

**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 Name¹: San Diego Unified Port District

Address: 3165 Pacific Highway, San Diego, CA 92101

Phone and Email Address: 619.686.6390; aheim@portofsandiego.org

Name of Property: D Street Fill

General Location: Chula Vista Bayfront, City of Chula Vista, CA

Jurisdiction: San Diego Unified Port District and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Total Acres: 42

Estimated Acres Requiring Management: 42

Owner(s) of Property²: San Diego Unified Port District, San Diego National Wildlife Refuge

Land manager(s) of property (include name[s]): San Diego Unified Port District, San Diego National Wildlife Refuge

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

The objective is to assist in management and recovery of two federal and state-listed species, the California least tern and western snowy plover, which occur at the D Street Fill during the avian breeding season. Beginning in 1969, the D Street Fill was created with placement of dredge spoils from nearby development projects, including dredge from Interstate 5 and State Route 54 construction, onto native marshland adjacent to San Diego Bay. Currently, the site is jointly managed by the Port of San Diego (Port) and the San Diego National Wildlife Refuge as an existing California least tern nest colony and as western snowy plover critical habitat.

The Port's goal is to "prepare" the site for the 2019 and 2020 nesting seasons by performing management required to maintain it as suitable breeding habitat (i.e., conduct site grading, debris removal, vegetation control, invasive plant management, avian monitoring, and predator management). The Port will provide matching support in the form of staff time and materials for volunteer events, and managing contractors to conduct daily predator control services, avian monitoring, and reporting. The Port will also organize a volunteer event to assist in site preparation and promote protection of the Bay's natural resources.

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 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*)

- **Site Preparation:** Increase the quality and quantity of California least tern (CLT) and western snowy plover (Plover) nesting habitat by reducing vegetation density and height over approximately 30 acres comprising the primary nesting area. This will be done prior to the 2019 breeding season. The goals of site preparation management activities is to alter vegetation composition and structure to more resemble coastal strand habitat. Vegetation is managed by mechanical grading or dragging/scraping. Trash and debris removal, invasive plants removal, pruning of taller native vegetation to prevent predator perching, and repairs (e.g. to access roads, signage, and perimeter fencing) will also be performed as needed. The site will be surveyed for breeding/nesting birds prior to any site preparation efforts.
- **Management and Monitoring:** Collect nesting bird data during the 2019 nesting season to determine management actions that will improve success of the CLT and Plover.
 - 1) Prepare the site for an anticipated 125 to 150 CLT nests by setting up a tile and grid system for monitoring prior to the arrival of CLT. Ceramic tiles will be deployed in grid intersections of 30 meter squares to assist in nest mapping and provide shade and shelter for chicks. Invasive plants will be flagged for removal. To attract the CLT to the most suitable site locations, plastic and papier-mache decoys will be used (as appropriate) in areas of the cleared site where the majority of nests have occurred in the past.
 - 2) Perform monitoring of CLT two times per week and collect data as required by USFWS monitoring permits. Collect nesting data and conduct GIS mapping. Prepare weekly, mid-season, and year-end reports regarding the breeding season and the success of the CLT nesting colony. Observations of presence and activities of Plover and other sensitive species are also recorded.
- **Predator Management:** Provide predator control services as-needed during the 2019 and 2020 CLT and Plover breeding seasons over approximately 42 acres at the D Street Fill site (30-acre primary nesting site plus surrounding area). Conduct daily monitoring of mammalian and avian predators, and implement appropriate means to reduce CLT and Plover predation. Prepare monthly and year-end final reports discussing the results of the predator control services, which will include the following: control methods; species and location of animals trapped, captured, or otherwise disposed of; recommendations of how facilities could be modified to better control predators; and methods to improve the predator control program.
- **Invasive Plant Control:** Implement appropriate means to reduce or eliminate presence of new and existing invasive plant species at target areas over approximately 42 acres on the D Street Fill site. Recently, perennial pepperweed and Algerian sea-lavender have been identified on site. The primary goal of invasive plant control is to control the spread of these species, prevent the introduction of new invasive species, and control all target invasive species, including but not limited to iceplant, chrysanthemum, and Russian thistle. During the grant period, mechanical and manual weeding will be conducted as part of site preparation. Herbicide will be applied by a licensed applicator in identified target areas.
- **Volunteer Event(s):** Organize and supervise a volunteer event to assist in debris removal, site preparation and promote support for the protection of the Bay's natural resources.

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

Port staff will administer the project. The Port will provide matching grant support in the form of staff time by organizing and supervising volunteer events and field operations. To manage vegetation within the 30 acre CLT nesting area, the site will be scraped by Port staff operating a rented grader or tractor. For CLT and Plover surveys and monitoring, Port staff will contract Robert Patton (USFWS permit-holder). Robert Patton and his staff will perform most monitoring and management activities, including providing recommendations for future management actions and the 2020 nesting season based on results of the 2019 effort. The Port will coordinate with Robert Patton during monitoring and management activities and provide guidance on site management. For invasive species control, Port staff (licensed applicator) will apply herbicide under the direction of Port environmental staff. For predator management, Port staff will contract with USDA Wildlife Services (Wildlife Services) (USFWS permit-holder) for predator control services. Wildlife Services staff will perform most predator control activities, including daily predator monitoring and trapping, discerning immediate and future predator impacts, and implementation of control measures. Port environmental staff will coordinate with Wildlife Services and provide guidance on steps to take to manage predators.

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	\$67,900	Includes all costs for consultant services
Other Direct Expenses	\$7,500	Includes all equipment, supplies, mileage, etc.
Indirect Costs ³	\$0	All indirect charges (e.g., overhead) on the project, if any.
Totals	\$75,400	

*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.**

The project will support the management and recovery of two federal and state-listed species, the California least tern (Species Management Focus Category SO) and Western Snowy Plover (Species Management Focus Category SL), which utilize the D St Fill during the breeding season every year.

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

Factors contributing to the CLT Category SO status and the Plover's Category SL status include the loss and degradation of nesting habitat and an increasing concentration of predators, which can cause a significant level of loss to a nesting colony in a matter of days or a single season. Intensive study, monitoring, and management have allowed San Diego County's CLT population to increase since the late 1970s. Due to lack of nesting sites that are in a natural condition, and human-related pressure on all nesting beaches within its limited range, continued management is required to maintain the CLT nesting territories needed for its survival. The Plover is among San Diego County's scarcest and most threatened breeding birds and it continues to experience a high risk of decline. Actions conducted by this project will help achieve USFWS management goals for Plover at the D Street Fill. The proposed project involves site preparation, management and monitoring of high priority species, predator control, and invasive species removal at the D Street Fill. These are critical activities for maintaining the site as suitable nesting habitat for the CLT and Plover. If the activities are not performed, the site could become unsuitable nesting habitat, threatening the CLT population that nests at the site each year. Additionally, site management is needed to maintain the Plover nest habitat enhancement that previously occurred at the site.

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

CLT and Plover nest on sandy beaches with little to no vegetation. For successful breeding and nesting, they require low vegetation density and height, and low predator density. Appropriate sites with minimal human-related disturbance are extremely limited in coastal southern California, making the D Street Fill an important site. While these species are primarily present at the D Street Fill during the breeding and nesting seasons, managing the site is a year-round effort. USFWS and the Port jointly manage the site for the breeding and nesting requirements of these two species.

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

Success criteria and task reporting includes the following:

Site preparation: Debris and vegetation removed and total area (acres) prepared.

Management and Monitoring: CLT nest and egg data, nesting distribution in relation to the restoration area, and breeding and productivity chronology and reporting.

Predator Management: Daily predator management, implementation of predator reduction strategies, success of implemented strategies and reporting.

Invasive Plant Control: Invasive species identified and implementation of invasive species reduction activities (i.e., herbicide application and manual removal).

Volunteer Event(s): Number of volunteer events and participants and work volunteers completed.

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

Site preparation and management activities at D Street Fill are tailored to the nesting habitat needs of the CLT and Plover. The habitat must be actively managed and maintained to meet nesting requirements for these species.

Successful preparation of the site under this project will make 30 acres available for the 2019 CLT nesting season.

Management and monitoring of the site will occur during the 2019 and 2020 nesting seasons. Invasive plant and predator control will occur over approximately 42 acres for the 2019 and 2020 breeding seasons. Measureable success will be documented as described above in #3. For example, surveys will be conducted to collect CLT nest and egg data, nesting distribution within the site management area, and breeding and productivity chronology.

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).

After the completion of this project, USFWS and the Port will continue to jointly manage D Street Fill for CLT and Plover by contributing staffing, materials, and resources. SANDAG provided funding to assist in site management activities that were conducted in 2013, 2014, and 2015. The Port and USFWS will continue to seek grant funding to support management activities, as well as use operational budget, non-profit efforts (e.g., Audubon Society), and volunteer events to accomplish species threat reduction and stewardship at the D Street Fill.

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 activities will take place at D Street Fill in Chula Vista, San Diego County, California (see attached map). D Street Fill is located to the west of Interstate 5 and south of the Sweetwater River flood control channel, within the Sweetwater Marsh Unit of the San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge and Port designated conservation lands.

Sensitive species management at the site is guided by the San Diego Bay Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP). The Port manages impacts to CLT and Plover and makes a commitment to provide secure colonial nesting sites and allow for population recovery of the CLT, Plover, and other declining species through this INRMP. Per the Port Master Plan, the Board of Port Commissioners has designated the southwestern half of the D Street Fill area for conservation in order to protect the CLT. The USFWS has designated portions of D

Street Fill site as critical habitat for the Plover. The majority of the project site is within the National Wildlife Refuge. The conservation requirement protecting the D Street Fill site is satisfied by California Coastal Commission permitting requirements and legislative mandates governing the Refuge.

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	Site Preparation	Mechanical scraping of the site to reduce vegetation and enhance it for use by California Least Terns and Western Snowy Plovers (2019 nesting season)	Increase quality and quantity of available nesting habitat with low vegetation height and density over approximately 30 acres.
2	Management and Monitoring	Manually and mechanically remove non-native invasive plants; prune back vegetation to reduce predator cover and potential raptor perches; survey grid system; placed decoys and ceramic tiles for chick shelters; nest monitoring; data entry; reporting for CLT, Plovers, and other species (2019/2020 nesting seasons).	Successful site prep for 2019/2020 CLT breeding and nesting seasons. Detailed report including: CLT nest and egg data, documented incidences of predation; nest distribution; breeding and productivity chronology; and reporting for other species present.
3	Predator Management	Management of avian and mammalian predators conducted by Wildlife Services (2019/2020).	Perform daily predator control, as required during the CLT nesting season. Reduction in predation of CLT and other sensitive species. Reporting of monthly predator management activities and results.
4	Invasive Plant Control	Apply herbicide to invasive plant species as needed over two growing seasons (2019/2020).	Conduct 2-5 herbicide treatment efforts to reduce or eliminate presence of new and existing invasive plant species on site.
5	Volunteer Event(s)	Organizing and supervising at least one volunteer event to assist in site preparation and promote support for the protection of the Bay's natural resources.	Completion of one volunteer event.
6	Administrative	Administration of the project will be accomplished by Port staff.	Preparation of quarterly and final reports

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	Site Preparation (2019)	\$5,500
2	Management and Monitoring (2019/2020)	\$38,000
3	Predator Management (2019-2020)	\$29,900
4	Invasive Plant Control (2019-2020)	\$1,000
5	Volunteer Event(s)	\$1,000
6	Administrative	\$0
Subtotal		\$75,400
Indirect Cost (_ %)		\$0
TOTAL		\$75,400

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	Site Preparation	"4" Months from NTP	"1" Months	03/31/2019
2	Management and Monitoring	"3" Months from NTP	"11" Months	12/31/2019
3	Predator Management	"4" Months from NTP	"10" Months	12/31/2019
4	Invasive Plant Species Control	"3" Months from NTP	"15" Months	04/15/2020
5	Volunteer Event	"3" Months from NTP	"15" Months	04/15/2020

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.

If the NTP is issued by March 2019, then no delays to the proposed work would occur. If the NTP is issued much later, then some level of site management activities would be conducted without grant funding for the 2019 nesting season; however, they are likely to be limited by budget constraints and may not achieve maximum benefit to the species. In this case, once grant funding is provided, proposed activities would continue into the subsequent nesting seasons.

Drought conditions would generally decrease the work required for site preparation and weed management activities, and increase the overall success of these efforts. Rain and storm events have potential to cause minor delays in project implementation, but no additional time would be needed to perform the tasks outlined in the application.

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.

Job Nelson/Assistant Vice President, Marketing & Communications

Applicant Name/Title (print or type)


Applicant Signature

1-11-18
Date

