

**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 (TECC)
Address: P.O. Box 460791, Escondido CA 92046
Phone and Email Address: (847) 460-8809, hannah@escondidocreek.org, information@escondidocreek.org
Name of Property: Greenlands and Los Cielos
General Location: Elfin Forest
Jurisdiction: County of San Diego
Total Acres: 4 acres
Estimated Acres Requiring Management: 4 acres
Owner(s) of Property: Greenlands Mitigation, LLC (mgmt. via easement to TECC, attached), 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)

Sticky dudleya (*Dudleya viscida*) is an SS species known to occur in just four places on conserved lands in the MSP Area in San Diego county. One site along Escondido Creek (in MU6) hosts 1,300 plants and is threatened by the presence of exotic species including large Eucalyptus, fan palms, Arundo, and fennel. Because the sticky dudleya at this site are growing on sheer rock faces, the adjacent Eucalyptus and palms bring significant fire danger right up to their level. These exotic trees and other herbaceous non-natives (fennel, mustard, hemlock, wild radish) also crowd and shade the sticky dudleya (see attached photos for current conditions). This grant will fund the removal of the exotic plants, thereby relieving competition pressure and reducing fire threats for the dudleya. The primary goal is the eradication of exotic forbs within five feet of individual *Dudleya viscida* plants, and to establish a 250-foot buffer zone (~4 acres) around the population where all large flammable exotic plants are removed (Eucalyptus, palm, Arundo). After the grant period, maintenance and monitoring will continue at the site until complete eradication in the enhancement area is achieved.

Quantify Expected Results (add bullets as necessary)

- Remove at least 23 Eucalyptus trees, 7 Washingtonia palms, and two small clumps of Arundo from enhancement area. Large eucs may be limbed, girdled, and left as snags if risk of damage to the Sticky dudleya from felling is deemed great. Ensure process is done safely for birds and other wildlife using local permit guidelines.
- Remove all exotic forb cover within 5 feet of individual Sticky Dudleya plants. Species targeted are mainly fennel, mustard, wild radish, and hemlock. Non-native grasses will be weeded but complete eradication is not expected.
- Transport all removed biomass from the canyon for chipping or off-site disposal.
- Post-grant: monitor site monthly for re-treatment needs until eradication is achieved. IMG monitoring of *Dudleya viscida*

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 ensuring proper bird and other wildlife monitoring, scheduling

contractor, orienting contractor to sticky dudleya and eucalyptus/other invasive occurrences, reporting results to SANDAG, and post-grant maintenance and IMG monitoring. Along with Hannah, TECC's longtime (25 years) volunteer land manager Leonard Wittwer will supervise the invasive removal effort in the field. Since the work will be done under a permit(s) held by the San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy, the land manager will collaborate with a permitted monitoring biologist, Ruben Ramirez of Cadre Environmental, on site, as required, during tree removal. All tree felling, removal, and hauling will be done by a licensed, insured contractor with experience in wildland restoration. Forb removal will be done by volunteers under the supervision of the conservation land manager. TECC's executive director, Ann Van Leer, will advise on contractor selection and process. 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.

Funding Needs Summary

Please indicate how much funding is being requested from SANDAG.

Budget Item	Requested Funding Amount	Description
Personnel Expenses Staff	\$11,200.00	Staff time to plan, oversee removal, recruit and organize volunteers, document progress
Personnel Administrative Expenses	\$4,000.00	Invoicing, budgeting, contract oversight
Consultant Expenses	\$57,427.50	Tree felling and removal, sensitive species monitoring
Indirect Costs ¹	\$7,262.75	Indirect Costs – See CAP Document Attached
Totals	\$79,890.25	

*if applicable

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 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**

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.

Sticky dudleya is an SS species prioritized for management in the 2017 MSP roadmap management objectives within Management Unit 6, where the project is located. This project will permanently enhance a large existing occurrence of sticky Dudleya, helping to ensure the plant's long-term persistence and fulfilling the MSP's designated management approach (*Vol. 2, P. 2-193*). The specific occurrence managed by this project is named "Escondido Creek West of 2nd Aqueduct" in the MSP (*Vol. 2, P.2-194*).

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

Along with water release and trampling, the MSP lists invasive plants as one of the most significant threats sticky dudleya faces (*Vol. 2, P.2-193*). The wet winter of 2016-2017 was a boon to invasive forbs across many of TECC's preserves, increasing the urgency of the need for this project. Additionally, at this site sticky dudleya occurs on steep, rocky slopes next to Escondido Creek. Site-specific stressors here include the presence of large, non-native trees that threaten to shade out the sticky dudlya and increase the risk of losing the population to fire. The proposed project reduces both of these threats by eliminating invasive, habitat-modifying plants from the vicinity and a large buffer zone around sticky dudleya.

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

The goal of this project is to reduce competition and fire threat caused by invasive non-native plants to the occurrence of sticky dudleya. Success will be measured by the absence of these species at the end of the 18 month grant period, as verified by photo documentation. Though it is after the grant period, we will also complete IMG monitoring protocol at the site in 2021 (the next year that IMG protocol includes sticky dudleya) and compare with monitoring results from 2016.

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

Physical removal of the invasive exotic trees and forbs and control of any regrowth will eliminate the threat of competition and reduce fire risk for this sticky dudleya occurrence. Large trees will be felled, their stumps treated, branches and trunks cut into smaller pieces, and hauled out of the canyon. This removal technique, known as cut stump, is commonly used for managing eucalyptus in native habitats in San Diego County, and is endorsed by many contractors as well as the National Park Service². The possible hazard of direct damage to the dudleya as the trees are felled will be evaluated as each tree is removed. If the risk to dudleya is deemed too great, the tree will be limbed, girdled, and left as a snag.

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).

² *Managing Eucalyptus*. *Managing Eucalyptus*, National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior, 2006, www.nps.gov/pore/planyourvisit/upload/brochure_eucalyptus.pdf.

To ensure a successful long-term outcome after the grant period, TECC will maintain the site annually to prevent re-colonization by invasive exotic plants. Upstream palms and arundo have already been removed for several hundred yards, and are retreated by TECC and partners when necessary. Removal of upstream eucalyptus is ongoing as funds become available, and has already progressed since acquisition of surrounding properties for conservation throughout the last decade. The land manager will visit the site every other month as part of routine monitoring and identify retreatment needs. TECC will re-cut and treat any regrowth of small eucalyptus, palms or arundo and will re-cut or pull regrowth of non-native forbs. Our commitment to the site is perpetuity, per our ownership at Los Cielos and our Greenlands easement agreement (see explanation of parcels below). Funding for future retreatment will be drawn from TECC general funds. While the Greenlands parcel has an associated endowment, this funding only supports management of the Coastal Sage Scrub portion of the site, which serves as mitigation for various projects. Therefore, continued retreatment will be supported by TECC general funds and endowment funds for the Los Cielos Preserve Complex parcel.

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 attached map)*

The sticky dudleya enhancement site straddles two protected properties: a 43-acre parcel over which TECC holds a conservation easement and a small portion of the 882-acre Los Cielos Preserve, (see attached easement and map) a complex of conservation lands owned and managed as Coastal Sage Scrub habitat by TECC. It is adjacent to other conservation lands owned by Olivenhain Municipal Water District, County of San Diego, CNLM, and other private entities.

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	Invitation to bid & contractor selection	Create invitation to bid, conduct site visit, establish relationship with contractor	RFP, selection, contract
2	Invasive removal by contractor	Remove eucalyptus, palms, arundo after required sensitive species monitoring	Non-native trees and arundo are absent from the 4-acre enhancement area
3	Invasive removal by TECC and volunteers	Remove exotic forbs from enhancement area with volunteer crews	Non-native forbs are absent from the 4-acre enhancement area. Non-native grasses are diminished
4	Quarterly reporting on grant status	Photo documentation, observation, report writing	5 quarterly reports (Months 1-15 of the grant)
5	Assessment and Final reporting	Assessment of eradication, 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
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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	Invitation to bid and contractor selection	\$ 3,400.00
2	Removal of eucalyptus, palms, arundo by contractor, plus required sensitive species monitoring	\$ 59,227.50
3	Removal of exotic forb cover by TECC & Volunteers	\$ 1,680.00
4	Quarterly reporting on grant status	\$ 3,600.00
5	Assessment of eradication, photo documentation, final reporting	\$ 720.00
6	Administrative	\$ 4,000.00
Subtotal		\$72,627.75
Indirect Cost (10%)		\$ 7,262.75
TOTAL		\$79,890.25

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	Selection and scheduling with contractor	.25 Months from NTP	2 Months	12/31/2018
2	Species monitoring and non-native tree removal	3 Months from NTP Before bird-nesting season (Jan 2019)	1.5 Months	2/15/2019
3	Removal of non-native forbs	4.5 Months from NTP Before bird nesting season	1 Months	3/15/2019

		(mid-Feb 2019)		
4	Quarterly reporting	3 Months from NTP	15 Months	01/31/2020
5	Final reporting	17 Months from NTP	1 Months	04/30/2020
6	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. Therefore, a delay of NTP beyond three months would push the project timeline back by 9 months (we would begin tree removal in October 2019). Project could still be completed within an 18 month window, but there would be no contingency/wiggle room in case a second period of removal was necessary. Weather should not be a factor in the timely completion of the project.

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

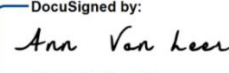
REQUIRED STATEMENTS FROM APPLICANT

- 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: 	1/11/2018
Applicant Signature	Date



-  Sticky Dudleya
-  Sticky Dudleya Enhancement Area
-  Parcels with Sticky Dudleya
-  Other TECC-Owned Conserved Lands
-  Coastal California gnatcatcher
-  Hermes copper

