

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

**PROJECT OVERVIEW**

**General Project Information**

<b>Project Title:</b>	Rural Landowner Stewardship
<b>Project Location:</b>	Pajaro Watershed, Focus on the uplands in San Benito County
<b>Estimated Cost:</b>	\$1,793,500

**Brief Project Description (1 to 2 sentences):**

This project provides landowner support for livestock and land and rural roads in order to minimize the water quality impacts, including sediment and nutrients.

**Project Proponent Information**

<b>Contact Name:</b>	Angie Gruys
<b>Affiliation:</b>	Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County (RCDSCC)
<b>Address:</b>	820 Bay Ave, Suite 136, Capitola, CA 95010
<b>Phone Number:</b>	831-464-2950
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:angie@rcdsantacruz.org">angie@rcdsantacruz.org</a>

**Other participating agencies/organizations (if applicable):**

Ecology Action, Resource Conservation District of Monterey, San Benito Resource Conservation District, Loma Prieta Resource Conservation 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.**

Nutrients, pathogens and sediments from livestock facilities are pollutants of concern in the major watersheds of Santa Cruz, San Benito, South Santa Clara and Monterey Counties. This pollution critically impacts our drinking water, recreation areas, fisheries' health and flora and fauna habitat. Better management of manure and drainage on properties that house livestock can lessen these pollutants.

The program, a partnership between Ecology Action and the RCD's, aims to achieve immediate and lasting water quality and watershed improvements by educating livestock owners on Best Management Practices (BMPs), providing onsite technical assistance and offering cost-share funding for making BMP land improvements. The educational opportunities via workshops, technical trainings and demonstration projects will assist in raising awareness in the community to achieve the cultural changes necessary for healthy livestock and watershed management. Best Management Practices include manure management and composting, erosion and drainage improvements, vegetated nutrient management techniques, water conservation, and more.

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In Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties, rural roads have been identified as a major source of sediment by watershed plans, assessments, and sediment Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) reports. The Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County (RCDSCC) has been addressing erosion and sediment issues related to roads since 1996. This program provides technical and cost share assistance to private road associations to facilitate the construction of erosion control projects as a means of managing excessive sediment loads generated by these roads in critical TMDL -listed watersheds. The result of the program has been the construction of multiple rural road erosion control projects, educational programs and technical trainings, public tours of projects, and annual newsletters.

In addition, the program seeks to train local contractors and heavy equipment operators on constructing Best Management Practices and how to incorporate them as part of their general practice.

**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.**

The Livestock and Land and Rural Roads programs have been active programs in the Pajaro Watershed for over 5 years. Recently the funding for these programs and projects has been cut for the upper watershed, leaving a gap in service for the San Benito and Santa Clara Counties. Through the program years of 2009-2011, the upper watershed held over 6 workshops and assisted over 15 properties with water quality improvements on Livestock properties. The TMDLs established for the Pajaro Watershed focus on both fecal coliform and sediment, both being attributed to livestock and road runoff. The Regional Water Quality Control Board has stated that priority property types they are interested in for the upper watershed are the smaller ranchettes and livestock properties that are adjacent to creeks.

**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.   |

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- |  |   |
|--|---|
|  | 7. Maximize conjunctive use opportunities including interagency conjunctive use.                                |
|  | 8. Optimize and sustain the use of existing import surface water entitlements from the San Felipe Unit.         |
|  | 9. Maximize the beneficial use of existing local water supplies while protecting existing surface water rights. |

**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.                                 |
| x | 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**

	1. Implement flood management strategies throughout the watershed that provide multiple benefits.
	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-
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
	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
x	2. Improve biological and cultural resources, including riparian habitats, habitats supporting sensitive plant or animal species and archaeological/historic sites when
0	3. Address opportunities to protect, enhance, or restore habitat to support Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary marine life in conjunction with water supply
	4. Address opportunities for open spaces, trails, parks along creeks and other recreational projects in the watershed that can be incorporated with water management

**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	
	Water Transfers	
Increase Water Supply	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	0
	Matching Quality to Use	

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	Pollution Prevention	x
	Salt & Salinity Management	x
	Urban Runoff Management	x
Improve Flood Management	Flood Risk Management	<b>0</b>
Practice Resources Stewardship	Agricultural Lands Stewardship	x
	Economic Incentives (Loans, Grants, & Water Pricing)	<b>X</b>
	Ecosystem Restoration	x
	Forest Management	
	Recharge Area Protection	
	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 implementation of best management practices on livestock and rural properties will improve the water quality on these lands through better management of livestock, filtration mechanisms adjacent to waterways and road engineering that limits the amount of sediment in the streams.

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

Ranchette Series, Livestock and Land, Rural Roads

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

RCDSCC, SBRCD, LPRCD

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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 type="checkbox"/>	Promote habitat protection
<input type="checkbox"/>	Establish migration corridors
<input type="checkbox"/>	Re-establish river-floodplain hydrologic continuity
<input type="checkbox"/>	Re-introduce anadromous fish populations to watershed
<input type="checkbox"/>	Enhance and protect watershed forest and meadow systems

**Please describe:** These projects would improve water quality through better management of land in the watershed for fecal coliform and sediment. The reduction of sediment can increase the flood benefit of the rivers through not minimizing the flood capacity of the river.

**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.**

No.

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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.

Does the project address any known environmental justice issues?

**Project Cost**

Total Estimated Capital Cost	\$1,793,500
Annual Operation & Maintenance (O&M) Cost	\$0
Cost Basis (Year)	%
Source(s) of Funding for Capital	Funding comes from local and state grants.
Source(s) of Funding for O&M Cost	
Project Life (years)	3
Provide link to project cost estimate, if available	

**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.

If known, please provide the Benefit:Cost Ratio.

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.

The implementation of practices on livestock, equestrian and rural properties that minimizes sediment runoff and water quality impairments can provide increased water quality and reduce the need for larger, more expensive capital projects to provide flood management and water quality that is safe to humans.

**Project Readiness**

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<b>Proposed Project Start Date:</b>	6/1/13
<b>Anticipated Project Completion Date:</b>	6/1/16

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

<b>Project Element</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>% Complete</b>	<b>Estimated Completion Date</b>
<i>Feasibility Study</i>	in process	50	2013
<i>Preliminary design</i>	pending		
<i>CEQA/NEPA</i>	pending		
<i>Permit Acquisition</i>	pending		
<i>Construction Docs</i>	pending		