

# **SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WETLANDS RECOVERY PROJECT**

## **2010 WORK PLAN REPORT**

**JUNE 3, 2010 Board of Governors Meeting**



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### *Attachments*

- Attachment 1: Map of WRP 2010 Work Plan Projects
- Attachment 2: WRP Project Evaluation Criteria
- Attachment 3: WRP Completed Projects
- Attachment 4: WRP 2010 Work Plan Project Descriptions
- Attachment 5: Community Wetland Restoration Grant Program Status Report

**Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project  
Board of Governors Meeting  
June 3, 2010**

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**2010 WRP Work Plan Report**

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**Summary of Recommended Board of Governors Action**

- Adopt 2010 WRP Work Plan

**INTRODUCTION**

Every two years, the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project (WRP) adopts a Work Plan that lists priority wetland acquisition, restoration, and enhancement projects for Southern California coastal watersheds. Annually, this Work Plan is updated to include community-based restoration projects of the WRP Community Wetland Restoration Grant Program (CWRGP). The adopted Work Plan is a valuable tool for communicating regional priorities, funding needs and facilitating WRP partner agency collaboration.

The process for developing and updating the Work Plan typically includes a status review of existing projects on the Work Plan and solicitation of new project proposals from agencies and nonprofit organizations within the WRP geographic region (see Attachment 1: *Map of WRP 2010 Work Plan Projects*). This process incorporates review and input from WRP stakeholders and agency partners, using project selection criteria and evaluation guidelines developed and reviewed by both the Wetland Managers Group and the Science Advisory Panel (see Attachment 2: *WRP Project Evaluation Criteria*).

Due to the status of State bond funding for new projects, the 2010 WRP Work Plan did not include solicitation of new project proposals.

The State bond spending freeze did not impact the CWRGP. New projects entered the Program in 2009 and a Request for Proposals was disseminated in January 2010. Final selection of a new suite of projects will be completed by summer of 2010.

The new Work Plan focuses on providing funding and technical support for the 69 projects remaining on the Work Plan including existing and new projects of the CWRGP.

The Board of Governors has adopted each of the previous Work Plan updates. The WRP Wetlands Managers Group is submitting this 2010 Work Plan to the WRP Board of Governors for adoption.

Projects on the Work Plan were chosen to help achieve the WRP's six Regional Goals:

1. Preserve and restore coastal wetland ecosystems
2. Preserve and restore stream corridors and wetland ecosystems in coastal watersheds
3. Recover native habitat and species diversity
4. Integrate wetlands recovery with other public objectives
5. Promote education and compatible access related to coastal wetlands and watersheds
6. Advance the science of wetlands restoration and management in Southern California

The Work Plan is not a grant program. However, it is used by some agencies to guide project funding decisions. Both the Coastal Conservancy and the Wildlife Conservation Board use the Work Plan to identify priority projects for funding within the region. Over the past 11 years more than \$430 million dollars has been spent on the completed Work Plan projects. The State of California has contributed more than half of that funding, nearly \$270 million.

## **WORK PLAN ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

### **WRP Work Plan Highlights 2008-2010**

WRP partners have made significant progress in implementing projects on the WRP Work Plan over the past two years. The following represents a sample of major accomplishments and project highlights since adoption of the last WRP Work Plan.

#### **Carpinteria Creek Restoration Project**

Completed project planning, design and construction at several locations within the watershed to remove steelhead passage barriers and enhance riparian habitat along Carpinteria Creek and its main tributary Gobernador Creek.

#### **Ormond Beach Wetlands Restoration Plan**

Completed the feasibility study for the restoration plan for the 1100-acre Ormond Beach wetlands area to evaluate options for restoring tidal action to portions of the property and recreating a mix of tidal and seasonal wetlands with associated grasslands.

#### **Santa Monica Bay Watershed Acquisitions**

Acquisition of Rancho Corral (650 acres), and Corral Canyon North (199 acres) to preserve 849 acres of wildlife and riparian habitat within the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area and reaches of Corral Canyon Creek, a perennial stream that flows directly into Santa Monica Bay.

#### **Malibu Lagoon Restoration and Enhancement**

Completed Phase 1 of the Restoration and Enhancement Plan including relocation and redesign of existing public parking and staging areas to maximize habitat restoration and improve water quality in the Lagoon.

#### **Huntington Beach Wetlands Restoration**

Broke ground and continued construction the Huntington Beach Wetlands complex within

Talbert, Brookhurst and Magnolia Marshes to allow full tidal restoration of these coastal salt marsh wetlands.

**Batiquitos Lagoon Acquisition**

Acquisition of 18 acres comprising much of the little remaining habitat surrounding the lagoon, including habitat used by endangered species, to protect and enhance lagoon functioning and to help preserve amounts and kinds of habitat and linkages necessary to sustain viable regional populations of critical species.

**South San Diego Bay Restoration project**

Started construction of the first phase of the South San Diego Bay wetlands restoration project. This phase includes 215 acres of salt pond restoration, 23 acres of high marsh at Emory Cove, and 19 acres of salt marsh at the Chula Vista Wildlife Reserve. The restoration of the western salt ponds will inform restoration and management decisions for the remaining 800 acres of salt ponds.

**Completed Projects**

A total of 14 Work Plan projects were completed since adoption of the 2008-2010 WRP Work Plan in November, 2007. In addition, 15 community-based restoration projects were completed through the WRP Community Wetland Restoration Grant Program. Table 1 below lists those projects completed during this time period.

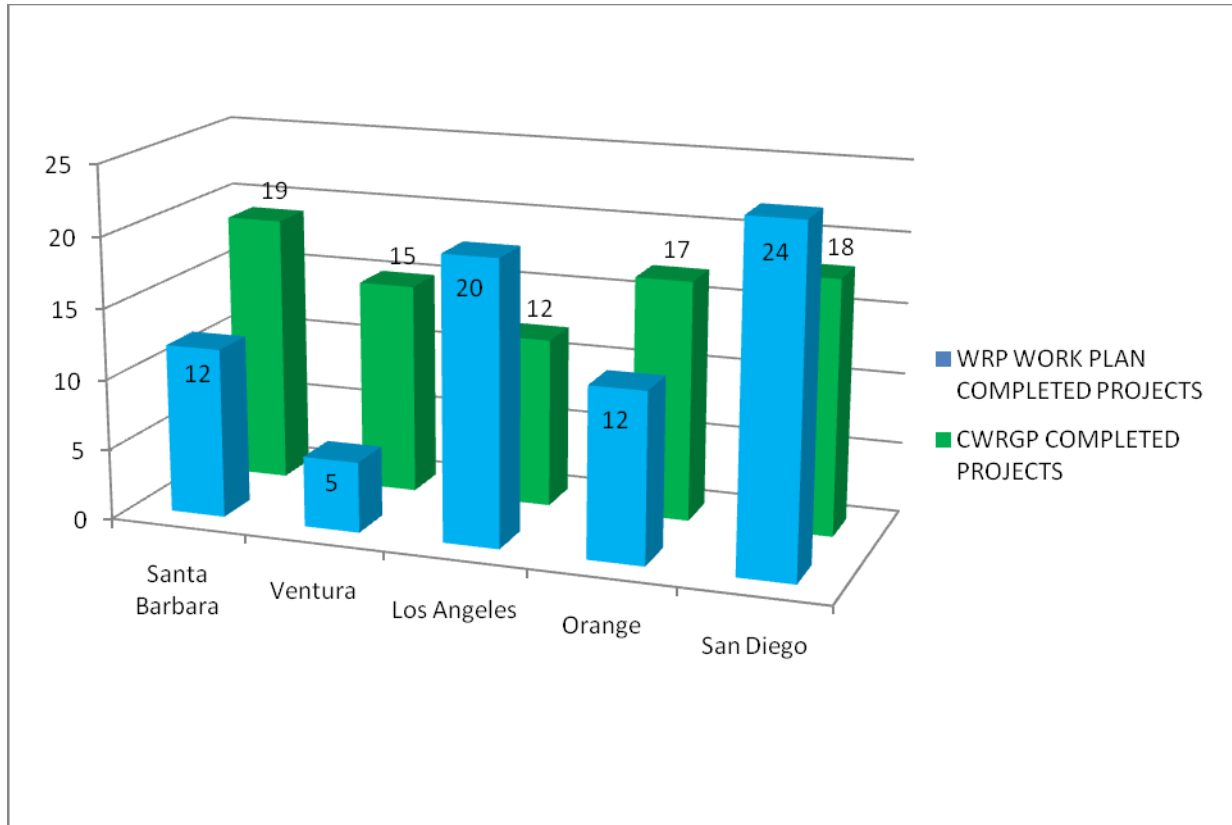
**Table 1: Completed WRP Work Plan Projects 2008-2010**

Project Name	Description	Estimated Cost	County	Type of Project
Goleta Slough Tidal Restoration Demonstration Project	Evaluated alternatives for restoring tidal action to isolated basins in Goleta Slough adjacent to Santa Barbara Municipal Airport and potential associated bird strike hazards.	\$500,000	Santa Barbara	Restoration
Carpinteria Salt Marsh, Basin 1 Implementation	Restored and enhanced 33 acres of the salt marsh known as Basin 1/South Marsh.	\$2,663,300	Santa Barbara	Restoration
Ventura River Arundo Removal Project	Removed <i>Arundo donax</i> from a 5-acre parcel adjacent to the Ventura River and revegetated with native riparian species.	\$326,000	Ventura	Restoration
La Sierra Riparian Acquisition	Acquired approximately 90 acres of wetland, riparian and upland habitat that support La Sierra Lake in the Malibu Creek watershed.	\$1,868,500	Los Angeles	Acquisition
Santa Monica Bay Watershed Acquisitions	Acquired two blocks of property to preserve 849 acres of wildlife and riparian habitat within the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area and reaches of Corral Canyon Creek.	\$17,200,000	Los Angeles	Acquisition

Malibu Lagoon Restoration and Enhancement Phase I	Relocated and redesigned public parking and staging areas to maximize habitat restoration area in Phase 2.	\$1,925,000	Los Angeles	Restoration
Topanga Creek Restoration Program	Removed Rodeo Grounds berm and restored riparian habitat in Topanga Creek.	\$3,204,006	Los Angeles	Restoration
Solstice Canyon Acquisitions	Acquired 117 acres of 325 target acres in the upper Solstice Canyon watershed of the Santa Monica Mountains to complete continuous parkland ownership between the upper and lower reaches of Solstice Creek.	\$25700,000	Los Angeles	Acquisition
Solstice Canyon Steelhead Access Implementation	Removed existing box culvert fish passage barrier at the Corral Canyon Road crossing, and replaced it with a clear span bridge over Solstice Creek.	\$1,196,680	Los Angeles	Restoration
Huntington Beach Wetlands Brookhurst Marsh Acquisition	Acquired the final 16.6 acres of Brookhurst Marsh wetlands at the Huntington Beach wetlands complex.	\$685,000	Orange	Acquisition
Batiquitos Lagoon Mitsuchi Acquisition	Acquired 18 acres comprising much of the remaining habitat surrounding the lagoon, including habitat used by endangered species.	\$2,400,000	San Diego	Acquisition
Famosa Slough Culvert Replacement	Repaired a culvert at Famosa Slough to increase the tidal prism and yield an average of two additional horizontal feet in tidal inundation around the perimeter of the slough.	\$181,000	San Diego	Restoration
Tijuana Estuary Tidal Restoration Program Phase II	Completed the feasibility and design studies for a second phase of salt marsh restoration at Border Field State Park in the south area of the Tijuana Estuary involving approximately 480 acres.	\$1,232,000	San Diego	Planning
Goat Canyon Enhancement Project	Constructed sediment retention basins adjacent to the Goat Canyon drainage to reduce sediment flows to the southern arm of the Tijuana Estuary and restored riparian habitat in the project vicinity.	\$8,405,700	San Diego	Restoration
WRP Community Wetland Restoration Grant Program	A total of 15 community-based wetland restoration projects were completed during this reporting period.	Varies by project.	Regional	Restoration

A total of 73 WRP Work Plan projects have been completed since the establishment of the Wetlands Recovery Project. Figure 1 below shows the spread of completed projects by county distribution. A list and brief description of all WRP Work Plan projects completed to date is contained in Attachment 3: *WRP Completed Projects*.

**Figure 1 COMPLETED WRP PROJECTS**



Number of completed Work Plan (73) and Community Wetland Restoration Grant Program (81) projects by county. (May 2010)

### **WRP WORK PLAN 2010**

There were a total of 82 projects on the 2008-2010 Work Plan, as updated by the Board of Governors in November of 2007. Of these, 68 projects remain in active stages of progress or ready for implementation pending funding. As mentioned in the previous section, a total of 14 Work Plan projects and 15 Community Wetland Restoration Grant Program projects were completed since the last Work Plan update. Four of these projects remain on the updated Work Plan for a new project phase or continued progress.

The Wetland Managers Group is also recommending that 3 projects be dropped from the Work Plan. The Montecito Creek Fish Passage project was revised to the extent that the original project no longer exists. The Wood Canyon Stream Stabilization and Restoration project was merged with the Aliso Creek Mainstem Restoration project, and the two Rose Creek projects on the previous Work Plan were merged into one project.

Consistent with the project evaluation criteria and past Work Plans, projects on the Work Plan are divided into three categories based on their relative priority in meeting the WRP's Regional Goals. The three categories are as follows:

Tier 1 – High priority projects.

Priority is given to projects that preserve or restore ecological function. Comprehensive restoration plans and projects that plan restoration of systems and functions at a landscape scale are Tier 1. Priority also is given to projects that preserve resources at risk of development, such as acquisition of tidal wetland ecosystems or large areas of riparian habitat or floodplain.

Tier 2 – Medium priority projects.

These include projects that seek to improve or enhance the quality of a functioning system. Projects that restore small areas of a larger wetland or smaller areas of riparian habitat or floodplain that is not contiguous with an existing preserve would also be considered Tier 2. Planning and implementation of riparian restoration projects that are not part of a broader watershed planning management effort also are ranked as Tier 2.

Project Incubator – Projects that require significant development, revision or refinement comprise the project incubator category. These are projects that meet the evaluation criteria but require additional development or refinement of various project elements.

Upon its adoption by the Board of Governors, the 2010 WRP Work Plan will comprise 68 priority projects. These include 14 acquisition, 28 restoration and 26 planning projects. Of these projects 35 are Tier 1, 28 Tier 2 and 5 are incubator projects.

Table 2 below lists projects recommended for inclusion on the 2010 WRP Work Plan. Attachment 4: *WRP Work Plan Project Descriptions* includes full updated descriptions of all projects proposed for inclusion on the 2010 WRP Work Plan.

**Table 2: WRP Work Plan 2010**

No.	Project Name	Description	Estimated Cost	County	Project Classification	Habitat or project type	Funding Status	Tier
1	Baron Ranch Acquisition	Acquisition of the 1,092-acre Baron Ranch on the Gaviota Coast.	\$6,000,000	Santa Barbara	Acquisition	Riparian	On hold	1
2	Arroyo Hondo Creek Steelhead Habitat Enhancement Project	Restore habitat and fish passage along the lower portion of Arroyo Hondo Creek.	\$1,481,140	Santa Barbara	Restoration	Riparian & Fish Passage	Funded	1
3	Gaviota State Park Watershed Restoration and Enhancement	Restore the Gaviota Creek wetlands and watershed. Includes planning for a vehicle stream crossing and campground relocation	\$665,000	Santa Barbara	Planning	Riparian	Partially Funded	1
4	Lower Refugio Creek Restoration	Implement the lower Refugio Creek Riparian Restoration Plan developed with a small grant from the WRP.	\$562,450	Santa Barbara	Restoration	Riparian & Invasives	Funded	2
5	Maria Ygnacio Fish Passage Project	Final design and permitting for a fish passage barrier removal on Maria Ygnacio Creek and interpretive signage along the adjacent bike path.	\$80,000	Santa Barbara	Planning	Fish Passage	Unfunded (No project lead)	2

6	Arroyo Burro Creek Arundo Removal Project	Remove non-native invasive weed, <i>Arundo donax</i> , from the bed, banks, and overbanks of Arroyo Burro Creek and its tributaries.	\$99,930	Santa Barbara	Restoration	Invasives	Funded	2
7	Arroyo Burro Restoration at Las Positas	Develop a riparian restoration plan for approximately 2,000 feet of Arroyo Burro Creek in the City of Santa Barbara.	\$270,000	Santa Barbara	Planning	Riparian	Partially Funded	Inc
8	Western Goleta Slough Wetland Restoration Project	Enhance and expand wetland habitat throughout the 34.41 acres owned by CDFG in the Goleta Slough Ecological Reserve.	\$2,435,312	Santa Barbara	Restoration	Coastal Wetlands	Funded	2
9	Devereux Slough Restoration	Restore 50 acres of coastal habitats at the UC Reserve's Coal Oil Point property and support recovery of rare plants and threatened and endangered bird species.	\$412,000	Santa Barbara	Restoration	Coastal Wetlands	Funded	1
10	Mission Creek Steelhead Passage Project	Planning and design for a fish passage project along Mission Creek in Santa Barbara.	\$1,394,000	Santa Barbara	Planning	Fish Passage	Partially Funded	1
11	Carpinteria Creek Restoration Project	Remove steelhead passage barrier and enhance riparian habitat along Carpinteria Creek.	\$4,638,537	Santa Barbara	Restoration	Fish Passage	Funded	1
12	Prisoners Wetland and Lower Canada del Puerto Restoration	Restore a coastal wetland and one mile of a stream corridor at Prisoners Harbor and Cañada del Puerto, the primary access point for Santa Cruz Island, Channel Islands National Park.	\$775,069	Santa Barbara	Restoration	Coastal Wetland & Riparian	Partially Funded	1
13	Matilija Dam Removal Engineering and Design	Preliminary engineering and design for the removal of Matilija Dam on the Ventura River.	\$145,000,000	Ventura	Planning	Fish Passage	Partially Funded	1
14	Ventura River Parkway	Create a River Parkway along the lower 15 miles of the Ventura River to protect habitat, create wildlife linkages, reconnect the river to its floodplain and create recreational opportunities.	\$8,000,000	Ventura	Acquisition	Riparian	Partially Funded	Inc
15	Santa Clara River White Rock Lake Acquisition	Acquire and restore three parcels, totaling 91.12 acres located on or along the Upper Santa Clara River in the Soledad Canyon area northeast of Santa Clarita.	\$2,125,000	Los Angeles	Acquisition	Riparian	Partially Funded	1
16	Hedrick Ranch Nature Area Restoration Project	Implement restoration and enhancement activities on the Hedrick Ranch, a 223-acre riparian preserve along the Santa Clara River.	\$500,000	Ventura	Restoration	Riparian	Partially Funded	2
17	Santa Clara River Parkway Acquisitions	Acquire fee title and conservation easements along the lower 15 miles of the Santa Clara River for inclusion in the Santa Clara River Parkway.	\$14,669,411	Ventura	Acquisition	Riparian	Partially Funded	1
18	Santa Clara River Estuary McGrath State Beach	Restore coastal salt marsh and riparian forest habitats at the Santa Clara River Estuary at McGrath State Beach.	\$204,900	Ventura	Planning	Coastal Wetlands	Unfunded	2
19	Lower Conejo Creek Acquisition	Acquire approximately 80 acres along Conejo Creek for restoration of flood plain and riparian habitat.	\$1,500,000	Ventura	Acquisition	Riparian	Unfunded (No project lead)	2
20	Ormond Beach Wetlands Acquisition, Part 2	Acquire the privately owned portions of the Ormond Beach wetlands.	\$25,000,000	Ventura	Acquisition	Coastal Wetlands	Partially Funded	1

21	Ormond Beach Wetlands Restoration Plan	Prepare restoration plan for the 900-acre Ormond Beach wetlands area.	\$600,000	Ventura	Planning	Coastal Wetlands	Funded	1
22	Arundo Removal North San Fernando Valley	Remove <i>Arundo donax</i> from five canyons that drain to the Los Angeles River in the north San Fernando Valley	\$110,000	Los Angeles	Restoration	Invasives	Unfunded	2
23	Sepulveda Basin Plan	Restoration planning and design for a mile of bioengineered bank stabilization of the Los Angeles River within the Sepulveda Basin.	\$485,000	Los Angeles	Planning	Riparian	Unfunded	2
24	Zuma Canyon Restoration and Steelhead Enhancement Feasibility Study	Restore a 7 acre agricultural area near the entrance of Zuma Canyon that has been planted in avocados.	\$383,398	Los Angeles	Restoration	Riparian & Fish Passage	Partially Funded	2
25	Solstice Canyon Acquisitions	Acquire 428 acres in the upper Solstice Canyon watershed of the Santa Monica Mountains	\$6,480,800	Los Angeles	Acquisition	Riparian	Unfunded	1
26	Solstice Creek Steelhead Access Implementation	Restore fish passage for southern steelhead trout in Solstice Creek.	\$3,425,100	Los Angeles	Restoration	Fish Passage	Partially Funded	2
27	Upper Malibu Creek Feasibility Study (Rindge Dam)	Conduct USACOE feasibility study for restoration of the Upper Malibu Creek watershed.	\$3,900,000	Los Angeles	Planning	Fish Passage	Partially Funded	1
28	Malibu Lagoon Restoration and Enhancement	Restore and enhance the ecological structure and function of Malibu Lagoon by increasing circulation and enhancing wetland habitat.	\$9,269,200	Los Angeles	Restoration	Coastal Wetlands	Partially Funded	1
29	Cold Creek Riparian Acquisitions, Part 2	Acquire an additional 155.83 acres of riparian and upland habitat along Cold Creek, a perennial tributary to Malibu Creek, for inclusion in the 1319-acre Cold Creek Preserve.	\$5,000,000	Los Angeles	Acquisition	Riparian	Partially Funded	2
30	Las Flores Creek Restoration	Restore approximately one half mile of Las Flores Creek in Malibu including exotic plant removal, bank stabilization and riparian habitat enhancement.	\$4,693,733	Los Angeles	Restoration	Riparian	Funded	2
31	Topanga Creek Restoration Program	Implement the recommendations of the Topanga Creek Watershed and Lagoon Restoration Feasibility Study.	\$4,215,630	Los Angeles	Planning	Fish Passage & Riparian	Partially Funded	1
32	Los Angeles River Revitalization - Taylor Yard Acquisition	Acquire the 42.6 acre Taylor Yard property adjacent to the Los Angeles River in the City of Los Angeles for the purpose of ecological restoration.	\$50,000,000	Los Angeles	Acquisition	Riparian & Wetlands	Unfunded	2
33	Lower Los Angeles River Acquisitions	Acquire properties adjacent to the lower Los Angeles River suitable for wetland and riparian restoration projects.	\$20,000,000	Los Angeles	Acquisition	Riparian & Wetlands	Unfunded	2
34	Ballona Wetlands Restoration Planning	Identify, evaluate and design restoration alternatives for Ballona Wetlands.	\$3,400,000	Los Angeles	Planning	Coastal Wetlands	Funded	1
35	DeForest-Dominguez Wetlands Restoration Planning and Design	Prepare a preliminary plan, environmental review document, and permits for creation of wetland and riparian habitat along approximately 1 mile of the east bank of the Los Angeles River.	\$1,050,000	Los Angeles	Restoration	Coastal Wetlands	Partially Funded	2

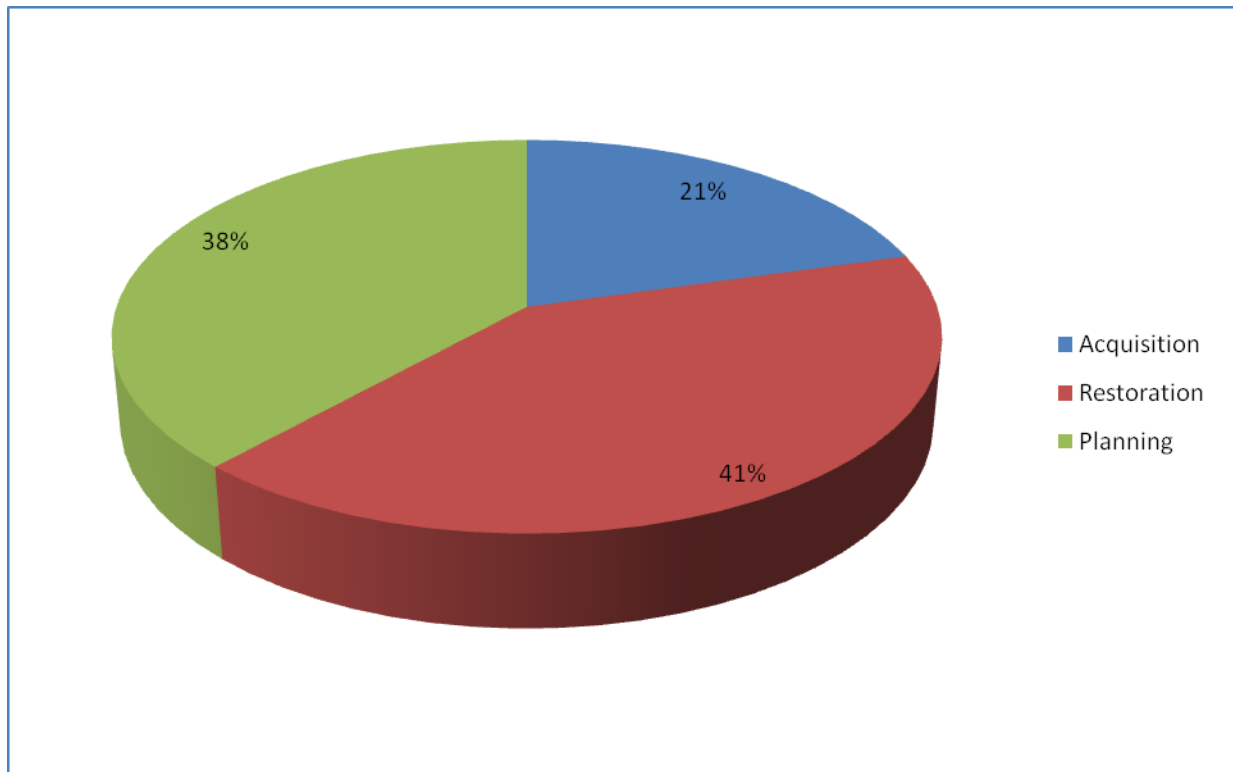
36	Machado Lake Habitat Restoration Project	Develop final projects to improve habitat and water quality of Machado Lake.	\$500,000	Los Angeles	Planning	Wetlands	Partially Funded	2
37	Colorado Lagoon Restoration	Implement the restoration plan for the Colorado Lagoon, a 44-acre saltwater lagoon connected to Alamitos Bay.	\$5,614,868	Los Angeles	Restoration	Coastal Wetlands	Partially Funded	2
38	Los Cerritos Wetlands Conceptual Restoration Plan	Prepare a conceptual restoration plan for the Los Cerritos Wetlands.	\$500,000	Los Angeles	Planning	Coastal Wetlands	Unfunded	1
39	Los Cerritos Wetlands Acquisition - Hellman Property	Acquire 100 acres of the Hellman property in Seal Beach for the purpose of wetland restoration.	\$6,150,000	Los Angeles	Acquisition	Coastal Wetlands	Unfunded	1
40	Santiago Creek Arundo Control and Habitat Restoration	Remove approximately 140 acres of <i>Arundo donax</i> and associated invasives to recover native habitat and wildlife.	\$2,390,766	Orange	Restoration	Invasives	Unfunded	1
41	Santa Ana River, Featherly Regional Park Restoration	Complete the removal of the remaining 20 acres of <i>Arundo donax</i> from Featherly Regional Park.	\$492,600	Orange	Restoration	Invasives	Unfunded	2
42	Orange Coast River Park	Develop and implement an action strategy for the Orange Coast River Park, a 1000 acre mosaic of wetland, riparian, and upland habitats along the lower three miles of the Santa Ana River.	\$25,000,000	Orange	Planning	Coastal Wetlands & Riparian	Partially Funded	Inc
43	Serrano Creek Stabilization and Restoration Phase II, Reach 2 & 3	Stabilize the creek beds and banks, restore riparian habitat, and reduce sediment loadings to Newport Bay.	\$2,000,000	Orange	Planning	Riparian	Partially Funded	1
44	San Joaquin Marsh Enhancement - Phase II Implementation	Enhance approximately 120 acres of perennial marsh.	\$3,700,000	Orange	Restoration	Coastal Wetlands	Partially Funded	2
45	Upper Newport Bay Ecological Restoration Implementation	Dredge 2.1 million cubic yards of sediment from Upper Newport Bay and enhance several existing habitat areas.	\$53,300,000	Orange	Restoration	Coastal Wetlands	Funded	1
46	Big Canyon Creek Restoration - Final Engineering	Final restoration design of Big Canyon Creek, a tributary to Upper Newport Bay	\$700,000	Orange	Planning	Coastal Wetlands	Partially Funded	2
47	Laguna Canyon Creek Restoration Project	Prepare a watershed assessment, technical studies, permits, environmental documents and final design plans for restoration of the Laguna Canyon Creek.	\$450,000	Orange	Planning	Riparian	Unfunded (On hold)	2
48	Aliso Creek Mainstem Riparian Restoration	Ecosystem restoration in a seven-mile reach of Aliso Creek and 1,000 feet of the Wood Canyon tributary.	\$45,000,000	Orange	Restoration	Riparian	Partially Funded	2
49	San Juan and Trabuco Creek Steelhead Recovery Watershed Management Plan	Implement the San Juan and Trabuco Creeks Watershed Steelhead Recovery Plan	\$25,000,000	Orange	Restoration	Fish Passage & Riparian & Coastal Wetlands	Partially Funded	1
50	Trabuco Creek Fish Passage Project	Planning and design of a fish ladder under Highway I5 along Trabuco Creek.	\$1,875,000	Orange	Planning	Fish Passage	Partially Funded	2
51	San Juan Hydrologic Unit - Non Native Species Eradication Plan	Develop a comprehensive program to remove non-native, invasive species from the San Juan Hydrologic Unit.	\$2,500,000	Orange	Planning	Invasives	Partially Funded	2

52	Restoration of Riparian Habitat in the Carlsbad Hydrologic Unit	Remove non-native plant species, and restore riparian and select upland habitat areas in the Carlsbad Hydrologic Unit.	\$5,460,000	San Diego	Restoration	Riparian	Funded	1
53	Buena Vista Creek Watershed Plan	Prepare a comprehensive watershed management plan for Buena Vista Creek.	\$374,500	San Diego	Planning	Riparian	Unfunded (On Hold)	1
54	Buena Vista Lagoon Restoration Plan - Preliminary Engineering and EIR/S	Prepare a joint CEQA/NEPA document for restoration of Buena Vista Lagoon and preliminary engineering plans for the restoration.	\$1,700,000	San Diego	Planning	Coastal Wetlands	Funded	2
55	Batiquitos Lagoon Exotics Removal and Revegetation	Develop detailed plans for removing exotics and revegetating approximately 16 acres of wetland and upland habitat adjacent to Batiquitos Lagoon.	\$350,000	San Diego	Planning	Coastal Wetlands & Invasives	Unfunded (On Hold)	2
56	San Elijo Lagoon Restoration Planning and Engineering	Develop restoration alternatives through preliminary engineering to protect diversity and quality of habitats through restoration of tidal circulation and ecological functions at San Elijo Lagoon.	\$1,590,000	San Diego	Planning	Coastal Wetlands	Funded	1
57	San Dieguito Watershed Invasive Species Control and Re-vegetation	Restore 874 acres of riparian and marsh habitat in the San Dieguito Watershed in northern San Diego County.	\$4,766,000	San Diego	Restoration	Invasives & Coastal Wetlands	Partially Funded	1
58	Los Penasquitos - Sediment Management	Reduce sediment loads from non-point sources that are degrading the native habitats in the watershed and lagoon.	\$2,516,000	San Diego	Restoration	Coastal Wetlands	Funded	2
59	Hanson Pond Acquisition, El Monte Valley	Acquire and restore 143.5 acres of wetland and upland habitat adjacent to the San Diego River in the El Monte Valley.	\$6,500,000	San Diego	Acquisition	Riparian & Wetland	Unfunded	1
60	San Diego River Land Conservation Program, Hanlon Walker	Acquire approximately 140 acres, including over 2 miles of riverfront property on the San Diego River in the City of Santee as part of the San Diego River Land Conservation Program.	To be determined	San Diego	Acquisition	Riparian	Unfunded	1
61	Rose Creek Watershed Opportunities Assessment Implementation	Implement recommendations of the Rose Creek Watershed Opportunities Assessment including completing a watershed-wide hydrologic study; planning for creation of wetlands at the mouth of Rose Creek; and designing trail linkages.	\$1,165,000	San Diego	Restoration	Riparian	Partially Funded	1
62	San Diego Watershed Riparian Restoration Program	Implement a watershed-based invasive, non-native plant control program in the San Diego River Watershed.	\$5,000,000	San Diego	Restoration	Riparian	Partially Funded	1
63	Famosa Slough Acquisition	Acquire 10 real estate parcels totaling approximately 0.9 acres of privately held property adjacent to Famosa Slough.	\$950,000	San Diego	Acquisition	Coastal Wetlands	Unfunded	1
64	Chollas Creek Watershed Opportunities Assessment	Assess opportunities in the Chollas Creek watershed to improve habitat and water quality conditions while also providing for community benefits such as recreation and education.	\$199,897	San Diego	Planning	Riparian	Unfunded	Inc
65	Sweetwater Marsh Restoration	Enhance and improve habitat within the Sweetwater Marsh Unit of the San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge.	\$4,135,000	San Diego	Restoration	Coastal Wetlands	Partially Funded	1

66	South San Diego Bay Coastal Wetland Restoration Project	Prepare final restoration and constructions plans for the restoration of subtidal and intertidal wetlands in San Diego Bay, freshwater wetlands and floodplain habitat along the Otay River.	\$7,600,000	San Diego	Planning	Coastal Wetlands	Funded	1
67	Los Laureles Canyon	Develop projects (restoration and acquisition) to prevent erosion in Los Laureles Canyon.	\$282,000	San Diego	Planning	Riparian	Partially Funded	Inc
68	WRP Community Wetland Restoration Grants Program	Provide grants up to \$30,000 for restoration and enhancement projects consistent with the goals of the Wetlands Recovery Project.	\$630,000	Regional	Restoration	Riparian, Invasives, Coastal Wetlands	Funded	1

Projects on the WRP Work Plan are classified as planning, restoration or acquisition projects. When the Work Plan was first developed more than ten years ago the majority of projects were planning for restoration. As plans have been developed the projects have shifted towards restoration and acquisition. As Figure 2 below illustrates, the 2010 WRP Work Plan is comprised of 41 percent restoration projects, 38 percent planning projects and 21 percent acquisition projects.

**Figure 2 WRP WORK PLAN PROJECTS CLASSIFICATION**



Wetlands Recovery Project Work Plan projects by project classification. (May 2010).

Projects on the WRP Work Plan also are analyzed by the habitat type(s) the projects address. The five categories include coastal wetlands which are mainly comprised of tidal salt marsh

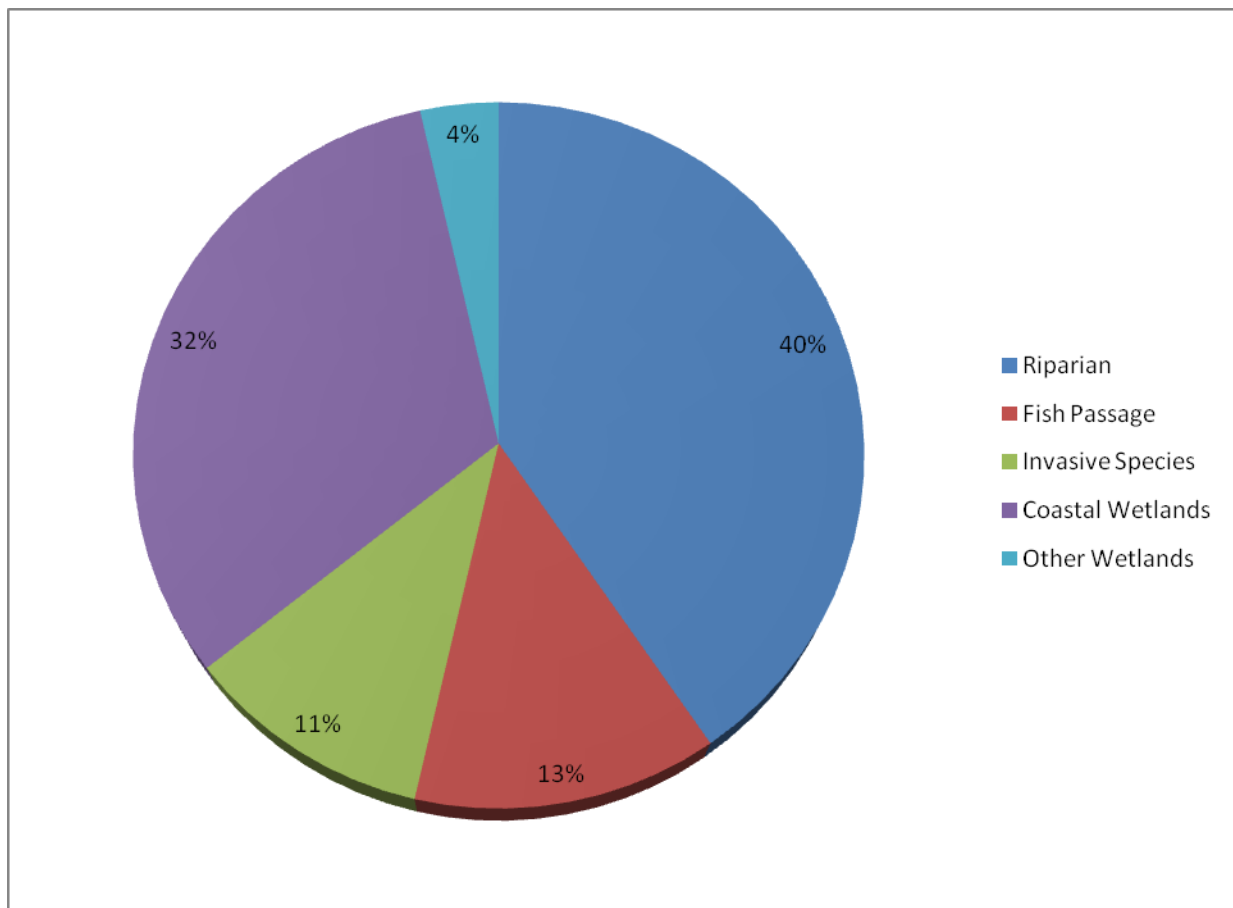
associated with estuarine and coastal lagoon systems. Riparian projects in coastal watersheds constitute another large percentage of projects on the Work Plan. These are generally connected to the riparian floodplain or transitional buffer zone habitats. These two habitat types make up 72 percent of the projects on the WRP Work Plan.

Fish passage and invasive species control are the next two largest categories of projects on the Work Plan with 13 percent fish passage projects and 11 percent invasive species control projects.

Other wetlands is the final category of projects totaling 4 percent of Work Plan projects. These projects include vernal pools, freshwater marsh, depressional wetlands and other wetland projects that do not fit into the other categories. Some projects encompass two or three of the habitat types used for analysis.

This analysis is helpful in identifying potential funding sources for the breadth of projects on the Work Plan and for analyzing how WRP regional and local goals are being met. Figure 3 below illustrates the spread of Work Plan projects by habitat type.

**Figure 3 WRP WORK PLAN PROJECTS HABITAT TYPE**

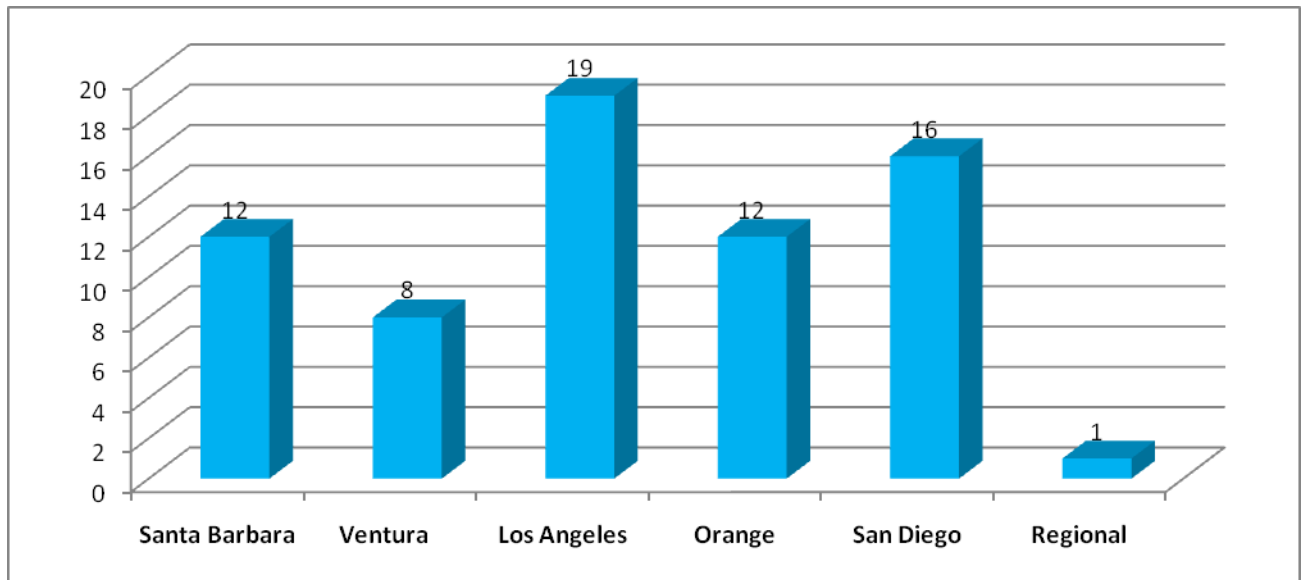


Wetlands Recovery Project Work Plan projects by habitat type. (May 2010)

Figure 4 below shows the spread of WRP Work Plan projects across the five counties included in the WRP geographic region. This analysis is interesting but needs to be weighed against many factors that influence the spread of projects throughout the region.

These factors include the availability of project habitat types that are consistent with the goals of the WRP. The Santa Monica Mountains region of Los Angeles County and the numerous coastal lagoon systems of San Diego County are reflected in the project spread. The WRP region also covers only the southern portion of Santa Barbara County. The spread of projects analysis also does not account for the scope and acreage of single projects, giving equal weight to small projects and projects that may include hundreds of acres or miles of riparian corridor.

**Figure 4 2010 WRP WORK PLAN PROJECTS**



Number of Wetland Recovery Project Work Plan projects per county. (May 2010)

## **FUNDING THE WORK PLAN**

### **Past Funding**

Since 2000, there has been unprecedented State investment in natural resources and the Wetlands Recovery Project has benefited from these resources. More than \$430 million dollars has been spent on the completed Work Plan projects. More than half of the total funding went to two very significant projects, the restoration of Bolsa Chica (\$144 million) and the acquisition of the Ballona Wetlands (\$140 million). The Port of Los Angeles provided \$40 million and the Port of Long Beach provided \$50 million to the Bolsa Chica restoration project in exchange for mitigation credit.

Of the remaining projects, about 70% of the funding came from State agencies. This funding has primarily come from statewide bond measures, including: Proposition 12, Proposition 13, Proposition 40, Proposition 50, and Proposition 84. About 11% of funding came from the

Federal government, 11% came from private sources and about 7% came from local governments.

It is now clear that the state will not be able to sustain this level of funding over the long term. Local funding initiatives, such as the City of Santa Barbara's Creek Program and Proposition O in Los Angeles have provided important matching funds for WRP projects in the past and these models should be replicated. Additionally projects on the Work Plan must expand efforts to tap into federal and potential private sources of funding to round out full funding potential.

### **Recent Funding for the Work Plan**

In December 2008, the State of California stopped expenditure of all bond funds, effectively shutting down many of the WRP Work Plan projects. Over the past 18 months, many projects have gradually been restarted and most previously approved funding has been restored.

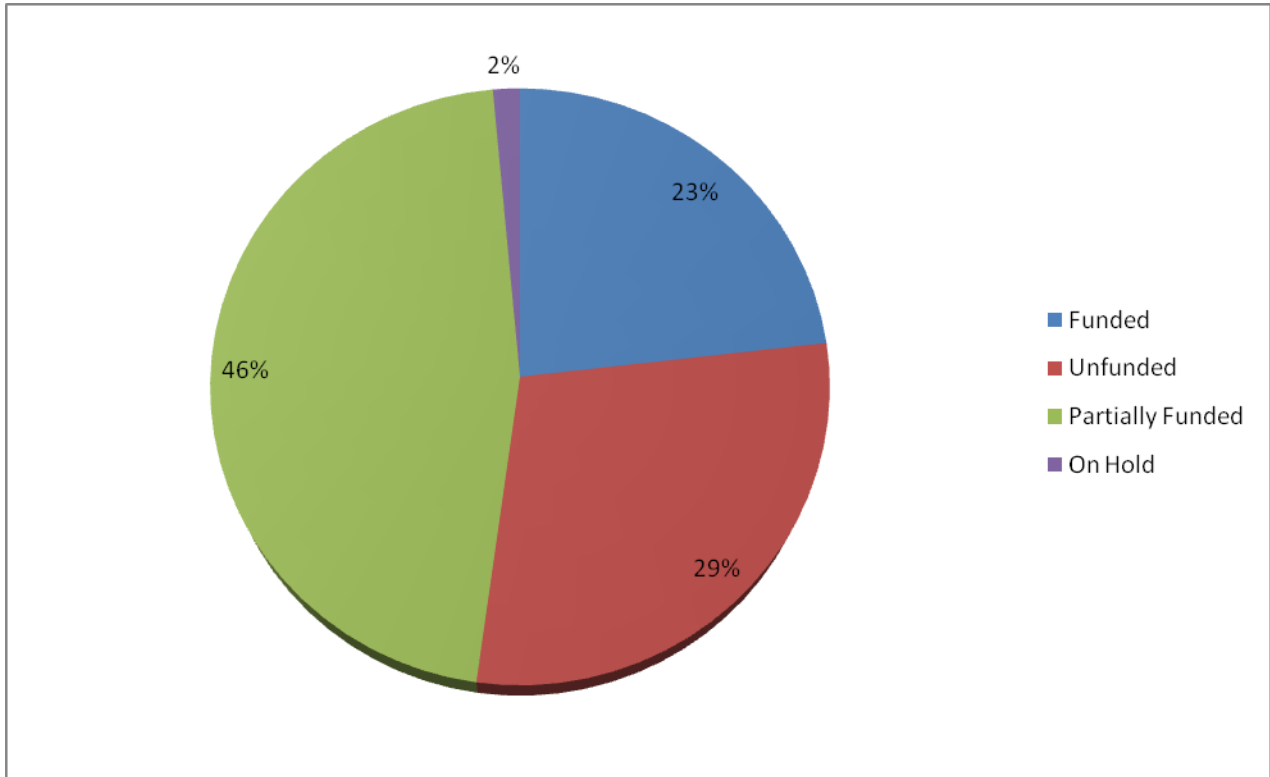
However, the bond funded projects freeze has delayed many projects and strained the financial resources of many of the partners implementing these projects. In April 2010, the State allowed bond funded agencies to make the first new grant awards in more than 18 month. Several WRP Work Plan projects were among the first new approvals of state funds, including the restoration of South San Diego Bay and the Hellman Ranch acquisition at Los Cerritos.

Fortunately, at the same time that state funding was dramatically reduced, federal grant funding for the Work Plan has significantly increased. During the past several years 20 Work Plan projects received close to \$57.9 million in federal funds. Two Work Plan projects, the Magnolia Marsh restoration at the Huntington Beach Wetlands and the South San Diego Bay restoration received \$3,344,462 and \$2,975,000 respectively in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding through NOAA.

### **Current Work Plan Projects Funding Status**

Of the 68 projects on the 2010 WRP Work Plan, only 23 percent of the projects are fully funded. Twenty nine percent of the projects are unfunded and another 46 percent of projects are only partially funded. Figure 5 below illustrates the Work Plan projects funding status.

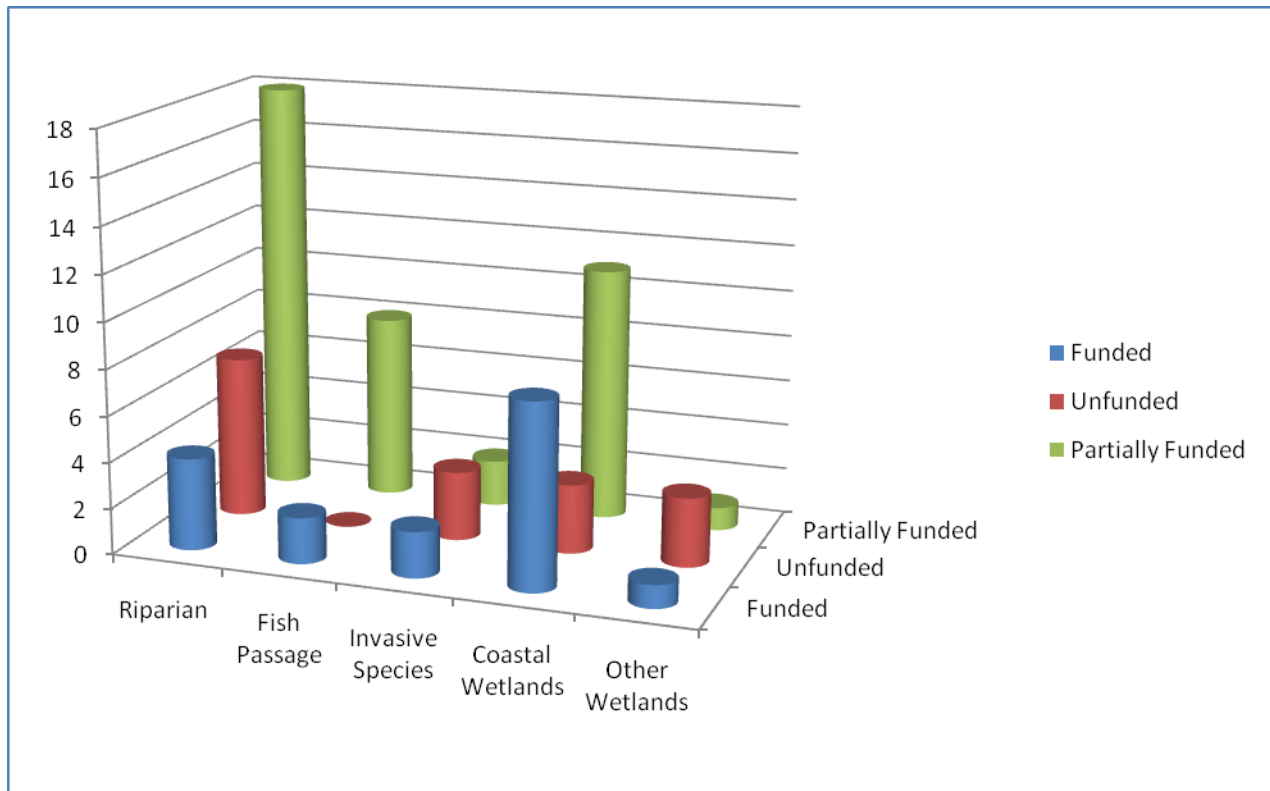
**Figure 5 WRP WORK PLAN PROJECTS FUNDING STATUS**



Funding status for Wetlands Recovery Project Work Plan projects. (May 2010)

Figure 6 on the next page shows project funding status by habitat type. This analysis demonstrates the WRP focus on coastal wetlands and coastal riparian restoration projects. These project habitat types however also make up the largest percentage of partially funded or completely unfunded projects indicating there is still a great need for additional funding for these projects on the 2010 Work Plan.

**Figure 6 PROJECT FUNDING STATUS BY HABITAT TYPE**



Project funding status by project type. Opportunities for funding shown in green and burgundy.

There is an identified need for approximately \$115 million in immediate funding for the 2010 Work Plan projects. However, the actual amount of funds needed to implement all projects on the Work Plan is much greater due to many large and complicated projects still under development and design making it impossible to exactly quantify the future funding need. The estimated total cost of all projects currently on the Work Plan is \$547 million.

**Long-term Protection of Wetland Resources (O&M and Adaptive Management)**

Recent success in acquiring and protecting important resource lands has highlighted the need for resources to operate and maintain these properties. As public land holdings have increased, the problem of inadequate management funds has become more acute. One limitation of the reliance on bond funds is that these funds cannot be used for maintenance activities. Lessons from the Southern California bight and elsewhere suggest that work is not over once a restoration project is implemented. Most projects are designed with an adaptive management framework that requires ongoing monitoring and management as the sites evolve. Climate change, sea level rise, and invasive species will continue to impact and potentially threaten the ecological values of the "completed" projects. It is clear that the achieving the goals of wetland recovery will depend on our ability to adapt, manage and protect these resources into the future.

## **Meeting Future Funding Needs**

The following section of this report identifies some of the most likely state, local and federal funding sources that should be utilized to support and complete projects on the WRP Work Plan.

### ***State Funding***

The majority of state funding for the Work Plan is expected to come from state bond measures that have been passed by the voters of the past several years, including Propositions 12, 40, 50, 84 and 1E. A portion of each of these bonds could be awarded to implement the Work Plan.

### **Coastal Conservancy**

Although the Coastal Conservancy no longer has funding designated for the Wetlands Recovery Project, restoration of coastal wetlands and watersheds is a major focus for the Conservancy and it will continue to use the Work Plan to identify priority projects. The Conservancy expects to provide more than \$40 million for the implementation of the WRP Work Plan over the next five years.

### **Wildlife Conservation Board**

The Wildlife Conservation Board uses the WRP Work Plan to identify priority projects within the WRP region and expects to provide \$35 million for acquisition and restoration projects over the next several years.

### **State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)**

Another often discussed but seldom realized potential source of funds for WRP Work Plan projects is the SWRCB's Supplemental Environmental Project program. The policy for these projects was updated as of February, 2009. This program is implemented at the Regional Board level and can vary with each region. Each Regional Board must follow the SWRCB SEP policy but nothing in the policy restricts the Regional Water Boards from establishing additional, more stringent criteria for SEPs. All SEPs approved by a Water Board must, at a minimum, satisfy the criteria defined in the SWRCB/RWQCB policy on Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) program. This policy document is available at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/enforcement/docs/rs2009\\_0013\\_sep\\_finaplolicy.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/enforcement/docs/rs2009_0013_sep_finaplolicy.pdf)

### ***Local Funding Measures***

Several local funding measures have been passed in the last few years that could lend support or matching funds to Work Plan projects. These include San Diego County TransNet, Measure M funds in Orange County, Prop O City of Los Angeles funds and the City of Santa Barbara Creeks Program bed tax funds.

### **San Diego County TransNet**

In 2004, the voters of San Diego County passed TransNet, a forty year, half-cent countywide sales tax to fund transportation infrastructure. The funding measure includes \$950 million for

environmental mitigation and enhancement. Some of these funds will be used to implement Work Plan projects. SANDAG has already awarded \$960,000 and \$540,000 for restoration planning of San Elijo and Buena Vista Lagoons (both Tier 1 projects) respectively. They also awarded \$255,000 for invasive plant control at San Dieguito watershed.

### **Orange County, Measure M funds**

In 2006 Orange County voters approved the renewal of Measure M, a half-cent local transportation sales tax, for an additional 30 years beginning in 2011 until 2041. Measure M2 includes two new environmental programs.

A total of \$243.5 million has been designated to mitigate the environmental impacts of freeway improvements through the Mitigation and Resource Protection Program and \$237.2 million has been dedicated to provide a competitive grant process through the Environmental Cleanup Program to help local agencies clean up highway and street runoff and meet Clean Water Act standards.

Both programs were launched in the fall of 2008 with the creation of two oversight committees to make recommendations to the Orange County Transportation Authority(OCTA) Board of Directors on how each program is to be designed and implemented.

The purpose of the Environmental Oversight Committee is to make recommendations to the Board of Directors on the allocation of environmental freeway mitigation funds and monitor the implementation of a master agreement between OCTA and state and federal resource agencies.

### **Los Angeles Measure O**

On November 2, 2004, the voters of Los Angeles passed Proposition O, which authorized the City of Los Angeles to issue a series of general obligation bonds for up to \$500 million for projects to protect public health by cleaning up pollution, including bacteria and trash, in the City's watercourses, beaches and the ocean, in order to meet Federal Clean Water Act requirements.

An administrative committee and citizens committee have been established to provide oversight of the bond funds. Project funds can be used for project planning, design, advertisement, bid and award, construction, construction management, and inspection.

### ***Federal Funding***

As mentioned previously, federal funding sources have provided close to \$57.9 million in WRP Work Plan funding over the past several years. The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service and US Environmental Protection Agency comprise the five federal agencies with funding and grant programs to recently contribute at least \$1,000,000 toward WRP Work Plan projects. The USACE and NOAA are the lead federal funding agencies contributing \$44.1 million and \$7.2 million respectively.

Listed below are several federal agency programs that could provide additional funding for Work Plan projects over the next years of implementation.

### **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

NOAA community-based restoration programs have been a large funding partner for Work Plan projects where WRP projects align with resources of special interest to NOAA and its grant partners. The most current grant opportunities, deadlines and program updates can be found at the NOAA Restoration Center Website: [www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/restoration](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/restoration)

The following is a list of NOAA Restoration Center partnerships that apply to California:

- NOAA Open Rivers Initiative
- NOAA Marine Debris Removal Grants
- Fish America and NOAA Restoration Grants
- American Rivers and NOAA fish passage barrier removal
- NFWF and NOAA Keystone Initiative Grants
- Trout Unlimited Grants
- The Nature Conservancy and NOAA Grants
- California Conservation Corps and NOAA Grants

These various funding sources provide competitive grants that range from several thousand dollars up to \$1 million under the Open Rivers Initiative.

### **The US Fish and Wildlife Service Coastal Program**

The US Fish and Wildlife Service Coastal Program works to restore and protect sensitive habitats and species in coastal areas. The Coastal Program is a direct Federal assistance program, providing technical and/or financial assistance for approved Coastal Program projects. It seeks partnerships (e.g., government, non-government, private landowners) that leverage financial and technical resources to carry out voluntary on-the-ground habitat conservation projects and to catalyze public action to solve problems.

Coastal Program projects include the following activities:

Restore degraded coastal habitats

- Implement proactive, voluntary, on-the-ground coastal habitat restoration projects, including, but not limited to wetlands, coastal streams, riparian, near shore, and upland habitats.
- Promote habitat conservation and stewardship by providing technical and financial assistance that result in native habitat improvement and the protection and management of Service Trust Species in coastal areas.

Protect existing, high quality, ecologically functioning coastal habitats

- Facilitate the development and implementation of voluntary conservation easements and locally-initiated land acquisition that provide permanent protection of high-priority coastal habitats.

Habitat Assessment

- Identify focus habitats that should be protected and restored.

- Provide leadership and technical expertise both within the Service and to other Federal, State, tribal and local government agencies, and with non-governmental organizations and private landowners to administer habitat programs that benefit the Service's Trust Species in coastal environments (includes providing technical assistance and scientific habitat conservation planning tools and assessing species response post restoration).

Further information on this and other USFWS grant programs is available at:  
<http://www.fws.gov/coastal/CoastalGrants/index.html>

**Estuary Restoration Act - Estuary Habitat Restoration Project Funding  
 (ACOE / USFWS / NOAA / EPA / DOA)**

Projects funded under this program will contribute to the Estuary Restoration Act (ERA) of 2000 Estuary Habitat Restoration Strategy goal of restoring 1,000,000 acres of estuary habitat. The Council will only accept proposals that request at least \$100,000 and no more than \$1,000,000. The program cannot fund mitigation, or projects on Federal lands. Applicants must provide at least 35% non-federal match, however if they qualify as innovative technology this may be reduced to 15%.

Awarded proposals may be funded by any of the five ERA agencies, depending on annual appropriated ERA funds. The five agencies include the Army Corps of Engineers, US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, US Environmental Protection Agency and the US Department of Agriculture.

Eligible habitat restoration activities may include, but are not limited to:

- Improvement of estuarine wetland tidal exchange or reestablishment of historic hydrology
- Dam or berm removal
- Improvement or reestablishment of fish passage
- Appropriate reef/substrate/habitat creation
- Planting of native estuarine wetland and submerged aquatic vegetation
- Reintroduction of native species
- Control of invasive species
- Establishment of riparian buffer zones in the estuary

The most current funding information can be found at the Estuary Restoration Act funding web site at: <http://era.noaa.gov/information/funding.html>

**National Fish and Wildlife Foundation / Walmart - Acres for America**

Acres for America is a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation land conservation program and was established to provide funding for projects that conserve large, landscape-level areas that are important habitat for fish, wildlife, and plants through acquisition of interest in real property.

Acres for America was launched in 2005 with Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. as the founding partner. Wal-Mart's goal as a founding partner is to offset the footprint of their domestic facilities on at least an acre by acre basis through permanent conservation of important wildlife habitats.

Approximately \$2.5 million will be available annually through 2014 for conservation investments. All grant awards require a minimum 1:1 match of cash or contributed goods and services. Federal funds may be considered as match.

Current information for this grant program is available at:

[http://www.nfwf.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Charter\\_Programs\\_List&CONTENTID=12269&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm](http://www.nfwf.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Charter_Programs_List&CONTENTID=12269&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm)

### **Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)**

There are numerous NRCS programs that may be available to provide funding for Work Plan projects. Especially where wetlands projects overlap with current or previous agricultural lands. Programs available for California projects are detailed on the NRCS web site at:

<http://www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/>

A few of the most promising NRCS programs for Work Plan projects funding include:

- The NRCS Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) is primarily a wetlands conservation easement program with restoration components.  
<http://www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/wrp.html>
- Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) is a restoration and habitat improvement program: <http://www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/whip/2010/index.html>
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a program primarily for private farm and ranchlands to improve the host of resource concerns on working agricultural lands: <http://www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/2010/index.html>

### **SAFETEA-LU**

On August 10, 2005, the President signed into law the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). SAFETEA-LU provides guaranteed funding for highways, highway safety, and public transportation totaling \$244.1 billion. SAFETEA-LU builds on the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA) and the Transportation Equity Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (TEA-21), supplying the funds and refining the programmatic framework for investments needed to maintain and grow transportation infrastructure.

SAFETEA-LU addresses challenges facing our transportation system such as improving safety, reducing traffic congestion, improving efficiency in freight movement, increasing intermodal connectivity, and protecting the environment. It promotes more efficient and effective Federal surface transportation programs by focusing on transportation issues of national significance, while giving State and local transportation decision makers more flexibility for solving transportation problems in their communities.

SAFETEA-LU retains and increases funding for environmental programs of TEA-21, and adds new programs focused on the environment, including a pilot program for non-motorized

transportation and Safe Routes to School. SAFETEA-LU also includes significant new environmental requirements for the Statewide and Metropolitan Planning process.

## **Looking to the Future**

*“The Wetlands Recovery Project will increase the pace and effectiveness of coastal wetland and watershed acquisition, restoration, and enhancement in Southern California by ... Securing and pooling funding from state, federal, local or private sectors ...”* – Wetlands Recovery Project Working Agreement

As part of the effort to fund projects on the WRP Work Plan, WRP partner agencies and project proponents will need to work more closely than ever before to identify and coordinate the full range of funding possibilities.

As one step to accomplishing this goal the Wetlands Managers Group will organize one or two regional workshops for projects already accepted to the Work Plan for the purpose of bringing project leads together with potential funding program representatives to discuss and explore the various funding options and technical support needed to advance the Work Plan as a whole.

Continued multipurpose project perspectives are needed to tap the full scope of potential funding. As the Wetlands Recovery Project moves forward with implementing the 2010 Work Plan, and prepares to add new projects to the Work Plan in 2001, the partner agencies will need to come together and renew their commitment to pooling funds to identify and complete priority wetland planning, restoration and acquisition projects throughout coastal southern California.