

COASTAL CONSERVANCY

Staff Recommendation  
September 15, 2004

**MISSION CREEK MUSEUM AREA RESTORATION PROJECT DESIGN**

File No. 02-083  
Project Manager: Mary Travis

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Authorization to disburse up to twenty-eight thousand dollars (\$28,000) in additional funds to the Community Environmental Council for the Mission Creek Museum Area Restoration Project Design.

**LOCATION:** Along Mission Creek at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, Santa Barbara (Exhibit 1)

**PROGRAM CATEGORY:** Resource Enhancement

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**EXHIBITS**

Exhibit 1: Staff Recommendation of September 26, 2002

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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 disbursement of an additional amount not to exceed twenty-eight thousand dollars (\$28,000) to the Community Environmental Council for the Mission Creek Museum Area Restoration Project Design. This authorization is subject to the requirements imposed by the previous Conservancy authorization for this project.”

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 the Mission Creek Museum Area Restoration Project Design remains consistent with the resolution, findings and discussion accompanying the Conservancy action of September 26, 2002, attached as Exhibit A to the accompanying staff recommendation.”

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**PROJECT SUMMARY:**

The proposed authorization would augment a previous Conservancy grant to the Community Environmental Council (CEC) for the Mission Creek Museum Area Restoration Project Design.

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The Mission Creek Museum Area Restoration Project is intended to improve habitat and water quality along a 1,200-foot-long stretch of Mission Creek in Santa Barbara. The project site consists of thirteen acres along the creek’s middle reach and includes buildings and grounds of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. The project entails restoring and enhancing streamside and riparian vegetation on about five acres of the site; replacing almost two acres of impervious asphalt in the Museum’s main public parking lot and other paved areas near the creek with vegetative buffers and permeable surfaces; and rehabilitating several bioswales draining into the creek and installing filters on storm drains to control and improve runoff. The project will also include building interpretive trails and exhibits to educate the public about stream restoration, coastal watersheds, and stormwater management. Additionally, the project will investigate the feasibility of modifying an existing grade control structure within the stream channel to improve passage for steelhead.

On September 26, 2002, the Conservancy approved a grant to CEC of \$110,000 to complete the planning and design phase of the project (see Exhibit A). At the time of Board authorization CEC had estimated that the cost for this phase would be about \$120,000. However, in developing the work program CEC found that the cost would be considerably higher—about \$220,000. Because it entails integration of several distinct components, the project will require considerably more landscape architecture assistance than was originally anticipated.

Matching funds from the Museum of Natural History and other project partners will cover most of the additional cost (see “Project Financing” section below). However, there is still a \$28,000 shortfall. CEC has requested that the Conservancy grant an additional \$28,000 so that the project can continue without interruption.

The Mission Creek Museum Area Restoration Project Design remains consistent with the resolution and findings adopted by the Conservancy on September 26, 2002, and discussed in the corresponding staff recommendation attached as Exhibit A. This authorization is also consistent with the Conservancy’s Strategic Plan, as discussed below.

**PROJECT FINANCING:**

**Planning and design:**

Coastal Conservancy (previously authorized)	\$110,000
Coastal Conservancy (proposed augmentation)	28,000*
Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History	59,000
County of Santa Barbara	7,800
Mission Creek Restoration Partnership	<u>15,500</u>

**Total cost of planning and design phase: \$220,300**

**Project implementation:**

State Water Resources Control Board	\$625,000
Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History	69,000
Other sources (to be determined)	<u>180,000</u>

**Total cost of implementation: \$874,000**

\* The anticipated source of Conservancy funds for this project is the FY 2003/04 appropriation to the Conservancy from the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhoods and

Coastal Protection Act of 2002 (Proposition 40). Consistent with Proposition 40, the proposed project includes matching funds from other sources.

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

Consistent with **Goal 5 Objective A** of the Conservancy's Strategic Plan, the proposed authorization would promote coastal resource conservation by enabling the restoration and enhancement of five acres of riparian habitat along Mission Creek, one of southern Santa Barbara County's largest coastal streams.

Consistent with **Goal 6 Objectives A and B**, this authorization entails planning and design for a project that would restore habitat along Mission Creek and improve water quality for the benefit of steelhead/rainbow trout and other species.