



**Guadalupe-Coyote
Resource Conservation District (GCRCD)**
An independent special district of the State of California

888 N. 1st Street, Suite 204, San Jose, CA 95112
408-288-5888 gcrcd@gcrcd.org www.rcdsantaclara.org

Community Grant Application

This document has been provided in Microsoft Word format to facilitate applicant use, but may be converted to a .pdf document for submittal purposes. Please complete all lines; if something doesn't apply, enter "N/A". Handwritten applications are acceptable. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), please contact the District at gcrcd@gcrcd.org if you would like to request assistance or accommodations to complete the application.

Section A: Application Information

Project Name: Stevens Creek Steelhead Passage Improvement Project

Applicant (Legal Name of Organization): Friends of Stevens Creek Trail

Website: <https://stevenscreektrail.org> Federal EIN: 77-0334262

Street Address: 22221 McClellan Road, Cupertino, CA 95014

Mailing Address: Same as street address

Grant Contact:

Name/Preferred Pronouns: Rajiv Mathur/he/him/his

Title: Executive Director

Email: rajiv_mathur@stevenscreektrail.org Phone: 408-255-5780

Purpose of Grant: The grant will provide "bridge funding" to enable completion of design work and federal, state and local permitting expenses towards the removal of a barrier to juvenile steelhead migration in the "cold water management zone" downstream of the Stevens Creek Reservoir on Stevens Creek in Cupertino. We have received grants and Friends commitments totaling \$176,500 towards the design and construction of this project. But unexpected complications in securing CEQA exemption from the City of Cupertino, additional requirements of the Regional Water Board, requested design changes from NOAA Fisheries and requests for a higher level of cultural resources survey and reporting from the Army Corps of Engineers has resulted in \$15,000 of unbudgeted expenses. The grant would provide \$5000 towards filling this funding gap – either as general support for the total or for support for efforts to secure the CEQA exemption (\$2800) and meeting the Regional Board's requirements (\$2200).

Beginning and Ending Project Dates: 3/2020 – 10/30/2021

Grant Amount Requested: \$ 5,000 Total Project Cost: \$191,850

Section B: Project Description

Please enter answers under each question. For purposes of this application, the term “project” refers to either a program or project. These answers will help inform reviewer assessment of the application. The Community Grant Policy and the Community Grant Application Review scoring sheet are available for viewing on the [Community Grant Program](#) page.

1. Describe the proposed project, including goals, proposed methods and implementation strategies, and list measurable outcomes.

The proposed project will provide “bridge funding” to complete tasks necessary for the completion of a larger project.

The goal of the larger project is to remove a barrier to the migration of juvenile steelhead within the cold-water rearing management zone of Stevens Creek. The primary derivative goal of the project is to improve rearing success of the creek’s steelhead population. The secondary derivative goal is to improve the sustainability of the creek’s steelhead population.

The project method is to remove a concrete slab that creates a 1.5-foot jump during certain flow conditions and replace it either with a rock weir presenting a 6” jump or regrading the creek to eliminate the jump altogether. The final design will resolve which of these two alternatives best serves the project goals while maintaining stream bed stability. The project will also install large root wads and anchoring large boulders to improve cover habitat at four locations within 100 feet of the concrete removal.

The measured outcome is the reduction of the jump presented in this reach to 6” or less and the improvement of cover habitat at four locations.

2. Is this project a portion of a larger project? If so, please include a description of the larger project and how this component fits into it.

Yes, the project is a portion of a larger project (\$176,500) to remove a barrier to juvenile steelhead migration on Stevens Creek. The component for which grant funds are being requested of the GCRCD (\$5,000) consists of tasks related to providing regulatory agencies with supplementary information not included with original permit applications, including a design modification request by NOAA Fisheries, additional cultural resources assessment required by the Corps of Engineers, monitoring and maintenance activities required by the Regional Board, and coordination of planning activities related to securing CEQA compliance.

3. **Will this grant be used to leverage funding for another grant or funding request? If yes, please explain.**

Yes, the requested grant (\$5000) will be used to leverage an additional \$10,000 from other parties to complete the bridge funding necessary to bring the project to the point of initiating the bid process for project construction. The project already has the necessary funds for project construction.

4. **Are there other organizations and/or partners participating in the project? If yes, please describe their role and level of participation.**

Funding partners for the larger project include the Cities of Mountain View, Cupertino, Los Altos, and Sunnyvale, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, Santa Clara County, and Valley Water. This is the second project in the watershed that these entities have funded to support stream ecosystem restoration. They participated in kickoff meeting, progress meetings and the final report meeting for the first project. That last meeting resulted in the decision to pursue the implementation project of the current project. The barrier happens to be located within the Deep Cliff Golf Course in Cupertino. Deep Cliff Golf Course has also made a small donation to the project.

5. **What is the need, problem, and/or opportunity to be addressed? Who else is addressing it?**

There is a larger need for a concerted effort to address the limiting factors to steelhead ecosystem health in the Stevens Creek watershed. This project addresses the need for improved juvenile passage in the cold-water rearing zone. It also presents an opportunity to build on the success of this project to catalyze the local entities to form ongoing effort to address other limiting factors. Currently the principal other entity addressing these issues is Valley Water.

6. **How will the project provide a natural resource conservation benefit to the District and/or its constituents?**

Removing a barrier to juvenile steelhead migration will contribute to the sustainability of the steelhead population in Stevens Creek consistent with the GCRCD's goal of conservation and protection of natural habitats and ecosystems.

7. **Which Area(s) of Strategic Focus in GCRCD's Long Range Plan will be served by this project?**

Promote biodiversity through the conservation and protection of natural habitats and ecosystems.

8. **How will the project help the District meet its goals for the indicated Areas of Strategic Focus?**

The project will remove a barrier to juvenile steelhead passage in the cold-water rearing management zone of Stevens Creek, thereby contributing to the sustainability of the creek's steelhead population.

9. What are the anticipated challenges to the successful completion of the project?

The principal challenge to project completion is the funding shortfall to complete redesign and satisfaction of permitting requirements. However, the fact that funding is available for construction, that the project is eligible for a CEQA exemption, and that the project is a habitat restoration project makes it an excellent candidate for grant funding from a variety of sources.

10. How will this project incorporate the principles of environmental justice, which call for “fairness, regardless of race, color, national origin or income, in the development of laws and regulations that affect every community’s natural surroundings, and the places people live, work, play and learn”? (Cal EPA).

The project only indirectly addresses environmental justice concerns in that the project will contribute to the restoration of a healthy stream ecosystem along the Stevens Creek Trail, a streamside trail publicly accessible to all communities in the region. The Friends of Stevens Creek Trail adheres to a policy of non-discrimination and equal opportunity pursuant to which it does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, income, age, sex, sexual orientation, religion, in its recruitment, hiring, compensation and termination of employees or selection of contractors. The Executive Director, Rajiv Mathur, is a person of color, being of Asian Indian descent.

The Friends of Stevens Creek Trail has an active social media presence where the message that the trails and wildlife corridors are for everyone irrespective of color, religion, race or economic status, is frequently publicized. Here is a sampling of links on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook and our website:

- #TrailsForAll solidarity post (response to anti-Asian racist violence in the area)
<https://twitter.com/fosct/status/1362566408119353344>
- Martin Luther King day 2021
#TrailsForAll messages
“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere”
“In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies but the silence of our friends”
 - <https://www.instagram.com/p/CKMcL6QHom8/>
 - <https://twitter.com/fosct/status/1351306877217370112>
 - <https://twitter.com/fosct/status/135122320128434176>
 - <https://www.facebook.com/stevenscreektrail/posts/4203711822990534>
- Banner for website 2020
#BlackLivesMatter



11. **Does this project have a data-driven component to address impacts from climate change? If so, please describe.**

No, but the project contributes to steelhead population resilience in the face of the thermal stress of climate change.

12. **How will the project be sustained after the grant has concluded? Will the results provide a basis for additional projects or programs?**

The project will be designed for hydro-geomorphic stability and hence is anticipated to be self-sustaining. Successful completion of the project would position the Friends of Stevens Creek Trail to consider being a catalyst in the formation of a watershed collaborative amongst the Cities, the Open Space District and the County in developing and implementing additional projects.

13. **How will project results be made available to the public?**

The project results will be described on the website of Friends of Stevens Creek Trail, and there will be ribbon cutting ceremony with press releases.

14. **Add or attach any supplemental information you believe is important for the reviewers and/or approving authority to be aware of in assessing your application.**

Section C: Project Budget

Please enter project budget information in the following table. If including indirect costs, please only apply the percentage to the "Personnel" and "Operating Expenses" line items. The total in the "Grant Funding" column should be \$5,000.00 or less. Add additional lines as needed.

Line Item Description	Grant Funding	Matching Funds *	Project Totals
Personnel Costs (list position/hours/hourly wage):			
Operating Costs (list general categories):			
Indirect Costs (list percentage)			
Contractual Costs: Stillwater Sciences, Inc.			
Coordination and planning support for CEQA exemption	\$2,800		\$2800
Development of monitoring and maintenance plan for RWQCB 401 Certification	\$2,200		\$2200
Response to NMFS request for design modification			\$10,000
Subtotal:	\$5,000		\$15,000
Other Project Funding		\$176,850	\$176,850
Total	\$5,000	\$176,850	\$191,850

*These funds (\$176,850) have already been pledged to Friends of Stevens Creek Trail.

We are seeking \$5000 of GCRCD Community Grant Funds towards the \$15,000 of the funds needed to complete the permitting related tasks of our project. We have sufficient funding to construct the project once we complete the permitting tasks.

Section E: Project Deliverables and Due Dates

Please complete the following task table. Add or subtract task lines as needed.

Task #	Task Description	Task Deliverables	Estimated Completion Dates
1	Submit concurrence with CEQA compliance strategy from Valley Water	Documentation of submission of documents to comply with CEQA	April 15, 2021
2	Submit revised RWQCB 401 certification application	Documentation of submission of completed 401 Notice of Intent to Comply with General Certification	April 22, 2021

3	Submit response to NMFS design modification request	Documentation of resolution of design issues raised by NMFS	April 30, 2021
4	Submit application to CDFW for approval of project as a "Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Project"	Documentation of submission of Permit application to CDFW	May 30, 2021

Section D: Additional Attachments

Indicate those attachments included as part of your application.

- X Copy of a current IRS determination letter indicating 501(c)3 tax-exempt status or letter from a fiscal sponsor accepting responsibility (required)
- Letters of support (optional)
- Additional information for Question 14 (optional)
- Other: _____

Section E: Application Signature

I certify that the information contained within this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, and that I am authorized to sign on behalf of the applicant.



Authorized Signature

Rajvi Mathur, Executive Director, Friends of Stevens Creek Trail

Print Name/Title

March 19, 2021

Application Date

Submit the application and attachments electronically to gcrccd@gcrccd.org by 11:59 p.m. on March 22, 2021. Please contact Executive Director Stephanie Moreno at the same email address if you have any questions.