

**THECALL FOR PROJECTS FOR THE NINTH CYCLE OF THE
TransNet ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION PROGRAM
LAND MANAGEMENT GRANT PROGRAM
SPECIES AND HABITAT RECOVERY GRANT APPLICATION FORM**

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

Applicant Name ¹ :	<u>Lakeside’s River Park Conservancy (LRPC)</u>
Address:	<u>12108 Industry Road Lakeside, CA 92040</u>
Phone and Email Address:	<u>619 443 4770 robin@lakesideriverpark.org</u>
Name of Property:	<u>Arundo Completion and Maintenance Project in Lakeside</u>
General Location:	<u>Santee and Lakeside</u>
Jurisdiction:	<u>County of San Diego</u>
Total Acres:	<u>65.91</u>
Estimated Acres Requiring Management:	<u>65.91</u>
Owner(s) of Property ² :	<u>Listed in the attached PDF’s of ROEs</u>
Land manager(s) of property (<i>include name[s]</i>):	<u>Lakeside’s River Park Conservancy in partnership with San Diego River Conservancy (SDRC)</u>

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

Primary Goal: This project requests funding for the completion of an arundo removal project that focused on the tributaries and the main channel of the San Diego River in Lakeside, approximately 65.9 acres. Since 2013, with funding from the SDRC, LRPC has been removing/controlling arundo, tamarisk, castor, stinkwort, iceplant, and Mexican fan palms from these drainages, starting at the headwaters and moving towards the San Diego River. The project meets the goal outlined in *MSP: A Strategic Habitat Conservation Roadmap Volume 2B*: list arundo as a high priority to manage and recommends the funding of its removal and management.

Objective 1: This grant requests funding to remove remaining small patches of arundo in the smaller drainages in Lakeside, a total of 3.59acres

Objective 2: This grant request funding for two to three years of maintenance and monitoring to ensure that these species does not gain a foothold in this portion of the watershed over time. Includes 62.32 acres previously cut and 3.59 acres that will be cut in this grant for a total of 65.91 acres.

Objective 3: Use drone with high-resolution infrared camera to fly over project areas to detect the presence of invasive species, allowing for the more efficient use of labor to identify areas that need treatment.

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 landowner 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 towards 12-page maximum.**

Funding Needs Summary

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

Budget Item	Requested Funding Amount	Proposed Matching Funds*	Description
Personnel Expenses Staff	350,288	\$	All staff including LRPC staff and
Personnel Administrative Expenses	80,680	\$	For bookkeeping and invoicing, quarterly reports and final report
Consultant Expenses	0	\$	None
Other Direct Expenses	57,224	\$8500	Includes Disposal Landfill 40 yard dumpster, Ropes, Backpack Sprayers, Tarps, Port a Potty on Trailer, Ford F250 Rental, Backpack Sprayer Maintenance, Herbicide Mix, Bar Oil, Gasoline and \$8,500 for the drone.
Indirect Costs ³ 21% calculated at OMB circular	\$102,520	\$	All indirect charges (e.g., overhead) on the project, if any.
Totals	590,712	\$8500	

*if applicable

Are there matching funds available? Yes No

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

LRPC received an \$8,500 grant from the Hans and Margaret Doe Charitable fund to acquire the drone used in this project in 2017. LRPC's match is very small, however, it is important to note that this grant request is to finish a larger project. Between 2013 and 2016, SCRC has granted LRPC of **\$1,154,547.57** in grants to fund the bulk of the arundo removal work that is supported by this maintenance and monitoring grant. See support letter at the end of this document.

PROJECT PROPOSAL

The proposal will include (A) the purpose of the project, (B) the scope of work by tasks, (C) the proposed budget, including matching funds, 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. Applicants are encouraged to identify phasing and prioritization of tasks in their proposal in case full funding for the project is not available.

A. Project Purpose

Address the following in the proposal:

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

³ Indirect Costs are only allowable if: (1) applicant has an indirect cost allocation plan audit approved by a qualified independent auditor or (2) the applicant's proposed method for allocating indirect costs is submitted with the proposal in accordance with [OMB guidelines](#) and approved by SANDAG. Indirect costs will not be reimbursed until one of the two conditions above are satisfied and indirect cost allocation plans must be renewed annually. **The indirect cost methodology (if applicable) included with the application does not count toward the 12-page maximum.**

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.

The project occurs in Management Unit 4 – Alisos, in the San Diego River, a critical biological corridor that connects to MU 2 called the Alcalá. MU4 contains 54,481 acres of Conserved Land or 28.9%. A high number of invasive plant species are present including *Cortaderia selloana*, *Carpobrotus*, *Eucalyptus* spp., and *Arundo donax*.

The project takes place in a variety of habitat types. This includes freshwater marsh, Sycamore Riparian Forest, Southern Willow Riparian, and Riparian Scrub. These habitat areas are only 14% conserved. The importance of maintaining what little of these habitats remains is critical to the viability of the San Diego River as a biological corridor.

The project will implement the following management activities:

- 1) Remove small stands of arundo donax and other invasive species in small drainages and waterways in Lakeside that discharge into the San Diego River.
- 2) The project will employ the cut/spray method, where crews cut and haul off the biomass and an herbicide applicator sprays the cut area with a 50% solution of glyphosate on the day the cut was made.
- 3) All activity takes place under SDRC’s watershed wide invasive removal permits and will follow their guidance.
- 4) The project will utilize a sophisticated drone with a high-resolution infrared camera to seek out new infestations of arundo and other species. The applicant will acquire and maintain drone licensing. This will be done at least every 3 months. The drone will allow us to drop a pin on a GPS.
- 5) When a reinfestation of arundo or caster or other invasive species is identified, the applicant will deploy a two-person team of herbicide applicators to find that location and surgically remove that new infestation.

Location - Map #	Total Acres to be treated	Monitoring and Respray Acres	Cut/Biomass Removal Acres	# of ROE in possession	# of ROE’s needed
Upper Los Coches Creek Map 1	39.57	39.26	0.317	145	7 ROE’s unknown and 5 missing
Lower Los Coches Creek Map 2	5.66	4.86	0.8	39	5 unknowns and 33 missing
Cactus Pond/67 Storage /LRPC River Bed Map 3	15.4637	15.371	0.0927	3	1 missing
Spot treatment in Lakeside Drainages Map 4	5.214	2.83	2.384	17	8 unknowns and 35 missing
Total Acreage Managed and Monitored Map 5	65.91	62.321	3.5937	204	73 missing and 20 unknown

Please Note: We have 204 of the 277 Right of Entry agreements needed to start this property. They were submitted via WeTransfer. We have a list of the property owners we need to contact and will be happy to supply it if needed. We will be working to acquire remaining ROE’s in the next few weeks. We don’t anticipate a problem. In general, the community is clamoring for arundo removal.

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.

The project will benefit Sycamore Riparian Forest, Southern Willow Riparian, and Riparian Scrub habitats.

Species with Significant Occurrence at Risk of Loss and Species at Risk of Loss located in or near the project areas.

Significant Occurrence at Risk of Loss

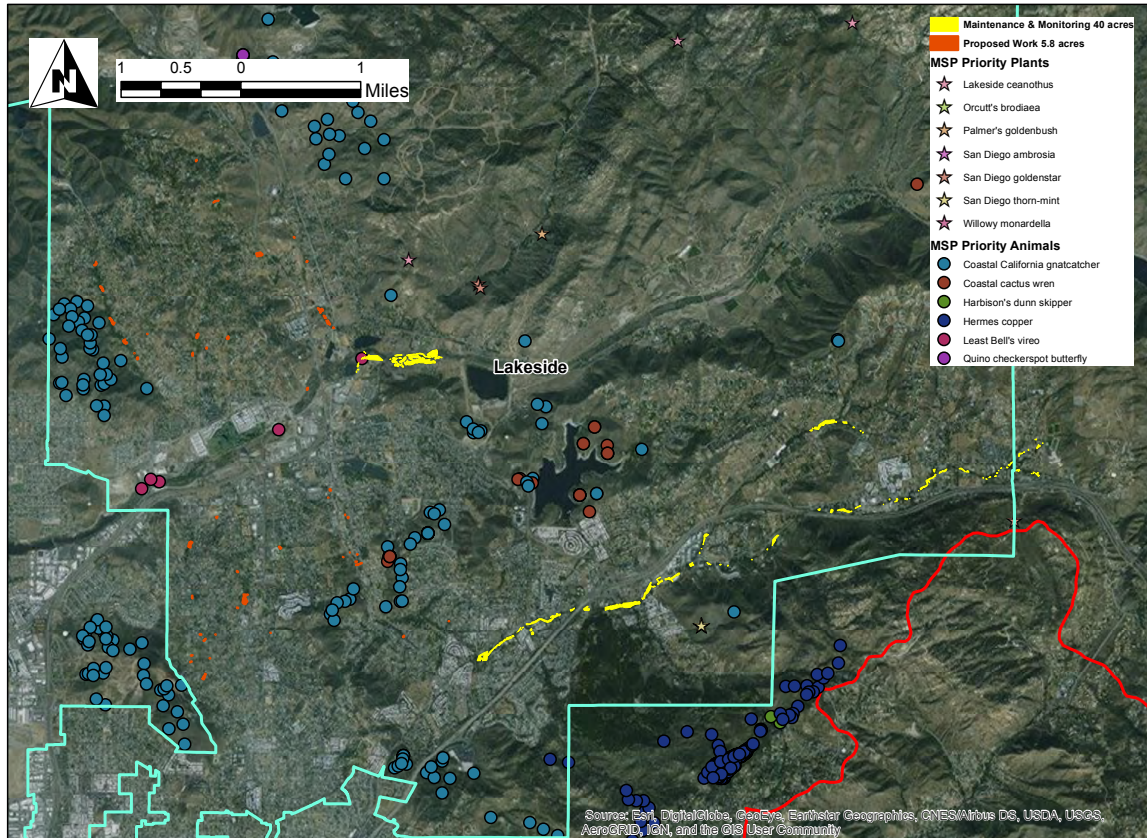
- Golden eagle *Aquila chrysaetos Canadensis* Nests on El Cajon Mountain at the head of the El Monte Valley. It is a frequent visitor in the valley and in the San Diego Riverbed. Project will help protect foraging areas.
- Least Bell's Vireo *Vireo bellii pusillus* Has been nesting in this segment of the San Diego River for many years per USGS Surveys.
- Coastal cactus wren *Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus sandiegensis* Cactus Wren habitat is found on the Hanson Pond property and there is a Caltrans Mitigation area for Cactus Wren just across the street from the Hanson Pond Property in the El Monte Valley.
- Townsend's big-eared bat *Plecotus townsendii pallescens* is found in the El Monte Valley east of the project location.

Species at Risk of Loss

- Southwestern pond turtle *Emys marmorata pallida* Does not occur in the San Diego River but USGS is considering re-introducing it to Hanson Pond in the El Monte Valley.
- American Badger *Taxidea taxus* is known to have a burrow in the El Monte Valley along the San Diego River
- *Mountain Lion Puma concolor* This species has been seen by staff in the El Monte Valley in the San Diego Riverbed and at Hanson Pond. We speculate that the presence of a substantial homeless population in the San Diego Riverbed in Lakeside discourages foraging of deer, the mountain lion's food source. Consequently, we do not find evidence of mountain lion usage along the San Diego River between Ashwood St and Mission Trails Regional Park. The removal of *arundo donax* and the removal of a substantial homeless population in the riverbed may allow for the passage of mountain lions between Lakeside, to Santee to Mission Trails Regional Park.
- Bald Eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* Is known to use the El Monte Valley and Hanson Pond in the El Monte Valley
- *Osprey Pandion haliaetus* is known to use the remnant sand mining ponds in the San Diego River between Hanson Pond to the east in the El Monte Valley and west into Lakeside proper.
- *Southern California rufous-crowned sparrow Aimophila ruficeps canescens* is found at San Vicente Reservoir and at Lake Jennings which is near the project site
- Swainson's hawk *Buteo swainsoni* is found in Lakeside
- *Western Bluebird Sialia mexicana* is found in Lakeside and nests along the San Diego River.

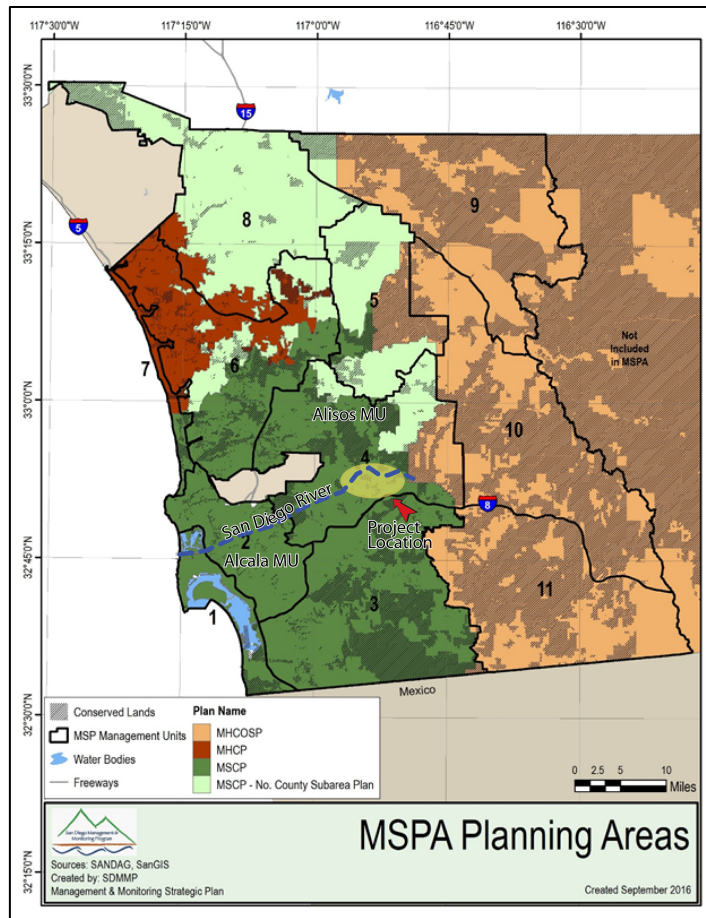
See the map below that highlights the presence of some of the species found in the area.

LRPC- Lakeside Invasive Removal & Maintenance Project



January 2, 2018

- 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*)



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

Arundo donax is known as a non-native species that aggressively colonizes riparian areas and out competes virtually any species located within that area, with the exception of remnant tree species whose roots and canopy are well established. The species provides very little foraging or nesting area. It contains a massive fuel load and as such causes wildfires to burn hotter and invade riparian areas where native species would have hampered the spread of fire. It also causes dike and flooding in high water events, when large mats break off and dam up the waterways. This leads to perturbations of the watercourse as well as sediment transport, critical to the long-term well being of native riparian species.

- 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?

We have been involved with invasive removal programs since 2013. When we first started the recommended method of control was foliar application of glyphosate (2% solution) when the stalks were shoulder high. We found that to be about 80% effective with first kill. We then moved on to a cocktail of glyphosate and imazapyr (2% solution) and that was about 90% effective in first kill. We now use a 50% solution of glyphosate on the stumps of the plants just after they have been cut and that is about a 95% kill.

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?*

By removing arundo from the headwaters of Los Coches Creek and other tributary creeks and by doing diligent monitoring, combined with the labor saving use of a drone and teaching local property owners (on-going) the safe way to remove any reinfestation of arundo that might occur after the completion of the project, we believe that we can control this infasive species in such a manner that we will not have this level of arundo infestation for many years.

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?*

With the use of the drone, we will be able to rapidly assess the presence of arundo in these triburary creeks. We will provide maps, as well as well as tables showing where arundo was located at the beginning of the project and where it is located at the end of the project.

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?*

Data will be managed via Google Earth Pro combined with GPS information and transmitted to the EMP program for your use. We will also be receiving the assistance of the San Diego River Conservancy which has a person who is skilled in the use of ArcMap as well as KLM files. The executive director will write all the 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 applicant has two grant awards from the EMP grant programs. These are the **RIPARIAN RESTORATION AND ARUNDO REMOVAL GRANT AGREEMENT NO. 5004948**. This grant removed huge debris lines of arundo and other trash from the San Diego Riverbed in an 11 acre 'old growth' riparian forsest on LRPC property. These debris lines formed during large rain events and carried remnant arundo cuttings and other trash into the area. The funds are now being used to remove to caster bean primarily. This area received a great deal of araundo corms and stakes during he first El Nino storm series of 2016. The arundo stakes formed dikes and debris lines several feet high. Al though area had been cleared of arundo for several years, this flooding brought an inordinante amount of arundo stakes and corms into the riparian forest. Getting this infestation under control while it was small enough to be controlled with limited effort made sense.

The second grant is the **THE SAN DIEGO RIVER CHANNEL GRANT AGREEMENT NO. 5004952**. This project takes place on 148 acres of the San Diego River Biological Corridor between Santee border to Channel Road in Lakeside. This grant funds the removal of homeless camps and all of its attendant environmental degradation of habitat and water quality.

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

No the project does not take place on mitigation land.

B. Scope of Work by Task

Please break down the proposal 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	Monitoring	Use of the Drone and ground truthing to monitor for any reinfestations of arundo and other invasives	Every quarter, each of the maintenance areas as well as the newly cut areas that have been added to the monitoring schedule will be monitored invasive species. A total of 65.91 acres or 13.7 linear miles of river drainage and creek bed will be monitored. The quarterly report will detail this activity and the location of new infestations.
2	Maintenance	A two-man crew will be sent to address the invasives found.	The quarterly report will detail reinfestations by APN and will report on the treatment of that area.
3	Biomass Removal	Remove bio mass from spot cut sites, and initial spraying	Pictures and maps of the activities
4	Land Owner Coordination	Communicate with Land owners regarding arrival of our teams, the drone, and any action on their property	Reported in monthly reports
5	Quarterly Reporting	We will document our progress monthly and accumulate reports for quarterly submission	Quarterly reports submitted to the EMP
....	Final Report	Final Report summarizing all of the activities in the project	Submitted to the EMP
....	Administrative	Track costs, invoices, timesheets etc.	Included in the invoice

C. 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 proportionately¹.* Applicants are encouraged to identify phasing in their proposal 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

¹

Task No.	Task Name	Year 1 Grant Request	Year 1 Matching Funds	Year 2 Grant Request	Year 3 Grant Request	Total Grant Request	Total Matching Funds	Total Project Cost
1	Monitoring	\$42,950	\$8,500	\$25,770	\$17,180	\$85,900	\$8,500	\$85,900
2	Maintenance	\$79,513	\$	\$47,708	\$31,805	\$159,026	\$	\$159,026

3	Biomass Removal	\$68,140	\$	\$40,884	\$27,256	\$136,280	\$	\$136,280
4	Land Owner Coordination	\$13,154	\$	\$7,892	\$5,261	\$26,307	\$	\$26,307
5	Quarterly Reporting	\$14,055	\$	\$8,433	\$5,622	\$28,110	\$	\$28,110
6	Final Report	\$4,685		\$2,811	\$1,874	\$9,370		\$9,370
7	Administrative	\$21,600	\$	\$12,960	\$8,640	\$43,200	\$	\$43,200
Sub Total		\$244,097	\$8,500	\$146,458	\$97,638	\$488,191	\$8,500	\$496,693
Indirect Cost (21% OMB)		\$51,260		\$30,756	\$20,504	\$102,520	\$	\$102,520
TOTAL		\$295,356		\$177,214	\$118,142	\$590,712	\$8,500	\$599,213
PERCENTAGE		49%	2%	29%	20%	98%	2%	100%

- Throughout the Project, Matching Funds must be proportionate to Total Project Costs (Grant Request and Matching Funds combined). For example, if a proposed project Year 1 Grant Request is \$80,000 and proposed Year 1 Matching Funds are \$20,000, the Total Year 1 Project Costs are \$100,000. Therefore, the required proportionate matching funds to provide per invoice during Year 1 of the project are 20 percent (e.g. invoice submitted for \$8,000 grant amount reimbursement and \$2,000 matching funds submitted). However, if the Year 2 Grant Request is \$70,000 and proposed Year 2 Matching Funds are \$30,000, while the Total Year 2 Project Costs also are \$100,000, the required proportionate matching funds increases per invoice during Year 2 of the project to 30% (e.g. invoice submitted for \$7,000 grant amount reimbursement and \$3,000 matching funds submitted). Retention will be withheld beyond the 10 percent retention for each invoice submittal that does not meet the proportionate matching funds requirement. These additional matching funds retained will not be

D. Project Schedule

Please include start and end dates relative to the anticipated Notice to Proceed (assumes 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.

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	Monitoring	"1" Months from NTP	"30" Months	Feb/28/2021
2	Maintenance	"1" Months from NTP	"35" Months	July /31/2021
3	Biomass Removal	"1" Months from NTP	"4" Months	12/31/2018
4	Land Owner Coordination	"1" Months from NTP	"34" Months	July /31/2021
5	Quarterly Reporting	"3" Months from NTP	"33" Months	Aug/31/2021
6	Final Report	"33" Months from NTP	"3" Months	Aug/31/2021
...	Administrative	"1" Months from NTP	"36" Months	Aug/31/2021

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.

We do not anticipate any delays. We have been doing this for several years and even with huge rains, we make our cut and monitoring targets.

NOTICE REGARDING PREVAILING WAGES

SANDAG's 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. X 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 X No

REQUIRED STATEMENTS FROM APPLICANT

- X Yes No The applicant has read and understands the Sample Grant Agreement (Agreement) and Invoice Template (Attachment 4).
- X 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.
- X 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
- X Yes No The applicant understands that 10 percent of all invoices will be retained until the completion of the proposed project. **According to my attorney, the State only allows for 5% retention for small business. Maybe check on this?**
- X Yes No The applicant understands that for proposed projects with matching funds, retention will be withheld beyond the 10 percent 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 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.
- X 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.
- X 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.
- X 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.
- X 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.
- X 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.

Robin Rierdan Executive Director
Applicant Name and Title

January 12, 2018
Date

Applicant Signature