

2006 – 2007 Small Grants Program

1. Project: Arroyo Hondo Preserve West Riparian Corridor Sediment Control and Restoration

Grantee: Land Trust for Santa Barbara County

Award: \$8,000

Total Cost: \$4,600

The Land Trust will implement a community-based project with biotechnical soil stabilization techniques to a 0.25-acre site in the western riparian corridor of Arroyo Hondo Creek at the Arroyo Hondo Preserve. Removal of non-native invasive plant species, construction of brush fascines with live stakes, and planting with native plants will be done primarily by volunteers and restoration interns; the project will benefit spawning habitat for steelhead trout by reducing sediment entering the creek.

2. Project: Storke Ranch Vernal Pool Restoration

Grantee: Community Environmental Council

Award: \$24,900

Total Cost: \$74,000

The project consists of excavation to restore two vernal pools, inoculation of pools with material from established pools, removal of weeds and planting native plants around the edges of the pools, and restoring a portion of the buffer area with coastal scrub and oak woodland species. A large number of volunteers from the community, student interns, and an elementary school group will learn about vernal pools and restoration techniques while participating in the project.

3. Project: West Storke Wetland Enhancement Project

Grantee: University of California

Award: \$30,000

Total Cost: \$41,000

The ecological enhancement of West Storke Wetland provides a unique opportunity to involve primarily underrepresented 5th grade students from adjacent communities in a wetland restoration project. Restoration goals include removing spoil piles from within wetland and restoring heavily invaded wetland edges with native transitional species. Education goals include an educational and a restoration field trip for 5 fifth grade classes through the Kids in Nature Program, 6 UCSB student interns and educational signage along nature trail.

4. Project: Rice Creek Realignment and Restoration

Grantee: Ojai Valley Land Conservancy

Award: \$30,000

Total Cost: \$54,000

As phase 1 (of 3) of the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy's (OVLC) plans to restore wetland functions to a Ventura River tributary (that was channelized/re-routed and converted to citrus in the early 1900s), the project involves the professional removal of *Arundo donax* from 4.99-acres of Rice Creek—the largest feeder source of *Arundo* to the Ventura River other than Matilija Canyon. A large number of Ojai and Ventura County volunteers as well as teachers and students will help restore habitat, while learning important concepts of habitat disturbance, preservation, restoration, and wetland function.

5. Project: Marquez Canyon Creek Ecological Restoration

Grantee: California Wetlands Research

Award: \$21,000

Total Cost: \$51,300

The project will restore a perennial coastal stream filled 51 years ago as close to predisturbance conditions as possible. Plans for this phase include excavation of the stream course, on site nursery construction to grow native plants required for the restoration, and an educational program involving public school students, who will participate in plant propagation at the nursery and soil/water quality testing/monitoring as part of an environmental science curriculum given the grantee's credentialed scientists and educators.

6. Project: Using Long Beach Native Plants to Restore Local Wetlands

Grantee: Long Beach Organics, Inc.

Award: \$24,200

Total Cost: \$56,800

The project will provide much needed local native plants for Long Beach City/NGO partnership projects. By making native plants readily available, Long Beach Organic will help increase the planting of region specific natives on restored wetlands, and the Long Beach Greenbelt which is upland from and draining to sensitive wetlands habitat at the Colorado Lagoon.

7. Project: Bolsa Chica Pocket Wetlands Restoration

Grantee: Bolsa Chica Land Trust

Award: \$10,807

Total Cost: \$14,587

The Bolsa Chica Stewards, restoration team of the Bolsa Chica Land Trust, in collaboration with the California Coastal Commission's Community-Based Restoration and Education Program (CBREP), will restore an approximately one-acre site in the historic pocket wetlands at Bolsa Chica that is currently being returned to muted tidal conditions as part of the Bolsa Chica Wetlands Restoration Project.

8. Project: Restoration of marsh/coastal strand interface at south Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve

Grantee: Orange County Conservation Corps

Award: \$18,700

Total Cost: \$40,600

The project will restore approximately 4.5 acres of the marsh-coastal strand interface at the southern end of Bolsa Chica along PCH by removing invasive non-native vegetation and installing appropriate California native plants to improve quality of habitat for wildlife.

9. Project: Habitat Heroes---The Return of Natives Environmental Education Project
Grantee: Friends of San Diego Wildlife Refuges

Award: \$25,000

Total Cost: \$61,800

The project will design and implement a habitat restoration and interpretation plan for approximately 3.4 acres of transitional upland, maritime succulent scrub and coastal sage scrub communities on the South San Diego Bay Unit of the San Diego National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). Students participating in the Habitat Heroes Restoration, Field Study and Service- learning Program will assist in habitat restoration and through this and other hands-on experiences on the Refuge and at the Crestridge Ecological Reserve, a reserve administered by a partner, the Endangered Habitats League, these students will understand the interrelationships of ecosystems and the plants, animals, and marine species that rely on a fully functioning wetland for survival, then act upon that knowledge both at home and in the community.

10. Project: San Dieguito North Bank Restoration

Grantee: San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy

Award: \$19,350

Total Cost: \$27,250

The project will restore 2.0 acres of disturbed wetland and upland by removing non-native vegetation and replanting with native salt marsh and coastal sage scrub species. Once the site is cleared of existing debris, volunteers will participate in site preparation, planting, weeding and watering, learning how wetlands contribute to the health of coastal ecosystems.

11. Project: Stevenson Canyon Wetlands Restoration Project

Grantee: Sierra Club - SD Chapter

Award: \$28,500

Total Cost: \$28,500

The project will educate and enroll at least 60 local residents to provide ongoing stewardship of Stevenson Canyon habitats and to promote watershed health within the community through outreach, education, and proactive control of invasive plants. The grantee will support this "Friends Group" in organizing restoration events to remove invasive plants and plant native species (willows, mulefat, etc.), restoring 7/10s acre of riparian stream corridor and 3/10s acre upland buffer area in Stevenson Canyon.