

2001 Summary of Small Grants Projects**Grant Amount****1. Refugio Creek Arundo Removal Plan \$9,500**

Grantee: Land Trust of Santa Barbara County.

Prepare an enhancement plan for removing *Arundo donax*, a highly invasive, non-native plant, from the Refugio Creek watershed along the Gaviota Coast in Santa Barbara County and revegetate with native species. The plan will include a site description, methods for plant removal, planting plan, maintenance and monitoring plan, and outreach/education component. The lower portion of the project area is located within the coastal zone. In order to protect the downstream coastal resources from *Arundo*, this highly invasive plant must also be removed from the upper watershed.

2. Carpinteria Creek Steelhead Barrier Replacement Project \$17,825

Grantee: County of Santa Barbara

The proposed project will fund the planning phase for the removal of an Arizona Crossing and the replacement of the crossing with a span bridge on the Bliss Property reach of Carpinteria Creek. The project will review bridge design alternatives and components of the crossing restoration, comprised of specifications for the creek bed and bank restoration.

3. Goleta Slough Borgaro Parcel Transaction \$10,000

Grantee: County of Santa Barbara.

Transfer ownership a 0.2 acre riparian parcel along San Jose Creek in downtown Goleta to the County of Santa Barbara. The property is being donated to the County. The San Jose Creek – Borgaro Parcel Enhancement Plan is attached as Exhibit 4 to this staff recommendation. Transaction costs include preparation of a preliminary title report, Phase I environmental assessment, and appraisal report, boundary survey, and title insurance. Preservation of this property will avoid further impacts to Goleta Slough and will benefit steelhead trout which have been observed in the Creek.

4. Santa Barbara Native Plant Nursery \$30,000

Grantee: Growing Solutions.

Provide funding to expand a nonprofit nursery growing native riparian and wetlands plants from stock indigenous to specific sites and watersheds in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. The nursery also operates environmental education programs in the community. Growing Solutions will provide at least \$23,000 in matching funds and in-kind services. This includes contribution of the nursery site rent-free by the County of Santa Barbara. This native plant nursery will benefit coastal wetlands and riparian habitat by providing a source of genetically-appropriate plant stocks for enhancement projects currently being designed.

5. Ventura River Watershed Restoration **\$22,350**

Grantee: Santa Barbara ChannelKeeper (SBCK).

The Ventura River Watershed Restoration project is a three-phased effort to initiate a targeted restoration program in the river. Phase I involves volunteer water quality monitoring at 14 sites along the river. In Phase II, SBCK will sample micro-invertebrates, characterize and map the stream reaches between monitoring sites, identify opportunities for restoration, and conduct environmental review. In Phase III, discrete restoration activities will be undertaken to improve habitat and water quality. Under the current authorization, Environment Now will provide a small grant of \$22,350 for Phases I and II. It is anticipated that an additional \$7,650 may be granted from the Small Grants Program for Phase III when specific restoration activities have been identified and environmental review has been completed. This additional funding would be considered at a future Conservancy meeting. The purpose of the project is to enhance habitat in the Ventura estuary and River by restoring watershed processes, improving water quality, and enhancing fish and wildlife movement corridors. SBCK will provide approximately \$130,000 in matching funds for this project.

6. Sespe Creek Interpretive Program **\$9,515**

Grantee: Keep Sespe Wild Committee.

Provide funding for interpretive kiosks along Sespe Creek to increase awareness about the arroyo toad, the southern steelhead, and the watershed in general. The kiosks will be visually consistent with those in the Los Padres National Forest. Keep Sespe Wild will donate the labor for constructing the kiosks. This project will complement efforts to preserve and restore steelhead trout in Sespe Creek and the Santa Clara River watershed.

7. Nicholas Canyon Stream Restoration **\$30,000**

Grantee: Ventura County CoastKeeper.

Remove invasive, non-native plants along the lower reach of Nicholas Canyon Creek and re-establish native species. The Nicholas Canyon Stream Restoration Enhancement Plan is attached as Exhibit 5 to this staff recommendation. The California Conservation Corps will help with removal of invasive plants. Local elementary school students will assist with the planting of native species. The restoration work will also be incorporated into cultural presentations offered at the Native American Demonstration village planned for the site adjacent to the creek. Ventura County CoastKeeper will provide approximately \$52,000 in matching funds for this project.

8. San Joaquin Marsh Interpretive Docks **\$30,000**

Grantee: University of California, Irvine

The San Joaquin Marsh Interpretive Docks project is an ancillary project to the San Joaquin Freshwater Marsh Enhancement Project which was funded in part with a \$1.2 million dollar grant from the Conservancy. The Interpretive Docks will also complement additional wetlands enhancements that are being planned. The small grants project will install two temporary (i.e., movable) floating docks in San Joaquin Freshwater Marsh Reserve that will traverse the habitat continuum from upland to marsh to open pond. The docks will be used by Reserve staff for education programs related to the marsh restoration with lo-cal elementary and high school students, as well as U.C. Irvine students.

9. Cottonwood Creek Enhancement \$10,000

Grantee: Cottonwood Creek Conservancy.

Remove invasive, non-native plants along the lower reach of Cottonwood Creek and re-establish native species. In 1996, the Conservancy approved the Cottonwood Creek Enhancement Plan and authorized a \$5,600 nonprofit grant for the first phase of the enhancement project. The WRP Small Grant funding would be used to complete the enhancement activities.

10. Lopez Canyon Stream Restoration Project \$15,000

Grantee: City of San Diego

Prepare plans and permits for Lopez Canyon Stream Restoration Project, complete environmental review, initiate volunteer program for project, and develop a public education program about the project. The project will design a series of hydrologic structures aimed at slowing water velocity to reduce scour and protect alluvial terraces that contain the willowy monardella, a state- and federally-listed endangered plant. The education program will include installation of an interpretive kiosk, preparation of a brochure, and possibly production of cable access television show. This project will enhance coastal salt marsh habitat in Los Peñasquitos Lagoon by reducing sediment flows into the lagoon. Under the current authorization, Environment Now will provide a small grant of \$15,000 for planning phase activities. The City of San Diego has received a \$183,000 grant to implement the project, following environmental review. Staff anticipates that an additional \$5,000 may be granted from the Small Grants Program for implementation activities. This additional funding would be considered at a future Conservancy meeting.