

**CALL FOR PROJECTS FOR THE NINTH CYCLE OF THE
TransNet ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION PROGRAM
LAND MANAGEMENT GRANT PROGRAM
THREAT REDUCTION STEWARDSHIP GRANT APPLICATION FORM**

Grant Application Form and required supplementary materials (hereafter referred to as "proposal") cannot exceed eight pages.

Applicant Name¹: Jacobs Center for Neighborhood Innovation (JCNI)

Address: 404 Euclid Avenue, San Diego, CA 92114

Phone and Email Address: (619) 527-6161 ext. 120; bmcmeeken@jacobscenter.org

Name of Property: North Chollas Creek (APN: 5480204800) & South Chollas Creek (APN: 5480204400)

General Location: Southeastern San Diego's Diamond Neighborhoods (Encanto). Project includes segments of Chollas Creek Watershed located within Census Tracts 33.04 & 34.04

Jurisdiction: Management Unit 2 (MU2)

Total Acres: 5.6 acres (South Chollas Creek 3.27; North Chollas Creek 2.33)

Estimated Acres Requiring Management: 5.6 acres

Owner(s) of Property²: Jacobs Center for Neighborhood Innovation (JCNI)

Land manager(s) of property (include name[s]): Brennan McMeeken, Director of Asset Management, JCNI

Brief Project Summary that includes your primary goal and objectives (200-word maximum)

JCNI requests funding to control invasive plants and remove trash within two sections of the Chollas Creek (Pueblo) Watershed located on JCNI-owned property in Southeastern San Diego. A place-based nonprofit, JCNI is the largest land owner in City of San Diego Council District 4, holding 49-acres of land, including 5.6 acres (1,500 linear feet) of Chollas Creek. In 2007, JCNI self-funded restoration and enhancement of the South segment of creek land (designated as a preserve on the MSP Priorities View). Subsequently, we secured state Proposition 84 (Urban Greening and Department of Water Resources IRWM) grants and a locally administered federal Community Development Block Grant to restore the North Chollas Creek segment by 2016. JCNI also contributed \$500,000 to this \$6.5 million project. Since conducting massive initial cleanup and restoration of these segments, we have experienced a gap in available funding to conserve them and prevent reinvasion of noxious plant species. The project will remove invasive vegetation through approved methods and clear creek land of trash and debris to a level that will reduce threats to native plant species and watershed habitat.

Project goal: Conserve the native habitat of two restored Chollas Creek segments, preserving them for native plant species and the enjoyment of future generations.

Objective A: Reduce invasive plant species through removal and herbicidal spot treatment.

Objective B: Remove trash from human recreational use of trails and downstream accumulation of debris/litter.

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

² If the applicant is not the landowner, please submit a letter or right-of-entry permit from the land owner granting permission to perform the land management duties as outlined in the proposal. Failure to provide the letter or right-of-entry permit will lead to disqualification of the proposal. **Attached letter or right-of-entry permit (if applicable) does not count toward eight-page maximum.**

Quantify Expected Results (add bullets as necessary)

- Within North and South Chollas Creek vegetation will include 0% noxious perennial invasive species and less than 5% cover by other non-native species.
- 100% of trash and debris will be removed monthly from creek beds.

Brief Description of dedicated staff and/or consultants that would work on Project (200-word maximum)

Personnel:

- Brennan McMeeken, Jcni Director of Asset Management, is responsible for the performance of individual real estate assets and directing the operations of property management. He also oversees the organizations real estate financing activities, information technology, and grant accounting management.
- Michelle Joel, Development and Marketing Specialist, Jcni, is in charge of grant performance management, compliance, and reporting. She will assist Mr. McMeeken with completion of quarterly grant reports.

Consultants:

D&D Wildlife Habitat Restoration, Inc. will provide professional services including identification and tagging of

invasive plants for removal and application of approved herbicides within the South Chollas creek segment. D&D

is a member of the California Invasive Plant Council and the California Society for Ecological Restoration.

Credentials include the following licenses: Landscape Contractors, CA Department of Pesticide Regulation (CDPR) Pest Control Business License and Advisor License, and CDPR Qualified Applicator License. Additionally, D&C has CA Storm Water Pollution Prevention Annual Certification and is a CA Department of Industrial Relations Registered Public Works Contractor.

REC Consultants, Inc. will provide monitoring/data collection and reporting, in addition to invasive species tagging

and selection herbicide treatment of North Chollas Creek. REC has more than 10 years' experience surveying the

watershed, habitat conditions and plant and animal species specific to the targeted creek segments.

San Diego Urban Corps will remove tagged plants trash and debris within the creek. Urban Corps is both a

certified local conservation corps and a charter school that provides young adults (18-26) with a high school

education combined with job training and community service.

Funding Needs Summary

Please indicate how much funding is being requested from SANDAG

Budget Item	Requested Funding Amount	Description
Personnel Expenses Staff	\$0.00	Includes staff time for non-administrative work on the project
Personnel Administrative Expenses	\$4,000.00	Includes all staff time to administer the contract
Consultant Expenses	\$76,000	Includes all costs for consultant services
Other Direct Expenses	\$0.00	Includes all equipment, supplies, mileage, etc.
Indirect Costs	\$0.00	All indirect charges (e.g., overhead) on the project, if any.
Totals	\$80,000.00	

PROJECT PROPOSAL

The proposal will include (A) the purpose of the project, (B) the scope of work by tasks, (C) the proposed budget by task, and (D) a schedule for each task. Applicants must clearly identify their proposed tasks in the scope of work, funding requested for each task (please identify staff hours and cost separately from consultant costs), start and end dates of the tasks, and deliverables.

A. Project Purpose

Please describe how the proposed project meets the following criteria:

1. The proposed project addresses a high-priority Management Strategic Plan (MSP) species and their habitats. Refer to the MSP for Conserved Lands in Western San Diego County.

The project is within the Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) in the Urban Subarea of the Plan and is also part of the Chollas Creek Enhancement Program (CCEP).

A primary threat to the restored identified segments of Chollas Creek is the reinvasion of the Giant Reed (*arundo donax*). According to the MSP (pp. iii and 38), *arundo donax* has a Management Level 3 Priority. *Arundo donax* has a San Diego PAF score of 8.9 and a “very high” regional priority. The document further finds: “The giant reed is a B-rated noxious weed by CDFA. It has demonstrated the ability to severely impact both abiotic ecosystem processes as well as NCCP species (p. 38). The *Glebionis coronaria* (Crown Daisy), which has a San Diego PAF score of 5.3 and a management level of 5, is present in the identified lands and needs to be removed.

Prior to initial restoration and during post-restoration monitoring of the creek segments, a variety of invasive plant species were identified, including: *Acacia longifolia*, *Amaranthus albus*, *Arundo donax*, *Brassica* species, *Cortaderia selloana*, *Eucalyptus* species, *Foeniculum vulgare*, *Lepidium latifolium*, *Nicotiana glauca*, *Pennisetum setaceum*, *Polypogon monspeliensis*, *Ricinus communis*, *Schinus molle*, *Schinus terebinthifolius*, *Tamarix ramosissima*, *Washingtonia robusta*, and *Xanthium strumarium*.

While not a high-priority area for the cactus wren, it is noted in the MSP Viewer that it is habitat for the cactus wren. Although not observed during a 2011 (initial) survey, it was determined that the South Creek habitat also had a moderately-high potential of supporting the Monarch Butterfly and Northern Red Diamond Rattlesnake, both of which are sensitive species.

2. The proposed project will address an urgent need and includes actions that will reduce or manage an identified threat.

The project supports MSP goals, including:

URBDEV-1: Support land managers in preventing or cleaning up dump sites and trash collection.

The proposed project will reduce the amount of trash and debris flowing downstream within Chollas Creek, thereby mitigating the threat of flooding, higher concentration of bacteria and chemical pollution, erosion, and damage to trails, pedestrian bridges, and other property as well as increasing risks to sensitive plant and animal species. Debris includes excessive deadwood resulting from drought which also contributes to increasing risk of fire hazards (several wildfires have occurred in the South Creek sector within the past decade due to homeless encampments and the proximity of residential, community facilities, and other urban development).

LOSCON-4: Implement a species, vegetation, or threat management plan. The project identifies and monitors high priority sensitive plant and animal species for conservation as well as invasive/non-native vegetation species such as *arundo donax* that threaten sensitive riparian shrubs (specifically, the San Diego marsh-elder and southwestern spiny rush) and coast sage habitat.

INVPLA-7: Implement the invasive plant strategic plan. Preservation of the Chollas Creek watershed segments conserves essential green space and wildlife corridors. Restoration of the creek has included extensive planting of sycamores and southern willows which have reached a density, notably in the South Creek segment, to constitute riparian forest. Invasive plant species, including *arundo donax* and *Carpobrotus edulis* (hottentot-fig), have been noted in the creek segments before and post-restoration and planting of native riparian species. If left to expand uncontrolled within the habitat, sensitive and other native plant species are threatened by loss of soil and nutrients. Removal of invasive species by cutting, drilling, basal bark, and the application of approved herbicide for U.S. waterways implements the MSP strategic plan in MU2 for invasive vegetation.

3. Success criteria have been identified and will be monitored and reported.

Interim and final outcomes determining project success will be based on these metrics and reported quarterly to SANDAG:

- Completion of an updated baseline survey of invasive plant species, mapping areas of highest threat/concentration, within North Chollas Creek and South Chollas Creek by October 2018.
- Marking of invasive plant species for removal within both creek segments by November 2018.

- Removal of invasive plants achieving 75% eradication by March 2019; 90% eradication by October 2019; and 95%-100% eradication by March 2020. Success criteria are: 0% noxious perennial invasive species (i.e., giant reed *Arundo*, African fountain grass, pampas grass, castor bean, tamarisk, Canary Island date palm, and Mexican fan palm) and less than 5% cover by other invasive species. This will ensure that the high-priority species are completely eliminated while also ensuring that the minor presence of less harmful non-native plant species do not prevent project success. Invasive species coverage will be determined qualitatively via a visual assessment of the project area or quantitatively via permanent monitoring transects.
- Removal of trash and debris (90%-100%) within both segments by March 2019 and maintained monthly through March 15, 2020.
- Monitoring and collection of data relating to sensitive and invasive plant species maintained through February 2020.
- A Sustainable Management Plan with goals, activities, performance measures, and funding strategies drafted by February, 2019 and completed for future implementation by March, 2020.

4. Success of the proposed project is likely with clear, measurable, proven results that will promote conservation.

JCNI is confident of achieving the proposed measurable stewardship results for the project as demonstrated by successful past efforts and investments (in excess of \$10 M) to restore the 5.6 acres of Chollas Creek. We have gained the management and technical knowledge, supported by D&D and REC consulting experts and the work with Urban Corps youth teams, to achieve the intended results of preventing habitat degradation from trash/debris and promoting the healthy growth of native riparian and California coastal shrub vegetation by removing aggressively invasive non-native plant species.

5. Any activities necessary to maintain the proposed project after the 18-month grant period have been identified and funding for those activities has been secured. Please explain what source of funding (if any) has been used to fund this activity in the past and what kind of funding is available to support this work in the future (if needed).

Initial Management Plans for both creek segments were developed as part of the preceding restoration and creek enhancement phases (as required by Strategic Growth Council contracts). These plans will be reviewed and updated at the beginning and conclusion of the 18-month EMP project. Integrated activities needed to reduce threats from invasive species and accumulation of trash/debris will be identified for native vegetation and a schedule for conservation or maintenance of the creek watershed areas owned by JCNI will be defined within the plan for the period beginning Spring 2020 and extending to 2030. Sources of funding to sustain threat reduction stewardship activities will be addressed during the course of the grant term and may include a dedicated conservation fund established with public and private (philanthropic) contributions.

6. To be eligible for funding, the proposed project must be on lands conserved for native habitat within the MSP area. Where is the project located? (*Attach a map*).

The project is located in the Chollas Creek (Pueblo) Watershed near the intersection of Euclid Avenue and Market Street in the Southeastern area of the City of San Diego. (Please see map below.) The South Creek segment is designated as a preserve on the SDMMMP Environmental Dataset Viewer. Since its restoration in 2016, the North Creek segment has functioned as a preserve. JCNI will request that SDMMMP also designate this segment as a preserve. Because the creek flows southwesterly, from North Chollas

Creek to South Chollas Creek, we consider it essential to conduct invasive plant and trash removal threat reduction tasks on both creek segments.



Arundo Donax invades Chollas Creek

Homeless encampments hide in arundo & generate TMDL-related bacteria



Invasive plants obscure Chollas Creek & invite illegal dumping

B. Scope of Work by Task

Exhibit A – Proposed Project Scope of Work

Task No.	Task Name	Task Description	Quantifiable Results/Deliverables
1	Invasive plant species identification	Identify and mark invasive plant species within Chollas Creek and adjacent landscape areas (D&D and REC Consultants).	90-100% of invasive plant species will be identified and marked for removal as documented in data inventory and quarterly reports.
2	Invasive plants eradication and stewardship of creek land	a. Application of herbicides approved for U.S. waterways on invasive plant species (D&D and REC Consultants). b. Conduct stump cut, drill, and basal bark treatment of Invasive trees, shrubs, and plants, including removal and	100% of tagged invasive noxious plant species will be removed on a monthly basis.

		hauling debris to landfill (Urban Corps).	
3	Trash/debris removal	Collect, sort and remove trash and debris from creek bed and landscape areas (Urban Corps).	100% of trash and debris will be removed from creek segments on a monthly basis.
4	Data collection and monitoring	Enter invasive species into inventory as identified. Determine invasive species coverage by monthly monitoring via visual assessment and/or permanent monitoring transects. (D&D and REC Consultants)	Inventory of invasive plant species identified and removed and evidence of trash removal (photos, work logs, etc.) will be maintained.
5	Sustainable Management Plan	Develop an integrated stewardship plan for the two creek segments. (JCNI with assistance from consultants.)	Updated plans for threat reduction and conservation of the creek segments, including strategies for financially sustaining these efforts.
....	Administrative	Provide financial and project management, and reporting. (JCNI)	Fiscal and progress reports with documentation of activities & evidence of results will be reported to SANDAG quarterly per contract schedule.

C. Budget by Task

Exhibit B – Proposed Project Budget

Task No.	Task Name	Grant Request
1	Invasive plant identification	\$10,000.00
2	Invasive plant eradication	\$18,000.00
3	Trash/debris removal	\$30,000.00
4	Data collection/monitoring	\$8,000.00
5	Sustainable Management Plan	\$10,000.00
....	Administrative	\$4,000.00
Subtotal		\$80,000.00
Indirect Cost (_0_%)		\$0
TOTAL		80,000.00

D. Project Schedule

Please include start and end dates relative to the anticipated Notice to Proceed (NTP) (Fall 2018) 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. *All tasks must be completed within 18 months of the NTP.*

Exhibit C – Proposed Project Schedule
(Assumes Fall 2018 Notice to Proceed [NTP])

Task No.	Task Name	Proposed Start Date	Months Needed to Complete Task	Task End Date
1	Invasive plant identification	2 Months from NTP	2 Months	1/15/2019
2	Invasive plant eradication	3 Months from NTP	14 Months	02/15/2020
3	Trash/debris removal	2 Months from NTP	15 Months	02/15/2020
4	Data collection/monitoring	2 Months from NTP	16 Months	03/15/2020
5	Sustainable Mgmt. Plan	16 Months from NTP	2 Months	03/15/2020
...	Administrative	1 Month from NTP	18 Months	04/15/2020

Please explain why and how much additional time would be needed in the event of any delays due to NTP being provided beyond Fall 2018 and/or unexpected weather conditions such as drought that could occur during the proposed project implementation.

In the event that NTP is delayed, the actual task start dates are likely to be pushed out by 1-3 months; however, task end dates are highly likely to adhere to the proposed project schedule shown here. Variables that affect Tasks 2 and 3 (Invasive plant eradication and trash/debris removal) could include high intensity rain storms and increased storm water flow within the creek and also interruptions in creek work during nesting season (February/March, 2019 – April/May, 2019).

NOTICE REGARDING PREVAILING WAGES

SANDAG’s Environmental Mitigation Program (EMP) Land Management Grant Program projects are funded with *TransNet* revenues consistent with the *TransNet* Extension Ordinance adopted by the voters in November 2004 (SANDAG Ordinance 04-01). Although SANDAG Ordinance 04-01 does not require payment of prevailing wages, California law may require that public works projects pay prevailing wages for workers.

Applicant acknowledges that SANDAG has strongly encouraged Applicant to seek legal counsel regarding whether the Proposed Project will require applicant to pay prevailing wages and agrees that SANDAG will have no liability for conducting this analysis. Yes No

Applicant acknowledges that if awarded an EMP Land Management Grant, the grant agreement between SANDAG and the grantee requires grantee’s compliance with all federal, state, and local laws and ordinances applicable to the Agreement. Yes No

REQUIRED STATEMENTS FROM APPLICANT

- Yes No The applicant has read and understands the Sample Grant Agreement (Agreement) and Invoice Template (Attachment 4).
- Yes No If the SANDAG Board of Directors approves the proposed project proposal, the proposed applicant agrees to sign and return the Agreement to SANDAG, without exceptions or amendments, within 45 days of receipt.
- Yes No 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 the following link: sandag.org/organization/about/pubs/policy_035.pdf
- Yes No The applicant understands that 10 percent of all invoices will be retained until the completion of the proposed project.
- Yes No 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.
- Yes No The applicant understands that invoices and reports must be submitted on a quarterly basis within three weeks after the period covering January 1 to March 31; within three weeks after the period covering April 1 to June 30; within three weeks after the period covering July 1 to September 30; and within three weeks after the period covering October 1 to December 31.
- Yes No The applicant understands that the EMP quarterly report template (to be sent to the grantee after NTP is issued) 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.
- Yes No 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 all outstanding deliverables in order to receive final payment and have retained funds released.
- Yes No 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 proposals. SANDAG will provide applicants with advance notice of the Regional Planning Committee’s anticipated meeting date.
- Yes No The applicant agrees to submit all project data/information to SANDAG in a format compatible with the regional management database.

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

Reginald Jones, President & CEO

Applicant Name/Title (print or type)

Applicant Signature

1/8/18

Date