

CARCD-WCB OAK WOODLAND GRANT PROPOSAL

4/26/2024

OAK WOODLAND CONSERVATION IN WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE (WUI) AND NON-URBAN AREAS OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY

Project Description

California's Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) areas present unique challenges and opportunities for natural resource conservation due to the interface between natural ecosystems and human development. Oak woodland conservation efforts in WUIs and their rural, non-urban neighboring areas, which typically include small communities, agricultural lands, open spaces, and natural habitats, are of special significance. Oak woodlands support biodiversity, fire resilience, water regulation, and carbon sequestration, all of which play a critical role in watershed protection and reduction of fire risk. North Santa Clara RCD (NSCRCD), in partnership with Loma Prieta RCD (LPRCD), the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe, and the Institute for Historical Ecology, will develop and implement an oak woodland conservation program to promote the protection and restoration of oak woodlands in WUIs and rural, non-urban areas of Santa Clara County. The three-year program will offer landowner technical assistance and multilingual community engagement and education, and include an innovative acorn/seedling protection research project using the fuchsia-flowered gooseberry, a drought-tolerant, thorny shrub native to Santa Clara County.

Planning may include, but not be limited to, landowner outreach; stakeholder engagement; educational workshop curriculum and multilingual materials development; research methodology review; site selection; habitat assessment; CEQA and permitting activities (as needed); planting planning; grazing management planning; analysis of existing CalVTP Program Specific Analyses (PSA) to identify potential projects; and staff development and training. Implementation may include, but not be limited to, landowner technical assistance (e.g., oak and habitat protection; integrated weed management; soil health, grazing management); conservation practices implementation; site preparation; acorn and/or seedling planting; research data collection, analysis and publication; and the provision of oak habitat and healthy watershed workshop opportunities in multiple languages for residents living in WUIs and rural, non-urban areas of the County.

Engagement with Underserved, Disadvantaged, and/or Historically Marginalized Communities:

North Santa Clara RCD has successfully implemented its Farm and Ranch Resilience Program for historically underserved farmers and ranchers through a NRCS Cooperative Agreement, and will build on the success of that program to develop technical assistance and community education opportunities to promote oak woodland conservation. A community engagement plan will be developed that includes targeted outreach to the SB 535 disadvantaged communities of East San Jose and Gilroy, which are also located in the WUI, to encourage participation in multilingual educational workshops promoting the importance of oak woodlands in healthy ecosystems. Indigenous tribes, including but not limited to the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe, will work as partners on the project in the development and implementation of research and restoration activities, and development and delivery of educational programming.

Qualifications to Engage in the Project and/or Past Forest Management History:

North Santa Clara Resource Conservation District (NSCRCD) - formerly the Guadalupe-Coyote RCD - is an independent special district of the state of California dedicated to the conservation of natural resources

in Santa Clara County. Its mission is "to provide education and technical assistance to constituents and watershed stakeholders to sustainably manage soil, water and wildlife with the best available science." It has a successful history of designing and implementing research projects over the last 10 years, and has published findings that have contributed to the knowledge base of conservation issues in the South Bay. The District's recently implemented Farm and Ranch Resilience Program for historically underserved agriculturally producers has garnered statewide accolades, and the Board of Directors commitment to social and environmental justice is evident in the policy it adopted in 2021. The RCD's Executive Director has over 30 years of experience in public policy and program development, and has successfully implemented a large number of federal and state grant projects over her career. The RCD's former President and current Associate Director will also be providing his experience and knowledge of oak woodlands through consultation with his nonprofit, the Institute for Historical Ecology.

Partners:

The Loma Prieta Resource Conservation District, the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe, and the Institute for Historical Ecology, a local 501(c)(3), will be NSCRCD's the primary partners on the project. Additional stakeholder and partner outreach to identify additional potential collaborations will be ongoing.

Continued on following page

Tasks and Budget:

Task #	BRIEF, narrative description of what is included in budget	Expected accomplishments & deliverables
Task 1: NSCRCD staff time to manage the project and provide grant/contract administration.	Grant administration and project management (\$11,520 grant; \$11,520 match)	<p>Expected Accomplishment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive project management and successful completion of project. <p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signed grant contract. • Executed partnership and subcontractor agreements. • Coordination with landowners and project partners. • Progress/final reports and invoices. • Publish research.
Task 2: Habitat installation and restoration, plant materials, vegetation management, and other oak woodland implementation materials.	Oak protection and restoration, including vegetation management, site selection and preparation, and native species planting and maintenance and research project implementation; and habitat and grazing management planning; compost spreader equipment purchase (\$41,300 grant; \$8,500 match).	<p>Expected Accomplishment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide funding for materials, supplies, equipment and other costs associated with the successful implementation of planting and protection activities and the research project. <p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement oak protection, restoration or regeneration practices on 100 acres of working or open space lands. • Research publication outlining new method of oak protection. • Plans needed for conservation practice implementation.
Task 3: Monitoring, maintenance, and reporting	Data collection and analysis; staff development; post-activity monitoring and report of planting and protection activities; research site monitoring and reporting. (\$7,920.00 grant)	<p>Expected Accomplishment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased capacity to provide technical assistance and conduct monitoring activities and reporting. <p>Deliverables</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced technical assistance available for landowners. • Monitoring reports. • Replicable planting techniques • Publication of data advancing efforts to protect and regenerate oak woodlands in California.
Task 4: CEQA	Notice of Exemption (NOE) (\$1,000 grant)	<p>Expected Accomplishment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance with CEQA. <p>Deliverables</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Filed NOE.

Task #	BRIEF, narrative description of what is included in budget	Expected accomplishments & deliverables
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research data and publication.
Task 5: Technical Assistance	NSCRCD staff time to provide technical assistance to private landowners; staff development; staff mileage. (\$34,092)	<p>Expected Accomplishment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful implementation of oak protection, restoration, or regeneration activities on private property. <p>Deliverables</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive landowner response to offers of technical assistance. • Improved landowner knowledge of best management practices relating to oak woodland management.
Task 6: Consultation - Partners	Execute partnership agreements with: LPRCD to provide services within their District (\$6,400 grant); Muwekma Ohlone Tribe for research project implementation and community education (\$20,000 grant); Institute for Historical Ecology for research design, analysis and publication (\$18,400 match); grazing consultation (\$3,500 grant); and landowner for site and easement access (\$5,000 match). Total \$29,400 grant; \$23,400 match)	<p>Expected Accomplishment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful implementation of oak protection, restoration, or regeneration activities on private property. • Expanded knowledge of successful oak woodland protection and regeneration practices. <p>Deliverables</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanded collaboration with indigenous tribes in Santa Clara County. • Resources leveraged effectively between the RCDs. • Culturally sensitive oak planting and regeneration activities.
Task 7: Outreach and Education	NSCRCD staff time and materials to help develop and deliver educational workshops; development of multilingual materials; landowner outreach; and stakeholder outreach. (\$34,320 grant)	<p>Expected Accomplishment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater public awareness of the importance of oak woodlands in providing watershed health and reducing fire risk. • Expanded knowledge of successful oak woodland protection and regeneration practices. <p>Deliverables</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three (3) workshops. • Multilingual conservation materials. • Outreach completed to sixty (60) landowners. • Nine (9) stakeholder presentations.

CARCD-WCB Oak Woodland Grant Application

Budget Category	Item Description	Quantity	Units	Cost/Unit	Project Total	Grant %	Grantee % (Match)	Grant Award	Match	Check Column (must match Column F)	Notes
Task 1: Project Management and Grant Administration											
	Executive Director	288.00	Hours	80.00	23,040.00	50%	50%	11,520.00	11,520.00	23,040.00	Project management; contract management; Tribal and landowner coordination; stakeholder outreach; grant administration
					Subtotal			11,520.00	11,520.00	23,040.00	
Task 2: Habitat installation and restoration, plant materials, vegetation management, and other oak woodland implementation materials.											
	Mulch (research)	150.00	Cubic feet	2.00	300.00	100%	0%	300.00	0.00	300.00	Cost of mulch (\$2/ft3) x ft3/10 acorns x 1,500 acorns
	Tree protection supplies (research)	500.00	each	2.00	1,000.00	100%	0%	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	2' plastic tree protectors/tubes
	Ribes speciosum plants (research)	500.00	each	18.00	9,000.00	100%	0%	9,000.00	0.00	9,000.00	Native Santa Clara County gooseberry plants
	Planting tools (research)				1,000.00	100%	0%	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	Purchase and/or rent equipment for drilling/seeding/planting etc
	Farm-ng Compost spreader (research)				3,000.00	100%	0%	3,000.00	0.00	3,000.00	Automated spreader that can be used for multiple purposes, including compost spreading and seeding
				Research	14,300.00			14,300.00	0.00	14,300.00	
	Oak seedlings (technical assistance)	500.00	each	18.00	9,000.00	100%	0%	9,000.00	0.00	9,000.00	Oak seedlings
	Tree protection supplies (technical assistance)			0.00	9,000.00	100%	0%	9,000.00	0.00	9,000.00	Tubes, wire, fencing, baskets, etc. (depends on application and location)
	Field tools - purchase (technical assistance)				500.00	100%	0%	500.00	0.00	500.00	Shovels, wheelbarrow, trowels, gloves, etc.
	Farm-ng Compost spreader (technical assistance)				17,000.00	100%	0%	17,000.00	0.00	17,000.00	Automated spreader that can be used for multiple purposes, including compost spreading and seeding
				Technical Assistance	35,500.00			35,500.00	0.00	35,500.00	
					Subtotal			49,800.00	0.00	49,800.00	
Task 3: Monitoring, maintenance, and reporting											
	Resource Conservationist	144.00	Hours	55.00	7,920.00	100%	0%	7,920.00	0.00	7,920.00	Site visits; reports; data collection
					Subtotal			7,920.00	0.00	7,920.00	
Task 4: CEQA											
	NOE fees	2.00	500.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	100%	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	NOE for research project; as needed for other projects
					Subtotal			1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	
Task 4: Technical Assistance											
	Resource Conservationist	576.00	Hours	55.00	31,680.00	100%	0%	31,680.00	0.00	31,680.00	Site visits; technical assistance
	Mileage	3,600.00	Miles	0.67	2,412.00	100%	0%	2,412.00	0.00	2,412.00	Employee mileage
					Subtotal			34,092.00	0.00	34,092.00	
Task 6: Consultation - Partners											
	Loma Prieta RCD	80.00	hours	80.00	6,400.00	100%	0%	6,400.00	0.00	6,400.00	Technical assistance and contract administration
	Muwekman Ohlone Tribe	1.00	agreement	20,000.00	20,000.00	100%	0%	20,000.00	0.00	20,000.00	Consultation and technical services
	Institute for Historical Ecology	92.00	hours	200.00	18,400.00	0%	100%	0.00	18,400.00	18,400.00	Research references; study design; analyze results; draft paper for publication.
	Tri-County Land, Inc.	10.00	years	5,000.00	5,000.00	100%	0%	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00	10-year research easement
	Grazing consultant	20.00	each	175.00	3,500.00	100%	0%	3,500.00	0.00	3,500.00	Grazing management consultation
					Subtotal			34,900.00	18,400.00	53,300.00	
Task 7: Outreach and Education											
	Resource Conservationist	624.00	Hours	55.00	34,320.00	100%	0%	34,320.00	0.00	34,320.00	Workshop development and delivery; multilingual document preparation and translation; Landowner outreach; stakeholder presentations
					Subtotal			34,320.00	0.00	34,320.00	
					203,472.00			173,552.00	29,920.00	203,472.00	
								Indirect Costs @ 10%	17,355.20	0.00	17,355.20
								Total Grant Request	190,907.20	29,920.00	220,827.20
											Total Project Budget

Staffing Commitment	Total Hours	Hours/Year
Resource Conservationist	1,344.00	448.00
Executive Director	288.00	96.00

Research Project Cost	Grant	Match	Research Total
Task 1	5,760.00	5,760.00	11,520.00
Task 2	14,300.00	0.00	14,300.00
Task 3	2,475.00	0.00	2,475.00
Task 4	500.00	0.00	500.00
Task 5	603.00	0.00	603.00
Task 6	13,500.00	18,400.00	31,900.00
Task 7	0.00	0.00	0.00
	37,138.00	24,160.00	61,298.00

Match Source	Secured?	NSCRCD
NSCRCD - existing in-kind	Yes	11,520.00
NSCRCD - new allocation	n/a	0.00
Institute for Historical Ecology	Yes	18,400.00
Total		29,920.00

North Santa Clara RCD	Preliminary Budget	BRIEF narrative description of what is included in budget	Deliverables	TOTAL	Estimated Match	BRIEF narrative description of source of match														
Task 1: Project Management and Grant Administration (CARCD & RCDs)		Grant administration; project management; contract management; Tribal and landowner coordination; stakeholder outreach.	Signed grant contract; executed partnership and subcontractor agreements; coordination with landowners and project partners; progress/final reports and invoices; publish research.			Total expenses in this category of \$23,040.00. \$11,520.00 charged to grant; \$11,520.00 provided as in-kind salary by NSCRCD.														
	\$11,520.00			\$11,520.00	\$11,520.00															
Task 2: Habitat installation and restoration, plant materials, vegetation management, and other oak woodland implementation materials	\$49,800.00	Oak protection and restoration, including vegetation management, site selection and preparation, and native species planting and maintenance and research project implementation; and habitat and grazing management planning; compost spreader equipment purchase.	Implement oak protection, restoration or regeneration practices on 100 acres of working or open spaces lands; research publication outlining new method of oak protection; plans for conservation practice implementation.	\$49,800.00	\$0.00															
Task 3: Monitoring, maintenance, and Reporting	\$7,920.00	Data collection and analysis; staff development; post-activity monitoring and report of planting and protection activities; research site monitoring and reporting.	Enhanced technical assistance available for landowners, monitoring reports; replicable planting techniques; publication of data advancing efforts to protect and regenerate oak woodlands in California.	\$7,920.00	\$0.00															\$0.00
Task 4: CEQA	\$1,000.00	Notice of Exemption (NOE)	NOE	\$1,000.00	\$0.00															\$0.00
Task 5: Technical Assistance	\$34,092.00	NSCRCD staff time to provide technical assistance to private landowners; staff development; staff mileage.	Positive landowner response to offers of technical assistance; improved landowner knowledge of conservation practices related to oak woodland management.	\$34,092.00	\$0.00															\$0.00
Task 6: Consultation - Partners	\$34,900.00	Execute partnership agreements with: LPRCD to provide services within their District (\$6,400 grant); Muwekma Ohlone Tribe for research project implementation and community education (\$20,000 grant); Institute for Historical Ecology for research design, analysis and publication (\$18,400 match); grazing consultation (\$3,500 grant); and landowner for site access (\$5,000 grant).	Expanded collaboration with indigenous tribes in Santa Clara County; resources leveraged effectively between the RCDs and other partners; culturally sensitive oak planting and regeneration activities.	\$34,900.00	\$18,400.00	Institute of Historical Ecology providing in-kind consulting services as match.														\$0.00
Task 7: Outreach and Education	\$34,320.00	NSCRCD staff time and materials to help develop and deliver educational workshops; development of multilingual materials; landowner outreach; and stakeholder outreach.	Three (3) public education workshops; multilingual conservation materials; outreach completed to sixty (60) landowners; nine (9) stakeholder presentations.	\$34,320.00																\$0.00
TOTAL	\$173,552.00			\$173,552.00	\$29,920.00															\$0.00
Indirect Costs @ 10% (if allowed)	\$17,355.20			\$17,355.20																
Total Grant Request	\$190,907.20			\$190,907.20																
PASTE PROJECT DESCRIPTION HERE.		<p>California's Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) areas present unique challenges and opportunities for natural resource conservation due to the interface between natural ecosystems and human development. Oak woodland conservation efforts in WUIs and their rural, non-urban neighboring areas, which typically include small communities, agricultural lands, open spaces, and natural habitats, are of special significance. Oak woodlands support biodiversity, fire resilience, water regulation, and carbon sequestration, all of which play a critical role in watershed protection and reduction of fire risk. North Santa Clara RCD (NSCRCD), in partnership with Loma Prieta RCD (LPRCD), the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe, and the Institute for Historical Ecology, will develop and implement an oak woodland conservation program to promote the protection and restoration of oak woodlands in WUIs and rural, non-urban areas of Santa Clara County. The three-year program will offer landowner technical assistance and multilingual community engagement and education, and include an innovative acorn/seedling protection research project using the fuchsia-flowered gooseberry, a drought-tolerant, thorny shrub native to Santa Clara County.</p> <p>Planning may include, but not be limited to, landowner outreach; stakeholder engagement; educational workshop curriculum and multilingual materials development; research methodology review; site selection; habitat assessment; CEQA and permitting activities (as needed); planting planning; grazing management planning; analysis of existing CALFOP Program Specific Analyses (PSA) to identify potential projects; and staff development and training. Implementation may include, but not be limited to, landowner technical assistance (e.g., oak and habitat protection; integrated weed management; soil health; grazing management); conservation practices implementation; site preparation; acorn and/or seedling planting; research data collection, analysis and publication; and the provision of oak habitat and healthy watershed workshop opportunities in multiple languages for residents living in WUIs and rural, non-urban areas of the County.</p> <p>PLEASE PASTE EXPLANATION/DESCRIPTION OF HOW THIS PROJECT WILL ENGAGE UNDERSERVED, DISADVANTAGED, AND/OR HISTORICALLY MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES HERE. North Santa Clara RCD has successfully implemented its Farm and Ranch Resilience Program for historically underserved farmers and ranchers through a NRCS Cooperative Agreement, and will build on the success of that program to develop technical assistance and community education opportunities to promote oak woodland conservation. A community engagement plan will be developed that includes targeted outreach to the SB 535 disadvantaged communities of East San Jose and Gilroy, which are also located in the WUI, to encourage participation in multilingual educational workshops promoting the importance of oak woodlands in healthy ecosystems. Indigenous tribes, including but not limited to the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe, will work as partners on the project in the development and implementation of research and restoration activities, and development and delivery of educational programming.</p>																		
ADDITIONAL NOTES.																				