



**BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING  
WORK PLAN REPORT  
January 20, 2017**

**OVERVIEW**

At every Board of Governors meeting of the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project (WRP) the board adopts a Work Plan that lists priority wetland acquisition, restoration, and enhancement projects for Southern California coastal wetlands and watersheds. Annually, this Work Plan is updated to include community-based restoration projects of the WRP Community Wetland Restoration Grant Program (CWRGP). The adopted Work Plan is a valuable tool for communicating regional priorities and funding needs and for facilitating WRP partner agency collaboration.

The Board of Governors at its last meeting, held on December 6, 2015, adopted 3 new projects for addition to the Work Plan. Members of the Wetlands Manager Group had reviewed these projects' applications and selected them based on the WRP Project Evaluation Criteria (see *WRP Project Evaluation Criteria*) for out-of-cycle addition to the Work Plan.

Additionally, since the last Board of Governors meeting, 8 projects have been completed.

**UPDATE:**

Over the past 16 years WRP projects have acquired 8,250 acres of wetlands and associated habitat and restored more than 5,000 acres. This includes 100 completed Work Plan projects and 135 CWRGP projects.

**THE WORK PLAN**

The Board of Governors has adopted each of the previous Work Plans. The WRP Wetlands Managers Group is submitting this 2017 Work Plan to the WRP Board of Governors for adoption.

Projects on the Work Plan were chosen to help achieve the WRP's six Regional Goals:\*

1. Preserve and restore coastal wetland ecosystems
2. Preserve and restore stream corridors and wetland ecosystems in coastal watersheds
3. Recover native habitat and species diversity
4. Integrate wetlands recovery with other public objectives
5. Promote education and compatible access related to coastal wetlands and watersheds
6. Advance the science of wetlands restoration and management in Southern California

\*Note the Regional Goals are in the process of being updated as part of the Regional Strategy update due to be completed in the fall of 2017.

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The Work Plan is not a grant program. However, it is used by some agencies to guide project funding decisions. The Coastal Conservancy, Wildlife Conservation Board and other WRP partner agencies use the Work Plan to identify priority projects for funding within the region.

Table 1 shows new projects that are recommended for out-of-cycle addition to the Work Plan. Newly funded projects, and projects completed or removed from the Work Plan are presented in Table 2 and Table 3 below.

**NEW PROJECTS TO BE ADDED THE WORK PLAN IN 2015**

**Table 1: Recommended projects to add to the Work Plan**

| Project Name   | Description   | Estimated Cost | County      | Project Type | Habitat Type | Project Lead  |
|--|---|----------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|---|
| Trancas Creek Lagoon Restoration Planning Project                | This project will complete additional studies and develop an implementation plan (final design, construction ready plans and environmental permitting documents) for restoration of Trancas Lagoon.                               | \$1,300,000    | Los Angeles | Planning     | Estuarine    | Santa Monica Mountains Resource Conservation District |
| Trancas Creek Flood Control Channel Restoration Planning Project | This project will complete hydrologic modeling studies to develop construction, CEQA and permitting documents for restoring fish passage through the flood control channels identified as the keystone barrier for Trancas Creek. | \$910,000      | Los Angeles | Planning     | Riparian     | Santa Monica Mountains Resource Conservation District |
| Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Restoration Planning                      | This project will develop a 50% design concept to complete and EIR and CEQA for lagoon restoration.   | \$770,000      | San Diego   | Planning     | Estuarine    | Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Foundation                     |

**WORK PLAN ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

**WRP Newly Funded Projects**

The table below provides a summary of those projects newly funded since November 2014.

**Table 2: Newly funded projects**

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| Project Name   | Description  | Estimated Cost  | Funder   | County        | Project Classification |
|--|--|---|--|---------------|------------------------|
| San Jose Creek Fish Passage Improvements – Dos Arroyos Ranch                       | This project will conduct biological surveys and prepare information needed for permit applications and environmental review for removal of three fish passage barriers at the Dos Arroyos Ranch along San Jose Creek. | \$115,000<br>Fully funded and in progress                       | SCC<br><br>National Fish and Wildlife Foundation                       | Santa Barbara | Fish Passage           |
| Ormond Beach Wetlands Restoration Plan   | Prepare a restoration and public access plan for the 900-acre Ormond Beach wetlands area.  | \$410,000<br>Fully funded and in progress                       | SCC  | Ventura       | Planning               |
| Ormond Beach Wetlands: Acquisition, Part 2   | Acquire the 561 acre Southland Sod Farm for inclusion in the Ormond Beach wetlands.  | \$62 million<br>Partially funded (\$5 million) and in progress. | SCC  | Ventura       | Acquisition            |
| Newland Marsh Acquisition  | Acquisition of 44 acres for future restoration of degraded coastal saltmarsh presently owned by CalTrans.  | 2,600,000   | USFWS<br>\$1 million<br><br>\$1,600,00<br>TBD                          | Orange        | Acquisition            |
| Santa Margarita River Fish Passage Project   | This project will complete design plans and environmental review to remove two key steelhead passage barriers on Santa Margarita River.  | \$605,395   | CDFW<br>\$163,395<br><br>\$442,000<br>Pending SCC approval<br>Feb 2017 | San Diego     | Planning               |
| Tijuana Estuary Tidal Restoration Planning and Design                              | This project will develop construction ready design specifications and plans.  | \$1,095,000   | WCB<br>\$895,000<br><br>NOAA<br>\$200,000                              | San Diego     | Planning               |
| Fox Canyon Barranca and Stewart Canyon Creeks Fish Barrier Removal and Restoration | This project will remove 8 concrete structures along two creeks in the Ventura River watershed.  | \$30,000  | Earth Island Institute   | Ventura       | Restoration            |

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|---|---|----------|------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Potrero Creek Restoration                                     | Volunteers will assist in a 24 acre restoration project on Potrero Creek in the Calleguas Creek watershed by planting native plant species.   | \$14,800 | Earth Island Institute | Ventura     | Restoration |
| Lower Topanga Riparian Oak Restoration                        | This project will reforest historic riparian oak woodland in Lower Topanga Creek and engage student and community volunteers in riparian corridor ecology, restoration, and stewardship.  | \$13,800 | Earth Island Institute | Los Angeles | Restoration |
| Santa Margarita River Habitat Improvement                     | This project will improve steelhead habitat in the Santa Margarita Ecological Reserve through invasive vegetation and non-native aquatic species removal and localized sediment reduction within a three-mile section of the Santa Margarita River. | \$29,900 | Earth Island Institute | San Diego   | Restoration |
| Fairbanks Ranch Invasive Plant Removal and Stream Enhancement | This project will restore and enhance approximately 100 acres of wetland/riparian habitat along 2.5 miles of the San Dieguito River through Fairbanks Ranch.  | \$23,900 | Earth Island Institute | San Diego   | Restoration |

CDFW: CA Department of Fish and Wildlife, NFWF: National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, SCC: State Coastal Conservancy, USFWS: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, WCB: Wildlife Conservation Board

**WRP Completed Projects**

A total of 8 WRP projects were completed since the last Board of Governors meeting in December 2015. Table 3 below lists those projects completed during this time period.

**Table 3: Completed WRP Work Plan and CWRGP Projects**

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**December 2015 - December 2016**

| Project Name  | Description   | Cost        | County        | Type of Project |
|---|---|-------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Maria Ygnacio Aijian Barrier Removal                            | Remove a concrete stream crossing that acts as a barrier to the upstream migration of steelhead trout   | \$773,000   | Santa Barbara | Fish Passage    |
| MacHutchin Property Acquisition                                 | Acquire the 3.54 acre MacHutchin property at the Buena Vista Lagoon.  | \$1,550,000 | San Diego     | Acquisition     |
| South Bay Restoration Program                                   | Low-income youth and families from National City in San Diego County were engaged to restore six acres of wetland, upland, and riverine habitats in the San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge.   | \$28,000    | San Diego     | CWRGP           |
| Emma Wood State Beach Estuary Enhancement and Education Project | Invasive vegetation was removed from the Ventura River during monthly community volunteer events to restore habitat and ecological function in the Ventura River estuary. Underprivileged students were educated on wetland science in classroom presentations and on field trips in the estuary. | \$28,900    | Ventura       | CWRGP           |
| Community Restoration of Kendall Frost Marsh Preserve           | Invasive plants were removed on just under one acre of wetland and adjacent upland habitat and hundreds of native plants planted during 16 volunteer events.  | \$19,500    | San Diego     | CWRGP           |
| Andre Clark Bird Refuge Wetland Margin Enhancement Project      | Invasive trees and plants were removed along the margin of the Andre Clark Bird Refuge Wetland and replaced with native plants and trees over multiple volunteer events.  | \$29,900    | Santa Barbara | CWRGP           |
| Topanga Lagoon Filter Strip Restoration Project                 | Staff and volunteers focused on removing invasive species and planting drought-tolerant, California natives along a one acre riparian zone to aid in restoring Topanga Creek's floodplain.  | \$10,900    | Los Angeles   | CWRGP           |

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| Project Name   | Description   | Cost     | County      | Type of Project |
|--|---|----------|-------------|-----------------|
| Ballona Wetlands Restoration through Community Partnership | Community members and students manually removed invasive vegetation from wetland habitats at the Ballona Wetlands over the course of multiple restoration events. | \$28,000 | Los Angeles | CWRGP           |

CWRGP: Community Wetland Restoration Grant Program

**Projects Removed from the WRP Work Plan**

The following projects were removed from the WRP Work Plan. Removal was based to a variety of factors which included: requested removal by the project proponent; change in project focus or scope requiring a new project proposal; and multiple-years lack of project progress or readiness to proceed.

- Arroyo Burro Creek Restoration at Las Positas
- Arroyo Burro Creek Arundo Removal
- Mission Lagoon and Laguna Creek Restoration
- Ventura River Parkway
- Santa Clara River Parkway Acquisitions
- Santa Clara River Estuary McGrath State Beach
- Solstice Canyon Acquisition
- Malibu Creek Comprehensive Restoration
- Cold Creek Riparian Acquisitions: Part 2
- Sepulveda Basin Plan
- Orange Coast River Park
- Santiago Creek Arundo Control
- Serrano Creek Stabilization and Restoration Project
- Santa Ana River Featherly Regional Park Restoration

**SUMMARY OF WRP WORK PLAN 2017**

Upon its adoption by the Board of Governors, the 2017 WRP Work Plan will comprise 39 priority projects. These include 4 acquisition, 18 restoration and 17 planning projects. Full project descriptions and details are available at [www.scwrp.org](http://www.scwrp.org)

**Table 4: WRP Work Plan 2017**

| Project Name | Description | Estimated Cost | County | Project classification | Habitat/ project type |
|--------------|-------------|----------------|--------|------------------------|-----------------------|
|--------------|-------------|----------------|--------|------------------------|-----------------------|

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| Gaviota State Park Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Plan | This project will realign the entry road and restore the natural flood plain at the entrance to Gaviota State Park. Includes planning for a new vehicle stream crossing and sediment berm removal.                     | \$13,000,000<br>Ready to implement – not funded                   | Santa Barbara | Planning and Restoration | Riparian         |
| San Jose Creek Fish Passage Improvements – Dos Arroyos Ranch  | This project will conduct biological surveys and prepare information needed for permit applications and environmental review for removal of three fish passage barriers at the Dos Arroyos Ranch along San Jose Creek. | \$115,000<br>Fully funded and in progress                         | Santa Barbara | Restoration              | Riparian         |
| Atascadero and Maria Ygnacio Steelhead Restoration Design     | Develop engineering designs for six major fish passage barriers along Maria Ygnacio Creek.   | \$371,000<br>Fully funded<br>In progress                          | Santa Barbara | Planning                 | Fish Passage     |
| Devereux Slough: UCSB North Campus Open Space Restoration     | Land acquisition and restoration planning are complete. Restoration of 120 acres is scheduled to begin January 2017.   | \$18,000,000<br>Partially funded (\$15.5 million) and in progress | Santa Barbara | Restoration              | Coastal Wetlands |
| Matilija Dam Removal: Engineering and Design and Acquisition  | Preliminary engineering and design for the removal of Matilija Dam on the Ventura River. Next step is to complete 65% design and permitting.   | \$3.5 million<br>Fully funded and in progress.                    | Ventura       | Planning                 | Fish Passage     |
| Stewart Canyon Creek  | Restore the riparian ecosystem of the lower Stewart Canyon Creek, starting at Fox Canyon Barranca to its confluence with San Antonio Creek   | \$588,000<br>Ready to implement – not funded                      | Ventura       | Restoration              | Riparian         |
| Ormond Beach Wetlands: Acquisition, Part 2                    | Acquire the 561 acre Southland Sod Farm for inclusion in the Ormond Beach wetlands.  | \$62,000,000<br>Partially funded (\$5 million) and in progress.   | Ventura       | Acquisition              | Coastal Wetlands |

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|--|---|---|-------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| Ormond Beach Wetlands Restoration Plan                           | Prepare a restoration and public access plan for the 900-acre Ormond Beach wetlands area.   | \$410,000<br>Fully funded and in progress                               | Ventura     | Planning    | Coastal Wetlands        |
| Upper Los Angeles River Watershed Arundo Eradication Program     | Remove <i>Arundo donax</i> from 30 acres in a variety of canyons that drain to the Los Angeles River.   | \$1,070,000<br>Partially funded (\$101,500) and in progress             | Los Angeles | Restoration | Invasives               |
| Trancas Creek Lagoon Restoration Planning Project                | This project will complete studies and develop an implementation plan for restoration of Trancas Lagoon.  | \$1,300,000<br>Ready to implement – not funded                          | Los Angeles | Planning    | Coastal Wetlands        |
| Trancas Creek Flood Control Channel Restoration Planning Project | This project will complete hydrologic modeling studies to develop construction, CEQA and permitting documents for restoring fish passage through the flood control channels in Trancas Creek. | \$910,000<br>Ready to implement – not funded                            | Los Angeles | Planning    | Fish Passage            |
| Upper Malibu Creek Feasibility Study (Rindge Dam)                | Complete an EIR/EIS for Rindge Dam removal. EIR/EIS to be completed in 2018.  | \$3,900,000<br>Fully funded and in progress                             | Los Angeles | Planning    | Fish Passage            |
| Topanga Lagoon Restoration Facilities Management Plan            | Develop a Facilities and Lagoon Management Plan and complete CEQA/NEPA.   | \$500,000<br>Partially funded (\$80,000) and ready to proceed if funded | Los Angeles | Planning    | Fish Passage & Riparian |
| Los Angeles River Taylor Yard Acquisition                        | Acquire and restore the 35 acre Taylor Yard property adjacent to the Los Angeles River in the City of Los Angeles for the purpose of ecological restoration.                                  | \$252,000,000<br>Partially funded (\$60 million) and in progress        | Los Angeles | Acquisition | Riparian & Wetlands     |
| Ballona Wetlands Restoration Planning                            | Complete an EIR/EIS for a project to restore tidal wetlands, adjacent habitat and wetland functions at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.   | \$7,500,000<br>Fully funded and in progress                             | Los Angeles | Planning    | Coastal Wetlands        |



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| Deforest Wetlands Restoration                                    | Development of a two-mile long 39 acre riverfront park with wetlands, upland habitat, interpretive displays and public access trails.                       | \$6,791,000<br>Funded status unconfirmed                            | Los Angeles | Construction | Riparian & Wetlands   |
| Rio Honda and Upper San Gabriel River Arundo Eradication Program | Remove 102 acres of <i>Arundo donax</i> from the San Gabriel River and Rio Hondo at Whittier Narrows.   | \$2,400,000<br>Ready to proceed if funded – can be partially funded | Los Angeles | Restoration  | Invasives             |
| Los Cerritos Wetlands Conceptual Restoration Plan                | Prepare a conceptual restoration plan for the 565 acre Los Cerritos Wetlands.   | \$750,000<br>Fully funded and in progress                           | Los Angeles | Planning     | Coastal Wetlands      |
| Los Cerritos Wetlands – Bryant Acquisition                       | Acquire 100 acres of the Hellman property in Seal Beach for the purpose of wetland restoration.   | \$14 million<br>Fully funded and in progress                        | Los Angeles | Acquisition  | Coastal Wetlands      |
| Riparian Enhancement at Audubon Starr Ranch Sanctuary            | Removal of 11 acres of non-native periwinkle and 125 acres of non-native olive trees along Bell Creek   | \$140,000<br>Partially funded and in progress                       | Orange      | Restoration  | Invasives<br>Riparian |
| Newland Marsh Acquisition  | Acquisition of 44 acres for future restoration of degraded coastal saltmarsh presently owned by CalTrans.   | \$2.6 million<br>Partially funded (\$1 million) and in progress     | Orange      | Acquisition  | Coastal Wetlands      |
| Newport Valley Habitat Restoration                               | Volunteers with this project will restore 15 acres of riparian and coastal sage scrub habitat in a drainage that flows directly into the Upper Newport Bay. | \$601,000<br>Fully funded and in progress                           | Orange      | Restoration  | Invasives             |
| Aliso Creek Estuary Restoration                                  | Develop a conceptual restoration plan to restore coastal wetland habitats at Aliso Creek Estuary  | \$330,000<br>Fully funded and in progress                           | Orange      | Planning     | Coastal Wetlands      |
| San Joaquin Marsh Enhancement - Phase II Implementation          | Enhance approximately 120 acres of perennial marsh.   | \$3,700,000<br>Not funded and ready to proceed                      | Orange      | Restoration  | Coastal Wetlands      |

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| Aliso Creek Mainstem Riparian Restoration                               | Ecosystem restoration in a seven-mile reach of Aliso Creek and 1,000 feet of the Wood Canyon tributary.   | \$63,000,000<br>Partially funded (\$47,250,000) stalled until April 2018          | Orange    | Restoration | Riparian                                   |
| San Juan and Trabuco Creek Watershed Steelhead Recovery Plan            | Implement the San Juan and Trabuco Creeks Steelhead Recovery Plan   | \$25,000,000  | Orange    | Restoration | Fish Passage & Riparian & Coastal Wetlands |
| Trabuco Creek Fish Passage Project                                      | Planning and design of a fish ladder under Highway 15 along Trabuco Creek.  | \$384,000<br>Fully funded and in progress   | Orange    | Planning    | Fish Passage                               |
| Buena Vista Lagoon Restoration Plan - Preliminary Engineering and EIR/S | Prepare a joint CEQA/NEPA document for restoration of Buena Vista Lagoon and preliminary engineering plans for the restoration.                   | \$1,200,000<br>Fully funded and in progress.                                      | San Diego | Planning    | Coastal Wetlands                           |
| Batiquitos Lagoon Exotics Removal and Revegetation                      | Remove exotics and revegetate approximately 20 acres of wetland and upland habitat adjacent to Batiquitos Lagoon.                                 | \$550,000<br>Partially funded (\$200,000) and waiting for full funding to proceed | San Diego | Restoration | Coastal Wetlands & Invasives               |
| San Elijo Lagoon Restoration Planning and Engineering                   | Restoration of 456 acres of tidal and freshwater wetlands at San Elijo Lagoon.  | \$80,000,000<br>Fully funded and in progress                                      | San Diego | Planning    | Coastal Wetlands                           |
| Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Restoration Planning                             | This project will develop a 50% design concept to complete and EIR and CEQA for lagoon restoration.   | \$770,000   | San Diego | Planning    | Coastal Wetlands                           |
| San Diego Canyon Wetlands Restoration Project                           | Produce Canyon Enhancement Action Plans for 1,234 canyon acres (wetlands and upland slopes) and 15.6 miles of stream corridor in 9 urban canyons. | \$348,000<br>Fully funded and in progress   | San Diego | Planning    | Coastal Wetlands<br>Riparian               |

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|---|---|---|-----------|-------------|------------------------------|
| Re-Wild Mission Bay Conceptual Plan                               | Develop conceptual plans to protect and improve core functions of 170 acres of existing tidal wetland habitat in the Kendall Frost/Northern Wildlife Preserve.  | \$485,000<br>Fully funded and in progress   | San Diego | Planning    | Coastal Wetlands             |
| San Dieguito Watershed Invasive Species Control and Re-vegetation | Restore 874 acres of riparian and marsh habitat in the San Dieguito Watershed in northern San Diego County.   | \$4,766,000<br>Funded status unconfirmed    | San Diego | Restoration | Invasives & Coastal Wetlands |
| Rose Creek Watershed Opportunities Assessment Implementation      | Implement recommendations of the Rose Creek Watershed Opportunities Assessment, including completing a watershed-wide hydrologic study; planning for creation of wetlands at the mouth of Rose Creek; and designing trail linkages. | \$1,165,000<br>Funded status unconfirmed    | San Diego | Restoration | Riparian                     |
| San Diego River Watershed Riparian Restoration Program            | Implement a watershed-based invasive, non-native plant control program in the San Diego River Watershed.  | \$5,000,000<br>Funded status unconfirmed    | San Diego | Restoration | Riparian                     |
| Tijuana Estuary Tidal Restoration Program                         | Final design, engineering and permitting for the Tijuana Estuary Tidal Restoration Program  | \$1,095,000<br>Fully funded and in progress | San Diego | Planning    | Coastal Wetlands             |
| Santa Margarita River Fish Passage Project                        | 65% design plans to remove two key steelhead passage barriers on Santa Margarita River (an abandoned Sandia Creek river crossing and bridge that cross the Santa Margarita River)   | \$605,395<br>Fully funded and in progress   | San Diego | Restoration | Riparian                     |

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| WRP Community Wetland Restoration Grants Program | Provide grants up to \$30,000 for restoration and enhancement projects consistent with the goals of the Wetlands Recovery Project. | Numerous | Regional | Restoration | Riparian, Invasives, Coastal Wetlands |
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