



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 Name: The Escondido Creek Conservancy

Address: P.O. Box 460791, Escondido CA 92046 (760) 471-9354

Phone and Email Address: hannah@escondidocreek.org, information@escondidocreek.org

Los Cielos Preserve (in MSP database called Escondido Creek

Name of Property: Preserve)

General Location: Escondido Creek – Elfin Forest Area

Jurisdiction: County of San Diego

Total Acres: 882

Estimated Acres Requiring Management: 47.7

Owner(s) of Property: The Escondido Creek Conservancy (TECC)

Land manager(s) of property (include name[s]): TECC (Hannah Walchak and Leonard Wittwer)

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

Orcutt's brodiaea (Brodiaea orcuttii, OB) and Encinitas baccharis (Baccharis vanessae, EB) are SO plant species occurring in limited conserved locations within Management Unit 6. TECC-owned 882-acre Los Cielos Preserve Complex, near Elfin Forest in the Escondido Creek Conservation Area, is home to occurrences of both these species. An eastern occurrence of Encinitas baccharis, are newly discovered, and are directly threatened by pampas grass and ice plant growing in the immediate vicinity, within feet. While targeted weed management has prevented exotic species from directly encroaching on other occurrences, the preserve as a whole is threatened by exotic forbs including mustard, tecolote, fennel, tumbleweed, and stinkwort. This project will fund removal of these and many other exotics from the preserve, which has never received comprehensive treatment. Contractors supervised by TECC will selectively hand-pull, and chemically treat where necessary, exotic plants in the preserve. The primary goal is to eradicate exotic plants that directly threaten the eastern EB occurrences and to eliminate exotic forbs from the rest of the Los Cielos Preserve Complex in order to protect occurrences of EB and OB. Following the grant period, maintenance will continue until the preserve is cleared of exotics in its upland and riparian reaches.

Quantify Expected Results (add bullets as necessary)

- Remove invasive pampas grass and ice plant from 3.4 acres of the preserve complex, which immediately threaten a newly discovered (December 2017) occurrence of Encinitas baccharis.
Remove exotic habitat-modifying plant species from 47.7 acres of the Los Cielos Preserve and therefore prevent potential encroachment onto two occurrences of Encinitas baccharis and Orcutt's brodiaea. This will include .5 acres of dense arundo, and selective removal of tumbleweed, mustard, stinkwort, fennel, tamarisk, fountain grass, small palms, from 43.8 acres of the preserve according to the stipulations of Carlsbad Watershed Network Invasive Species Control Program permit. This includes sensitive species monitoring to avoid negative impacts.

- IMG monitoring protocol of OB (May 2019), IMG monitoring protocol of EB (September 2019).
- Post-grant period: monitor each treatment site and rare plant occurrence every other month for re-treatment needs until preserve-level eradication is achieved. Continued IMG monitoring of OB and EB according to the protocol.

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

TECC’s conservation land manager, Hannah Walchak, will coordinate the project with supervision by the Executive Director, Ann Van Leer. Coordination will include scheduling contractor, orienting contractor to EB and OB occurrences along with locations of stands of exotics throughout the preserve complex, reporting results to SANDAG, IMG monitoring, and post-grant maintenance. Along with Hannah, TECC’s longtime (25 years) volunteer land manager Leonard Wittwer will supervise the invasive removal effort in the field. All riparian invasive removal work will be done under a permit(s) held by the San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy, and so will meet the requirements of this permit; as such, we will consult with permitted monitor Ruben Ramirez of Cadre Environmental to ensure that plant removal is not harmful to wildlife. TECC’s office administrator, Meghan Williams, will administer the grant. TECC will contract with a licensed and experienced landscape contractor to complete the invasive removal effort; this may be a contractor with whom we already have a relationship, or may involve a process to form a new relationship.

Funding Needs Summary

Please indicate how much funding is being requested from SANDAG.

Budget Item	Requested Funding Amount	Description
Personnel Expenses Staff	\$6,800.00	Plan removal, supervise fieldwork, assessment and reporting
Personnel Administrative Expenses	\$3,460.00	Invoicing, budgeting, contract oversight
Consultant Expenses	\$62,333.55	Weed removal, sensitive species monitoring
Indirect Costs ¹	\$ 7,259.36	Indirect Costs – <i>See CAP Document Attached</i>
Totals	\$79,852.91	

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.

¹ 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 included with the application does not count toward eight-page maximum**

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.

This project removes exotic, invasive plants that immediately or indirectly threaten two SO species prioritized for management in 2018. The priority species enhanced by this project are a newly discovered occurrences of Encinitas baccharis, along with a longstanding occurrence of the same and an occurrence of Orcutt's brodiaea; this year, both plants share the implementation goal to "protect occurrences from disturbance through...controlling invasive non-native plant species," within Management Unit 6, where the Los Cielos Preserve Complex is located (MSP Goals and Objectives). SO species are managed as such because there is a risk of losing significant occurrences of these plants. The occurrences protected by this project represent significant portions of the plants' overall populations. This is particularly true in the case of EB, where only 13 occurrences are known (including the newly discovered site protected here) and of which two would be addressed through this project.

The specific occurrences enhanced by this project include the "Escondido Creek Preserve" occurrence of EB, an occurrence of Orcutt's brodiaea mapped by Dudek (see attached map) and an as-yet unnamed occurrence of Encinitas baccharis, first observed in December 2017.

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

According to the MSP document, invasive exotic plants are one of the principal reasons why Encinitas baccharis occurrences are at high risk of loss (*Vol. 2D, P.1-15*). Nonnative plants are also identified as one of the most serious threats to Orcutt's brodiaea (*Vol. 2D, P.1-22*). This project will remove the invasive species that are directly threatening a newly observed occurrence of Encinitas baccharis. It will also remove invasive species from the rest of the preserve complex, where they indirectly threaten other occurrences of EB and OB. Future maintenance of native habitat within the preserve complex will then be possible.

Other identified threats to the two species include development of various types, dumping, and altered fire regimes. These factors are robustly addressed by standard management practices applied across the preserve complex. Therefore, EB and OB occurrences are relatively protected from other issues, and this project will address the most pressing problem in the complex, invasive exotic plants.

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

The goal of this project is to eliminate encroachment and competition by invasive non-native plants to the occurrences of Encinitas baccharis and Orcutt's brodiaea on the Los Cielos Preserve and environs. Success will be measured by the absence of these species at the end of the 18-month grant period in the vicinity of the species occurrences, as verified by photo documentation. Additional success criteria include absence of exotic species from each of the treatment sites (see map page 8) at the end of the 18 month grant period. And finally, we will complete IMG monitoring protocol at the Orcutt's brodiaea site in May 2019 and IMG monitoring protocol at the Encinitas baccharis sites in September 2019 and compare with monitoring results at the same site from September 2017.

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

Physical removal of the invasive exotic species from the direct vicinity of Encinitas baccharis at the eastern site will dramatically reduce the threat of competition and disturbance to this occurrence. Eradication of exotic species from the preserve complex in general will protect the other EB occurrence and OB occurrences from future disturbance. Continued IMG monitoring, during and after the grant period, according to established protocol, will serve as a very reliable sign of success.

Though we have not yet had the capacity to comprehensively treat exotic plants across the preserve complex, TECC has a quarter century of proven experience in maintaining diverse natural habitats across the 1,800 acres in our care in North County. With the support of volunteers and staff, we have leveraged public funding to protect open lands and restored hundreds of disturbed acres to natural woodland, riparian, chaparral, and sage scrub habitat. Together with a licensed, experienced contractor and wildlife monitor, we will apply best practices for eradication to each of the different invasive species targeted.

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).

To ensure a successful long-term outcome after the grant period, TECC will continue to monitor the Los Cielos Preserve Complex comprehensively to prevent re-colonization by invasive exotic plants. The land manager will visit each invasive removal site at least every three months as part of routine monitoring and identify retreatment needs. TECC will hand-pull any regrowth which will be feasible to control following an initial comprehensive treatment (the grant project). Our commitment to the sites and rare species occurrences is in perpetuity. The land manager’s position is partially supported by endowments tied to TECC properties. TECC’s endowments support re-treatments that complement services provided by the land manager and a professionalized volunteer corps.

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? *(See Map pg 8)*

All three MSP-species occurrences, as well as the invasive plants to be removed, are found on the Los Cielos Preserve complex, parcels comprising 882 acres and owned in fee by The Escondido Creek Conservancy (excluding one parcel, over which we maintain an easement for conservation management, see attached documents). The land is part of The Escondido Creek Conservation Area, which is adjacent to the Elfin Forest, downstream of the city of Escondido on the Escondido Creek. Some of the land in the complex is managed as Coastal Sage Scrub mitigation for various projects, while other parcels were purchased as sensitive species habitat (also Coastal Sage Scrub). In addition to CSS, the complex features mixed chaparral, meadow, oak woodland, and riparian forest habitats.

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
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1	Sensitive species monitoring	Surveying removal areas for birds and other sensitive species prior to/during work	Presence/absence of nesting determination
2	Remove Invasive species	Eradication of pampas grass and ice plant that directly threaten EB as well as selective eradication of invasive plants in the preserve's riparian and upland areas via spring and fall treatments	Absence of exotics from the canyon where new EB occurrence has been found; eradication of exotic forbs and some trees from the Los Cielos preserve complex
3	IMG Monitoring (2019/2020)	Complete IMG monitoring protocol at All occurrences of EB & OB (three total occurrences) in the Los Cielos Preserve Complex	Assessment of status of Encinitas baccharis and Orcutt's brodiaea according to IMG protocol and timing; comparison to previous IMG results for each species.
4	Quarterly Reporting	Observation, photo documentation and submission of quarterly reporting on grant status	5 quarterly reports (Months 1-15 of grant period)
5	Final Reporting	Assessment of eradication of exotics, photo documentation at end of 18-month grant period	Final report summarizing 18 months of work. Photo documentation of before and after treatment showing results.
6	Administrative	All administration of the grant, record-keeping during and after grant period.	Invoices, updates to budget, report submission, supporting information as requested.

C. Budget by Task

Please include a specific budget for each task described in the Scope of Work (Section B above). *This funding category is intended to fund short-term threat reduction projects in need of one-time funding necessary to fill existing funding gaps for specific tasks and will not cover on-going annual costs within applicant's organization.*

Exhibit B – Proposed Project Budget

Task No.	Task Name	Grant Request
1	Sensitive Species Monitoring	\$2,880.00
2	Remove Invasive Species	\$62,693.55
4	IMG Monitoring of EB & OB	\$540.00
5	Quarterly Reporting	\$2,300.00
6	Final Reporting	\$ 720.00
7	Administrative	\$3,460.00
Subtotal		\$72,593.55
Indirect Cost (10%)		\$7,259.36
TOTAL		\$79,852.91

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	Sensitive Species Monitoring (before/during every removal event – this timing refers to monitoring before the first event only)	2.5 Months from NTP	.25 Months	01/15/2019
2	Upland invasive removal Jan/Feb 2019 (4 removal events)	2.75 Months from NTP	10 Months	10/31/2019
3	IMG Monitoring OB May 2019 (after first 3 removal events)	7 Months from NTP	.25 Months	05/31/2019
4	IMG Monitoring EB Sep 2019 (after first 3 removal events)	11 Months from NTP	.25 Months	09/30/2019
5	Quarterly Reporting	3 Months from NTP	15 Months	01/31/2020
6	Final Reporting	17 Months from NTP	1 Month	04/30/2020
7	Administrative	0 Months from NTP	18 Months	04/30/2020

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.

The constraint on time in this project is bird nesting season, which begins March 15 in riparian zones and February 15 in upland areas. Therefore, in occupied nesting sites, a delay of NTP beyond three months could push the project timeline back by 9 months and could prevent us from completing the 4 planned removal events, scaling back to 3 or 2 events if necessary. Alternatively, we could switch from 3 spring removals and 1 fall removal in 2019 to multiple spring removals in 2019 and 2020.

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

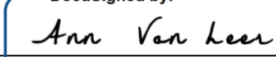
REQUIRED STATEMENTS FROM APPLICANT

- 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.

Ann Van Leer, Executive Director The Escondido Creek Conservancy

Applicant Name/Title (print or type)

DocuSigned by:




01/11/2018

Applicant Signature

Date



Features

-  Encinitas Baccharis Occurrences
-  Orcutt's Brodiaea Occurrences
-  Los Cielos Preserve Complex

Exotic Species to be Removed

-  Arundo
-  Fennel
-  Mixed - Mustard, Teolote
-  Mixed - Tumbleweed, Fennel, Fountaingrass
-  Mixed - Tumbleweed, Fennel, Mustard
-  Mixed Riparian
-  Mixed Roadside - Stinkwort, Fennel
-  Mustard
-  Palm
-  Pampas Grass
-  Tamarisk
-  Tumbleweed

