

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

Geographic Area of Interest: Central Valley Region, Sacramento River 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: \$2,590,000 (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:

This project will add 158 acres (via conservation fee title purchase and by the recording of a conservation easement) to the Sacramento Prairie Vernal Pool Preserve, along N. Laguna Creek, and enhance vegetation along the creek, as appropriate. The Sacramento Prairie Vernal Pool Preserve contains over 2,000-acres of protected vernal pools and seasonal creeks. SVC's total planning area for this preserve, includes 4,000 acres.

- (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:

N. Laguna Creek (Sacramento River Watershed)

Beneficial Uses:

- Water quality enhancement through preservation of land adjacent to and surrounding N. Laguna Creek, and appropriate best management practices,

including habitat and stream restoration, along various riparian corridors in vernal pool wetland areas in the Central Valley Region, specifically in Southeastern Sacramento County.

- Storm water run-off management through preservation of wetlands, creek floodplain areas and related drainages in the Sacramento River watershed.
- Recharge of groundwater aquifers through preservation of wetlands, creek floodplain areas and related drainages in the Sacramento River watershed.
- Better protection of downstream drinking water in the California Delta.

Pollutants:

- Residential pesticides and sediment in storm water runoff from upstream development in Sacramento County and the City of Rancho Cordova.
- Laguna Creek is fed upstream by urban and other runoff water (including a gravel mine) 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 protection of land in the Sacramento Prairie Vernal Pool Preserve area include:

County of Sacramento
US Fish and Wildlife Service
The Trust for Public Land
US Environmental Protection Agency
Wildlife Conservation Board, California Department of Fish & Game
Honorable Darrell Steinberg, Member of the Senate
Honorable Deborah Ortiz, Member of the Senate
Great Valley Center
The David & Lucile Packard Foundation
State Water Resources Control Board

US Bureau of Reclamation
California Department of Transportation
Private Mitigation Bankers

CEQA Requirements:

Exemption for open space land acquisition.

Long-Term Monitoring:

Both the easement holder (annually) and the fee owner (not less than quarterly) will visit and monitor the site. In addition, the site will be monitored for vernal pool vegetation and water quality and invertebrate habitat once every year.