

1. Creek Watchers/Stream Team**\$15,000**

Grantee: Santa Barbara Channel Keeper
 Total cost: \$67,925

Creek Watchers Stream Team will recruit community volunteers, educate them about local watershed issues, and train them to collect water quality data in two major Santa Barbara County watersheds, the Goleta Slough Watershed and the Arroyo Burro Creek Watershed.

2. Arroyo Burro Watershed Enhancement Project**\$10,000**

Grantee: County of Santa Barbara Agricultural Commissioner's Office
 Total cost: \$31,888

The Santa Barbara County Weed Management Area (SBCWMA) proposes to remove pampas grass, *Cortaderia selloana*, from Elings Park, along the right-of-way on Las Positas Road at Portesuello Road, and along Cliff Drive adjacent to Elings Park. The removal of pampas grass will protect and enhance coastal natural habitat, increase native plant habitat and increase coastal resources of the Arroyo Burro estuary and associated wetlands. Signage will identify the project and its benefits and the areas being protected.

3. Ormond Beach Wetlands Restoration**\$10,000**

Grantee: Ventura Coast Keeper

The project will involve the initial phase of restoration of a portion of the California Coastal Conservancy's newly acquired 265 acres of the Ormond Beach Wetlands and an adjacent section of wetlands jointly owned by the city of Oxnard and the Metropolitan Water District by removing old abandoned automobiles, a section of broken large diameter concrete pipe, debris sometimes used as a transient population encampment, and non-native vegetation. This project also will remove hazardous rusty metal and an illegally constructed paint ball battlefield, thus clearing the area of dangerous debris and enhancing the area's scenic beauty. The Ventura Coast Keeper will be working with Oxnard City Corps, a youth development program of the city of Oxnard that uses community service as a platform for work and service learning, and serves middle school through high school and college students interested in personal development, including a large number of at risk minority youth.

4. Piedra Blanca Stream Habitat Restoration and Youth Employment Program**\$30,000**

Grantee: The CREW
 Total cost: \$158,840

The C.R.E.W. will conduct habitat restoration along several miles of Piedra Blanca Creek, a fairly pristine, perennial tributary of the Sespe Creek located in the Sespe Wilderness portion of the Los Padres National Forest in Ventura County. The project includes the restoration of riverine, riparian, and upland habitat. The proposed work would benefit Southern Steelhead Trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) and other important species in Piedra Blanca Creek. The WRP grant will facilitate stream bank environmental restoration implemented over a 9.5 mile section adjacent to the Piedra Blanca Trail.

5. Ballona Wetlands WOW Team \$1,624

Grantee: Ballona Wetlands Foundation
Total cost: \$48,892

The Ballona Wetlands Foundation's The WOW Team, is a free, interactive educational outreach program brought to elementary classrooms with follow-up field trips to the Ballona Wetlands. The funding will be used to purchase "children friendly" binoculars to be utilized during guided field trips through the coastal marshscape where they will observe wildlife.

6. Forrestal Nature Preserve Wetland Restoration \$9,950

Grantee: Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy
Total cost: \$20,700

The Project involves removal of non-native plants from a riparian area on the Forrestal Nature Preserve, one of the key parcels of the future Portuguese Bend Nature Preserve. The objective is to restore the wetland and discourage further encroachment of non-native plants into the existing habitat on the site.

7. Stream Spirit Rising \$30,000

Grantee: North East Trees
Total cost: \$67,890

Stream Spirit Rising seeks to create public support for the daylighting of the North Branch Creek through a watershed education and celebration effort. In the city and county of Los Angeles, there is a need to develop public support for restoring wetlands and streams. The current paradigm guiding the management of our waterways, although changing, is still dominated by fear: fear of floods, fear of groundwater contamination, fear of liability. In this climate, the public is isolated from the waterbodies in their midst. These waterbodies are fenced off, channelized, or even buried; their natural character and function is disguised, lost, forgotten. Increased awareness and stewardship of natural resources, including streams and wetlands, is necessary to abate the fears, to change the paradigm of our public agencies, to reconnect urban dwellers with natural systems, and to effect restoration and protection of these resources.

8. Think River! Integrated Youth Watershed Education Program **\$14,375**

Grantee: San Gabriel Mountains Regional Conservancy
Total cost: \$206,550

Think River! is an integrated watershed education program to provide opportunities for youth in the San Gabriel Valley regarding water supply and water quality, plant communities and wildlife habitat, people and cultures, and other related watershed system elements. Think River! has three components: (1) *High School Student Mentor Training Program* to provide a tour of river sites, role playing exercises, visioning/brainstorming exercises, and training for future public involvement efforts; (2) *Teacher Education Workshop* to provide facilitated hands-on workshops on watershed curriculum topics; and (3) *Youth Watershed Conference* to provide an interactive program for 5th grade students on watershed curriculum topics.

9. San Gabriel River Restoration at Whittier Narrows **\$6,500**

Grantee: Whittier Narrows Nature Center Associates
Total cost: \$10,700

The Whittier Narrows Nature Associates and LA County Department of Parks and Recreation will collaborate to remove invasive plants and trash from a 40 acre area of the San Gabriel River using volunteers and “At Risk Youth” Crews. In conjunction with an environmental education fair at the site, two hundred native trees and shrubs will be planted to provide habitat for wildlife.

10. Miracles of a Marsh **\$9,910**

Grantee: Bolsa Chica Land Trust
Total cost: \$20,500

The Miracles of a Marsh project is a Bolsa Chica wetlands education program created by educators and biologists for elementary school age children. Included in the project are: slide presentations at the school site, tours of Bolsa Chica wetlands and mesas, and hands on planting of drought resistant plants. Topics covered are wetland botany, wetlands zoology, archeology and watershed topics.

11. Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve Trailside Habitat Restoration **\$9,900**

Grantee: Bolsa Chica Conservancy
Total cost: \$29,900

The Bolsa Chica Conservancy proposes to enhance the visitor and student experience to the wetlands through a restoration and wetlands enhancement that will take place at a location on the Reserve which contains samples of sand dunes, mesa uplands, salt flats, upper marsh, lower marsh, muted tidal wetlands, and fully tidal wetlands including mudflats and deep water habitat. Our project, in conjunction with the handicapped accessible trail improvements scheduled by the California Department of Fish and Game, will bring a complete wetlands ecology experience to the visitor.

- 12. Restoration of Native Habitat at Shipley Nature Center** **15,000**
- Grantee: Friends of Shipley Nature Center
Total cost: \$39,000
- The overall project will replace non-native vegetation with California native plants in the 18-acre Shipley Nature Center in Huntington Beach Central Park, and will improve habitat for 23 Species of Special Concern, including four endangered species. The specific Small Grants Program subproject will restore a 2-acre site around Blackbird Pond, which is a remnant historic wetlands, by enhancing the existing riparian and oak woodlands, by planting coastal sage scrub to stop erosion into the pond, and by creating a meadow and vernal pool between the oak and riparian woodlands.
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- 13. Go Wetlands – Restore Now for Tomorrow Community-Based Restoration Program** **\$13,123** **Habitat**
- Grantee: Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation
Total cost: \$32,951
- The Go Wetlands project will restore 1.72 (gross) 0.86 (net) acres of coastal sage scrub habitat with native plants and install a rope-based trail access restriction fence. Local schools will be involved in the program to adopt a plot in restoration areas; students will be instructed in the process, will grow some plants to be used in the restoration process, and will help in installing and maintaining the planted material.
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- 14. San Dieguito River Creekside Restoration** **\$25,180**
- Grantee: San Dieguito River Park
Total cost: \$32,380
- The creekside restoration project will remove an old farm dump from the bank river and restore the area with native plants using volunteer labor from a nearby local high school/ foster youth residence as part of their established hands-on earth science program. Youth-designed interpretive signage will be installed.
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- 15. Wetlands Avengers Restoration and Education** **\$25,000**
- Grantee: Aquatic Avengers
Total cost: \$58,000
- Wetland Avengers is a four-component restoration and education effort. The project will begin on September 13th 2003 with a large community event that will mobilize volunteers to restore a salt marsh and upland habitat in Sweetwater Marsh National Wildlife Refuge, follow with the planting of native species, expand its reach through a classroom environmental science program that will include a field trip to the refuge, and continue to protect and restore the area through a partnership with Paradise Creek Educational Park, Inc.