

Project Title: Sacramento Valley Conservancy—Deer Creek/Cosumnes Watershed and/or N. Laguna Creek Watershed Land Acquisition & Conservation Easements, including riparian protection and/or restoration

Geographic Area of Interest: Central Valley Region, Upper Cosumnes Watershed

Name of responsible entity: Sacramento Valley Conservancy

Organization Description and Background:

Sacramento Valley Conservancy (SVC) has protected almost 10,000 acres of land for habitat, recreational, scenic and agricultural purposes in the Sacramento region since 1990. SVC is a private 501c3 nonprofit land trust that works only with willing sellers to both acquire and manage property for open space purposes. See www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org for more information and for SVC's 21st Century Open Space Vision for Sacramento under "What We Do".

Estimated cost of project completion: \$2,138,500 (any contribution up to this amount would help purchase and protect a part of the property)

Contact information:

Name: Aimee Rutledge, Executive Director
Organization: Sacramento Valley Conservancy
Address: P.O. Box 163351; Sacramento, CA 95816
Phone: 916/492-0908
Email: arutledge@sacramentovalleyconservancy.org

Brief Description of Project:

The Sacramento Valley Conservancy is the steward of the 4000-acre Deer Creek Hills Oak Woodland Preserve. The Deer Creek Hills Preserve provides an important link to the efforts of The Nature Conservancy and partners at the Cosumnes River Preserve and the efforts of the American River Conservancy in El Dorado County to preserve the upper Cosumnes River Watershed. This project would add 475 acres (via fee title purchase) to the Deer Creek Hills Preserve and would connect the Preserve to a significant portion of Deer Creek, as well as enhancing riparian vegetation along Deer Creek and controlling grazing access to Deer Creek.

- (a) None of the above projects are independently required of any discharger or proposed as mitigation to offset the impacts of a discharger's projects.
- (b) See below.

Water Bodies and Beneficial Uses addressed by this project:

Deer and Crevis Creek (Cosumnes River Watershed)

Beneficial Uses:

- Water quality enhancement through preservation of land adjacent to and surrounding Deer Creek and Crevis Creek, and appropriate best management practices, including habitat and stream restoration, along various riparian corridors in blue oak woodlands and vernal pool wetland areas in the Central Valley Region, specifically in Eastern and Southern Sacramento County.
- Storm water run-off management through preservation of wetlands, creek floodplain areas and related drainages in the Cosumnes river watershed.
- Recharge of groundwater aquifers through preservation of wetlands, creek floodplain areas and related drainages in the Cosumnes river watershed.

Pollutants:

- Residential pesticides in storm water runoff from upstream development in El Dorado County and iron.
- Deer Creek is fed upstream by Cameron Park water reclamation/treatment plant and helps to provide additional natural cleansing of treated water.

(c) This SEP will not directly benefit the SWRCB or the RWQCB functions or staff.

(d) See attached Excel spreadsheets.

(e) Mother Lode Land Trust (MLLT) will provide 3rd party oversight, for a total of \$10,000.

(f) SEP funding is additive to and not duplicative of any other potential matching funding sources listed on this project.

Public Support for project:

Agencies and organizations supporting the protection of land for the Deer Creek Hills Preserve include:

Letters/Resolutions of Support Available:

- The Nature Conservancy, Cosumnes-Delta Project
- The California Rangeland Trust
- County of Sacramento, Planning Department
- Sacramento Open Space
- Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates
- Sacramento Local Conservation Corps
- Rancho Murieta Association

- League of Women Voters
- Environmental Council of Sacramento
- Sacramento Area Council of Governments
- Sacramento Archeological Society
- U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer
- City of Folsom

Select Fund Committee for Deer Creek Hills:

- Roger Niello, Co-Chair (former Sacramento County Supervisor)
- Illa Collin, Co-Chair (former Sacramento County Supervisor)
- Robert Matsui, former US Congressman
- Deborah Ortiz, State Senator
- Darrell Steinberg, State Senator
- Heather Fargo, former Mayor of Sacramento
- Steve Cohn, Councilmember, Sacramento
- Dave Jones, Councilmember, Sacramento
- Sandy Sheedy, Councilmember, Sacramento
- Ray Tretheway, Councilmember, Sacramento
- Jimmie Yee, former Councilmember, Sacramento

Funding Partners:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| • Soderquist Fund, Sac Regional Foundation | • California Native Plant Society |
| • Wildlife Conservation Board | • County of Sacramento |
| • US Fish & Wildlife Service Agency | • US Environmental Protection |
| • David & Lucile Packard Foundation | • Trust for Public Land |
| • US Bureau of Reclamation | • A. Teichert & Son, Inc |
| (Central Valley Project Conservation Program) | • Sacramento Audubon Society |
| • CA State Resources Agency/Caltrans (EEMP) | • City of Folsom |

CEQA Requirements:

Exemption for open space land acquisition.

Long-Term Monitoring:

The fee owner (Sacramento Valley Conservancy) will visit and monitor the site not less than quarterly. In addition, the restoration area will be monitored for the baseline conditions and then for vegetation success in years one and three after the plantings, and the water quality will be tested in Deer Creek prior to the plantings for a baseline condition, and in year three after the plantings.