

San Diego Regional Habitat Restoration Flood Control and Water Quality Project
 Mike Kelly – Conservation Resources Network

Proposition 50 Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Project Proposal Form

Detailed guidance on the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Grant Program can be found on the State Water Resources Control Board's Prop 50 Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) grant program web page at: <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/funding/irwmgp/index.html>. Please familiarize yourself with the general requirements of this program before preparing and submitting a project proposal.

Completed forms should be submitted no later than December 1, 2004, either via email to jon.vanrhyn@sdcountv.ca.gov or mailed to the following location:

Jon Van Rhyn
 County of San Diego
 Watershed Protection Program
 9325 Hazard Way
 San Diego CA 92123

PHONE: 858-495-5133

FAX: 858-495-5263

SECTION A – PROJECT INFORMATION

1. Project Title	San Diego Regional Habitat Restoration Flood Control and Water Quality Project
2. Contact Information	
? Agency/organization	San Diego Conservation Resources Network
? Address	
? Phone	858-342-8856
? E-mail	MKellySD@aol.com
? Submitted by (name & title)	Mike Kelly – CRN Manager
3. Project Location (City/Community)	San Diego County
4. Watershed (if multiple or regional, please indicate)	Regional
5. Amount Requested	\$5 Million
6. Match Information (a minimum 10% match is required for all projects):	
? Estimated match amount	\$500,000
? Has a match been identified (y/n)?	Yes
? If so, please identify the source(s)	Prop A TransNet Funds
7. Status of Project (conceptual, designed & ready to build, CEQA completed, etc.)	Projects funded would utilize the benefits of existing permits and previously approved environmental documents prepared in connection with existing regional projects such as habitat conservation or watershed management plans.
8. Project Description (less than 100 words)	
<p>Habitat loss is considered to be the number one threat to conservation of biological diversity on a global scale, and on a regional scale, habitat conservation needs have been well recognized. These needs are being addressed through multi-jurisdictional Natural Community Conservation Program/Habitat Conservation Plan efforts focusing on conservation of habitat types and target species.</p> <p>Yet, this approach does not specifically link hydrologic functions or aquatic habitat needs with the conservation objectives. Therefore, it is essential that land and habitat resources along drainages and riparian fringe areas be considered for acquisition, restoration and enhancement to serve multiple planning objectives.</p> <p>This regional project would provide funding acquisition, restoration, and enhancement of open space by coordinating with the jurisdictions and agencies that plan, permit and implement existing regional programs – such as the Multiple Species Conservation Program, Multiple Habitat Conservation Program and watershed management plans. Multifunction habitat restoration opportunities (where parallel efforts are underway to enhance watershed functions) would be encouraged.</p>	
9. Additional information (include photo, regional map, text as needed. Please limit entire document to 3 pages or less): San Diego County	

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Project Site

Project sites would include riparian, wetland and wildlife preserve corridors along rivers in San Diego County.

Project Goals

The goals of this regional project is to provide funding to:

Acquire, restore and enhance open space in order to:

- a. Capture and hold storm water run off.
- b. Protect existing ground water resources from urban development.
- c. Create habitat in such a manner that it connects to the habitat and restoration to support threatened and endangered species.

Background and History

The San Diego Conservation Resources Network (CRN) provides a resource center to support and enhance the stature, effectiveness, and visibility of the greater San Diego conservation community involved in land and cultural resource conservation and management by sparking:

- Collaboration among and between resource conservancies, the academic community, public land stewards, and the general public;
- Applied research to improve natural and cultural resource monitoring and land management activities;
- Sharing of analytical tools, staff support, and research results to assist resource conservancies and public land stewards in natural and cultural resources conservation, monitoring, and land management activities;
- A public forum on the natural and cultural resource values of the San Diego region, the challenges to these values, and the actions necessary for their stewardship in perpetuity; and
- Assistance in mobilizing the financial means necessary to protect, manage, and monitor the condition of San Diego’s natural and cultural resources.

This regional project would be a multifaceted and multi pronged effort within watersheds throughout San Diego County to implement existing habitat conservation and watershed management plans and protect the aquifers within the County that are used by local water districts.

SECTION B – SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

<u>Grant Selection Criteria</u>	<u>Met</u>	<u>Comments</u>
1. CWC section 79561 states that eligible projects must include one or more of the water management elements listed below (see Guidance Section III.C.). Please check all that apply to your proposed project.		
Programs for water supply reliability, water conservation, and water use efficiency	YES	Project will facilitate natural retention and treatment of storm water in an effort to facilitate recharge into San Diego county aquifers.
Storm water capture, storage, treatment, and management	YES	Restoration of wetlands and other habitat will assist in slowing and capturing transient and flood flows. Water quality is improved through natural treatment in both surface and subsurface flows that reduces sediment transport and the need for down-stream stabilization structures.
Removal of invasive non-native plants, the creation and enhancement of wetlands, and the acquisition, protection, and restoration of open space and watershed lands	YES	This program is designed to facilitate the acquisition of open space and the creation of wetlands with the goal of using natural stream and wetland functions to improve urban and storm water quality. The restoration of native plants will work to reduce the changes of invasive species. Those species, particularly Arundo and tamarisk are located in several (if not all) river watersheds in the County.
Non-point source pollution reduction, management and monitoring	NO	
Groundwater recharge and management projects	YES	Retention of storm water flows in natural wetland and habitat areas will facilitate and increase ground water recharge.
Contaminant and salt removal through reclamation, desalting and other treatment technologies	YES	The project will reduce the potential for contamination. Acquiring land for open space and restoring and enhancing native habitat will eliminate impacts from potential development.

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Water banking, water exchange, water reclamation and improvement of water quality	NO	
Planning and implementation of multipurpose flood control programs that: (A) Protect property;	YES	Restoration of wetlands and other habitat will assist in slowing and capturing transient and flood flows. Water quality is improved through natural treatment in both surface and subsurface flows that reduces sediment transport and the need for down-stream stabilization structures.
(B) Improve water quality,	YES	This program is designed to facilitate the creation of wetlands with the goal of using natural stream and wetland functions to improve urban and storm water quality.
(C) Storm water capture and percolation;	YES	This program is designed to facilitate the creation of wetlands with the goal of using natural stream and wetland functions to improve urban and storm water quality.
(D) Protect or improve wildlife habitat	YES	Therefore, it is essential that land and habitat resources along drainages and riparian fringe areas be considered for acquisition and restoration to serve multiple planning objectives. This fund would be used to acquire, restore and preserve open space utilizing regional programs involving multiple partners. Multifunction habitat restoration opportunities (where parallel efforts are underway to enhance watershed functions) would be encouraged.
Watershed management planning and implementation. The following are recommendations coming for the San Diego Watershed Management Plan		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install, restore, improve, and maintain erosion control and water retention structures, particularly in areas determined to be at high risk to flooding • Provide public information (e.g., signage and mailings) on flood hazards, particularly in areas determined to be at high risk to flooding • Adopt guidelines to encourage the “daylighting” of underground culverts as well as the removal of concrete/riprap channel lining as appropriate to improve water quality while maintaining and/or improving the existing level of flood protection • Increased oversight of section 401 WQC applications by the SDRWQCB to minimize hydromodification of the streams that lead to decreased water quality and the loss of beneficial uses • Removal of existing hydro-modifications where feasible • Reduce the potential for contamination of groundwater that results from uncontrolled or poorly controlled urban runoff practices. • Coordination between the SWRCB and RWQCB TMDL staff and managers to include NPS management measures in the TMDL Implementation Plans, as appropriate. • Promote coordination of interagency programs that protect water quality from urban runoff pollution. • Reduce the potential for contamination of surface and groundwater that results from uncontrolled or poorly controlled urban runoff practices through the implementation of BMPs. • Develop tools to assess the effectiveness of urban water pollution programs. 	<p>YES</p> <p>NO</p> <p>YES</p> <p>YES</p> <p>NO</p> <p>YES</p> <p>YES</p> <p>YES</p> <p>YES</p> <p>NO</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project will maintain erosion control and enhance water retention through creation/restoration of wetlands and other habitat. • By eliminating the potential for development through acquisition or restoration, the need for hydromodification is eliminated. • The project will involve the SDRWQCB staff in planning • By eliminating the potential for development through acquisition or restoration the potential for contamination will be greatly reduced • Project will coordinate with these staff and with other SWRCB grant funded programs to implement a water quality-monitoring program to assist with the 303(d) listing process. • CRN will coordinate with jurisdictions and agencies that plan permit and oversee and implement existing habitat preservation and watershed management projects. • By eliminating the potential for development through acquisition or restoration the potential for contamination will be greatly reduced

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Demonstration projects to develop new drinking water treatment and distribution methods	NO	
The Dept. of Water Resources (DWR) and State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) have established the statewide priorities listed below for guiding the selection of projects for funding (see Guidance Section II.E.). Please check all that apply to your proposed project.		
Reduce conflict between water users or resolve water rights disputes, including interregional water rights issues	NO	
Implementation of Total Maximum Daily Loads that are established or under development	NO	
Implementation of Regional Water Quality Control Board Watershed Management Initiative Chapters, plans, and policies. The project meets the following objectives		
Remove impervious surface/replace non irrigated surfaces	YES	By acquiring the land for open space or restoring habitat, the hardening of surfaces will be prevented
Protect, restore, and maintain beneficial uses	YES	The following beneficial uses will be improved through the implementation of the project. Rare, threatened, or endangered species The project will support habitat for threatened and endangered species. Municipal, domestic, agricultural, and industrial water supplies The water supply is anticipated to benefit from increased recharge and water quality in the groundwater. Warm and cold freshwater habitats In appropriate areas, the creation of shaded aquatic habitat will help control water temperature and facility fish nurseries.