



Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project

WORK PLAN APPLICATION

Project Evaluation Criteria

Ecological Criteria

Regional Goal 1. Preserve and restore coastal wetland ecosystems

Regional Goal 2. Preserve and restore stream corridors and wetland ecosystems in coastal watersheds.

- Restoration potential/ functional gain – How much potential is there to increase the ecological function and/or value of a site, including the amount and quality of habitat or potential habitat for sensitive and important wetland-dependent species? To what extent will the project restore functioning of natural processes (e.g., hydrology, sediment transport)? Will the project result in an increase in wetland acreage?
- Connection to transitional/upland areas – To what extent is the wetland site physically and ecologically connected to transitional/upland areas?
- Connection to coastal resources – To what extent is the site ecologically or hydrologically connected to coastal resources, including coastal wetlands and near shore waters? To what extent will the project benefit marine and intertidal resources?
- Self-sustainability – Will potential restoration improvements be sustainable through natural wetland functioning? What is the likelihood of future degradation after restoration has occurred? What level of ongoing site management and/or maintenance will be required?

Regional Goal 3. Recover native habitat and species diversity.

- Habitat Diversity – Will the project preserve or restore a diversity of a habitat types on site? Will the project contribute significantly to regional diversity? What species of concern are known to use the site, or would potentially use the site if restored? Will the project remove exotic species and re-establish native species?
- Regional linkage – What is the site's function and value from a regional perspective, including sensitive species habitat, use by migratory birds, fisheries support, and biodiversity? Will the project restore habitat linkages and wildlife corridors?

Project Evaluation Criteria, continued

Policy Criteria

Regional Goals 1-3.

- Threat of future degradation/loss – Could future loss or degradation of the wetland or stream corridor be prevented through Wetlands Recovery Project involvement? How imminent is the threat?

Regional Goal 4. Integrate wetlands recovery with other public objectives.

- Multiple objectives – What additional public objectives will the project achieve? Is wetlands recovery the primary objective of the project or a secondary objective?

Regional Goal 5. Promote education and compatible access related to coastal wetlands and watersheds.

- Education/access value – Does the project include an education/interpretive element? Will the project provide public access that is compatible with the habitat and functional objectives? Are there education or interpretive programs onsite or nearby that will complement the project?

Regional Goal 6. Advance the science of wetlands restoration and management in Southern California.

- Research value – Is wetlands research incorporated into the project? What research questions will the project address?

Feasibility Criteria

- Site availability – Is the owner willing to sell the land or participate in a restoration project?
- Cost/cost effectiveness – What is the total cost and relative cost effectiveness?
- Funding – What funding is available for the project?
- Restoration/enhancement plan – Is there an existing restoration/enhancement plan that is consistent with the Wetlands Project's objectives and science-based criteria? Does it include a monitoring plan? Has the plan undergone environmental review?
- Technical practicability – Are the planned restoration activities technically and biologically feasible and practicable?
- Future management – Is an appropriate future owner and/or manager available for the site? Are sufficient funds available for long-term site management?
- Does the project account for anticipated climate change and sea level rise impacts to the project site?

Guidelines for WRP Work Plan Project Prioritization

The following tables provide guidance on the types of projects that are likely to be approved for addition to the WRP Work Plan. However, this is not an exhaustive list of eligible projects. Projects that do not fit within the descriptions below, but that would further goals identified in the WRP's Regional Strategy, will still be considered.

Tidal Wetland Ecosystems (TWE) -- Tidal wetlands, plus the immediately adjacent marine and upland/transitional systems.

High Priority	Medium Priority
Acquisition of TWEs that are primarily in private ownership.	Acquisition of private parcels in TWEs that are primarily publicly owned.
Comprehensive restoration plans.	Restoration plans for a portion of a TWE.
Plan and implement restoration (restoring a system to functioning habitat)	Plan and implement enhancement (increasing the quality of a functioning system)

Stream Corridors/Riparian Areas

High Priority	Medium Priority
Acquisition of large areas of wetland or riparian habitat or floodplain (for example, areas that are greater than 50 acres or longer than 2 miles of stream corridor) or areas which add to an existing preserve of contiguous wetland habitat or stream corridor.	Acquisition of smaller areas of wetland or riparian habitat or floodplain that are not contiguous with an existing preserve.
Focused assessment of watershed functioning, stressors, priorities, and identification of specific projects.	Comprehensive watershed management plans.
Planning and implementation of priority projects to preserve or restore ecological functioning of stream corridors as identified in watershed assessment or planning document. This can include urban stream restoration projects that are a priority in the watershed.	Planning and implementation of restoration projects to restore ecological functioning of stream corridors that are not part of a broader watershed planning/management effort.
Restoration planning and implementation to address watershed impacts on TWEs and coastal resources.	

Proposed project areas will also be evaluated for the following factors:

- Contributes significantly to watershed functioning
- Provides habitat for Threatened and Endangered species
- Is not unduly threatened by upstream impacts
- Faces imminent threat of development

PRE-PROPOSAL PROJECT SUMMARY

email to: ggauthier@scc.ca.gov and skelly@scwrp.org

Project Name:

Type of Project: ___ Acquisition ___ Planning ___ Restoration/Enhancement

Project summary (3-4 sentences -- specify key action(s) to be undertaken):

Location:

County:

Watershed:

State Senate District (#):

State Assembly District (#):

Latitude:

Longitude:

Acreage:

Total acreage of project area: _____ .

Acres of existing (pre-project) wetland habitat: _____ .

Acres of post-project wetland habitat: _____ .

Feet of stream corridor (if applicable): _____ .

Budget Summary:

Total project cost: \$

Funding secured to date: \$

Funding requests under review: \$

Funding gap / Work Plan request: \$

Contact Information:

Name:

Organization:

Address:

Telephone:

Email:

Website (if available):

Site Description (1 paragraph)

Project Description (2 to 3 paragraphs)

- Describe the need for the project.
- Summarize the specific action(s) to be undertaken (e.g., remove exotic species from 1 mile of stream corridor, restore 20 acres of salt marsh)
- Describe the major project elements or tasks to be completed.

Project Outcomes/Benefit to Wetlands (1 paragraph)

Project Partners (1 -2 lines)

Project Funders (1-2 lines)

Project Characterization

Check all that apply, provide a brief description (1-2 sentences) of how the project meets the criteria in the space below.

Ecological Goals

- Preserve and restore coastal wetland ecosystems
- Preserve and restore stream corridors and wetland ecosystems in coastal watersheds.
- Recover native habitat and species diversity.

Comments:

Policy Goals

- Prevent future degradation/loss of wetland resources
- Integrate wetlands recovery with other public objectives.
- Promote education and compatible access related to coastal wetlands and watersheds.
- Advance the science of wetlands restoration and management in Southern California.

Comments:

Feasibility Criteria

- Site availability/willing seller.
- Cost/cost effectiveness.
- Funding available for the project.
- Advance the science of wetlands restoration and management in Southern California.
- Restoration/enhancement plan for project site.
- Technically practicable.
- Future management planned for and funded.
- Project accounts for climate change and sea level rise.

Comments: