



Transportation & Storm Water Department

September 12, 2016

Ms. Megan Cooper, Deputy Regional Manager, South Coast
Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project, Co-manager
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300
Oakland, California 94612

Subject: Grant Proposal for the Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Feasibility Study and Restoration
Design Plan

Dear Ms. Cooper:

The City of San Diego (City) supports the Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Foundation's (LPLF's) proposal for the *Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Feasibility Study and Restoration Design Plan* (Plan). Since 2009, the City, in collaboration with the other Responsible Agencies in the watershed, has been working closely with the LPLF and California State Parks (CSP) to develop a multi-benefit approach to watershed and lagoon restoration that is consistent with the goals and objectives of the Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Enhancement Plan. The recently updated Lagoon Enhancement Plan provides a road map for restoring the Los Peñasquitos Lagoon's habitats and protecting listed species, along with reducing threats to public health. The proposed Plan is a critical next step in this collaborative effort between the City, LPLF, CSP, Responsible Agencies, and other watershed stakeholder groups, including local residents.

The City has spent approximately \$950,000 to date on preliminary planning for the Los Peñasquitos/Sorrento Restoration Program, a watershed-based approach to integrate floodway and sediment management improvements in Sorrento Valley with downstream enhancement and restoration of native habitats within the Los Peñasquitos Lagoon. The City anticipates spending approximately \$450,000 in Fiscal Year 2017 to further refine the restoration concept design and initiate the environmental compliance (CEQA/NEPA) and permitting process. In addition, the City and other Responsible Agencies have spent approximately \$1,100,000 since 2014 on the development, adoption, and implementation of the Water Quality Improvement Plan (WQIP) for the Los Peñasquitos Watershed Management Area. The WQIP identifies the restoration of salt marsh habitat in the Los Peñasquitos Lagoon as a goal with accompanying schedules and strategies to achieve that goal, including work identified in the Los Peñasquitos/Sorrento Restoration Program and the Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Enhancement Plan.

The City recognizes the need to coordinate efforts with LPLF, CSP and the State Coastal Conservancy (Conservancy), and has encouraged the LPLF to take on the role of technical and scientific oversight that will be provided through the Conservancy's funding. Therefore,

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Ms. Megan Cooper, Deputy Regional Manager, South Coast
September 12, 2016

the City supports the proposed Plan as an integral component of the Los Peñasquitos/Sorrento Restoration Program to ensure that City-led efforts support the goals and objectives of the Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Enhancement Plan. The Plan will also provide the opportunity for a “third-party” technical review to provide the City with valuable input from the most qualified and knowledgeable experts in the field of wetland ecology, restoration, and modeling through the development and implementation of a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) that will include representatives from LPLF, CSP and the Conservancy. The City will work directly with the grant-funded TAC to develop, review, and finalize technical reports prepared for the Los Peñasquitos/Sorrento Restoration Program.

We appreciate your consideration to fund this very important effort. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Program Manager Clem Brown at (858) 541-4336.

Sincerely,



Kris McFadden
Director, Transportation & Storm Water Department

AK/ajp



TONI G. ATKINS
SPEAKER EMERITUS

August 24, 2016

Mr. Douglas Bosco
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Subject: Design & Feasibility Study for the Restoration of Los Peñasquitos Lagoon, A Marsh Natural Preserve.

Dear Mr. Bosco,

I write in support of the Design & Feasibility Study for the Restoration of Los Peñasquitos Lagoon as proposed by the Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Foundation (Foundation). Since 1985, the Foundation has been instrumental in restoring the Lagoon through adaptive management supported by sound science and stakeholder involvement.

As the Assemblymember representing this environmentally sensitive area and as an 8-year San Diego City Councilmember from 2001 to 2008, I am well aware of the Lagoon's critical habitats and its frequent use by migratory birds traveling in the Pacific Flyway. This project will provide an innovative and comprehensive approach in restoring the Lagoon's native habitats and functionality, protecting local residents and visitors to the area from mosquito-borne diseases, and improving floodwater management in the area.

The proposed project helps protect the Pacific Flyway used by migratory birds by preserving critical habitats that are home to threatened and endangered bird and plant species, and helping to abate climate change through the sequestration of greenhouse gases.

I urge the Coastal Conservancy's support for this important project.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Toni G. Atkins".

TONI G. ATKINS
Speaker Emeritus of the California State Assembly
78th State Assembly District

TGA:dds



DAVE ROBERTS

SUPERVISOR, THIRD DISTRICT
SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

September 16, 2015

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State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300
Oakland, CA 94612

Subject: Design & Feasibility Study for the Restoration of Los Peñasquitos Lagoon

Dear Grant Selection Committee,

As a county supervisor representing much of north coastal San Diego County, I am writing to request your support of the funding request submitted by Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Foundation for a Design & Feasibility Study in anticipation of a wetlands restoration project.

The County of San Diego's Department of Environmental Health works closely with the Foundation and California State Parks to fight mosquito-breeding in the lagoon and, through the years, has provided more than \$1 million to the Foundation to improve water-quality monitoring, preserve sensitive habitat and to update its 30-year-old enhancement plan.

Funding from the State Coastal Conservancy's Proposition 1 grant program would bring the Foundation's Design & Feasibility Study to completion and open the door for the Foundation to qualify for additional funding from the county's Vector Habitat Remediation Program.

Los Peñasquitos Lagoon is an extremely valuable resource. Thank you for considering lagoon foundation's funding request.

Sincerely,

DAVE ROBERTS
Vice Chairman
San Diego County Board of Supervisors

DR/ak



COUNCIL PRESIDENT SHERRI S. LIGHTNER

CITY OF SAN DIEGO

September 30, 2015

State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300
Oakland, CA 94612

Subject: Support for Funding of the Restoration of Los Peñasquitos Lagoon

Dear Grant Selection Committee,

I represent the communities of Torrey Pines, Carmel Valley and University City, all of which are adjacent to Los Peñasquitos Lagoon. Please support the funding request for a Design & Feasibility Study for the Restoration of Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Project, proposed by the Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Foundation. Since 1985, the Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Foundation has been instrumental in the restoration of Los Peñasquitos Lagoon through adaptive management and coordinating stakeholder involvement. This includes working with the County of San Diego, California State Parks, the State Water Board, City of San Diego and members of the public, including residents of local communities and volunteer groups active in the Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve, which contains the Lagoon.

It is my understanding that this project will provide an innovative and comprehensive approach to generate a multitude of benefits that will restore Los Peñasquitos Lagoon's native habitats and functionality while improving management of floodwaters and reducing the exposure of local communities to mosquito-borne West Nile Virus. The proposed project will also provide regional benefits that include protection of the Pacific Flyway, used by migratory birds, and preserving critical habitats for endangered bird and plant species.

I have long supported the Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Foundation and it is my intention to continue to support efforts that lead to the restoration of Los Peñasquitos Lagoon. Thank you for your consideration of funding for this important project. Please let me know if my office or I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sherri S. Lightner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Sherri S. Lightner





DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

San Diego Coast District

4477 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA 92110

Lisa Ann L. Mangat, Director

September 24, 2015

State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300
Oakland, CA 94612**RE: Design & Feasibility Study for the Restoration of Los Peñasquitos Lagoon, a State Natural Preserve**

Dear Dear Grant Selection Committee,

I am writing to ask your support for the Design & Feasibility Study for the Restoration of Los Peñasquitos Lagoon, a Marsh Natural Preserve located within the Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve. Since the certification of the original Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Enhancement Plan and Program in 1985, several drivers that affect the health of the Lagoon have changed. Urbanization and land use within the watershed over the last several decades have greatly impacted Los Peñasquitos Lagoon's processes and converted over 50% of the Lagoon's historic saltmarsh habitats into brackish, freshwater habitats, and areas dominated by invasive species such as Italian rye grass (*Festuca perennis*). Unabated, these impact will continue to degrade the ecosystem services provided by Los Peñasquitos Lagoon and further the impairment of this rare coastal wetland.

Understanding the need to update the original lagoon enhancement plan, California State Parks (CSP) has worked closely with the Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Foundation (LPLF) and key stakeholders to develop new management strategies that include large-scale restoration. Funding was provided by State Coastal Conservancy and Torrey Pines Association to initiate the update process followed by funding from the County of San Diego needed to finish it. With completion expected for December 2015, the updated lagoon enhancement plan generated a set of alternatives for large-scale restoration of the Lagoon's native salt marsh habitats that were evaluated against a set of stakeholder driven criteria and technical analysis that included contemporary mapping of the Lagoon's habitats and plant associations; habitat baseline modeling; and habitat trajectory modeling that considered watershed inputs and predicted sea level rise scenarios for the California coastline. The proposed project is needed to further evaluate the preferred alternative through a feasibility study using established hydrology and habitat modeling and, ultimately, result in the conceptual design needed to initiate and complete CEQA determination. Funding from the State Coastal Conservancy is needed to complete this effort and move large-scale restoration of Los Peñasquitos Lagoon toward being a "shovel ready" project in alignment with regional and State plans for recovering coastal wetlands in urban settings.

CSP owns nearly all of the Los Peñasquitos Lagoon as a part of the Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve and works directly with the LPLF to manage this valuable public resource. The Foundation has served a critical role in restoring Los Peñasquitos Lagoon, providing an efficient and adaptive approach to management efforts previously unfulfilled due to lack of capacity and funding within CSP. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is currently being prepared to memorialize partnership roles between LPLF and CSP with regard to the implementation of the updated lagoon enhancement plan. Included in the MOU will be CSP's role with regard to long-

Exhibit 2: Project Letters

term maintenance responsibilities needed to sustain benefits generated by large-scale restoration of Los Peñasquitos Lagoon. CSP has a long history of invasive plant control and implementing small-scale restoration projects and is working in partnership with LPLF to improve its capacity in a greater scope. CSP has already taken on a greater role on larger-scale projects to support management and long-term improvements, working with the watershed stakeholders and Regional Board with the TMDL process, engaging with the Wetland Recovery Project's Wetland Manager's Group and working with San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) to establish an endowment to fund inlet maintenance at Los Peñasquitos Lagoon.

CSP will also participate in the proposed project, providing up to \$50,000 in in-kind services for efforts that include: provision of right of entry permits needed to access the project site; as needed technical oversight for project tasks; providing data sets and mapping services as needed; and guidance with regard to assuring that field work does not impact sensitive habitats or species. CSP will also provide guidance for evaluation and design of the preferred alternative to assure that it complies with CSP planning documents that include the Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve Vegetation Management Statement and the San Diego Coastal State Park System General Plan – Volume 8, Torrey Pines State Beach and State Reserve. CSP will also serve as the Lead Agency on CEQA evaluation and determination for the preferred restoration alternative design generated by the project.

Please feel free to contact me (619-688-3260) or our District Services Manager Darren Smith (619-952-3895) for questions concerning our support for this grant or our partnership with the Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Foundation.

Sincerely,



Garratt Aitchison, San Diego Coast District Superintendent

Cc Robin Greene, North Sector Superintendent
Darren Smith, District Services Manager
Mike Hastings, Executive Director, Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Foundation
Reading File