**OVERVIEW**

At every Directors Group meeting of the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project (WRP) the Directors Group 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 Directors Group at its last meeting, held on October 18, 2018, directed the Wetlands Managers Group to release a Request for Proposals to identify new projects to be added to the Work Plan. A Request for Proposals was released early in 2019 and these proposals were reviewed by the Wetland Managers Group at two regional meetings held in the spring of 2019. Members of the Wetlands Manager Group reviewed these proposals and based their selections on the WRP Regional Strategy goals and objectives. Of the 9 project proponents that submitted applications, 5 were approved to be added to the 2019 Work Plan by the Directors Group on July 15, 2019.

**THE WORK PLAN**

The Directors Group has adopted each of the previous Work Plans. The WRP Wetlands Managers Group is submitting this 2019 Work Plan to the WRP Board of Governors for adoption.

Projects on the Work Plan were chosen to help achieve the WRP’s four Regional Goals:

1. Preserve and restore resilient coastal tidal wetlands and associated marine and terrestrial habitats.
2. Preserve and restore streams, adjacent habitats, and other non-tidal wetland ecosystems to support healthy watersheds.
3. Support education and compatible access related to coastal wetlands and watersheds.
4. Advance the science of wetland restoration and management in Southern California.

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 were added to the Work Plan on July 15, 2019.

**TABLE 1. NEW PROJECTS ADDED TO THE WORK PLAN IN 2019**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Project Name** | **Description** | **Estimated Cost** | **County** | **Habitat Type** | **Project Lead** |
| Riparian Restoration and Community Engagement for the Santa Paula-to-Sespe Conservation Area on the Santa Clara River | This project will use a landscape-level approach to remove invasive plant species from the Santa Paula-to-Sespe Conservation Area to enhance habitat for native wildlife. | $23,750,000 | Ventura | Riparian | Santa Clara River Conservancy |
| San Diego Bay Native Oyster Living Shoreline | This project will install baycrete reef balls in San Diego Bay which will act as a native oyster living shoreline, providing the project area both physical protection and enhanced habitat for wildlife. | $1,271,028 | San Diego | Estuarine | California State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) |
| Upper Newport Bay and Alamitos Bay Living Shoreline Project | This project will restore oyster and eelgrass beds in Upper Newport Bay and Alamitos Bay while investigating the benefits of living shorelines and determining how to create larger-scale projects. | $1,276,336 | Orange, Los Angeles | Estuarine | Orange County Coastkeeper |
| Loma Alta Slough Wetlands Enhancement Project - Phase 2 Implementation | This project will complete final design, permits, and implement the restoration of Loma Alta Slough. | $8,800,000 | San Diego | Estuarine | City of Oceanside |
| Hanson Floodplain Restoration | This project will complete the restoration and enhancement of 238 acres of riparian forest, riparian scrub and alluvial scrub along the Santa Clara River at The Nature Conservancy’s (TNC) Hanson property in Ventura County, CA. | $4,191,889 | Ventura | Riparian | The Nature Conservancy |

**WORK PLAN ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

**WRP Newly Funded Projects**

The table below provides a summary of those projects newly funded since January 2017.

**Table 2: Newly funded projects**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Project Name** | **Description** | **Estimated Cost** | **Funder** | **County** | **Project Classification** |
| Devereux Slough: UCSB North Campus Open Space Restoration | Land acquisition and restoration planning are complete. Restoration of 120 acres is in-progress. | $15,174,813 | SCC  USFWS  WCB | Santa Barbara | Restoration |
| Whittier Channel Restoration Project | Restore riparian and freshwater wetland along the Whittier Channel at UCSB. | $69,000 | WCB | Santa Barbara | CWRGP |
| Refugio Creek Arundo Removal | Remove *Arundo donax* and restore native riparian vegetation along Refugio Creek. | $35,050 | WCB | Santa Barbara | CWRGP |
| Cañada Larga Creek-Hayden Preserve Restoration Project | Riparian restoration led by the community to remove *Arundo donax* along Cañada Larga Creek. | $47,200 | WCB | Ventura | CWRGP |
| Sespe Cienega Riparian Restoration Project on the Santa Clara River | Invasives species removal and riparian restoration on The Sespe Cienega on the Santa Clara River floodplain. | $49,250 | WCB | Ventura | CWRGP |
| Kalorama Wetland Restoration and Community Education Project | Community-led restoration with invasives species removal and native wetland species planting at the Kalorama Wetland. | $61,900 | WCB | Ventura | CWRGP |
| Santa Cruz Island Oak Riparian Enhancement Project | Native oak revegetation and Eucalyptus removal project on Santa Cruz Island. | $60,000 | SCC | Ventura | CWRGP |
| San Antonio Creek Restoration Project at Camp Comfort | Invasive species removal and native species re-planting along San Antonio Creek. | $48,795 | WCB | Ventura | CWRGP |
| Riparian Restoration and Community Engagement for the Santa Paula-to-Sespe Conservation Area on the Santa Clara River | This project will prepare habitat restoration and public access plan for the 269-acre former California Watercress property on the Santa Clara River. | $300,000 | SCC | Ventura | Planning |
| Ormond Beach Community Restoration at Perkins Road | Remove invasives and restore native upland and beach plant species at Ormond Beach. | $30,000 | SCC | Ventura | CWRGP |
| Lower Ventura River Habitat Restoration | Removal of *Arundo donax* and revegetation of native riparian species along the lower Ventura River. | $57,200 | SCC | Ventura | CWRGP |
| Torrance Henrietta Basin Wetland Recovery Project | Restore a 7-acre storm water runoff basin wetland area in the Henrietta Basin. | $97,600 | WCB | Los Angeles | CWRGP |
| Colorado Lagoon: Salt Marsh and Transition Zone Adaptive Management Project | Restore salt marsh and transition zone habitat with volunteers on Colorado Lagoon. | $61,700 | WCB | Los Angeles | CWRGP |
| Community Olympia Oyster Restoration in the Jack Dunster Marine Reserve | Community-led native oyster restoration in Alamitos Bay at the Jack Dunster Marine Reserve. | $44,800 | SCC | Los Angeles | CWRGP |
| Topanga Creek’s Theater of Plants | Riparian restoration along Topanga Creek on the Will Geer’s Theatricum Botanicum. | $46,475 | SCC | Los Angeles | CWRGP |
| Big Canyon Creek Restoration and Estuary Adaptation Project | This project will conduct feasibility studies and restoration design to improve and restore the water quality and native, riparian habitat along Big Canyon Creek and develop a sea-level rise adaptation strategy for coastal habitats in the Big Canyon Nature Park. | $640,000  Fully funded and in progress | SCC | Orange County | Planning |
| Restoring Audubon Starr Ranch Riparian Woodlands with Community Participation | Community-led invasives removal and native riparian species re-planting in Audubon Starr Ranch. | $80,700 | WCB | Orange County | CWRGP |
| Newport Valley Riparian Restoration with Diverse Communities | Community volunteers will restore one acre of riparian habitat at Newport Valley. | $67,300 | WCB | Orange County | CWRGP |
| Huntington Beach Wetlands Salt Marsh Bird's Beak Outplanting | Restore salt marsh bird’s-beak, *Chloropyron maritimum* subsp. *Maritimum,* a hemi parasitic annual plant that is federally endangered in Huntington Beach Wetlands. | $95,900 | WCB | Orange County | CWRGP |
| Rabbit Island Restoration and Education Initiative | Restore native wetland habitat on Rabbit Island in the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve. | $144,500 | SCC | Orange County | CWRGP |
| Students Restoring Coastal Wetlands | Local students restoring salt marsh, sage scrub, and alkali marsh habitat in the San Elijo Lagoon. | $37,600 | WCB | San Diego | CWRGP |
| Ocean Discovery Institute: Watershed Avengers Project | Local students will restore upland habitats in Manzanita Canyon. | $419,200 | SCC | San Diego | CWRGP |
| Earth Discovery Institute Explorers: River Rangers Project | Fourth graders will learn about watershed science and restore riparian habitat along the Sweetwater River. | $53,328 | WCB | San Diego | CWRGP |
| Ocean Connectors Project at Paradise Creek | Third graders will learn about native habitat and restore wetland and riparian areas of Paradise Creek. | $38,500 | WCB | San Diego | CWRGP |
| Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Restoration Planning | This project will develop a 50% design concept to compete an EIR and CEQA for lagoon restoration. | $770,000 Fully funded and in progress | SCC  City of San Diego | San Diego | Planning |
| Batiquitos Lagoon Ecological Reserve North Shore Restoration - Phase 3 | Native tree restoration to replace removed Eucalyptus and palm tree species in Batiquitos Lagoon. | $159,800 | WCB | San Diego | CWRGP |
| Sweetwater Stewards: Community River Restoration | Community-led revegetation of acorns and native understory plants along the Sweetwater River. | $41,900 | SCC | San Diego | CWRGP |
| Sweetwater Marsh Community Restoration Project | Community-led salt marsh restoration on Sweetwater Marsh. | $34,700 | SCC | San Diego | CWRGP |
| Crown Point Bank Restoration at Kendall Frost Marsh Reserve | Invasives removal and native salt marsh species replanting at the Kendall Frost Marsh Reserve. | $29,300 | SCC | San Diego | CWRGP |

**WRP Completed Projects**

A total of 7 WRP projects were completed since the last Director’s Group meeting where the Work Plan was approved and adopted in January 2017. Table 3 below lists those projects completed during this time period.

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

**January 2017 – July 2019**

| **Project Name** | **Description** | **Cost** | **County** | **Type of Project** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Atascadero and Maria Ygnacio Steelhead Restoration Design | Developed engineering designs for six major fish passage barriers along Maria Ygnacio Creek. | $371,000 | Santa Barbara | Fish Passage |
| Upper Malibu Creek Feasibility Study (Rindge Dam) | Completed an EIR/EIS for Rindge Dam removal. | $,3900,000 | Los Angeles | Planning |
| Deforest Wetlands Restoration | Developed a two-mile long 39-acre riverfront park with wetlands, upland habitat, interpretive displays and public access trails. | $6,791,482 | Los Angeles | Restoration |
| Los Cerritos Wetlands – Bryant Acquisition | Acquired 100 acres of the Hellman property in Seal Beach for the purpose of wetland restoration. | $14,244,000 | Los Angeles | Acquisition |
| Aliso Creek Estuary Restoration | Developed a conceptual restoration planto restore coastal wetland habitats at Aliso Creek Estuary. | $352,660 | Orange | Planning |
| San Elijo Lagoon Restoration Planning and Engineering | Developed restoration engineering and designs for 456 acres of tidal and freshwater wetlands at San Elijo Lagoon. | $8,289,0149 | San Diego | Planning |
| Re-Wild Mission Bay Conceptual Plan | Developed 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 | San Diego | Planning |
| San Jose Creek Fish Passage Improvements – Dos Arroyos Ranch | This project conducted biological surveys and prepared 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 | Santa Barbara | Restoration |

**SUMMARY OF WRP WORK PLAN 2019**

Upon its adoption by the Directors Group on July 15, 2019, the 2019 WRP Work Plan will comprise 36 priority projects. These include 3 acquisition, 20 restoration, 1 research, and 13 planning projects. Full project descriptions and details are available at [www.scwrp.org](http://www.scwrp.org)

**Table 4: WRP Work Plan 2019**

| **Project Name** | **Description** | **Estimated Cost** | **County** | **Project classification** | **Habitat/ project type** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 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  Ready to implement – not funded | Santa Barbara | Planning and Restoration | Riparian |
| 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. | $15,174,813  Fully funded and in-progress | Santa Barbara | Restoration | Coastal Wetlands |
| Hanson Floodplain Restoration | This project will complete the restoration and enhancement of 238 acres of riparian forest, riparian scrub and alluvial scrub along the Santa Clara River at The Nature Conservancy’s (TNC) Hanson property in Ventura County, CA. | $4,191,889 Ready to implement – not funded | Ventura | Restoration | Riparian |
| 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  Fully funded and in-progress | Ventura | Planning | Fish Passage |
| Riparian Restoration and Community Engagement for the Santa Paula-to-Sespe Conservation Area on the Santa Clara River | This project will use a landscape-level approach to remove invasive plant species from the Santa Paula-to-Sespe Conservation Area to enhance habitat for native wildlife. | $23,750,000  Partially funded and in-progress | Ventura | Restoration | Riparian |
| 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 | $512,445  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. | $60,000,000  Partially funded ($5 million) and in-progress. | Ventura | Acquisition | Coastal Wetlands |
| Ormond Beach Wetlands Restoration Plan | Prepare a restoration and public access plan for the 900-acre Ormond Beach wetlands area. | $410,000  Fully funded and in-progress | Ventura | Planning | Coastal Wetlands |
| Upper Los Angeles River Watershed Arundo Eradication Program | Remove *Arundo donax* from30 acres in a variety of canyons that drain to the Los Angeles River. | $1,070,000  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  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  Ready to implement – not funded | Los Angeles | Planning | Fish Passage |
| Topanga Lagoon Restoration Facilities Management Plan | Develop a Facilities and Lagoon Management Plan and complete CEQA/NEPA. | $1,070,000  Partially funded ($110,000) 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  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  Fully funded and in-progress | Los Angeles | Planning | Coastal Wetlands |
| 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  Fully funded and in-progress | Los Angeles | Restoration | Riparian & Wetlands |
| Rio Hondo and Upper San Gabriel River Arundo Eradication Program | Remove 102 acres of *Arundo donax* from the San Gabriel River and Rio Hondo at Whittier Narrows. | $2,400,000  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  Fully funded and in-progress | Los Angeles | Planning | Coastal Wetlands |
| Upper Newport Bay and Alamitos Bay Living Shoreline Project | This project will restore oyster and eelgrass beds in Upper Newport Bay and Alamitos Bay while investigating the benefits of living shorelines and determining how to create larger-scale projects. | $1,276,336  Ready to proceed if funded | Los Angeles  / Orange | Research | 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  Partially funded and in-progress | Orange | Restoration | Invasives  Riparian |
| Newland Marsh Acquisition | Acquisition of 44 acres for future restoration of degraded coastal saltmarsh presently owned by CalTrans. | $2.6 million  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  Fully funded and in-progress | Orange | Restoration | Invasives |
| San Joaquin Marsh Enhancement - Phase II Implementation | Enhance approximately 120 acres of perennial marsh. | $3,700,000  Not funded and ready to proceed | Orange | Restoration | Coastal Wetlands |
| 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  Partially funded | Orange | Planning | Riparian |
| San Juan and Trabuco Creek Watershed Steelhead Recovery Plan | Implement the San Juan and Trabuco Creeks Steelhead Recovery Plan | $25,000,000  In-progress | Orange | Restoration | Fish Passage  & Riparian & Coastal Wetlands |
| Trabuco Creek Fish Passage Project | Planning and design of a fish ladder under Highway I5 along Trabuco Creek. | $384,000  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. | $1,100,000  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  Partially funded and in-progress | San Diego | Restoration | Coastal Wetlands & Invasives |
| Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Restoration Planning | This project will develop a 50% design concept to complete and EIR and CEQA for lagoon restoration. | $633,320  Fully funded and in-progress | San Diego | Planning | Coastal Wetlands |
| San Diego Bay Native Oyster Living Shoreline | This project will install baycrete reef balls in San Diego Bay which will act as a native oyster living shoreline, providing the project area both physical protection and enhanced habitat for wildlife. | $1,271,028 | San Diego | Research | 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  Fully funded and in-progress | San Diego | Planning | Coastal Wetlands Riparian |
| 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  Partially funded and in-progress | 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  Partially funded and in-progress | 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  Fully funded and in-progress | San Diego | Restoration | Riparian |
| Tijuana Estuary Tidal Restoration Program | Final design, engineering and permitting for the Tijuana Estuary Tidal Restoration Program | $1,095,000  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  Fully funded and in-progress | San  Diego | Restoration | Riparian |
| 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 |