



CALL FOR PROJECTS FOR THENINTH 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: Living Coast Discovery Center

Address: 1000 Gunpowder Point Drive, Chula Vista CA 91910

Phone and Email Address: (619) 409-5900, ben@thelivingcoast.org

Name of Property: Sweetwater Marsh Unit of the San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge

General Location: Chula Vista

Jurisdiction: MU1

Total Acres: 316 acres

Estimated Acres Requiring Management: 20

Owner(s) of Property²: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Land manager(s) of property (include name[s]): U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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

The Living Coast Discovery Center, in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Cabrillo National Monument, and the San Diego Natural History Museum (SDNHM) will continue to conduct surveys to determine bat species composition on and around the Sweetwater Marsh Unit of the San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge. The goals of this project are to contribute to the data collection in regional bat studies, install bat boxes throughout the Living Coast Discovery Center’s property, and implement the habitat threat reduction and management plan. Historical research strongly suggests that the pallid bat is likely utilizing Sweetwater Marsh for foraging and roosting. The Living Coast will complete one year of monitoring on Sweetwater Marsh, but more data is needed to confirm the presence of the pallid bat. This project will enable the Living Coast to contribute to larger regional conservation efforts, working with USFWS to improve upon the management of Sweetwater Marsh to mitigate environmental threats to the pallid bat, and add to the general public’s greater awareness of local MSP species in San Diego. Funding for this program will significantly leverage SANDAG’s conservation efforts by awardee – the San Diego Natural History Museum -- funded by Environmental Mitigation Program funds.

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.

²If 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)*

- AnaBat Express detectors will continue to be utilized on Sweetwater Marsh with permission from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and will run simultaneously with other data collection sites throughout the region.
- Data collected will be analyzed by San Diego Natural History Museum to determine species of bats present on Sweetwater Marsh and be compared to previous surveys.
- Bat boxes will be installed throughout the Living Coast Discovery Center’s property to study long-term roosting and migration patterns.
- Analyzed data, including species identified, will contribute to regional studies.

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

This project will be led by Beth Sabiston, Animal Care Coordinator at the Living Coast Discovery Center, in collaboration with partners including U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Andy Yuen, Project Leader and Kurt Roblek, Wildlife Refuge Specialist), Cabrillo National Monument (Keith Lombardo, Ph.D., Chief of Resources & Science) and San Diego Natural History Museum (Drew Stokes, Wildlife Biologist).

Funding Needs Summary

Please indicate how much funding is being requested from SANDAG.

Budget Item	Requested Funding Amount	Description
Personnel Expenses Staff	\$5,355.00	Includes staff time for non-administrative work on the project
Personnel Administrative Expenses	\$1,260.00	Includes all staff time to administer the contract
Consultant Expenses	\$2,700.00	Includes all costs for consultant services
Other Direct Expenses	\$2,400.00	Includes all equipment, supplies, mileage, etc.
Indirect Costs ³	\$0.00	All indirect charges (e.g., overhead) on the project, if any.
Totals	\$11,715.00	

*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. 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 will address the pallid bat (*Antrozous pallidus*), a MSP species listed as SL (a species whose persistence is at the highest risk of loss within the MSP Area without immediate action). Records identify Sweetwater Marsh as a former roosting site for a pallid bat colony throughout most of the 20th century, likely up until the 1980's. Additionally, in May of 2015 a single pallid bat was identified roosting under a covered porch less than one kilometer from Sweetwater Marsh (D. Stokes, personal communication, June 1, 2016).

According to studies conducted locally in San Diego, targeted surveys need to be conducted to determine the status and distribution of species that appear to have suffered population declines and are vulnerable to extirpation. These species include the subject of this application, the pallid bat, and many others.

In 2015, temporary detectors were installed on Sweetwater Marsh which showed evidence of significant bat activity in the area. Eight species were identified, three of which are considered species of concern in California: pocketed free-tailed bat, big free-tailed bat, and western red bat. Although no pallid bats were detected during the trial, the high bat activity along with historical and recent observations make pallid bats likely in this area.

AnaBat Express detectors were installed on Sweetwater Marsh in April 2017 to provide targeted surveying for the pallid bat in conjunction with ongoing research being done by the SDNHM and Cabrillo National Monument. The monitoring has run for approximately 120 days over 12 months to provide a clear representation of bat species present in the area.

The monitoring that began on Sweetwater Marsh in April 2017 has provided some information about the bats in the region, however, in order to collect sufficient raw data for a rare species would require collecting data for more than 12 months. Additional research is needed to identify the species located on Sweetwater Marsh and implement site-specific threat management. The impending Chula Vista Bayfront development project increases the urgency to study the pre-development migratory pattern of regional bats.

This project meets the stated MSP Objectives for pallid bats for the 2017-2021 planning cycle, to finalize the results of research begun in 2015. This project will help to identify seasonal and annual changes in use and important foraging areas, monitor reproductive status, collect habitat covariates associated with roosting and foraging habitat, and assess threats to bats at all preserves where they occur, and to

develop management recommendations. Additional surveying for bat species composition on Sweetwater Marsh is critical to implement an accurate site-specific threat management plan and contribute to the MSP Objectives for pallid bats. Collecting additional data for 18 months will allow the project partners to compare year-over-year trends, increase the likelihood of detecting locally rare species such as the pallid bat and Mexican long-tongued bat, and provide more robust baseline data.

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

The pallid bat has specific needs which must be accommodated in order for the species to thrive. Based on the outcomes of our research, a management plan will be developed to include specific actions to mitigate threats to the species. According to a study on bat conservation in San Diego County, the pallid bat has suffered a considerable range contraction in western San Diego County over the past 50-60 years.

The Living Coast will adhere to the management recommendations of this study and the objectives found in the MSP to manage the threat to this species. Depending on the results of the collected the data and analysis of the population, the Living Coast will work with USFWS and project partners to implement the site-specific management plan, which would include the following actions based on the recommendations found in both MSP documents and previous studies:

- 1) Locate day roosting colony sites using radio telemetry studies to characterize and protect roosts.
- 2) Identify foraging habitats, delineate foraging area used, determine average gradient (slope) of foraging habitats, and determine distances species forages from roosts using radio telemetry on population(s). This would also help to guide future conservation planning and reserve designs that seek to accommodate this apparently declining species.
- 3) Protect existing roosting sites from outside encroachment.
- 4) Provide additional man-made roosting sites within the refuge to facilitate breeding and conservation.

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

The Living Coast will consider this project to be successful if surveys indicate that there are, in fact, pallid bats living on the marsh. To determine this, the Living Coast will utilize the five AnaBat detectors that are installed on Sweetwater Marsh and conduct 6 seasons of bat monitoring consisting of 10 days during 18 months to provide a clear representation of bat species present in the area. The Living Coast will also measure success of this project by the implementation of threat management initiatives outlined in the site plan.

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

Determining whether or not the pallid bat has a regular presence at Sweetwater Marsh will be achieved through the ongoing bat detection surveys using equipment and data analysis consistent with best management practices for the region and methods of similar studies. The extent to which pallid bats are recorded will provide opportunities for further recommendations to protect and enhance preferred habitat. The data will provide measurable findings as to frequency of pallid bat presence on the refuge.

This information will result in specific land management objectives which will be implemented by the land owner.

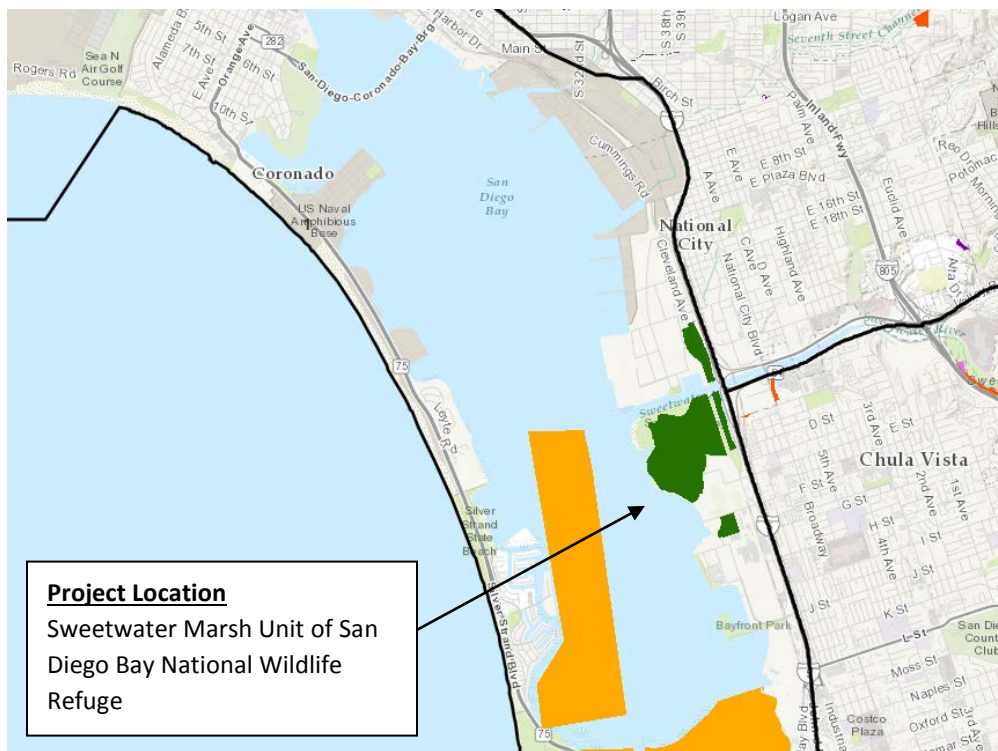
It is important to note that this effort will add critical new monitoring locations to existing EMP-funded studies that are determining the current range of pallid bats in the region and extend the monitoring for 18 months.

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).

As a result of this study, the Living Coast Discovery Center will incorporate findings into interpretive displays and educational programming in order to further the public awareness and support for the pallid bat and other sensitive bat species in this region. The Living Coast was previously funded by the TransNet Environmental Mitigation Program for the initial monitoring that took place on Sweetwater Marsh.

Project exposure will likely extend far beyond the 18-month grant period, by incorporating survey results into existing educational programming about life on the marsh, pollinators, and the importance of bats. It is anticipated that the inclusion of bat-focused environmental education will reach 80,000 people, including 25,000 students, who visit the Living Coast annually.

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)



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	Data Collection	Maintaining bat detectors and collecting data for 10 consecutive nights during a 18-month period	Data collection results
2	Data Analysis	Analyzing data collected by bat detectors simultaneously with Cabrillo National Monument and submitted to the San Diego Natural History Museum	Data analysis results
3	Threat Management	Implementing the site-specific bat habitat threat reduction and management recommendation plan at the Living Coast	Threat management implemented
....	Administrative	Provide administrative support for project	Progress reports and invoices

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	Data Collection	\$3,890.00
2	Data Analysis	\$3,960.00
3	Threat Management	\$2,605.00
....	Administrative	\$1,260.00
Subtotal		\$11,715.00
Indirect Cost (0%)		\$0.00
TOTAL		\$11,715.00

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	Data Collection	"1" Months from NTP	"18" Months	06/30/2020
2	Data Analysis	"1" Months from NTP	"18" Months	06/30/2020
3	Threat Management	"6" Months from NTP	"18" Months	06/30/2020
...	Administrative	"1" Months from NTP	"18" Months	06/30/2020

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.

In the event of a significantly delayed NTP beyond Fall 2018, we would need at least 12 months to complete the project. Our preference is to have the full 18 months to include sufficient time for monthly data collection and analysis. Our project is not dependent on weather conditions and should not affect the project timeline.

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.

Ben Vallejos, Executive Director

Applicant Name/Title (print or type)



Applicant Signature

01/12/2018

Date