profit organizations, such as The CREW, have been a past recipient of CWRGP funding and our community continues to benefit from this important program.

The CREW is an Ojai based 501(c)3 non-profit environmental employment program for young people in Ventura and Santa Barbara County. It has won the prestigious Governor's Award for Environmental Leadership, been named a Treasure of Santa Barbara County, and has been honored by Ventura County Board of Supervisors for its relief work on behalf of flood victims.

The CREW's reputation for hard work & timely project completion has enabled us to establish annual contracts with 7 organizations. This year

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.



Concerned Resources & Environmental Workers

Serving Youth and the Environment

Winner of the 2004 Governor's Award for Environmental and Economic Leadership

we will provide 12,000 hours of employment to young people aged 14 to 25 in Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties.

Please give us a call if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Walter J. McCall".

Walter J. McCall
Chief Executive Officer



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Mayor

Nancy Gardner

Mayor Pro Tem

Keith D. Curry

Council Members

Leslie J. Daigle

Michael F. Henn

Rush N. Hill, II

Steven J. Rosansky

Edward D. Selich

July 19, 2012

Douglas Bosco
Chairman of the Board
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chairman Bosco,

I am writing to express my support for the Community Wetland Restoration Grant Program (CWRGP) and Earth Island Institute's proposal for a grant to help implement community-based resource enhancement projects along the Southern California coast.

The CWRGP is an innovative program that fosters education about wetland ecosystems and gets community members involved in hands-on wetland restoration projects. These educational and community involvement elements help build strong communities and connections to natural resources.

Through the removal of invasive species, planting of native plant species, trash abatement, trails and interpretive element construction, and other efforts to restore or enhance wetland habitats the CWRGP is helping to bring back some of the wetlands we have lost. These resources are critical for the health of humans and wildlife as well as for recreational and educational opportunities.

Conservancy funding for the CWRGP is needed to ensure the long-term sustainability of the program. Many of our local non-profit organizations and agencies have been past recipients of CWRG funding and our community continues to benefit from this important program.

Sincerely,

Nancy Gardner
Mayor of Newport Beach

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JUL 25 2012

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.



July 20, 2012

Douglas Bosco
Chairman of the Board
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

FHBP Board of Directors

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Tom Maloney
Tina Thompson Richards
Theresa Sears
Mike Wellborn

Dear Chairman Bosco,

I am writing to express the support of Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks (FHBP) for the Community Wetland Restoration Grant Program (CWRGP) and Earth Island Institute's proposal for a grant to help implement community-based resource enhancement projects along the Southern California coast.

Supporting Organizations

Amigos de Bolsa Chica
Audubon, Sea & Sage Chapter
Bolsa Chica Conservancy
Caspers Wilderness Park
Volunteers
Earth Resource Foundation
Equestrian Coalition of O.C.
Huntington Beach Wetlands
Conservancy
Huntington Beach Wildlife Care
Center
Laguna Canyon Conservancy
Laguna Canyon Foundation
Laguna Greenbelt, Inc.
Newport Bay Conservancy
Sierra Club, Orange County
Surfrider, Newport Beach
Stop Polluting Our Newport
St. Mark Church Ecophilians

The CWRGP is an innovative program that fosters education about wetland ecosystems and gets community members involved in hands-on wetland restoration projects. These educational and community involvement elements help build strong communities and connections to natural resources.

The CWRGP has been of great help to several start-up wetland preservation groups in Orange County as well as those engaged in the long-term care of major wetlands.

Through the removal of invasive species, planting of native plant species, trash abatement, trails and interpretive element construction, and other efforts to restore or enhance wetland habitats the CWRGP is helping to bring back some of the wetlands we have lost. These resources are critical for the health of humans and wildlife as well as for recreational and educational opportunities.

Conservancy funding for the CWRGP is needed to ensure the long-term sustainability of the program. Many of our local non-profit organizations and agencies have been past recipients of CWRGP funding and our community continues to benefit from this important program.

The CWRGP

Sincerely,

Jean H. Watt, President

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JUL 25 2012

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.