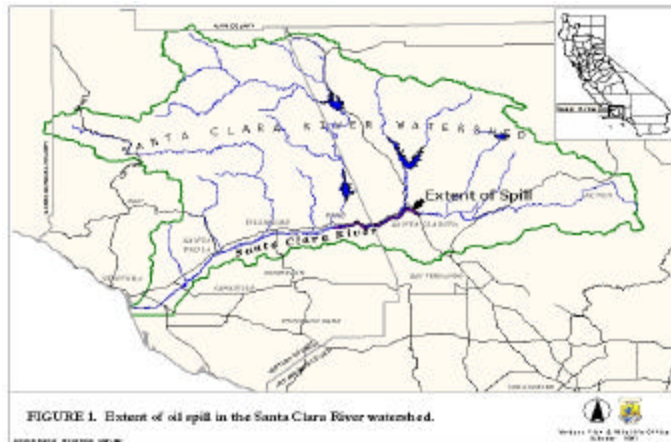




**Santa Clara River Trustee Council
Restoration Projects Grant Program
Request for Pre-Proposals
for ecological restoration projects
in the Santa Clara River Watershed, Ventura and Los Angeles Counties**
<http://ventura.fws.gov/santaclarariver.html>

The Santa Clara River Trustee Council, made up of representatives from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Game, is pleased to announce the availability of up to \$1.5 million to fund ecological restoration projects in the Santa Clara River watershed in Ventura and Los Angeles counties. Ecological restoration projects include habitat improvement, and ecological research, monitoring, and educational efforts associated with habitat restoration. The funds are from the settlement of claims for natural resource damages resulting from an ARCO pipeline oil spill into the Santa Clara River. This document will describe how you can to apply for the funding and how the Trustee Council will determine which project proposals will be funded.



Eligible Applicants

- All entities (private, Federal, State, local agencies, educational institutions, non-profit organizations, and tribal governments) are eligible to apply.
- A third party is eligible to apply for funding to conduct the project in cooperation with a willing landowner.

Representative Projects

- Priority will be given to restoration of habitat to return it to or improve its natural functioning. Examples include, but are not limited to, planting of native trees and shrubs to provide nesting habitat and to control erosion, removal of non-native vegetation, fencing to protect riparian and other sensitive habitats, and improvement of fish passage. Projects directly benefiting riverine, riparian, and contiguous upland habitats will be given priority consideration over projects not directly benefiting these habitats in the Santa Clara River watershed.

- Ecological research, evaluation, and monitoring are eligible if related to habitat restoration. Eligible projects include those that provide a better understanding and/or monitoring of the natural systems that will be restored. Such efforts may include, but are not limited to, biological investigations, mapping of the river's resources, monitoring of biological and hydrological processes or SCREMP (Santa Clara River Enhancement and Management Plan) activities.
- Educational activities are eligible if related to habitat restoration. Projects may include, but are not limited to, incorporating restoration programs into school curricula, providing interpretive displays along the river where restoration activities are occurring, developing a volunteer/stewardship program for involvement by landowners and other interested parties in the restoration efforts, and promoting oil spill awareness through education.
- The emphasis is to fund projects that are ready to implement (i.e., little or no further planning or permitting needed). However, subject to approval of the Trustee Council, a limited amount of the funding may be made available for restoration planning activities. Applicants will be responsible for obtaining all necessary permits.
- Projects should be completed within 1 to 2 years of funding approval, unless otherwise approved by the Trustee Council.
- Activities not eligible for funding include land acquisition (acquisition funds will be allocated through a different process by the Trustee Council, see online information source below); rental, easement, or income replacement payments; mitigation or other activities required by a permit for a project unrelated to the project being proposed for the grant; and activities not consistent with the Trustee Council's mission.

Project Selection Factors

- Projects are selected based on their benefits to the natural resources of the Santa Clara River watershed including threatened and endangered species, other declining species and their habitats.
- Other factors that can influence project selection include, but are not limited to, projects which offer a higher cost share ratio or cost efficiency; greater conservation need and benefits; feasibility from the technical, biological and regulatory standpoint; expected duration of the improvement over time; project readiness (i.e., permits and adequate staffing available to implement the project); applicant's success implementing similar projects; multiple project partners; and integration of project monitoring and evaluation. Higher priority will be given to projects that meet multiple criteria.

Landowner Agreement for Restoration Sites

- To protect the investment of funding habitat restoration projects, the landowner agrees to retain the habitat improvements in perpetuity for natural resources preservation.
- The Trustee Council representatives, their parent agencies or designee(s), shall be allowed to conduct periodic site visits to monitor success and duration of project benefits. The landowner will be provided reasonable notice in advance of restoration site visits.
- No public access is required. The landowner retains all rights to the property, including the right to control access.

Project Costs

- The total amount of funding available is \$1.5 million. It is anticipated that these funds will be allocated approximately as follows: habitat restoration projects (50% of funds); educational programs (25% of funds); and research and monitoring activities (25% of funds).
- The Trustee Council anticipates that most individual projects it will fund will not exceed \$100,000 but may fund a few high priority projects that exceed \$350,000.
- For the more costly projects, the Trustee Council recommends applicants submit pre-proposals that describe fundable phases of their project and any secured matching funds in the event that only partial funding is available.
- General administrative overhead or indirect costs should not exceed 10 percent of the overall project budget.
- Unless other arrangements are agreed to by the Trustee Council, project costs are paid on a reimbursable basis as the work progresses.

Can others contribute?

- The Restoration Projects Grant Program does not require matching funds. However, projects that leverage funds from other sources are more likely to receive higher priority. Matching funds from the applicant or other project partners can be in the form of cash, or materials and services valued at local market rates (in-kind services). Funding or in-kind services can come from Federal, State and local agencies, and private sources.
- For grant applicants seeking Trustee Council funds as a match for other grants, the Santa Clara River funds can be considered as either Federal or State (i.e., non-Federal) monies.

- Restoration projects funded by the Trustee Council can not serve as required mitigation for another project, but they may augment or expand the benefits of such projects.

How to Apply

Submit a pre-proposal to the address listed below via first class mail, fax, or email; where possible, please provide an electronic copy to facilitate review. Pre-proposals should contain a concise project summary (1-2 pages), including objectives, methodology, conservation need and outcomes, project readiness, and a budget that indicates how Restoration funds will be used, including any other sources (cash or in-kind). Photos and maps referenced to the project summary would be useful. Upon receipt and evaluation of the pre-proposal, the Trustee Council will invite successful applicants to submit a full proposal. Interested applicants are welcome to contact the Restoration Grant Coordinator at the number below to discuss potential project ideas before submitting a pre-proposal.

Project pre-proposals are accepted throughout the coming year and are slated for review and action within two decision cycles. The Trustee Council expects to obligate all funds by the end of the second set of proposals (i.e., October 4, 2004).

Project Pre -Proposal Received By:	Decision Expected on Pre -Proposals	Project Full Proposal Due:	Trustee Council Decision:
February 2, 2004	March 1, 2004	April 16, 2004	May 14, 2004
June 14, 2004	July 16, 2004	September 3, 2004	October 4, 2004

The Trustee Council may elect to fund, postpone, or decline funding for any proposal.

Where can I get more information online?

<http://ventura.fws.gov/santaclarariver.html>

- Request for Pre-Proposals and the Pre-Proposal form
- Example Landowner Agreement
- Information on Santa Clara River funds for habitat acquisition
- Final Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment for the Santa Clara River Arco Oil Spill, and a plan summary document

Restoration Grant Coordinator Contact:

Kate Symonds
 Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office
 2493 Portola Road, Suite B
 Ventura, California 93003
 TEL: 805-644-1766 FAX: 805-644-3958
kate_symonds@rl.fws.gov

The mission of the Santa Clara River Trustee Council is to restore natural resources in the Santa Clara River watershed, in accordance with the Consent Decree, with the goals of contributing to permanent protection of the river's natural ecosystem and of providing lasting value to the public.