

**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 ¹ :	City of Chula Vista
Address:	276 Fourth Avenue, Chula Vista , CA 91910
Phone and Email Address:	(619) 476-2329 / cgoddard@chulavistaca.gov
Name of Property:	Otay Ranch Preserve Management Area (PMA)
General Location:	Millenia Parcel (MSP MU3)
Jurisdiction:	City of Chula Vista
Total Acres:	2,742 acres (the portion of Otay Ranch PMA within Chula Vista)
Estimated Acres Requiring Management:	9.42 acres
Owner(s) of Property ² :	City of Chula Vista and County of San Diego
Land manager(s) of property (<i>include name[s]</i>):	The Otay Ranch PMA is jointly managed by the City of Chula Vista and County of San Diego as the Preserve/Owner Manger.

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

The goal of the project is to increase the quality of habitat and improve connectivity for the western burrowing owl by installing artificial burrows that would encourage burrowing owls to occupy the Millenia parcel within Otay Ranch Preserve. This program addresses the immediate needs of burrowing owl within Otay Mesa where loss and degradation of burrowing owl habitat has occurred due to vegetation succession, an increase of invasive plants, and drought. Activities included in this program include installation of artificial burrows, burrow maintenance, and monitoring to detect occupancy. The methodologies used in this proposal are similar to those used to successfully restore 26 acres of burrowing owl habitat on the Caltrans Lonestar mitigation site. The project would complement on-going Otay Ranch Preserve management activities that have included intensive weed control within the 9.42-acre site to ensure suitable nesting and foraging habitat for western burrowing owl, as well as expand the amount of available nesting habitat for burrowing owls within the Caltrans Lonestar mitigation site and Johnson Canyon Preserve. The project is consistent with the management goals and actions for burrowing owl in the Management Strategic Plan (MSP) to improve breeding success through weed control and the installation of artificial burrows.

Quantify Expected Results (add bullets as necessary)

- Construct artificial burrows within 9.42 acres of suitable habitat for burrowing owls within the eastern portion of the Millenia parcels of the Otay Ranch Preserve
- Increase the area of potentially occupied habitat for burrowing owls
- Improve connectivity within an existing avian wildlife corridor by complementing similar burrowing owl habitat enhancement in the vicinity (e.g., Caltrans Lonestar mitigation site and Johnson Canyon Preserve).

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

Chula Vista MSCP staff will be utilized to administer the overall implementation of the project in accordance with the terms and conditions specified in SANDAG’s standard contract. A qualified biological consultant, familiar with the Chula Vista and County of San Diego MSCP Subarea Plan, Otay Ranch Resource Management Plan, and the SDMMSP MSP will be retained by the City to perform the artificial burrow installation activities described in Exhibit A of this proposal. To be considered for this project, prospective biological consultants shall demonstrate to City

¹While 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.**

MSCP staff under the direct oversight of the City’s Development Services Director that they possess the necessary biological technical services to successfully implement the City’s artificial burrow installation project detailed in Exhibit A of this grant proposal.

Funding Needs Summary

Please indicate how much funding is being requested from SANDAG.

Budget Item	Requested Funding Amount	Description
Personnel Expenses Staff	\$0	Includes staff time for non-administrative work on the project
Personnel Administrative Expenses	\$0	Includes all staff time to administer the contract
Consultant Expenses	\$43,957	Includes all costs for consultant services
Other Direct Expenses	\$0	Includes all equipment, supplies, mileage, etc.
Indirect Costs ³	\$0	All indirect charges (e.g., overhead) on the project, if any.
Totals	\$43,957	

*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

1. Please describe how 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 City is proposing to implement an 18-month species-specific management program focused installing artificial burrows within up to 9.42 acres of managed habitat for western burrowing owl, a Covered Species under the City’s and County’s MSCP Subarea Plan and a MSP Category SL species (Significant occurrence(s) at high risk of loss from the MSP Area [MSPA]). This program addresses the immediate needs of the western burrowing owl within the Otay Mesa area where loss and degradation of existing burrowing owl habitat has occurred due to vegetation succession processes, an increase of invasive plant species, drought, and historic cattle grazing. The proposed project implements MSP Objective MGT-IMP ATHCUN-4 and associated action IMP-1, which calls for performing management activities for western burrowing owl such as protecting populations from disturbance, removing invasive plants, and the addition of burrows to maximize success. The proposed project would meet these goals by installing a total of 15 artificial burrows in a 9.42-acre area managed for western burrowing owl in the vicinity of MOM database occurrences for western burrowing owl within the SR-125 QCB and Vernal Pool Mitigation Site (Johnson Canyon Preserve) and Lonestar mitigation Site managed by Caltrans (Figure 1).

³Indirect 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**

Installation of burrows would complement on-going Otay Ranch Preserve management activities that have included three years of intensive weeding within the site to ensure low growing, open vegetation suitable for burrowing owl nesting and foraging and has long-term funding secured through the Otay Ranch Preserve Community Facilities District for management and monitoring, including continued weed control and burrow maintenance to ensure success.

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

The MSP identifies threats to burrowing owl to include increased non-native grass and forb cover leading to a reduction in suitable, open nesting and foraging habitat. To mitigate this threat, the MSP identifies management goals and actions that include performing management activities for western burrowing owl such as protecting populations from disturbance, removing invasive plants, and the addition of burrows to maximize breeding success. The site of the proposed artificial burrow installation has undergone three previous years of weed treatment funded by the Otay Ranch Preserve Community Facilities District to make the habitat suitable for burrowing owls and other wildlife. Artificial burrows are needed to further enhance the habitat for western burrowing owl and maximize the potential for successful nesting.

The project site also occurs in the vicinity of the Lonestar mitigation site and Johnson Canyon Preserve (SR-125 Cactus Wren Mitigation Site & SR-125 Quino Checkerspot Butterfly and Vernal Pool Mitigation Site) owned and managed by Caltrans (see Figure 1). In 2017, a total of 14 breeding pairs and 50 fledglings were observed within the Lonestar mitigation site. Additional burrowing owls have been observed within the Johnson Canyon Preserve as recent as 2017, with a total of 5 successful breeding pairs known from nest monitoring efforts in 2010. The project would provide additional breeding and foraging habitat needed to support these owls.

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

The scope of work for this project includes monitoring of artificial burrows once they have been installed for occupancy by western burrowing owl. The site will be monitored and reported on over an 18-month period. Monitoring activities that will be performed over the 18-month program include: repeat photographs from the established photo point locations and monitoring of artificial burrow use by owls. Monitoring will follow the protocol implemented by Caltrans at the Lonestar mitigation site, which includes five monitoring visits during the breeding season and one monitoring visit during the non-breeding season to determine occupancy of the burrows. Any burrowing owl individuals observed using the burrows or foraging within the site as well as any burrowing owl sign (e.g., whitewash, feathers, and pellets) within the burrows will be recorded using GPS and reported in the quarterly and final reports. Monitoring and management data will also be submitted to the SC-MTX website portal.

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

The proposed project promotes conservation of western burrowing owl by implementing specific SDMMSP MSP MU₃ objectives and actions for burrowing owl through introduction of artificial burrows to maximize breeding success. The project would utilize similar methodologies to those implemented by other successful burrowing owl restoration sites, such as the Caltrans Lonestar mitigation site, by installing artificial burrows in an area managed for the species through intensive weed control over the last three years to ensure habitat suitability for western burrowing owl. A complex of artificial burrows will be created within the maintained habitat through the installation of 15 burrows in clusters of three at selected mima mounds surrounded by low-lying vegetation. The burrows would be located within a 9.42-acre area containing suitable foraging habitat with low-lying vegetation, with additional foraging habitat available within the Otay Ranch Preserve *Millenia* parcels under management by the County of San Diego & City of Chula Vista (Preserve Owner/Manager [POM]), the Caltrans Lonestar mitigation site, and the Caltrans Johnson Canyon Preserve, which includes the SR-125 Quino checkerspot butterfly and vernal pool mitigation site and the SR-125 cactus wren mitigation site (see Figure 1). The design of the burrows has been developed under the guidance of burrowing owl expert, Jeff Lincer, and generally follows the specifications set forth by the San Diego Zoo Institute for Conservation Research. Installation

of the burrows will be performed under the direct supervision of a biologist with experience in burrowing owl box installation, maintenance, and monitoring.

Maintenance and monitoring of the burrows will occur during the 18-month maintenance and monitoring period following installation. Monitoring to determine occupancy of the burrows will follow the methodology implemented by Caltrans at the Lonestar mitigation site, and will consist of monitoring during both the breeding and non-breeding season to ensure detections are maximized. The consulting biologist will collect the data on owl use of the burrows and will have experience in burrowing owl monitoring. Repeat photographs will also be taken to provide a visual record of changes in the vegetation at the burrow installation site. Maintenance of the burrows will occur after the 2019 breeding season and prior to the 2020 breeding season to remove debris and other material that may preclude the use of the burrows by owls. Continued vegetation management (e.g., weed control) will also occur concurrently during the 18-month maintenance and monitoring period through regular Otay Ranch Preserve Community Facilities District. Long-term management and monitoring of the site, including burrow maintenance, weed control, and follow-up monitoring, would be funded through the Otay Ranch Preserve Community Facilities District to ensure the viability of the burrows over the long-term.

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).

Following the 18-month short-term program, long-term management of the site will be the responsibility of the City of Chula Vista and County of San Diego, who jointly manage the site as the POM. Funding for the long-term maintenance is secured through Community Facilities District (CFD) 97-2, which funds the long-term management and monitoring of Otay Ranch Preserve. CFD 97-2 has been used to fund management and monitoring within the parcel, including the last three years of weed control. The weed control program will continue over the next several years and as needed to ensure that the habitat around the artificial burrows remains suitable over the long-term for western burrowing owl. The artificial burrows will be cleared of accumulated debris as needed prior to each breeding season to ensure the suitability of the burrows for long-term use by owls. The site will also be monitored for burrowing owl occupancy through Preserve monitoring activities associated with the Otay Ranch Phase 2 Resource Management Plan Biota Monitoring Program and reported to SC-MTX.

Task No.	Task Name	Task Description	Quantifiable Results/Deliverables
1	Pre-installation site visit	Prior to implementation, the project biologist shall conduct a field assessment within the project area to confirm areas best suited for burrow installation. Areas best suited for burrow installation are mima mounds with low vegetation cover.	The results of the pre-implementation monitoring will be used in the site selection process to install burrowing owl boxes and take pre-implementation photo points. The results of the pre-implementation photo monitoring will be used as a visual baseline to compare to the site conditions at the end of the grant cycle.
2	Owl box construction & installation	A total of fifteen (15) burrowing owl boxes will be constructed and installed in clusters of three (3) per mima mound.	A total of fifteen (15) burrowing owl boxes will be constructed according to the specifications from Institute from Conservation Research, or most recent guidance. The boxes will provide nesting and roosting opportunities for western burrowing owl.
3	Owl monitoring	A total of six surveys will be performed (five surveys during the breeding season, and one survey during the non-breeding season) to determine occupancy of the burrows. Locations of occupied burrows will be recorded using a GPS.	The results of the owl monitoring will provide information regarding owl use of the site and occupancy of burrows. Results will be provided in the quarterly and final reports, and locations of owl occurrences will be provided to the SC-MTX website.

4	Owl box maintenance	Maintenance of the fifteen (15) owl boxes will occur after the 2019 breeding season and before the 2020 breeding season to remove debris and other material that may preclude the use of the burrows.	Debris and other material that may preclude use of the burrows will be removed prior to the 2020 breeding season.
5	Quarterly reports	Quarterly progress reports will be prepared and submitted to SANDAG to document shrub thinning activities.	Three quarterly progress reports will be submitted that provide a status update for each task performed. The quarterly reports will cover the following periods: January 1 to March 31; April 1 to June 30; July 1 to September 30; October 1 to December 31. The reports will be submitted to SANDAG within three weeks after each period.
6	Final report	The Final Report will summarize shrub thinning efforts and monitoring results (Final Report will also serve as the fourth quarterly progress report). The report will include future management recommendations.	The Final Report will be prepared summarizing the results of the burrowing owl box construction, installation, maintenance, and monitoring activities performed. The Final Report will include representative photos of the work performed. Monitoring and management data will be submitted to the SC-MTX website portal.
7	Misc. Consultant Expenses	This task will include miscellaneous consultant expenses associated with materials for artificial burrow construction, equipment rental, GPS rental, and printing. The burrow materials and equipment are required for owl box construction and installation as described in Task 2. GPS and printing as described in Tasks 1-6.	This task budget will allow for materials and equipment for burrowing owl box installation. The GPS equipment will be used for mapping burrowing owl box installation locations, as well as any burrowing owls or sign.
"n"	Administrative	City of Chula Vista Administration tasks will include a variety of coordination and administration tasks to be completed by the City of Chula Vista throughout the duration of the project.	Matching funds will be used to: Execute biological contract; Oversee the biological contractor; Review and submit quarterly reports; Contract administration/ invoice review; and Participate in local community group meetings.

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 proposed project is located within MU₃ on the Otay Ranch Preserve Millenia Parcel (see Figure 1).

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

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	Pre-installation site visit	\$1,018
2	Owl box construction & installation	\$20,418
3	Owl monitoring	\$7,987
4	Owl box maintenance	\$3,531
5	Quarterly reports	\$1,830
6	Final report	\$5,684
7	Misc. consultant expenses	\$3,489
	Subtotal	\$43,957
"n"	City Administrative Costs	\$3,250*
	Indirect Cost (__ %)	\$0
	TOTAL	\$47,207

*City administrative costs will be provided by the City as in-kind matching funds.

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	Pre-installation site visit	0 Months from NTP	1.5 Months	11/15/2019
2	Owl box construction & installation	1.5 Months from NTP	2 Months	01/15/2020
3	Owl monitoring	5 Months from NTP	8 Months	10/01/2020
4	Owl box maintenance	12 Months from NTP	2 Months	11/01/2020
5	Quarterly reports	4 Months from NTP	18 Months	03/30/2020
6	Final report	16 Months from NTP	2 Months	03/30/2020
"n"	Administrative	0 Months from NTP	18 Months	03/30/2020

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.

Delays in the NTP may require adjustments to the project schedule. Additional time equivalent to the delay in NTP would be requested so that the proposed owl monitoring may take place. Unexpected weather conditions such as drought are not anticipated to require additional time to implement the proposed 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.

Cheryl Goddard, Senior Planner

Applicant Name/Title (print or type)

Cheryl Goddard

01/11/18

Applicant Signature

Date



-  Artificial Burrow Installation Site
-  Conveyed Land Under POM Management
-  Potential Foraging Areas for Burrowing Owl

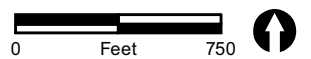


FIGURE 1
Proposed Artificial Burrow Installation
Area and Potential Burrowing Owl
Foraging Locations