



Grant Submission Form

PROCTOR VALLEY VERNAL POOL PROJECT

For Consideration for *TransNet* Environmental Mitigation Program (EMP)
Fiscal Year 2011 Funding for Land Management

Applicant Name: The Chaparral Lands Conservancy

Address: P.O. Box 141 Mount Laguna CA 91948

Name of Property: Proctor Valley City of San Diego Cornerstone Lands

General Location: Proctor Valley

Jurisdiction: County of San Diego

Total Acres: _____

Estimated Acres Requiring
Management: 6

Owner(s) of Property: City of San Diego Department of Public Utilities

Land manager(s) of property (include name(s)), years of experience managing habitat lands, existing land management responsibilities, and references):

Property is owned by City of San Diego Department of Public Utilities. The *Proctor Valley Vernal Pool Project* would be carried out by The Chaparral Lands Conservancy with AECOM consultants. The Conservancy has existed for 2.5 years and Conservancy staff have approximately 20 years of experience in habitat and endangered species conservation and management.

Application is proposed for consideration under the following eligible activity area (pick only one):

- Invasive Control and Habitat Restoration
- Species-Specific Management
- Habitat Maintenance, Access Control/Management, and Volunteer Coordination

Brief Project Summary (200-word maximum)

The Proctor Valley Vernal Pool Project would restore and enhance, 6 acres of vernal pools and sensitive upland watershed vegetation in a San Diego MSCP biological core area. Six endangered species would directly benefit through incorporation into restoration activities. Other MSCP covered and/or sensitive vernal pool species would be incorporated into restoration or would otherwise directly benefit from improved habitat. Proposed work would also directly incorporate and benefit 7 other MSCP covered plant species in restoration and enhancement of adjacent upland watershed vegetation. Extensive public participation would help implement habitat restoration and would significantly improve public awareness of these resources.

Quantify Expected Results (add bullets as necessary)

- Restore and enhance 6 acres of vernal pools, watersheds, and dependent sensitive species
- Increase populations of 6 endangered vernal pool animal and plant species - Riverside fairy shrimp, San Diego fairy shrimp, Orcutt's grass, Otay Mesa mint, San Diego button-celery, and Spreading navarretia.
- Increase populations or otherwise benefit other MSCP covered or sensitive vernal pool species - Two-striped garter snake, Western spadefoot toad, little mousetail, and toothed calico flower.
- Increase populations of 7 other MSCP covered plant species as part of restoration and enhancement of adjacent upland watershed vegetation.
- Install supplemental perimeter fencing and signs
- Install one vernal pool interpretive site kiosk and closure signs
- Organize 120 volunteer hours to assist with non-technical habitat restoration activities, to construct fencing, and to install interpretive kiosk and closure signs

Funding Needs Summary

Budget Item	Requested Funding Amount	Proposed Matching Funds*	Description
Personnel Expenses Staff	\$ 43,095	\$ 18,516	Includes staff time for non-administrative work on the project
Personnel Administrative Expenses	\$ 7,605	\$ 0	Includes all staff time to administer the contract
Consultant Expenses	\$232,000	\$111,780	Includes all costs for consultant services
Other Direct Expenses	\$ 5,360	\$ 0	Includes all equipment, supplies, millage, etc....
Indirect Costs	\$ 9,810	\$ 0	All indirect charges (e.g., overhead) on the project, if any.

2. Are there matching funds available? If yes, how are the matching funds assured (100-word maximum)?

Yes No

Matching cash funds have been approved by the board of the San Diego Foundation. Previous funding from the San Diego Foundation and Center for Biological Diversity has been expended to prepare a comprehensive pending Proctor Valley Vernal Pool Management Plan and cultural resource surveys of identified intensive vernal pool restoration sites. This past funding is considered a match because the *Proctor Valley Vernal Pool Project* could not be implemented without the detailed plans for this proposed work contained in the management plan. Volunteer hours quantified as a match are assured by volunteer work commitments in this proposal.

PROJECT PROPOSAL

A. Project Purpose

1. What eligible management activities will be done on the property and why?

The *Proctor Valley Vernal Pool Project* is an eligible management activity under the TransNet EMP category 1 – *Invasive Control and Habitat Restoration*. The project would restore, enhance, and expand 6 acres of vernal pools and other sensitive upland watershed vegetation on the "ORV Staging Area Site A" that has been severely degraded by past off-road vehicle activity. The project is located in a San Diego Multiple Species Conservation Plan (MSCP) biological core area on preserved "cornerstone lands" owned by the City of San Diego Public Utilities Department. The project would compliment and build on significant recent conservation investments in Proctor Valley including several miles of new vehicle barriers and a pending comprehensive technical Vernal Pool Management Plan¹ for the entire valley.

Six state and federal endangered species would directly benefit from the project through incorporation into restoration activities – Riverside fairy shrimp, San Diego fairy shrimp, Orcutt's grass, Otay Mesa mint, San Diego button-celery, and Spreading navarretia. Several other MSCP covered and/or sensitive vernal pool species would be incorporated into restoration or would otherwise directly benefit from improved habitat – Two-striped garter snake, Western spadefoot toad, little mousetail, and toothed calico flower. Proposed work would also directly incorporate and benefit 7 other MSCP covered plant species in restoration and enhancement of adjacent upland watershed vegetation – Munz's sage, Dunn's mariposa lily, Orcutt's brodiaea, Palmer's ericameria, San Diego barrel cactus, Variegated dudleya, San Diego goldenstar. Restored upland vegetation would be primarily coastal sage scrub and native grasslands.

Restoration activities would incorporate specific measures to benefit several other particular endangered / MSCP covered animal species that are expected to subsequently colonize the area – Burrowing owl, California gnatcatcher, San Diego cactus wren, and Quino checkerspot butterfly. Extensive public participation would contribute to non-technical habitat restoration and enhancement activities and significantly improve public awareness of these resources.

2. What is the biological significance of the property for endangered or covered species, sensitive habitats, core habitat areas, wildlife linkages, and/or regional habitat conservation planning?

Proctor Valley is a critically important "biological core area" under the San Diego MSCP that supports several sensitive habitats (e.g. coastal sage scrub, native grasslands, non-native grasslands, riparian scrub, vernal pools), over 20 MSCP covered species, and many other sensitive species. The majority of Proctor Valley is now preserved by several agencies: The City of San Diego Public Utilities Department manages its cornerstone lands in accordance with the

¹ Final plan expected in summer 2011.

City of San Diego MSCP Subarea Plan, the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) manages the Rancho Jamul Ecological Reserve, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service manages the San Diego National Wildlife Refuge. The hard line preserve on the limited remaining private Otay Ranch property in Proctor Valley will eventually be managed by one of these resource agencies. (Please see attached map.)

3. Does the site suffer from natural, human, or domestic animal disturbance (e.g., off-road vehicle use, uncontrolled access, unauthorized grazing, fire, flooding, erosion, exotic species invasion, and/or feral cats)?

The *Proctor Valley Vernal Pool Project* would take place at a site that has been secured from the primary former threat of ORV activities. However, the site is severely degraded from past use as an ORV staging area. Overall, Proctor Valley still suffers from some ORV use and trash dumping, though conditions have radically improved in recent years. Vehicle barriers constructed recently on City of San Diego cornerstone lands have significantly reduced these harmful activities. Contiguous vehicle barriers now under construction on CDFG's Rancho Jamul Ecological Reserve are expected to further improve conditions. A separate TransNet EMP proposal by The Chaparral Lands Conservancy – *Missing Links Proctor Valley Vehicle Barriers* – would close remaining gaps in the on private Otay Ranch property.

4. Is immediate action needed to address a problem to prevent the site from degrading further? Would the further degradation potentially affect covered species? N/A
5. Does the proposal use efficient and proven methods and/or strategies to address the land management needs that would result in a high likelihood of success and reduce future land management costs (e.g., control of small outbreak of aggressive exotic species, fencing to prevent damage to rare plant populations)?

Highly qualified experts at AECOM consultants would implement the proposed *Proctor Valley Vernal Pool Project* using efficient and proven methods. Project work would apply practiced habitat and species population restoration methods. The project would also include significant public education and participation and greatly increase the visibility of conservation work in an area that was only very recently subject to a virtual free-for-all of harmful activities. The combined effects of proposed work are highly likely to successfully improve the status of vernal pools, sensitive upland habitats, and imperiled species as well as limit future harm and land and resource management costs.

6. Does the proposal implement a strategic approach which covers large geographic areas (e.g., watershed or subwatershed extent) involving multiple partners and providing multiple benefits (e.g., part of a larger coordinated effort that is high economy-of-scale)?

The *Proctor Valley Vernal Pool Project* would be strategic all out of proportion to its relatively small size. The project would compliment and build on various agencies' significant recent conservation investments in Proctor Valley including multiple preserve land purchases and miles of new vehicle barriers (please see attached map). A pending Proctor Valley Vernal Pool Management Plan prepared by The Chaparral Lands Conservancy prescribes comprehensive management activities across property lines and provides detailed plans for

restoration of specific degraded vernal pool sites. The site selected for this *Proctor Valley Vernal Pool Project* is considered the first priority for intensive vernal pool restoration out of several possible sites identified in the management plan.

The project is also strategic considering the large number of beneficiary species relative to the relatively project site. Vernal pools support dense concentrations of sensitive species so even a small restoration project provides a significant conservation benefit. Proctor Valley is also occupied nearby by several very rare and endangered species that are expected to colonize habitat that is restored specifically for their benefit: The project would incorporate construction of burrows for Burrowing owls, Coastal sage scrub will be planted for California gnatcatchers, Cactus will be planted for San Diego cactus wrens, host plants planted for Quino checkerspot butterflies, etc.

7. How would the project result in measurable biological success to implement the Natural Communities Conservation Program regional preserve system? What measurable results would be used to determine success of the project?

The *Proctor Valley Vernal Pool Project* would produce measurable biological success and results to improve the NCCP regional preserve system as described in the response to #1 above. Proposed work would effectively implement MSCP conditions of coverage for several vernal pool and upland species "...to protect against detrimental edge effects to [these] species."

8. How would the project involve public outreach/public participation to identify the land management activities being funded and promote awareness of grant-funded project?

The proposed project would include installation of 1 highly visible vernal pool interpretive kiosk on Proctor Valley Road. At least 34,560 drivers per year are expected to see this new sign.² This number does not include equestrians, bicyclists, and runners who routinely visit the valley. Restoration activities would also be highly visible from Proctor Valley Road and convey the strong impression to passerby that the site is undergoing purposeful conservation management.

The project would also include multiple educational work parties as the primary means of installing proposed fencing and conducting non-technical habitat restoration activities. Work parties will provide an excellent opportunity for both educational outreach and sweat equity. These events would be heavily publicized in neighborhoods and schools among other community venues located near the project site to instill a sense of protective "ownership" in Proctor Valley by nearby residents who are most likely to regularly visit the area. Work parties would include short nature walks and provide participants with a conservation perspective and context for restoration activities and fencing.

² Calculation estimates 96 passing drivers over 12 hours per day 360 days per year.

B. Scope of Work by Task

The *Proctor Valley Vernal Pool Project* is an eligible management activity under the TransNet EMP category 1 – *Invasive Control and Habitat Restoration*.

1. Proctor Valley Vernal Pool Management Plan – AECOM consultants are nearing completion of the comprehensive management plan including technical details for restoration and enhancement of the proposed project site. AECOM has conducted a cultural resource site records search and field surveys for several Proctor Valley intensive vernal pool restoration sites and no cultural resources have been identified at the proposed project site or other sites.
2. Permitting – Work under the *Proctor Valley Vernal Pool Project* would include required compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and obtaining a right-of-entry permit. The level of CEQA review is expected to be a Negative Declaration consistent with similar projects and based on conclusions of the cultural resources report. A staff project manager with The Chaparral Lands Conservancy would arrange CEQA compliance. Consultants would be responsible for securing required state and federal endangered species permits.
3. Vernal Pool Work – Proposed work would significantly increase the extent of quality vernal pool habitat by restoring this 6 acre site. Six state and federal endangered species would directly benefit from the project through incorporation into restoration activities. Work would also directly incorporate and benefit 7 other MSCP covered plant species in restoration of adjacent upland watershed vegetation. AECOM consultants would conduct technical habitat and species restoration and enhancement activities under contract to The Chaparral Lands Conservancy. A staff project manager with the Conservancy would oversee consultant activities and organize 360 hours of volunteer work to implement non-technical habitat restoration activities, construct fencing, and install signs.
4. Public Outreach – One highly visible vernal pool educational kiosk would be installed at the site on Proctor Valley Road. A staff project manager with The Chaparral Lands Conservancy would arrange this activity.
5. Quarterly and Final Grant Reporting – A project manager with The Chaparral Lands Conservancy would prepare and submit quarterly and final reports on the *Proctor Valley Vernal Pool Project*.

C. Budget by Task

Please see attached budget.

D. Project Schedule

Task # and Name	Proposed Start Date	Proposed End Date
Permitting	01/01/12	09/30/12
1st Quarterly Report	03/01/12	03/31/12
Seed Collection / Propagation / Topography Reconstruction / Planting / Seeding / Watering / Weed Control / Monitoring / Reporting	06/01/12	05/31/15
2nd Quarterly Report	06/01/12	06/30/12
3rd Quarterly Report	09/01/12	09/30/12
Volunteer Work Parties for Fencing, Kiosk, Signs & Non-Technical Habitat Restoration	10/01/12	01/31/13
4th Quarterly Report	12/01/12	12/31/12
1st Quarterly Report	03/01/13	03/31/13
2nd Quarterly Report	06/01/13	06/30/13
3rd Quarterly Report	09/01/13	09/30/13
Volunteer Work Parties for Non- Technical Habitat Restoration	11/1/13	03/31/14
4th Quarterly Report	12/01/13	12/31/13
1st Quarterly Report	03/01/14	03/31/14
2nd Quarterly Report	06/01/14	06/30/14
3rd Quarterly Report	09/01/14	09/30/14
Volunteer Work Parties for Non- Technical Habitat Restoration	11/1/14	03/31/15
4th Quarterly Report	12/01/14	12/31/14
1st Quarterly Report	03/01/15	03/31/15
2nd Quarterly Report	6/01/15	06/30/15
Final Report	09/1/15	09/30/15

NOTICE REGARDING PREVAILING WAGES

SANDAG's EMP Land Management Grants are funded with TransNet revenues consistent with the TransNet Extension Ordinance adopted by the voters in November 2004, (SANDAG Ordinance 04-01). Although SANDAG Ordinance 04-01 does not require payment of prevailing wages, a recent appellate court case (Asuza Land Partners v. Department of Industrial Relations 191 Cal. App. 4th 1 (2010)), may require that TransNet-funded public works projects pay prevailing wages to workers. The Asuza case held, in part, that all construction of public improvements required as a condition of regulatory approval is subject to prevailing wage law, including public infrastructure constructed at private expense. Before submitting a grant application to SANDAG, applicants are strongly encouraged to seek advice from an attorney regarding whether the Asuza case will subject the proposed grant project to prevailing wage laws consistent with Labor Code Section 1720 et seq. If awarded an EMP Land Management Grant, the grant agreement between SANDAG and the grantee requires grantee's compliance with all federal, state and local laws and ordinances applicable to the agreement.

REQUIRED STATEMENTS FROM GRANTEE

- Yes No The proposed grantee has read the standardized agreement.
- Yes No If the SANDAG Board of Directors approves the grant, the proposed grantee agrees to sign and return the standardized agreement to SANDAG, without exceptions, within 45 days of receipt.
- Yes No The proposed grantee agrees to comply with SANDAG's Board Policy 035 "Competitive Grant Program Procedures," which outlines "use-it-or-lose-it" project milestone and completion deadlines. Board Policy 035 is included in the standardized agreement, and is also on SANDAG's website at the following link: http://www.sandag.org/organization/about/pubs/policy_035.pdf
- Yes No The proposed grantee understands that that 10% of all invoices will be retained until the completion of the project.
- Yes No The proposed grantee understands that that all invoices must be accompanied by written support of the charges for both requested reimbursement of grant funds and matching funds.
- Yes No The proposed grantee understands that approval of funding by the SANDAG Board of Directors, the applicant will provide a copy of their approved indirect rate audit or their proposed methodology to SANDAG for review and approval which must occur prior to the execution of the grant agreement.
- Yes No The proposed grantee understands that a resolution including the requirements of Board Policy 035, Section 4.1, must be submitted to SANDAG at least two weeks prior to the recommendation by the Regional Planning Committee of the list of grant projects to be considered eligible. SANDAG will provide applicants with advance notice of the Regional Planning Committee's anticipated meeting date.

I have the authorization to submit this grant on behalf of my organization

David Hogan, Director

Grantee Name/Title (print or type)



6/13/11

Grantee Signature

Date

C. BUDGET BY TASK
PROCTOR VALLEY VERNAL POOL PROJECT

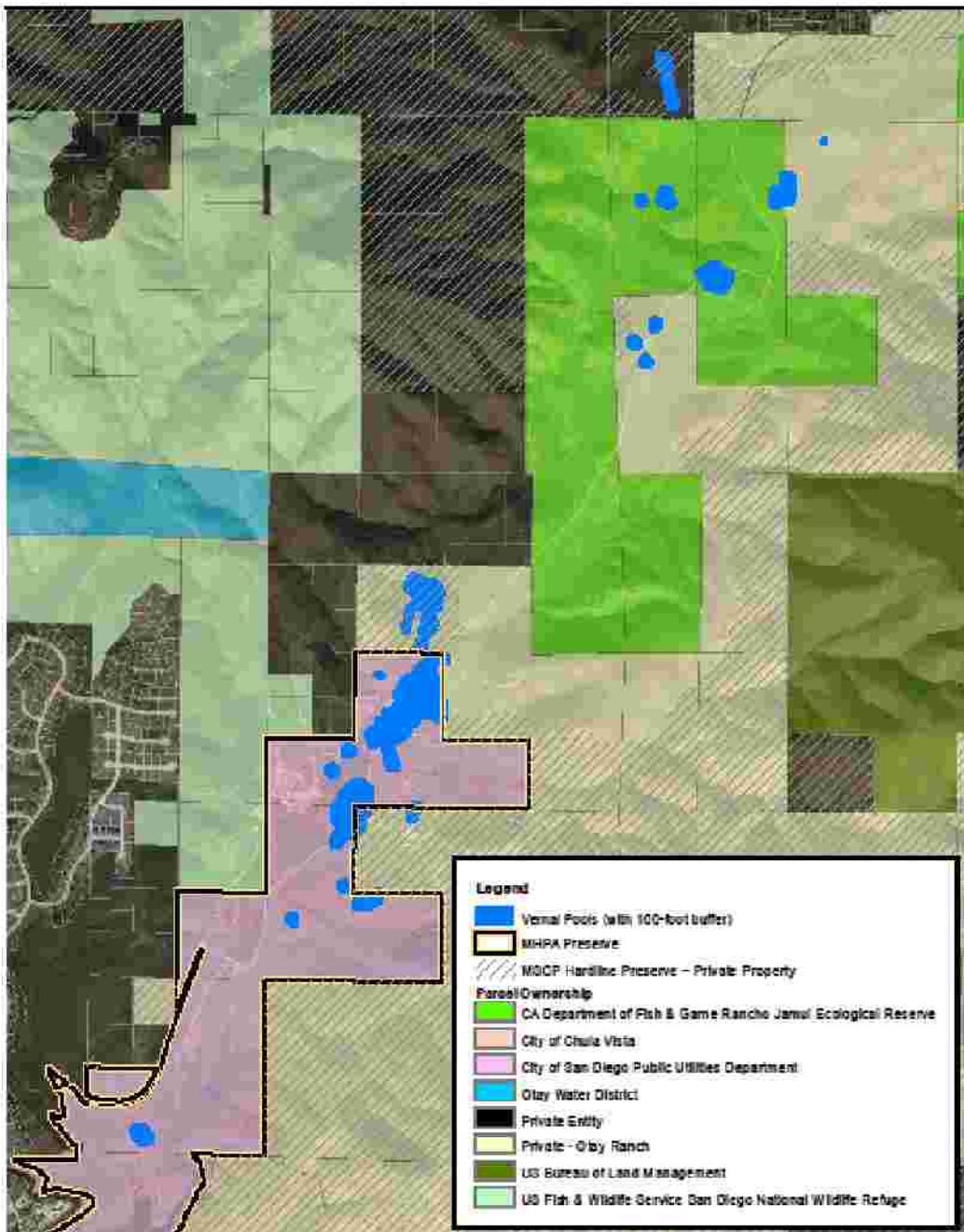
TASK & NAME	TOTAL PROJECT COST	GRANT REQUEST	TOTAL MATCH	YEAR 1 GRANT REQUEST	YEAR 1 MATCH	YEAR 2 GRANT REQUEST	YEAR 2 MATCH	YEAR 3 GRANT REQUEST	YEAR 3 MATCH
Proctor Valley Vernal Pool Management Plan									
Consultants	\$ 48,880	\$ -	\$ 48,880	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Cultural Resource Survey & Report	\$ 12,900	\$ -	\$ 12,900	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Conservancy Project Manager	\$ 10,085	\$ -	\$ 10,085	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Subtotal	\$ 71,865	\$ -	\$ 71,865	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Permitting									
Conservancy Project Manager	\$ 3,026	\$ 3,026	\$ -	\$ 3,026	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Subtotal	\$ 3,026	\$ 3,026	\$ -	\$ 3,026	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Vernal Pool Work									
Consultants									
Seed Collection / Propagation / Topography Reconstruction / Planting / Seeding / Watering / Weed Control / Monitoring / Reporting	\$ 282,000	\$ 232,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 104,593	\$ 16,667	\$ 67,933	\$ 16,667	\$ 59,474	\$ 16,667
Fencing Materials	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Non-Technical Vernal Pool Work & Fencing & Signing Volunteer Labor	\$ 8,431	\$ -	\$ 8,431	\$ -	\$ 2,810	\$ -	\$ 2,810	\$ -	\$ 2,810
Conservancy Project Manager	\$ 48,409	\$ 48,409	\$ -	\$ 18,153	\$ -	\$ 15,128	\$ -	\$ 15,128	\$ -
Travel	\$ 3,360	\$ 3,360	\$ -	\$ 1,260	\$ -	\$ 1,050	\$ -	\$ 1,050	\$ -
Subtotal	\$ 343,200	\$ 284,769	\$ 58,431	\$ 125,006	\$ 19,477	\$ 84,111	\$ 19,477	\$ 75,652	\$ 19,477
Public Outreach & Education									
Interpretive Kiosk & Closure Signs	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Subtotal	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Quarterly & Final Grant Reporting									
Conservancy Project Manager	\$ 9,078	\$ 9,078	\$ -	\$ 3,026	\$ -	\$ 3,026	\$ -	\$ 3,026	\$ -
Subtotal	\$ 9,078	\$ 9,078	\$ -	\$ 3,026	\$ -	\$ 3,026	\$ -	\$ 3,026	\$ -
TOTAL	\$ 428,169	\$ 297,873	\$ 130,296	\$ 132,058	\$ 19,477	\$ 87,137	\$ 19,477	\$ 78,678	\$ 19,477

1. Proctor Valley Vernal Pool Management Plan was prepared previously but is considered as a match because the proposed project could not be conducted without the plan.

2. Non-technical vernal pool work and fencing and signing volunteer labor is 360 hours - (12) 3-hour work events attended by 10 people each)

3. Volunteer hours are calculated at \$23.42 California rate from Independent Sector website: http://www.independentsector.org/volunteer_time#bottom

4. Alternative reduced budget could eliminate volunteer work and with corresponding Conservancy project manager position reduction from \$48,409 to \$15,129 and corresponding reduction of travel from \$3,360 to \$1,050



Source: DigitalGlobe 2008, SanGIS 2010, City of San Diego 2003, 2011

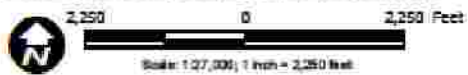


Figure 4
Conserved Lands and Vernal Pools in Proctor Valley

Proctor Valley Vernal Pool Management Plan

Path: P:\2009\0600\192 Canal Mountain.dwg (DWG) Layout\Figures\Proctor_Valley\Fig_4_Conserved_Lands.mxd 4/18/11, Angelica

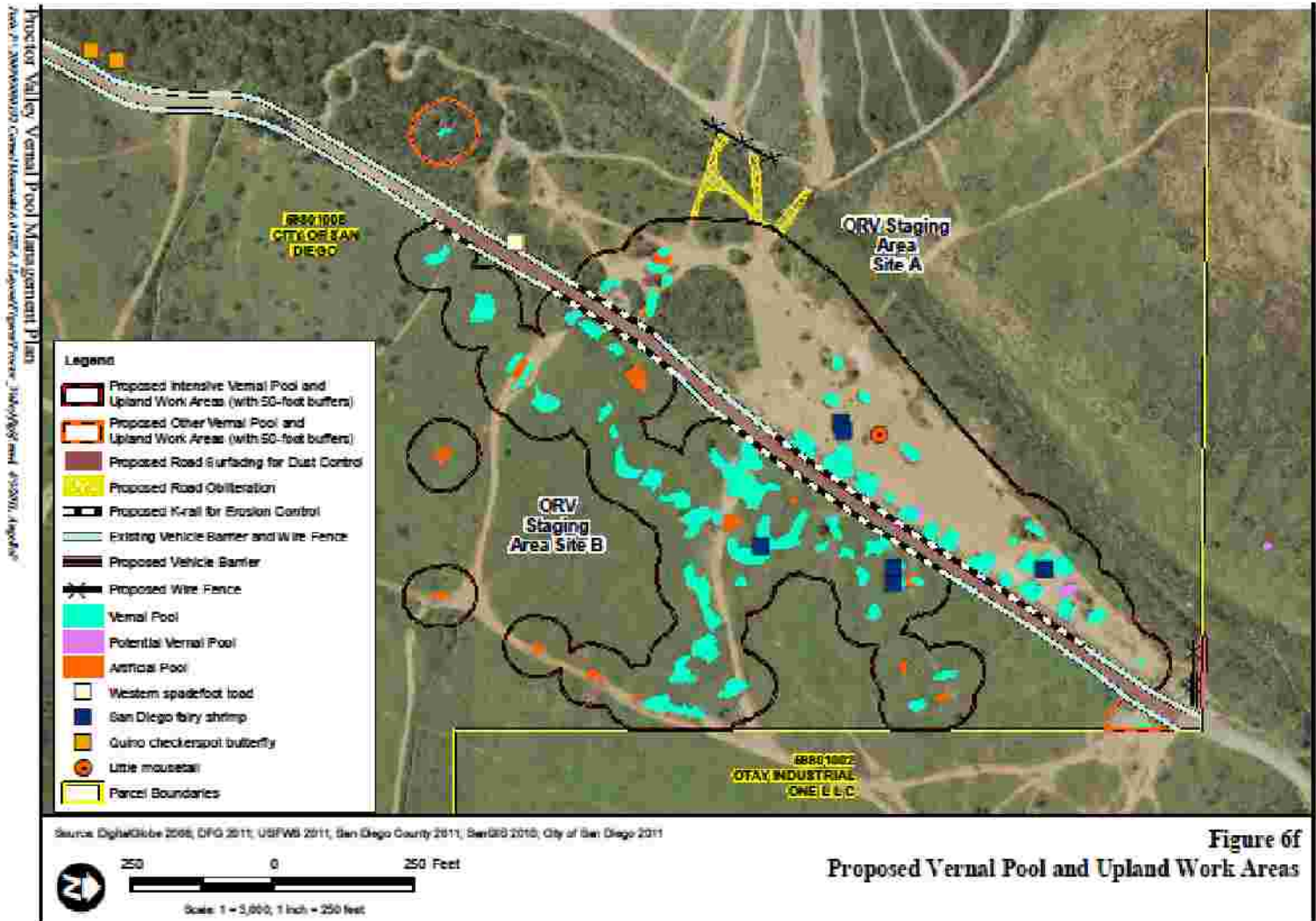


Figure 6f
Proposed Vernal Pool and Upland Work Areas



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

February 5, 2010

Mr. David Hogan, Director
The Chaparral Lands Conservancy
P.O. Box 144
Mount Laguna, CA 91948

Reference: Support for Proctor Valley Vernal Pool Restoration Project

Dear Mr. Hogan:

The purpose of this letter is to confirm the interest and support of The City of San Diego's Public Utilities Department and Multiple Species Conservation Program in a collaborative effort to achieve the goals of The Chaparral Lands Conservancy's proposed Proctor Valley Vernal Pool Restoration Project on property owned by the Public Utilities Department.

Based on our communications, we understand that the primary intended purpose of the Proctor Valley project would be to improve degraded ecological conditions for one of California's most ecosystems, vernal pools and their dependent sensitive species such as the San Diego fairy shrimp, Western spadefoot toad, San Diego burrowing skink, Spreading ray-tailed, and others. The project would include upland habitat restoration activities in vernal pool watersheds which in turn would incorporate and benefit numerous other sensitive plants and animals including many "covered" species under the San Diego Multiple Species Conservation Plan. Upland habitat restoration would also improve watershed conditions by reducing erosion into the Olay reservoirs. The project would include measures such as fencing, signage, unauthorized trail restoration, onsite stewards, nature walks and other stewardship activities to provide public education and help ensure the long-term success of project activities. We also understand that the project would, over time and with full funding, effectively implement intended vernal pool resource management activities identified in the City's MSCP Subarea Plan.

We anticipate that the Conservancy would undertake Proctor Valley project activities in the following manner, all in full coordination with and, where applicable, approval of the Public Utilities Department:

- Lead on grant solicitation
- Contract with qualified experts to prepare technical plans, prepare environmental/regulatory documents, and implement restoration activities



Public Utilities Department
1000 La Jolla Village Drive • San Diego, CA 92161
619-594-7200 • 619-594-3333

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- Lead on securing approval from applicable regulatory agencies (e.g. state and federal endangered species act permits, state streambed alteration permits, 401 certification, etc.)
- Lead on public outreach and education on restoration activities
- Assist with long-term maintenance of restored areas

We understand that you will be pursuing grant funding for an initial phase of the Proctor Valley project this year from The San Diego Foundation and other sources - preparation of a detailed plan for vernal pool restoration and enhancement. The utilities department supports the proposed project activities and, in the event of your successful fundraising, looks forward to collaborating closely with you to prepare a right-of-entry permit, finalize the specific details of proposed project activities, and see the project through to completion.

We look forward to working with you and The Chaparral Lands Conservancy on this important project. Please contact Niki McGinnis, 619-593-4101 or Jeanne Krosch, 619-594-7225 to coordinate implementation of the Proctor Valley project or if there is any way we may assist in bringing this project to fruition.

Sincerely,

Mari Meier
Deputy Director
Long Range Planning & Water Resources
Public Utilities

Cathy Winterrowd
Program Manager
Multiple Species Conservation Program
City Planning & Community Investment