

**Pajaro River Watershed Integrated Regional Water Management Plan Update
Project Solicitation Form**

PROJECT OVERVIEW

General Project Information

Project Title:	Lower Llagas Creek Capacity Restoration Project
Project Location:	City of Gilroy, County of Santa Clara
Estimated Cost:	\$15,000,000 (2012 Preliminary Estimate)

Brief Project Description (1 to 2 sentences):

The Lower Llagas Creek Capacity Restoration Project (Project) was initiated to address the reduced capacity of 3.35 miles of Llagas Creek from its confluence with Pajaro River to Highway 152 in Gilroy, CA. The Lower Llagas Creek Project was constructed by National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in reaches from 1973 to 1986 from its confluence with the Pajaro River upstream to Buena Vista Avenue with the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) as a Project partner. If the reduction of channel capacity is not addressed, the surrounding area (including the South County Regional Wastewater Authority percolation ponds) will continue to be at a higher risk of flooding.

Project Proponent Information

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Other participating agencies/organizations (if applicable):

National Resources Conservation Service, Santa Clara Valley Water District

DETAILED PROJECT INFORMATION

Description

Please provide a description of your project (including the location) and its purpose, what will be constructed and/or implemented, how the project will function, the area(s) and/or entities that will be affected by or will benefit from the project, and any potential obstacles to implementation.

The Lower Llagas Creek Capacity Restoration Project (Project) was initiated to address the reduced capacity of 3.35 miles of Llagas Creek from its confluence with Pajaro River to Highway 152 in Gilroy, CA. The Llagas Creek Watershed Project, authorized by Congress in 1969 under Public Law 83-566 (PL-566), was constructed by National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in reaches from 1973 to 1986 from its confluence with the Pajaro River upstream to Buena Vista Avenue with the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) as a Project partner. The remaining 12.5 miles of channel improvements upstream of Buena Vista Avenue (Upper Llagas Creek) was never constructed due to lack of funding. As one of the local project sponsors, the SCVWD made a commitment to perform regular channel maintenance on the completed Lower Llagas Creek Project. However, the documented presence of the Least Bell's Vireo, listed as an endangered species by both the State and Federal governments, halted

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maintenance work in the creek in 1998. Vegetation growth in the channel has thrived, reducing the flood conveyance capacity, which affects the adjacent landowners. If the reduction of channel capacity is not addressed, the surrounding area (including the South County Regional Wastewater Authority percolation ponds) will continue to be at a higher risk of flooding.

Technical Feasibility

Discuss the technical feasibility of the project. If possible, cite references that contain information about the proposed project and detail the technical feasibility of the project.

Currently, the Project is in the Planning stage. Final preparation of Planning Study Report is underway and expected to be complete in December 2012. Since the Project was completed in the mid-1980's by the NRCS, this Capacity Restoration Project will likely require additional right of way with the construction of an environmentally friendly bypass floodplain alternative which will avoid significant in-channel maintenance work. The Project occurs within the historic Soap Lake Floodplain and proposes to purchase the necessary rights of way with other agencies to preserve this historic floodplain. Technically, there are not a lot of issues to overcome, but rather to determine how to restore channel capacity while taking an integrated approach to preserve the Soap Lake Floodplain. SCVWD anticipates moving this Project into the design and EIS/EIR process in 2013, if Project funding is available. For additional information, please see <http://www.valleywater.org/Services/LowerLlagasCreekCapacityRestorationProject.aspx>

Pajaro River Watershed IRWM Regional Goals & Objectives

Put an X next to any goal that the proposed project will achieve.

Water Supply

<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Meet 100% of M&I and agriculture demands (both current and future conditions) in wet to dry years including the first year of a drought.
<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Meet 85% M&I and 75% agriculture demands (both current and future conditions) in second and subsequent years of a drought.
<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Identify and address water supply needs of disadvantaged communities in the Pajaro River Watershed.
<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Implement water conservation programs to reduce M&I and agricultural water use consistent with SBx7-7 and CVPIA.
<input type="checkbox"/>	5. Maximize the use of recycled water during the irrigation season and expand other uses of recycled water.
<input type="checkbox"/>	6. Optimize the use of groundwater and aquifer storage.
<input type="checkbox"/>	7. Maximize conjunctive use opportunities including interagency conjunctive use.
<input type="checkbox"/>	8. Optimize and sustain the use of existing import surface water entitlements from the San Felipe Unit.
<input type="checkbox"/>	9. Maximize the beneficial use of existing local water supplies while protecting existing surface water rights.

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Water Quality

X	1. Meet or exceed all applicable groundwater, surface water, wastewater, and recycled water quality regulatory standards.
	2. Identify and address the drinking water quality of disadvantaged communities in the Pajaro River Watershed.
	3. Protect groundwater resources from contamination including salts and nutrients.
x	4. Address impacts from surface water runoff through implementation of Best Management Practices or other surface water management strategies.
	5. Meet or exceed delivered water quality targets established by recycled water users.

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Flood Protection

x	1. Implement flood management strategies throughout the watershed that provide multiple benefits.
0	2. Reach consensus on the Pajaro River Risk Reduction Project necessary to protect existing urban areas and infrastructure from flooding and erosion from the 100-year event and to maximize opportunities to protect agricultural land uses.
x	3. Work with stakeholders to preserve existing flood attenuation by implementing land management and conservation strategies throughout the watershed.
x	4. Develop approaches for adaptive management to minimize maintenance requirements and protect quality and availability of water while preserving ecologic and stream functions.
x	5. Provide community benefits beyond flood protection such as public access, open space, recreation, agriculture preservation and economic development.

Environmental Protection and Enhancement

x	1. Address opportunities to enhance the local environment and protect and/or restore natural resources, in cooperation with landowners, when developing water management strategies.
x	2. Improve biological and cultural resources, including riparian habitats, habitats supporting sensitive plant or animal species and archaeological/historic sites when implementing strategies and projects.
	3. Address opportunities to protect, enhance, or restore habitat to support Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary marine life in conjunction with water supply management strategies.
x	4. Address opportunities for open spaces, trails, parks along creeks and other recreational projects in the watershed that can be incorporated with water management strategies, consistent with public use and property rights.

Integration and Coordination

Put an X next to any Resource Management Strategies (RMS) that the proposed project will address.

Reduce Water Demand	Agricultural Water Use Efficiency	
	Urban Water Use Efficiency	
Improve Operational Efficiency and Transfers	Conveyance - Delta	
	Conveyance - Regional/local	
	System Reoperation	

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Increase Water Supply	Water Transfers	
	Conjunctive Management & Groundwater Storage	
	Desalination	
	Precipitation Enhancement	
	Recycled Municipal Water	
	Surface Storage - CALFED	
	Surface Storage - Regional/local	
Improve Water Quality	Drinking Water Treatment & Distribution	
	Groundwater Remediation /Aquifer Remediation	
	Matching Quality to Use	
	Pollution Prevention	
	Salt & Salinity Management	
	Urban Runoff Management	x
Improve Flood Management	Flood Risk Management	x
Practice Resources Stewardship	Agricultural Lands Stewardship	x
	Economic Incentives (Loans, Grants, & Water Pricing)	
	Ecosystem Restoration	x
	Forest Management	
	Recharge Area Protection	0
	Water-Dependent Recreation	
	Watershed Management	x
Other Strategies	Crop Idling for Water Transfers	
	Dewvaporation or Atmospheric Pressure Desalination	
	Fog Collection	
	Irrigated Land Retirement	
	Rainfed Agriculture	
	Waterbag Transport/Storage Technology	

Please describe:

The Lower Llagas Creek Capacity Restoration Project is currently in the Planning stage and investigating several alternatives taking a comprehensive approach to provide flood protection, avoid critical habitat, minimizing the impacts to existing riparian vegetation, improving water quality, and preserve the historic Soap Lake Floodplain.

List the projects that were integrated to develop a single proposed project, if applicable.

The Project will work with the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments who also desire to preserve the Soap Lake Floodplain.

List the agencies and organization that are working together to implement the project.

Santa Clara Valley Water District, National Regional Conservation Service

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Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

Put an X next to any climate change adaptation or mitigation strategy the proposed project will contribute to.

Adaption Strategies

<input type="checkbox"/>	Improve water supply reliability
<input type="checkbox"/>	Expand conjunctive use of multiple water supply sources
<input type="checkbox"/>	Increase water use and/or reuse efficiency
<input type="checkbox"/>	Provide additional water supply
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Promote water quality protection
<input type="checkbox"/>	Reduce water demand
<input type="checkbox"/>	Advance / expand recycled water use
<input type="checkbox"/>	Promote urban runoff reuse
<input type="checkbox"/>	Address sea level rise
<input type="checkbox"/>	Address other anticipated climate change impacts
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Improve flood control
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Promote habitat protection
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Establish migration corridors
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Re-establish river-floodplain hydrologic continuity
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Re-introduce anadromous fish populations to watershed
<input type="checkbox"/>	Enhance and protect watershed forest and meadow systems

Please describe: This Project will provide flood protection, improve water quality, avoid critical habitat, and provide on-site mitigation, and help in the efforts to preserve historic Soap Lake Floodplain.

Mitigation Strategies

<input type="checkbox"/>	Increase water use efficiency or promote energy-efficient water demand reduction
<input type="checkbox"/>	Improve water system energy efficiency
<input type="checkbox"/>	Advance / expand recycled water use
<input type="checkbox"/>	Promote urban runoff reuse
<input type="checkbox"/>	Promote use of renewable energy sources
<input type="checkbox"/>	Contribute to carbon sequestration

Please describe:

Does the proposed project reduce regional greenhouse gas emissions and/or improve energy efficiency? If so, explain how.

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Social Benefits and Impacts

Does the project provide specific benefits to disadvantaged communities and/or Native American tribal communities? If so, explain.

There are 11 DAC blocks, with a total population of about 14,000, in the Llagas Subbasin. This Project will provide flood protection, improve water quality, avoid critical habitat, provide on-site mitigation, and aid in the efforts to preserve the historic Soap Lake floodplain.

Does the project address any known environmental justice issues?

Project Cost

Total Estimated Capital Cost	\$15,000
Annual Operation & Maintenance (O&M) Cost	\$500,000
Cost Basis (Year)	2012
Source(s) of Funding for Capital	SCVWD stream stewardship funding, Department of Water Resources State Subventions Program
Source(s) of Funding for O&M Cost	SCVWD stream stewardship funding
Project Life (years)	100 years
Provide link to project cost estimate, if available	http://www.valleywater.org/Services/LowerLlagasCreekCapacityRestorationProject.aspx

Economic Feasibility

Has a benefit:cost or cost effectiveness analysis been completed for your project? If so, please cite reference and briefly summarize. If no economic analysis has been completed for the project, the project may receive zero points out of a possible 100 points for the financial considerations criteria unless the project is a DAC project. If the project is not a DAC project but the B:C ratio is expected to be greater than 1, please provide a justification. The lack of an economic analysis may also affect the project's readiness score.

A benefit to cost analysis has not been completed for the Project, as this Project is still in the Planning stage. The Planning Study Report is to be completed in December 2012 and will include this benefit to cost analysis.

If known, please provide the Benefit:Cost Ratio.

In Progress

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Provide a detailed discussion of the benefits the project will provide. To the extent possible, quantify changes and benefits (e.g. water quality and water supply benefits) that will result from project implementation; otherwise, describe benefits qualitatively.

This Project will provide flood protection, improve water quality, avoid critical habitat, provide on-site mitigation, protect fertile agricultural lands, and help with the efforts to preserve historic Soap Lake Floodplain. The Project will restore 100-year level of protection to 2.2 miles of channel and provide 10- to 50-year level of protection 5.0 miles of channel. The Project will provide a 100-year level of protection to the adjacent South County Regional Wastewater Authority (SCRWA), the regions primary wastewater facility. If the reduction of channel capacity is not addressed, the surrounding area (including the South County Regional Wastewater Authority percolation ponds) will continue to be at a higher risk of flooding.

Project Readiness

Proposed Project Start Date:	June 2017 (Construction Start)
Anticipated Project Completion Date:	December 2017 (Pending Federal Funding/Grants)

Please indicate the status (pending, in process, complete) of the following.

Project Element	Status	% Complete	Estimated Completion Date
<i>Feasibility Study</i>	Complete	95%	Dec-12
<i>Preliminary design</i>	Pending	0%	July 2014
<i>CEQA/NEPA</i>	Pending	0%	Sept. 2016
<i>Permit Acquisition</i>	Pending	0%	Feb. 2017
<i>Construction Docs</i>	Pending	0%	March 2017