



Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project

WORK PLAN UPDATE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project (WRP) is requesting proposals for acquisition, restoration, and enhancement projects for coastal wetlands and watersheds in Southern California. Project proposals must be postmarked by February 1, 2005. Projects selected for the WRP Work Plan become eligible for funding by WRP partner agencies. However, inclusion on the WRP Work Plan **does not** mean the project has been awarded a grant.

INTRODUCTION

The Wetlands Recovery Project is a partnership of 17 state and federal agencies working in concert with local government, businesses, and the environmental community to implement a regional wetlands recovery strategy for coastal Southern California (stretching from Point Conception to the border with Mexico). The long-term vision of the WRP is to reestablish a mosaic of functioning wetland and riparian systems that supports a diversity of fish and wildlife species. The *WRP Regional Strategy* defines six overarching goals to guide the efforts of the Wetlands Recovery Project towards achieving this vision. The regional goals provide a framework for setting policies and priorities for planning, acquisition and restoration projects. For more information on the WRP, see the web site at: <http://www.coastalconservancy.ca.gov/scwrp>.

Each year the WRP adopts a list of candidate acquisition, restoration, and enhancement projects which is referred to as the Work Plan. During the past few years, the Coastal Conservancy has been able to commit staff resources to all of the projects on the Work Plan. The Conservancy has also been able to provide some funding to many of the Tier 1 projects. However, Conservancy funding is more limited and inclusion on the Work Plan **does not** mean the project has been awarded a grant. Both the Conservancy and the Wildlife Conservation Board will continue to use the Wetland Recovery Project Work Plan to identify potential projects for the available grant funds. The WRP will work to help identify other sources of project funding for Work Plan projects.

WRP WORK PLAN

Each year, the WRP solicits proposals for coastal wetlands and coastal watershed projects in Southern California to be considered for the WRP Work Plan. These projects include acquisition, restoration, enhancement, and planning projects. The Work Plan identifies regional priority projects, every year the number of projects on the Work Plan exceeds the available funding.

The WRP Wetlands Managers Group (WMG) reviews and ranks the proposals based on adopted project evaluation criteria (see attached) and best professional judgment. Projects selected for the WRP Work Plan are divided into three categories, described below.

- High priority projects (Tier 1): These are projects that protect or restore functioning habitat, they may involve larger acreage or resources at risk of destruction. Tier 1 projects will have the highest priority for available WRP funds;
- Medium priority projects (Tier 2): These are projects that either involve smaller areas or more general landscape level planning as opposed to project implementation.
- Project Incubator – Projects requiring a significant amount of further development before they will be ready to be implemented. This list includes both Tier 1 and Tier 2 projects. Projects in the Project Incubator will be re-evaluated every year and may be removed from the Work Plan based on new developments or lack of progress.

The Tier 1 and Tier 2 categories reflect relative ecological priority of a project. A combination of a project's priority and its readiness will be considered in allocating available funds. The attached "Guidelines for Tiers 1 and 2 of the WRP Work Plan" provides more detailed descriptions of the project categories an overview of the types of priority projects that the WRP is interested in pursuing.

ELIGIBILITY FOR WRP WORK PLAN

Eligible Projects

Minimum project requirements for consideration on the Work Plan are as follows:

- Consistent with the WRP Regional Strategy.
- Acquisition, restoration, or enhancement project (including planning) for a coastal wetland or coastal stream corridor.
- Located in WRP region (from Point Conception in Santa Barbara County south to the U.S./Mexico border).
- Acquisition projects must have a willing seller.

Eligible Applicants

Government agencies (federal, state, local, and special districts) and certain nonprofit organizations that must exist under the provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code are eligible for funding.

AVAILABLE FUNDING

There are no established minimum or maximum award amounts, or matching requirements for WRP projects. Significant matching funds or services will improve a project's likelihood of receiving funding. For projects requesting \$30,000 or less, please refer to the SCWRP Small Grants program.

PROJECT SELECTION

Project proposals submitted to the WRP, will be reviewed by the Coastal Conservancy, WMG and the appropriate County Task Force. Projects will be reviewed on the basis of ecological, feasibility, and policy considerations (see attached Project Evaluation Criteria). The WMG will present a recommended Work Plan for approval by the Governing Board at its meeting in May 2005.

SUBMITTAL AND SELECTION PROCESS

1. Proposals mailed by February 1, 2005, will be evaluated for inclusion on the Work Plan. Proposals submitted after this deadline and will be evaluated and ranked by WMG as time permits but are less likely to be included on the Work Plan. Proposals should be submitted as follows:
 - Two hard copies sent to the Coastal Conservancy at the address below.
 - One hard copy sent to the WRP Local Assistance Program staff of the appropriate County Task Force (see addresses below).
 - Email copy sent to Coastal Conservancy and the WRP Local Assistance Program staff of the appropriate County Task Force. Please see proposal guidelines for instructions on preparing the email copy.

Coastal Conservancy:

Mary Small
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612
msmall@scc.ca.gov

Los Angeles County Task Force:

Mary Loquvam
Wetland Recovery Project
3250 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 2003
Los Angeles, CA 90010
mloquvam@scwrp.org

San Diego County Task Force:

Suzanne Michel
Wetland Recovery Project
9242 Riverview Ave.
Lakeside, CA 92040
smichel@scwrp.org

Ventura County Task Force:

Greg Gauthier
Wetland Recovery Project
P.O. Box 22405
Santa Barbara, CA 93121
ggauthier@scwrp.org

Orange County Task Force:

Greg Gauthier
Wetland Recovery Project
P.O. Box 22405
Santa Barbara, CA 93121
ggauthier@scwrp.org

Santa Barbara County Task Force:

Bob Thiel
Wetland Recovery Project
Post Office Box 23440
Santa Barbara, CA 93121
bthiel@scwrp.org

2. Following submission of the proposals, Coastal Conservancy staff and the County Task Forces may follow up with project proponents to get additional information and clarification about proposed projects.
3. The Wetland Managers Group will review all of the proposed projects and evaluate them. Based on this evaluation, the WMG will recommend a new Work Plan to the Wetland Recovery Project's Board of Governors for adoption at its May 2005 meeting.

INFORMATION MEETINGS

During January, the WMG will hold four regional meetings in cooperation with the County Task Forces to hear **five minute** presentations on project proposals and offer suggestions for making proposals stronger. Applicants are encouraged to present their projects at one these meetings. Meeting dates and locations are listed below.

In order to make a presentation you need to submit a **two page** summary of your project. The project summary form is on page 14 of this document. Proposals must be submitted to msmall@scc.ca.gov by December 31, 2004.

Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties – January 7th, 9:00-11:00am, Ventura County Hall of Administration, 3rd Floor, Multipurpose Room, Ventura.

San Diego County – January 10th, 1:00 – 3:00, County Administration Building, 1600 Pacific Highway, San Diego.

Los Angeles County – January 5th, 9:30-12:00, Long Beach Federal Building, NMFS Training Room, 501 W. Ocean Blvd. Suite 4200, Long Beach.

Orange County – January 6th, 2:00-4:00, 2301 Muth Interpretive Center - Upper Newport Bay, N. University Drive, Newport Beach.

INQUIRIES

All inquiries should be directed to:

Mary Small
Coastal Conservancy
(510) 286-4181
<mailto:msmall@scc.ca.gov>

Project Evaluation Criteria

Ecological Criteria

Regional Goal 1. Preserve and restore coastal wetland ecosystems

Regional Goal 2. Preserve and restore stream corridors and wetland ecosystems in coastal watersheds.

- Restoration potential/ functional gain – How much potential is there to increase the ecological function and/or value of a site, including the amount and quality of habitat or potential habitat for sensitive and important wetland-dependent species? To what extent will the project restore functioning of natural processes (e.g., hydrology, sediment transport)? Will the project result in an increase in wetland acreage?
- Connection to transitional/upland areas – To what extent is the wetland site physically and ecologically connected to transitional/upland areas?
- Connection to coastal resources – To what extent is the site ecologically or hydrologically connected to coastal resources, including coastal wetlands and near shore waters? To what extent will the project benefit marine and intertidal resources?
- Self-sustainability – Will potential restoration improvements be sustainable through natural wetland functioning? What is the likelihood of future degradation after restoration has occurred? What level of ongoing site management and/or maintenance will be required?

Regional Goal 3. Recover native habitat and species diversity.

- Habitat Diversity – Will the project preserve or restore a diversity of a habitat types on site? Will project contribute significantly to regional diversity? What species of concern are known to use the site, or would potentially use the site if restored? Will the project remove exotic species and re-establish native species? Will the project restore habitat linkages and wildlife corridors?
- Regional linkage – What is the site's function and value from a regional perspective, including sensitive species habitat, use by migratory birds, fisheries support, and biodiversity?

Project Evaluation Criteria, continued

Policy Criteria

Regional Goals 1-3.

- Threat of future degradation/loss – Could future loss or degradation of the wetland or stream corridor be prevented through Wetlands Recovery Project involvement? How imminent is the threat?

Regional Goal 4. Integrate wetlands recovery with other public objectives.

- Multiple objectives – What additional public objectives will the project achieve? Is wetlands recovery the primary objective of the project or a secondary objective?

Regional Goal 5. Promote education and compatible access related to coastal wetlands and watersheds.

- Education/access value – Does the project include an education/interpretive element? Will the project provide public access that is compatible with the habitat and functional objectives? Are there education or interpretive programs onsite or nearby that will complement the project.

Regional Goal 6. Advance the science of wetlands restoration and management in Southern California.

- Research value – Is wetlands research incorporated into the project? What research questions will the project address?

Feasibility Criteria

- Site availability – Is the owner willing to sell the land or participate in a restoration project?
- Cost/cost effectiveness – What is the total cost and relative cost effectiveness?
- Funding – What funding is available for the project?
- Restoration/enhancement plan – Is there an existing restoration/enhancement plan that is consistent with the Wetlands Project's objectives and science-based criteria? Does it include a monitoring plan? Has the plan undergone environmental review?
- Technical practicability – Are the planned restoration activities technically and biologically feasible and practicable?
- Future management – Is an appropriate future owner and/or manager available for the site? Are sufficient funds available for long-term site management?

Guidelines for WRP Work Plan

The following tables provide guidance on the types of projects that are likely to be approved on the WRP Work Plan. However, this is not an exhaustive list of eligible projects. Projects that do not fit within the descriptions below, but that would further goals identified in the WRP's Regional Strategy, will still be considered.

Tidal Wetland Ecosystems (TWE) -- Tidal wetlands, plus the immediately adjacent marine and upland/transitional systems.

High Priority	Medium Priority
Acquisition of TWEs that are primarily in private ownership.	Acquisition of private parcels in TWEs that are primarily publicly owned.
Comprehensive restoration plans.	Restoration plans for a portion of a TWE.
Plan and implement restoration (restoring a system to functioning habitat)	Plan and implement enhancement (increasing the quality of a functioning system)

Stream Corridors/Riparian Areas

High Priority	Medium Priority
Acquisition of large areas of wetland or riparian habitat or floodplain (for example, areas that are greater than 50 acres or longer than 2 miles of stream corridor) or areas that add to an existing preserve of contiguous wetland habitat or stream corridor.	Acquisition of smaller areas of wetland or riparian habitat or floodplain that are not contiguous with an existing preserve.
Focused assessment of watershed functioning, stressors, priorities, and identification of specific projects.	Comprehensive watershed management plans.
Planning and implementation of priority projects to preserve or restore ecological functioning of stream corridors as identified in watershed assessment or planning document. This can include urban stream restoration projects that are a priority in the watershed.	Planning and implementation of restoration projects to restore ecological functioning of stream corridors that are not part of a broader watershed planning/management effort.
Restoration planning and implementation to address watershed impacts on TWEs and coastal resources.	

Proposed project areas will also be evaluated for the following factors:

- Contributes significantly to watershed functioning
- Provides habitat for T&E species
- Is not unduly threatened by upstream impacts
- Faces imminent threat of development

PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

Each proposal should include:

- Proposal Summary (see attached form)
- Proposal Narrative including:
 - Site Description
 - Project Description
 - Project History and Development
 - Applicable Experience
 - Budget (see attached tables)
- Project maps and photos

Guidelines for paper copies:

Please do not bind proposals, other than stapling

Please do not add a cover letter, cover page or other pages merely for show

Please do not use text font smaller than 12 point Times

Guidelines for the electronic submittal:

Proposal summary and narrative should be emailed as one file in Microsoft Word, Acrobat, or WordPerfect format.

DO NOT EMBED PICTURES into the project proposal.

Pictures should be attached as separate files. If possible, please send electronic copies of all maps and photos (jpg or gif are the preferred formats).

WRP projects are divided into three categories: planning, restoration/enhancement, and acquisition. Guidelines for the project narrative are different for each type of project – please be sure to use the guidelines for the appropriate project type.

An electronic copy of the proposal template is available on the WRP web site at:

http://www.coastalconservancy.ca.gov/scwrp/documents/RFP_template.doc. Applicants are encouraged to use this template.

PROPOSAL NARRATIVE – PLANNING PROJECTS

Please use the following outline as a guide in preparing the project narrative for planning projects. To help you determine the level of detailed desired, recommended lengths for each section are indicated in parentheses. Do not embed pictures or maps in the project narrative, please provide them as separate files.

1. Site Description (1-2 paragraphs)
 - Describe the project area (i.e., general description of area in around project site including significant natural resources in proximity to site).
 - Provide the total acreage of project site, acres of existing wetland habitat, and/or feet of stream corridor on site.
 - Identify the primary vegetation communities found on the project site.
 - Identify any listed species known to use the site, or potentially use it.
 - Describe past and present uses of the site.
2. Project Description (1-2 pages)
 - Describe the need for the project.
 - Summarize the specific planning document(s) to be prepared (e.g., baseline habitat assessment, conceptual restoration plan, etc.).
 - Specify the stage of the planning effort:
 - Collection of baseline data and resource assessment (no CEQA required)
 - Conceptual restoration plan (CEQA probably not required yet)
 - Detailed restoration plan/construction documents (CEQA required)
 - Other
 - Identify major project elements or tasks to be completed (e.g., prepare hydrology study, monitor baseline conditions, prepare CEQA document) and briefly describe the rationale and approach for each. Projects to prepare restoration or enhancement plans should include environmental review (CEQA) of the plan in the project tasks and budget.
3. Project History and Development (1-2 paragraphs)
 - Describe how the project relates to priorities identified in relevant planning documents (e.g., enhancement plan, watershed plan, MSCP/NCCP plan, local coastal plan, etc.)
 - Describe coordination with affected agencies, landowners, and other interested parties that has already taken place.
 - Identify ongoing or completed planning efforts related to the project.
 - Identify previously completed projects in the same vicinity
4. Applicable Experience (1-2 paragraphs)
 - Describe similar projects that have been successfully completed by the applicant.
5. Budget Info (Tables 1A and 1B **or** Table 2 – see attached and template)
 - Provide estimated cost of project, broken down by tasks
 - List all funding sources and amounts, indicate whether funding is confirmed or not
6. Project Maps & Photos
 - Include: 1) a regional map indicating the project area, and 2) a map of the project site.
 - Include 1-3 photos of the project site.
 - Electronic copies of maps and photos should be sent as separate files, preferably in jpg or gif format.

PROPOSAL NARRATIVE – RESTORATION/ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS

Please use the following outline as a guide in preparing the project narrative for restoration and enhancement projects. To help you determine the level of detailed desired, recommended lengths for each section are indicated in parentheses. Do not embed pictures or maps in the project narrative, please provide them as separate pages or files.

1. Site Description (1-2 paragraphs)
 - Describe the project area (i.e., general description of area in around project site including significant natural resources in proximity to site).
 - Provide the total acreage of project site, acres of existing wetland habitat, and/or feet of stream corridor on site.
 - Identify the primary vegetation communities found on the project site.
 - Identify any listed species known to use the site, or potentially use it.
 - Describe past and present uses of the site.
2. Project Description (1-2 pages)
 - Describe the need for the project.
 - Summarize the specific action(s) to be undertaken (e.g., remove exotic species from 1 mile of stream corridor, restore 20 acres of salt marsh)
 - Describe the major project elements or tasks to be completed.
 - Provide a table with acres of each habitat type found on the site for both pre-project and post-project conditions.
 - Explain how restoration/enhancement will be maintained in the long-term.
 - Identify measures of success for the project.
3. Project History and Development (1-2 paragraphs)
 - Describe how the project relates to priorities identified in relevant planning documents (e.g., enhancement plan, watershed plan, MSCP/NCCP plan, local coastal plan, etc.).
 - If a restoration/enhancement plan has been completed, provide a copy to the Conservancy.
 - Explain the status of CEQA review for the project. Has CEQA review been completed? If yes, provide copy of the EIR, Negative Declaration, or Notice of Exemption to the Conservancy. If no, be sure to include completion of CEQA in project tasks and budget.
 - List permits required for the project and the status of applications for each.
 - Describe coordination with affected agencies, landowners, and other interested parties that has already taken place.
 - Identify ongoing or completed planning efforts related to the project.
 - Identify previously completed projects in the same vicinity.
4. Applicable Experience (1-2 paragraphs)
 - Describe similar projects that have been successfully completed by the applicant.
5. Budget Info (Tables 1A and 1B **or** Table 2 – see attached and template)
 - Provide estimated cost of project, broken down by tasks
 - List all funding sources and amounts, indicate whether funding is confirmed or not
6. Project Maps & Photos
 - Include: 1) a regional map indicating the project area, and 2) a map of the project site.
 - Include 1-3 photos of the project site.
 - Electronic copies of maps and photos should be sent as separate files, preferably in jpg or gif format.

ACQUISITION PROJECTS

Please use the following outline as a guide in preparing the project narrative for acquisition projects. To help you determine the level of detailed desired, recommended lengths for each section are indicated in parentheses. Do not embed pictures or maps in the project narrative, please provide them as separate pages or files.

1. Site Description (3-4 paragraphs)
 - Describe the project area (i.e., general description of area in around project site including significant natural resources in proximity to site).
 - Provide the total acreage of project site, acres of existing wetland habitat, and/or feet of stream corridor on site.
 - Identify the primary vegetation communities found on the project site.
 - Identify any listed species known to use the site, or potentially use it.
 - Describe past and present uses of the site.
2. Project Description (1-3 paragraphs)
 - Describe the need for the project.
 - Identify the property owner(s) (Property owner(s) must be a willing seller. Attach evidence of willingness to sell.).
 - Specify if an appraisal for the property has been completed. If yes, provide copy to Conservancy.
 - Describe the major project tasks (e.g., prepare an appraisal, complete Phase I assessment, acquire property, etc.).
 - List intended uses of the property after acquisition.
 - Summarize long-term management and maintenance plans for the site, including who will own/manage the property, and how long-term maintenance will be funded. If applicant is not future owner/manager, provide evidence that future owner/manager is a willing participant in the project.
 - Provide a brief description of restoration/enhancement actions needed on the property, and an explanation of how those actions will be funded.
3. Project History and Development (1-2 paragraphs)
 - Describe how the project relates to priorities identified in relevant planning documents (e.g., enhancement plan, watershed plan, MSCP/NCCP plan, local coastal plan, etc.)
 - Describe coordination with affected agencies, landowners, and other interested parties that has already taken place.
 - Identify ongoing or completed planning efforts related to the project.
 - Identify previously completed projects in the same vicinity
4. Applicable Experience (1-2 paragraphs)
 - Describe similar projects that have been successfully completed by the applicant.
5. Budget Info (Tables 1A and 1B **or** Table 2 – see attached and template)
 - Estimated cost of acquisition (breakdown by tasks if proposal includes pre-acquisition tasks such as appraisal, Phase I assessment, etc.)
 - List of all funding sources and amounts, indicate whether funding is confirmed or not
6. Project Maps & Photos
 - Include: 1) a regional map indicating the project area, 2) a map of the project site, and 3) a map showing specific property lines and assessor parcel numbers.
 - Include project site photos if available.
 - Electronic copies of maps and photos should be sent as separate files, preferably in jpg or gif format.

BUDGET TABLES

Include Table 1 *or* Tables 2A and 2B. Note: You can provide a different budget table as long as it provides the total project costs broken down by task and all of the project funding sources.

Table 1: Project Budget Broken Down by Task and Funding Source
(Add as many source columns as identified funding sources. Please specify

Project Task	Source 1 (replace with name of funding source)	Source 2	Source 3	Source 4	Subtotal task
TOTAL	Subtotal source 1	Subtotal source 2	Subtotal source 3	Subtotal source 4	TOTAL \$\$

-----OR-----

Table 2A: Estimated Project Budget

Project Task	Estimated Cost

Table 2B: Estimated Funding Sources

Funding Source	Amount	Confirmed/Applied/Etc.

PRE-PROPOSAL PROJECT SUMMARY

Due December 31, 2004
email to msmall@scc.ca.gov

Project Name:

Type of Project: Acquisition Planning Restoration/Enhancement

Project summary (3-4 sentences -- specify key action(s) to be undertaken):

Location: County:
 Watershed:
 State Senate District (#):
 State Assembly District (#):

Acreage: Total acreage of project area: _____ .
 Acres of existing (pre-project) wetland habitat: _____ .
 Acres of post-project wetland habitat: _____ .
 Feet of stream corridor (if applicable) : _____ .

Budget Summary: Total project cost: \$_____ .
 Amount requested from WRP: \$_____ .
 Committed Matching Funds: \$_____ .

Contact Information:

Name:
Organization:
Address:

Telephone:
Fax:
Email:

Project Description

Project Evaluation Criteria

Check all that apply, provide a brief description (1-2 sentences) of how the project meets the criteria in the space below.

Ecological Criteria

- Preserve and restore coastal wetland ecosystems
- Preserve and restore stream corridors and wetland ecosystems in coastal watersheds.
- Recover native habitat and species diversity.

Policy Criteria

- Prevent future degradation/loss of wetland resources
- Integrate wetlands recovery with other public objectives.
- Promote education and compatible access related to coastal wetlands and watersheds.
- Advance the science of wetlands restoration and management in Southern California.