

Species and Habitat Recovery Grant Application

Applicant Name ¹ : Escondido Creek Conservancy
Address: P.O Box 460791, Escondido CA 92046
Phone: (760) 471-9354
Email: jamison@escondidocreek.org , information@escondidocreek.org
Name of Property: Quarry Preserve
General Location ² : Harmony Grove Road and Country Club Drive, Westridge, Escondido, 92029
Jurisdiction ³ : County of San Diego
Total Acres: 23
Estimated Acres Requiring Management: 8.22
Owner(s) of Property: ⁴ The Escondido Creek Conservancy (THE CONSERVANCY)
Land manager(s) of property (include name[s]): Hannah Walchak, Jamison Lauria

Grant Application Form and required supplementary materials (hereafter referred to as “application”) cannot exceed 12 pages.

Brief project summary that includes your primary goal and objectives. (200-word maximum)

Goal: create and retain high-quality nesting and foraging habitat to support the long-term reproductive success of the Least Bell’s Vireo (LBVI) and Coastal California Gnatcatcher (CAGN) within the Conservancy’s Quarry Preserve, thus enhancing their dispersal and success across MSP Unit 6. Both MSP-listed species occur within the 23-acre Quarry Preserve. The Quarry Preserve is located between mitigation lands associated with Harmony Grove Village and the County’s Del Dios Highlands Preserve. It contains Escondido Creek, riparian, and uplands habitat, heavily damaged by 1920s-era granite mining. The Conservancy has slowly improved the Preserve but more needs to be done to take full advantage of its strategic location to also buttress adjacent preserved lands to increase their resilience. Objectives: (1) Restore 3.45-acres of disturbed habitat to self-sustaining riparian forest/edge and coastal sage scrub (CSS) upland. (2) Enhance 4.77 additional acres of riparian forest and CSS. (3) Maintain the 8.22-acre project area in perpetuity. The project will negate impacts that altered CSS upland on the north side of the creek, where CAGN have been documented to nest, by expanding CSS on the south side of the creek. The restoration would expand CSS foraging habitat and riparian nesting habitat used by the LBVI.

Quantify expected results (add bullets as necessary)

- 3.45-acres of disturbed habitat will be restored to CSS and riparian forest/edge that is self-sustaining after 5 years using potted plants and invasive plant control methods. A total of .6-acres of disturbed habitat will be

¹ While collaboration is encouraged in the development of the grant application, the application must identify one organization as the lead entity that will enter into an Agreement with SANDAG.

² Physical address, or closest cross streets or property boundary.

³ Name of city where the project is located. County of San Diego can be listed for the unincorporated areas of the region.

⁴ If the applicant is not the landowner, please submit a letter or right-of-entry permit from the landowner granting permission to perform the land management duties as outlined in the application. Failure to provide the letter or right-of-entry permit will lead to disqualification of the application. (Attached letter or right-of-entry permit (if applicable) does not count towards 12-page maximum.)

restored to riparian edge and 2.85-acres of disturbed habitat will be restored to CSS including portions of inactive dirt road. Additionally, project enhancements will improve the resilience of nearby conservation areas. (See Map 1). The chosen plant palette and layout will mimic a community of CSS and riparian edge that is diverse, and representative of the local plant communities and will support nesting and foraging LBVI and CAGN. (See Map 2). The disturbed habitat will be reclassified as CSS and riparian forest within year 5 of the grant. The restoration project would complete the entire restoration of the Quarry Preserve.

- The CSS restoration would increase nesting habitat for the CAGN and unfragmented foraging habitat for the LBVI that directly borders the creek (high quality). The project would support LBVI dispersal on soon to be restored areas on private lands (under a Prop 1 grant) by maintaining and enhancing the mature riparian forest within Quarry. Nesting LBVI are known to forage in CSS and Chaparral bordering riparian habitats (Kus, 1989); Studies have also shown LBVI territories bordering on urban development were less reproductively successful than territories bordering on CSS and chaparral (Franzreb, 1989). Occupation of restored sites was accelerated by the presence of adjacent mature riparian habitat, which afforded birds nest sites and/or foraging habitat lacking in the planted vegetation (Kus 1988).
- The Conservancy will collect seed and grow up to 750 plants at our nursery to replace any plant mortality observed in the restoration area through the 5-year grant period. The work will be used as matching funds for this project.
- 4.77-acres of riparian forest and CSS/edge will be maintained and enhanced through active weed suppression to maintain and improve the resilience of nearby conserved lands to continue supporting LBVI and CAGN that occur within and near the project area. The enhanced areas will be self-sustaining after 5 years (See Map 2).
- The restored and enhanced areas will offset threats and stressors from nearby Harmony Grove Village (HGV) development including fragmentation and alterations of the upland CSS on the northside of the creek. To improve diverse natural communities that will sustain current and future LBVI and CAGN populations within the Quarry Preserve and promote their dispersal along the Escondido Creek corridor.
- The Quarry Preserve will remain closed to the public to limit human disturbance for the benefit of the LBVI, CAGN, and other wildlife in the area. The public will only be invited to controlled education and volunteer events. This will support LBVI and CAGN and negate higher levels of disturbance on the north side of the creek.
- All exotic plant weed species within the project area will be considered invasive and removed following species-specific best management practices. Current target species for removal include Giant reed (*Arundo donax*), poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*), mustard (*Brassica* sp.) Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*), stinkwort (*Dittrichia graveolens*), wild fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*), castor bean (*Ricinus communis*), palms, non-native grasses, and cocklebur (*Xanthium strumarium*).
- Grading will enhance the ecological and hydrological conditions of the site and correct soil compaction from historic mining operations. This will improve plant survival within the restoration area and natural revegetation within the site. Grading will be performed by a licensed and experienced contractor. Grading will be limited to distinct degraded areas, including portions of an inactive dirt road that runs through the Quarry Preserve. Grading will disturb less than one acre of land and move less than 200 cubic yards of dirt. Native vegetation will be avoided and retained. A permit will not be required. (See Map 3).
- Plants will be installed in the early fall of 2023 to take advantage of the seasonal rainfall. An above-ground temporary drip irrigation system will be installed within the restoration area. Plants will receive supplemental water once a month for 2 years to increase plant survival, establishment, and growth. The irrigation system will be removed after the two-year watering period.
- 3"-4" inches of mulch will be placed in the restoration area after grading and during planting to prevent erosion, control weeds, increase organic matter and improve moisture retention.
- A total of 21 eucalyptus trees will be cut and chemically treated within the Quarry Preserve to reduce fuels for fire and any encroachment into the project area.
- This project will employ standard avoidance measures to prevent damage to native plants, wildlife, and systems. These include seasonal restrictions on vegetation removal including avoiding work in the breeding season or implementing appropriate surveys and monitoring precautions if work must be done in the breeding season.
- Multiple methods of monitoring will be used to evaluate the success of the restoration. The site will be visited

at least once a month to observe the restoration area and note any corrective actions that may be needed such as fencing. LBVI and CAGN protocol presence/absence surveys will be performed in year 1, year 3, and year 5 by permitted and experienced biologists. Conservancy staff will perform vegetation sampling using quadrats in years 1, 3, 5. Vegetation mapping will occur in year 5 of the grant period. Photo monitoring and avian point counts will be conducted twice a year in spring and fall through the 5 years and post-grant period.

Brief description of dedicated staff and/or consultants/contractors that would work on the Project. (200-word maximum)

The Conservancy’s Conservation Land Management Assistant (CLMA) will coordinate the project with supervision by the Conservation Director. The coordination will include scheduling contractors, reporting results to SANDAG, performing surveys, monitoring, and post-grant maintenance. The (CLMA) will supervise work performed by consultants and submit internal reports to the conservation director. The Conservancy’s Director of Finance and Operations will administer the grant. The (CLMA) will have a Bachelor of Science degree and a minimum of 2 years of experience working on similar projects. The Conservation Director will have a master’s degree and a minimum of 2 years of experience working on similar projects. The Conservancy will follow Land Trust Alliance (LTA)-guidelines and perform a compliant competitive bidding process to determine the most qualified and affordable contractor for each task. No estimates greater than the bids in the project line items will be accepted. Urban Corps of San Diego County, a certified local conservation Corp that employs low-income young adults, will be hired for invasive plant management. Urban Corps of San Diego County will be invited to bid on additional tasks listed in the line items

Funding Needs Summary

Please indicate how much funding is being requested from SANDAG and any matching funding proposed.

Budget Item	Requested Funding Amount	Description
Personnel Expenses Staff	\$46,371.16	Includes staff time for non-administrative work on the project
Personnel Administrative Expenses	\$22,825.24	Includes all staff time to administer the contract
Consultant/Contractor Expenses	\$291,059.00	Includes all costs for consultant/contractor services
Other Direct Expenses	\$56,697.21	Includes all equipment, supplies, mileage, etc.
Totals	\$416,952.61	

**if applicable*

Are there matching fund available? **Yes** **No**

If yes, how are the matching funds assured? (100-word maximum)

Attach a letter from the organization/partner that ONLY provides confirmation that they are committed to providing the matching funds proposed for this project. Letters confirming matching funds will not count toward the 12-page limit. (General letters of support not related to commitment of matching funds will NOT be accepted and will NOT be considered as part of the application).

Project Application

Project Purpose

Address the following in the application:

1. **Describe the proposed management activity(ies) and how it relates to the Management Strategic Plan (MSP) for Conserved Lands in Western San Diego County. Is there current management occurring or has past management occurred on the property (please describe)? If the proposed management activity is based on the results from past field inspections of the species occurrence, describe the conditions and management needs identified and whether or not the data has been provided to the San Diego Management and Monitoring Program. If implementing fire management actions, describe the management technique being used and whether a fire plan currently exists.**

Restoration and enhancement of natural vegetation communities is a key management directive with MSP. This project relates and fulfills the goals set in the MSP for the LBVI, CAGN, and their associated habitats, "to maintain, enhance and restore occupied habitat that would be able to persist long term". This project will directly address threats listed in the MSP, including urban development/fragmentation, invasive plants, altered fire regime, the loss of ecological integrity, and climate change. The project would restore 3.45 acres and enhance 4.77 acres of riparian forest and CSS. The project will increase the native seed bank by suppressing and removing non-natives to increase the chances of habitat recovery after a fire. Invasive plant removal would decrease fuel sources by removing non-native weeds and eucalyptus. There is currently no fire plan in the Quarry HMP. This project would complete the entire restoration of the Quarry Preserve. The project will support the Conservancy's past and current management actions in MSP Unit 6 and the gnatcatcher core to restore historic diverse vegetation communities and habitat connectivity to protect Escondido Creek watershed wildlife and prevent local extirpation events.

The Conservancy acquired the 11-acre Quarry Preserve in 2002. In 2011 the Conservancy purchased the 12-acre Hoover Parcel I on the south side of Escondido Creek which expanded the Quarry Preserve to 23-acres. The Quarry parcel was heavily degraded from granite mining operations and dominated by invasive plants when purchased. Through active exotic plant management and several successful restoration projects, the quality of the riparian habitat has dramatically improved; it is now classified as southern riparian forest. After the riparian restoration work in the mid-2000s, the southwest area of Quarry held piles of felled eucalyptus trees which took several years to dispose of. During that time biological consultant HRS did some "experimental" restoration by importing soil and planting CSS species on the flats between woodpiles and the then-beehive operation; only a few of the shrubs survived. The upland on the north side of the creek below Harmony Grove Road was planted in 2015 with SDGE and was largely successful. The threat from exotic species was classified as low on the northern boundary, until disturbance from the construction of the nearby HGV development in 2020 and 2021. The Conservancy will continue to work with the developer to resolve this damage (see below), but potential resolution is unclear at this time because of the timing of previous government approvals.

Habitat alteration along Harmony Grove Road and nearby parcels by the HGV developer has caused soil disturbance and erosion on the north boundary of the Quarry Preserve. These alterations have damaged vegetation and increased non-native plant cover. New invasive species have also been detected. For example, in 2021, stinknet (*Oncosiphon piluliferum*) was identified and removed before going to seed. With disturbance bordering Harmony Grove Road, the area needs a higher amount of attention. The Conservancy would use SANDAG funds to intensively treat exotic species created by this disturbance to prevent them from re-establishing and encroaching into the restored CSS and riparian areas and adjacent conservation lands, thus preventing the undoing of years of progress. This restoration and enhancement would support the CAGN and LBVI that occur within the Quarry Preserve, adjacent HGV mitigation/open space parcels, and their potential dispersal to nearby private lands being restored as part of a Prop 1 grant.

The Conservancy staff has incidentally sighted the CAGN year-round since acquiring the property. CAGN nesting is known to occur in (HGV) Parcel Q, which is part of HGV open space parcels, located on the north side of the creek above Harmony Grove Road. In 2020 Parcel Q was recently altered by the developer through blasting to complete road improvements. Exotic plant species are now encroaching up the slope of the parcel into CAGN habitat. This project would quickly expand CAGN nesting habitat that is protected and unfragmented to try to

mitigate habitat loss/alteration that could otherwise negatively impact CAGN viability within the area. This work would also benefit the LBVI within the property and neighboring mitigation parcels by improving and expanding riparian edge and CSS foraging habitat that is not fragmented and directly borders Escondido Creek. Conservancy staff sighted a possible LBVI nest during a visual encounter survey along Escondido Creek, but the suspected LBVI did not vocalize, and staff left the area to avoid harassment. On June 15th, 2021, Travis Cooper from Halcyon Environmental informed Hannah Walchak the Conservancy's Conservation Director that two male LBVI were detected near the Quarry boundary line while he was surveying. In September the Conservancy was informed by HGV biologist Erica Harris, that LBVI have been sighted for the past several years in the HGV mitigation parcel Old Castle. The Conservancy has not yet submitted data to SDMMMP.

2. Which MSP species and their habitats will benefit from the proposed management activity? Which specific MSP objective(s) and action(s) will be implemented? Name the specific MSP species occurrence(s) to benefit from the management activity, if applicable.

MSP species that occur within the project area and that will benefit from improving and expanding the riparian and CSS habitat include (SO) LBVI, (VF) CAGN, and (VF) wart-stemmed ceanothus, (VF) coopers hawk, (SS) southern mule deer, (VG) southern California rufous crowned sparrow and (VG) orange throated whiptail. Actions that will accomplish goals/objectives set in the MSP will include habitat restoration which will increase the ecological integrity of the site, managing threats associated with the target species that occur on-site, and monitoring of the restoration site and focal species. The wart-stemmed ceanothus will be included in the plant palette.

3. To be eligible for funding, the proposed project must be within the MSP area. In which Management Unit is the project located? (*Attach a map*)

The restoration project is located within MSP Unit 6 in Escondido located along Harmony Grove Road and Country Club Drive under the jurisdiction of North County San Diego. (See Map 4).

4. Describe the stressors and/or threats to the MSP species and their habitats in the project area that will be addressed through the implementation of this project application.

Threats to the LBVI, CAGN, and their habitats within and adjacent to the Quarry Preserve addressed in this project include invasive plants, altered fire regime, urban development, loss of ecological integrity, and climate change. Details of how each threat will be addressed are listed below.

Invasive plant species that are within the project area include Italian thistle, poison hemlock, non-native grasses, fennel, mustard, stinkwort, castor bean, cocklebur, and false Spanish fleabane and eucalyptus. These non-natives compete with the native plants for resources, increase fuels for fire, and can alter and degrade the natural vegetation communities. These have negative impacts on wildlife species including the LBVI and CAGN as listed in the MSP. The Conservancy will hire Urban Corp of San Diego to treat the project area chemically and mechanically, 2-3 times a year. 21 invasive eucalyptus trees will be removed from the Quarry Preserve. Conservancy staff and volunteers will pull weeds through the 5-year grant period. This will reduce the threat of encroachment into the adjacent conserved lands, reduce fuels for potential fire and create and maintain the ecological integrity of the site. The restoration and establishment of a native seed bank will increase the chances for native plant species to re-establish and vegetation communities to recover after a fire.

This restoration project will increase the habitat resilience to short-term climate impacts as mentioned in the MSP by increasing the resilience of native habitat through restoration and enhancement of native vegetation and management of non-native species. It will also fulfill the loss of ecological management goal in the MSPA by restoring natural and diverse vegetation CSS and riparian forest communities and protecting them. Threats from urban development stemmed from the reopening of Harmony Grove Road (post HGV construction improvements) and the nearby HGV development has increased human and vehicular traffic. Trash will be picked up once a month through the 5-year grant period and if dumping is observed, it will be corrected immediately. Two focused clean-up visits will be scheduled during early spring and the end of summer outside of the LBVI nesting season by staff and volunteers. The Quarry Preserve will be closed to the public and only open during volunteer and education events to conduct habitat improvements. Restoring and expanding the CSS upland on the south side of the creek will offset nearby urban, human stressors, and fragmentation occurring along the northern boundary of the Quarry preserve and surrounding conserved lands and to prevent the loss or viability of the MSP species.

5. Describe the management techniques proposed, including whether they have been previously used successfully and where. Are there any negative effects to MSP and other sensitive species and their habitats that could result from the proposed management action?

The proposed management actions are expected to have minimal to no adverse impact on the MSP species. This project will employ standard avoidance measures to prevent damage to native plants, wildlife, and systems. These include seasonal restrictions on vegetation removal including avoiding work in the breeding season or implementing appropriate surveys and monitoring precautions if work must be done in the breeding season. All contractors will have the appropriate licenses, certifications and experience needed to perform high-quality work.

Management techniques that will be applied in this project will be based on relevant literature and riparian edge and CSS restoration plans focused on improvements to LBVI and CAGN that were successfully executed within Southern California. A year before planting, invasive plants within the project area will be intensively treated for over a year following species-specific best management practices. Contractors will be hired to perform chemical and mechanical methods 2-3 times a year to control and suppress invasive plants within the project area for the 5-year period. Grading will break up heavy soil compaction to allow for stronger root establishment and plant survival. Dirt piles left from the mining operation will be used to create natural features within these compacted areas that will help disperse and distribute even water flow to reduce runoff and increase saturation, with minimal damage to native vegetation. The restoration area will be mulched to improve soil health, manage invasive plant species, and prevent erosion.

Planting will occur in the early fall of 2023 to take advantage of the natural rain season. The Conservancy will use live plants from Moosa Creek to quickly restore 3.45-acres and replace any mortality using plants grown at our own nursery (from local seed). The plant palette will mimic local riparian and CSS communities nearby and the preferred habitat features of the target species. The site will be watered once a month for two years, using an above-ground dripline irrigation system to increase long-term plant survival (root establishment) and increase the timing of the riparian forest/edge and CSS development. The Conservancy will use funding from this grant to pay a licensed contractor to water the site. If there is a long period of drought and/or higher temperatures that stress the survival of the live plants, the Conservancy will schedule another watering visit. If corrective actions are needed such as fencing around individual plants or the restoration area, it will be erected. The (CLMA) and volunteers will visit the site once a month to pull weeds and pick up miscellaneous trash; two of those months will be focused on trash removal. Volunteers will be educated in the identification of non-native plants. To evaluate progress, needs and the success of the restoration projects monthly monitoring, vegetation sampling, protocol-level surveys, and avian points will be conducted through the 5- year period.

6. What strategic approach will be used to ensure the successful, long-term outcome of the proposed project (e.g. upstream exotic removal prior to downstream, future on-going maintenance)? Which adjacent conserved lands will not be included and why?

The restoration area will continue to be monitored every month and maintained as needed after the grant period is finished to ensure the restoration is successful. Incidental sightings of the LBVI and CAGN during annual avian point counts and monthly monitoring visits will be documented and submitted to CNDDDB. Adjacent conserved lands include parcels G, Old Castle, and open space Parcel Q. The HGV parcels are not included in the grant because the Conservancy does not have current ownership and the two riparian parcels G and Old Castle are in good condition. We will acquire the HGV parcels in the next year and begin conservation management. Parcel Q is disturbed from habitat alterations and several exotic plant species have been observed to be encroaching into the native habitat. Note: The Conservancy is currently using Prop 1 funds to restore portions of the Escondido Creek on privately owned land that are upstream and downstream of Quarry. These sites are being treated for non-native species such as eucalyptus, Arundo, castor bean, and other non-native species; some of these areas will be restored through live plantings, creating a higher quality environmental corridor and a valuable source for wildlife. The Conservancy hopes that LBVI within the Quarry Preserve and the HGV mitigation parcels will disperse to these areas and other conserved lands in the future. See map 1.

7. What are the goals and objectives for the proposed project? What criteria/metrics will be used to measure success? If applicable, what quantitative monitoring data will be collected to evaluate success? Who will be collecting the monitoring data and what are their qualifications?

Goal 1: To restore 3.45-acres of disturbed habitat to riparian forest/edge and CSS upland on the south side of Escondido Creek becoming self-sustaining after 5-years. That the active restoration and improvements to the soil through grading will improve the success of potted plants establishing and natural revegetation which will improve the ecological integrity of the site. The project will expand diverse CSS and riparian edges that can support foraging and breeding LBVI and CAGN and their dispersal to adjacent conserved and restored private lands (corridor/connectivity). (See Map 1). **Success criteria:** 3 years after the planting, native cover should be greater than 30%. 4 years after the planting, native cover should be greater than 50% of native plant cover within the restoration area. The restored area will be self-sustaining, and the threat of invasive plant species will be reclassified from high to low. Plant survival will be no less than 75%. **Quantitative Monitoring:** Vegetation sampling will be done in the 3rd and 5th years to determine native cover within the restoration area. Vegetation mapping will be done in the 5th year to compare changes within the restoration area. Photo points will be taken twice a year in spring and fall to document vegetation changes within the restoration area. Vegetation mapping will be done in the 5th year to compare changes within the restoration area. The data will be collected by the Conservancy's (CLMA) and submitted to SANDAG. **The Conservancy's "(CLMA)" will have a bachelor's in wildlife management or a similar field and have at least two years' experience conducting similar work.**

Goal 2: To enhance 4.77-acres of riparian and CSS. To treat and prevent the establishment of non-native species in recently disturbed areas from urban development in 2020-2021 and their encroachment into the restored areas on the northern boundary of Quarry. The enhanced areas will be self-sustaining after 5 years and no longer need high levels of attention. To retain and increase the habitat quality to support foraging and nesting LBVI and CAGN. **Success criteria:** 3 years after treatment, to see the threat of invasive plant species on the northern boundary below Harmony Grove Road diminished and reclassified from intermediate to low. 5 years after treatment to see the re-establishment of natives in the disturbed areas. To have no new establishment of non-native species within the maintained and enhanced riparian area. **Quantitative Monitoring:** Photo points and observational monitoring of the site will be used to determine success. The data will be collected by the (CLMA) and submitted to SANDAG.

Goal 3: LBVI and CAGN continue to be present within the preserve and adjacent properties during and after the 5-year project. **Success criteria:** Presence of LBVI and CAGN within the preserve. **Quantitative Monitoring:** Presence and absence LBVI and CAGN surveys will be conducted following designated protocols by permitted biologists, in the 1st year, 3rd year, and 5th year of the grant period. A permitted wildlife biologist will conduct the protocol surveys for both species and submit a report to the Conservancy. The reports will be submitted to SANDAG. Incidental sightings of the target species during avian point counts or monthly visits by the (CLMA) will be documented and submitted with quarterly reports.

Goal 4: There will be an increase in avian species, richness, and diversity over time. **Success criteria:** 4 years after planting there is an increase in avian species, richness, and diversity. **Quantitative Monitoring:** The (CLMA) will conduct avian points twice a year in spring and fall to inventory species, and measure species richness and diversity within Quarry. The (CLMA) will compile, analyze, and interpret the data and submit reports to SANDAG.

Goal 5: To remove all (21) eucalyptus remaining in the CSS upland. **Success criteria:** Eucalyptus will be absent from the Quarry Preserve. **Quantitative Monitoring:** The area will be monitored through years 1-5 of the grant period to determine if any eucalyptus are present, and re-sprouts treated. The data will be collected by the (CLMA) and submitted to SANDAG.

8. How will the applicant manage the data collected? What software will be used to house the data? Who will be responsible for compiling and transferring the data to SANDAG? Who will be preparing the required quarterly, final, and all other reports?

The Conservancy will compile and manage the data within Google Drive. The (CLMA) will be responsible for compiling, transferring the data to SANDAG, and preparing the quarterly, final, and all other reports.

9. Has the proposed project received *TransNet* Environmental Mitigation Program (EMP) funds previously? If so, what was accomplished with the funds and why are additional funds being requested?

The proposed project has not received EMP funds in the past.

10. Is the proposed activity being done on land that was previously set aside as mitigation? If yes, please

elaborate.

Yes, a small portion of mitigation is within the maintenance/enhancement area of this project. In early 2006 the Conservancy allowed ~1.55 acres to be used as mitigation lands for construction projects set forth by Rock Spring Condominiums and the Escondido Union School District. All mitigation requirements for those projects have been met. Funding from this project will enhance this area over and above the mitigation requirements.

11. Does the proposed project provide a co-benefit to CBO Network Communities and foster social equity? Please describe. Additional Points can be awarded if this is relevant to the project and is appropriately described to meet the qualifications listed in the call for projects.

The proposed project will contract with Urban Corps of San Diego County, a certified local conservation corp which employs young adults and gives them tools to expand their careers, and education while providing paid work experience. The Conservancy will employ the Urban Corps for exotic weed removal to provide employment opportunities to these young people. Urban Corps will be invited to bid on additional tasks listed in the line items. Twice a year during the 5-year grant period, the Conservancy will invite the public, targeting those from underserved communities, to the Quarry Preserve to educate and engage them on sensitive wildlife, local habitat communities, and the importance of restoration.

Scope of Work by Task

Please break down the application into discrete tasks and include a task name, description of each task, quantifiable expected results, and discrete deliverables for each task.

Note: make sure to list tasks for quarterly reporting on the status of the grant project and a final report on the outcome of the grant project. You may add or subtract rows as needed.

Exhibit A – Proposed Project Scope of Work

Task No.	Task Name	Task Description	Quantifiable Results/Deliverables
1.	Eucalyptus Tree Removal	21 invasive eucalyptus trees within Quarry will be cut, chemically treated to prevent resprouting, and left on site.	Absence of living eucalyptus trees.
2.	Avian Point Counts	The (CLMA) will perform avian point counts in the fall and spring annually, during the 5-year grant period. Results from surveys will be used to inventory and measure avian species richness and diversity over time. CLMA and interns will enter, analyze data.	4 years after planting to see an increase in avian species, richness, and diversity. Data will be submitted to SANDAG and uploaded to CNDDDB.
3.	Photo Monitoring	The (CMLA) will perform photo monitoring within the Quarry Preserve in fall and spring annually, during and after the 5-year grant period. The results will be used to document the changes within the project area over time.	A visible increase in native vegetation cover and a decrease in non-native species. The threat of invasive plant species on Harmony Grove Road reclassified from intermediate to low in year 3. Photos will be submitted to SANDAG.
4.	Vegetation Surveys: Quadrat Sampling	The (CMLA) will perform quadrat sampling to measure native plant cover within the restoration area of the 1st, 3rd and 5th year of the grant period.	3 years after planting, the native cover will be greater than 30% in the restoration area. 4 years after planting, native plant cover will be greater than 50% within the restoration area. Maps will be submitted to SANDAG.
5.	Vegetation Mapping	The (CMLA) will update the Quarry vegetation map during year 5 of the project, using the Holland Vegetation Communities systems.	The disturbed habitat in the restoration area will be reclassified as CSS and riparian forest in the 4 th year after planting. Maps will be submitted to SANDAG.
6.	LBVI and CAGN protocol surveys	A permitted consultant will conduct protocol presence and absence surveys for the LBVI and CAGN in years 1, 3, 5. Incidental sightings during avian point counts or monthly monitoring visits will be recorded and submitted with reports.	Presence of LBVI and CAGN within Quarry. The results will be submitted to SANDAG.
7.	Invasive Plant Removal	Invasive plants will be treated through the 5-year grant period by contractors and (CLMA), and volunteers. Licensed contractors will be used to perform chemical and mechanical methods of treatment. Volunteers and staff will physically remove weeds and trash during	Restoration: The disturbed habitat in the restoration area will be reclassified as riparian forest and CSS during the 4 th year after planting. 3 years after planting, native cover should be greater than 30%. 4 years after planting, native plant cover should be 50% or

	And Trash Removal	monthly monitoring visits.	greater within the restoration area. Absence of trash. Enhancement: A visible increase in native vegetation cover and a decrease in non-native species. The threat of invasive plant species on Harmony Grove Road reclassified from intermediate to low in year 3. Absence of trash. Photos and associated reports will be submitted to SANDAG.
8.	Cultural Surveys/Historic Records Search	A consultant will run a historic records search before grading is performed on the property. If a surveyor is needed the Conservancy will have a surveyor present during the grading period . CEQA compliance.	Historic Records Present/Absent, Cultural survey needed.
9.	Soil Restoration/Grading	Grading will be limited to distinct areas, will disturb less than one acre of land, and will move less than 200 cubic yards of dirt. Rainwater harvesting earthworks will be constructed to reduce erosion and divert stormwater runoff into riparian planting areas. Grading will enhance the ecological and hydrological function of the site and correct the soil compaction from historic mining operations that currently inhibit the growth of native vegetation. The (CLMA) will be there to oversee work being performed.	Plant survival will be 75% or higher within the restoration area.
10.	Mulch	3"-4" inches of mulch will be placed in the 3.4 restoration area during the grading period and during planting. Mulch will be used to prevent erosion, weed control, improve moisture retention and organic matter. Mulching will be placed once after grading and during planting and is expected to improve the soil, plant survival, and suppression of weeds.	Plant survival will be 75% or higher within the restoration area.
11.	Irrigation System (Dripline)	An irrigation system would be installed that reaches 3600 plants within the restoration area. The irrigation system would be maintained for two years and removed in the third year of the 5-year project period. The (CLMA) will be there to oversee the work.	That all plants within the restoration area will receive water throughout the 2-year period. Plant survival is 75% or higher.
12.	Plant Palette/Plant installation	The plant palette will consist of 3,600-3,750 plants that will be used in the 3.45-acre restoration. Plants will be dug using machinery (auger) and hand digging. Harness and safety ropes will be available for digging holes and planting on steep slopes. The holes will be dug approximately 8' wide by 6' inches deep. The holes will be filled with water and allowed to dry before planting. Planting will be done in early fall of 2023. The (CLMA) will be there to oversee the work. Potential replacement plants will be grown by volunteers overseen by Conservancy staff (match).	The chosen plant palette and layout will mimic the known habitat preferences of the target species and attain a community of CSS and riparian edge that is diverse and representative of the local plant communities. The (CLMA) will document any plant mortality and replace them with plants from the Conservancy's nursery. If plant mortality is due to herbivory/predation, corrective actions will be taken, and fencing installed.
13.	Supplemental Watering	A water truck will deliver water once a month and hook up to the installed irrigation system and deliver 2 gallons of water to each plant.	75% survival rate of plantings.
14.	Fencing	Fencing will be triggered by predation/herbivory.	75% survival rate of plantings.
15.	Outreach	The Conservancy will invite the public at least twice a year to the Quarry Preserve to educate them on sensitive wildlife, local habitat communities, and the importance of restoration.	Escondido and local community members will be invited via newsletter and social media to the Preserve twice a year to learn about sensitive wildlife, local habitat communities and the importance of restoration.
16.	Quarterly Reporting	Observation, photo documentation, biological monitoring, and submission of quarterly reporting on grant status.	20 quarterly reports (year 1- year 5 of the grant period).
17.	Final Report	Assessment of restoration and enhancement area: the eradication of weeds, native cover of vegetation, avian richness and species diversity, presence, and absence of the focal species.	Final report summarizing 5 years of work with observations, photo documentation and results from surveys
18.	Administrative	All administration of the grant, record-keeping during and after the grant period.	Regular on-time and well-written invoices, updates to budget, report submission, and supporting information as requested.

Budget by Task

Please include a specific budget for each task described in the Scope of Work (Section B above). This should include both requested SANDAG funds and any matching funds proposed for each project year. *If matching funds are proposed, please distribute the match commitment proportionately.*¹ Applicants are encouraged to identify phasing in their application in case full funding for the project is not available. You may add or subtract rows and columns as needed. *This funding category is intended to fund restoration and enhancement projects taking place over a three- to five-year period and will not cover on-going annual costs within applicant's organization.*

Exhibit B – Proposed Project Budget

Task No.	Task Name	Year 1 Grant Request	Year 1 Matching Funds ⁵	Year 2 Grant Request	Year 2 Matching Funds ¹	Year 3 Grant Request	Year 3 Matching Funds ¹	Year 4 Grant Request	Year 4 Matching Funds ¹	Year 5 Grant Request	Year 5 Matching Funds ¹	Total Grant Request	Total Matching Funds	Total Projects Cost
1	Eucalyptus Tree Removal	\$23,000.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$23,000.00	-	\$23,000.00
2	Avian Point Count	-	\$879.52	-	\$752.00	-	\$789.44	\$829.00	-	-	\$871.00	\$829.00	\$3,291.96	\$4,120.96
3	Photo Monitoring	-	\$651.20	-	\$752.00	-	\$789.44	\$829.00	-	-	\$871.00	\$829.00	\$3,063.64	\$3,892.64
4	Vegetation Surveys: Quadrat Sampling	-	\$651.20	-	-	\$789.44	-	-	-	-	\$871.00	\$789.44	\$1,522.20	\$2,311.64
5	Vegetation Mapping	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$435.28	\$0.00	\$435.28	\$435.28
6	LBVI and CAGN Protocol Surveys	\$15,631.00	-	-	-	\$10,293.00	-	-	-	\$10,293.00	-	\$36,217.00	\$0.00	\$36,217.00
7	Invasive Plant Removal	\$2,930.40	\$7,300.40	\$5,216.00	\$3,192.40	\$6,808.80	\$1,712.40	\$6,927.36	\$1,712.40	\$5,571.68	\$1,712.40	\$27,454.24	\$15,630.00	\$43,084.24
8	Cultural Surveys/Historic Record Search	\$5,957.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$5,957.00	\$0.00	\$5,957.00

9	Soil Restoration/Grading	\$39,056.00	\$1,620.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$39,056.00	\$1,620.00	\$40,676.00
10	Mulch	\$30,900.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$30,900.00	\$0.00	\$30,900.00
11	Irrigation System (Dripline)	\$53,615.00	-	\$1,000.00	-	\$1,000.00	-	\$1,243.68	\$456.64	-	-	\$56,858.68	\$456.64	\$57,315.32
12	Plant Palette/Plant Installation	\$84,126.81	\$13,107.57	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$84,126.81	\$13,107.57	\$97,234.38
13	Supplemental Watering	\$2,000.00	-	\$30,000.00	\$	\$28,000.00	-	-	-	-	-	\$60,000.00	\$0.00	\$60,000.00
14	Fencing (material and staff time)	-	-	\$9,880.00	\$5,708.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$9,880.00	\$5,708.00	\$15,588.00
15	Outreach	-	-	\$752.00	\$3,424.80	\$789.44	\$3,424.80	\$829.12	\$3,424.80	\$871.00	\$3,424.80	\$3,241.56	\$13,699.20	\$16,940.76
16	Administrative	\$4,304.25	-	\$4,304.25	-	\$4,520.40	-	\$4,730.13	-	\$4,966.61	-	\$22,825.64	\$0.00	\$22,825.64
17	Staff Oversight/monitoring	\$3,760.00	-	\$3,760.00	-	\$2,368.80	-	\$2,487.36	-	2,611.68	-	\$14,987.84	\$0.00	\$14,987.84
	Subtotal	\$157,042.00	-	\$10,880.00	\$5,708.00	\$1,000.00	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$168,922.00	\$5,708.00	\$174,630.00
	Total	\$265,280.46	\$24,209.89	\$54,912.25	\$13,829.20	\$54,569.88	\$6,716.08	\$17,875.65	\$5,593.84	\$24,313.97	\$8,185.48	\$416,952.61	\$58,534.49	\$475,486.70
	Percentage	91%	9%	75%	25%	88%	12%	69%	31%	66%	34%	86%	14%	100%

Project Schedule

Please include start and end dates relative to the anticipated Notice to Proceed (assumes fall 2022) for each task described in the Scope of Work (Section B above). Please list tasks for quarterly reporting on the status of the grant project and a final report on the outcome of the grant project. You may add or subtract rows as needed.

Exhibit C – Proposed Project Schedule (Assumes fall 2022 Notice to Proceed [NTP])

Task No.	Task Name	Proposed Start Date	Months Needed to Complete Task	Task End Date
1.	Eucalyptus Tree Removal	10 Months from NTP	.22 Months	09/30/23
2.	Avian Point Count	5 Months from NTP	.005 Months	11/30/27
3.	Photo Monitoring	5 Months from NTP	.005 Months	11/30/27
4.	Vegetation Surveys: Quadrat Sampling	5 Months from NTP	.001 Months	11/30/27
5.	Vegetation Mapping	12 Months from NTP	.001 Months	11/30/27
6.	LBVI and CAGN Protocol Surveys	5 Months from NTP	30 Months	7/30/27
7.	Invasive Plant Removal/Trash Removal	3 Months from NTP	60 Months	11/30/27
8.	Cultural Surveys/Historic Records Search	1 Month from NTP	1 Month	10/60/23
8.	Soil Restoration/Grading	10 Months from NTP	1 Month	10/30/23
9.	Mulch	10 Months from NTP	3 Months	10/30/23
10.	Irrigation System Dripline	11 Months from NTP	1 Month	11/1/23
11.	Planting	11 Months from NTP	1 Month	11/1/23
12.	Supplemental Watering	11 Months from NTP	24 Months	11/1/25
13.	Fencing	Triggered by predation/herbivory	As needed	11/30/27
14.	Quarterly Monitoring	3 Months from NTP	60 Months	11/30/27
15.	Administrative	0 Months from NTP	60 Months	11/30/27
16.	Final Reporting	59 Months from NTP	1 Month	11/30/27

Please explain why and how much additional time would be needed in the event of any delays due to NTP being provided beyond fall 2022 and/or unexpected weather conditions such as drought that could occur during the proposed project implementation.

Notice Regarding Prevailing Wages

California law requires that public works projects pay prevailing wages for workers.

Applicant acknowledges that any work that qualifies as a "public work" within the meaning of California Labor Code Section 1720 shall cause Applicant and its subcontractors to comply with the provisions of California Labor Code Sections 1775 et seq, which includes the payment of prevailing wages to all workers performing prevailing wage work.

x Yes No

Applicant acknowledges that if Applicant or its subcontractors will engage in the performance of a public work as defined by California Labor Code Sections 1720 et seq. and will utilize persons who are not employees of a public entity, registration and payment of an annual registration fee to the California Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) shall be required of each entity performing the work. This requirement applies to anyone affected by the public works statutes found in the California Labor Code, including but not limited to landscapers, fencers, surveyors, soil testers, dredgers, heavy equipment operators, and inspectors.

x Yes No

Applicant acknowledges that if Applicant will award any subcontracts for the performance of a public work:

- Applicant shall notify SANDAG 30 calendar days prior to the award of each subcontract so SANDAG can create a Project Registration Form (aka PWC-100 form) for each subcontract using the DIR online database. Applicant will provide to SANDAG the name, DIR registration number, and contractor's license numbers of each subcontractor so SANDAG can verify, prior to Applicant's award of the subcontract for a public work, that the selected subcontractor is currently licensed and registered with the DIR. If SANDAG finds that the selected subcontractor is not licensed and registered with the DIR, SANDAG will promptly notify Applicant and Applicant will not be permitted to award the subcontract to the selected subcontractor.

x Yes No

- Applicant shall notify SANDAG ten business days prior to the subcontractor performing the prevailing wage work so SANDAG can prepare for labor compliance monitoring.

x Yes No

- If there are any changes to a subcontractor or lower-tier subcontractor, Applicant will advise SANDAG of these changes as soon as those changes are known to the Applicant.

x Yes No

Required Statements from Applicant

Yes No

- x The applicant has read and understands the Sample Grant Agreement (Agreement) and Invoice Template (Attachment 4).
- x If the Board of Directors approves the proposed project application, the applicant agrees to sign and return the Agreement to SANDAG, without exceptions or amendments, within 45 days of receipt.
- x The applicant agrees to comply with SANDAG's Board Policy No. 035, Competitive Grant Program Procedures, which outlines "Use-it-or-lose-it" project milestone and completion deadlines. Board Policy No. 035 is included in the Agreement, and also is on SANDAG's website at: sandag.org/organization/about/pubs/policy_035.pdf
- x The applicant understands that 10% of all invoiced amounts will be retained until the completion of the proposed project.
- x The applicant understands that for proposed projects with matching funds, retention will be withheld beyond the 10% retention for each invoice submittal that does not meet the proportionate matching funds requirement. These additional matching funds will not be released until proportionate matching funds are reached for the project to-date.
- x The applicant understands that all invoices must be accompanied by written, documented support of the charges for requested reimbursement of grant funds and payment will not be made by SANDAG until all documents are satisfactorily submitted.
- x The applicant understands that invoices and reports must be submitted on a quarterly basis within three weeks after each period close covering January 1 to March 31; April 1 to June 30; July 1 to September 30; and October 1 to December 31.
- x The applicant understands that the EMP quarterly report template (to be sent to the grantee after NTP is issued and can be found at sandag.org/index.asp?classid=17&projectid=447&fuseaction=projects.detail) must be used to document quarterly progress and that invoices with errors will be returned to the grantee for correction prior to being processed by SANDAG staff.
- x The applicant understands that the final invoice must be accompanied by written, documented support of the charges for requested reimbursement of grant funds; a final report (prepared in accordance with the final report template to be sent to grantee after NTP is issued and can be found at sandag.org/index.asp?classid=17&projectid=447&fuseaction=projects.detail); and all outstanding deliverables in order to receive final payment and have retained funds released.
- x The applicant understands that to be considered eligible for funding, a resolution complying with the requirements of Board Policy No. 035, Section 4.1, must be submitted to SANDAG at least *two weeks* prior to the recommendation by the Regional Planning Committee of the list of prioritized project applications. SANDAG will provide applicants with advance notice of the Regional Planning Committee's anticipated meeting date.
- x The applicant agrees to submit all project data/information to SANDAG and to upload data and reports to a project page created by the applicant on the SDMMP web portal in a format consistent with regional management databases.

I have the authorization to submit this application (Grant Application and required supplementary materials) on behalf of my organization.

Ann Van Leer

Applicant Name and Title (print or type)

DocuSigned by:

Ann Van Leer

Applicant Signature

A73B13F77190474...

Date

1/31/2022