

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

PROJECT OVERVIEW

General Project Information

Project Title:	Watsonville Slough Water Quality, Public Access and Habitat Enhancement - Walker Street
Project Location:	Watsonville Slough at Walker Streets and Ford Street
Estimated Cost:	\$250,000

Brief Project Description (1 to 2 sentences):

This project will enhance water quality, public access and habitat along Watsonville Slough between the Walker Street Bridge and Ford Street.

Project Proponent Information

Contact Name:	Steve Palmisano, Director of Public Works, City of Watsonville
Affiliation:	City of Watsonville
Address:	250 Main Street
Phone Number:	831-768-3176
Email:	steve.palmisano@cityofwatsonville.org

Other participating agencies/organizations (if applicable):

Watsonville Wetlands Watch

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 Walker Street Watsonville Slough Water Quality, Habitat, and Public Access Enhancement Project will serve to permanently protect and preserve wetland and riparian habitat, implement best management practices for urban storm water run-off, restore native upland habitat along Watsonville Slough and provide an important public trail connection for recreational access within the Watsonville Scenic Trails Network. The project will be located within the Watsonville Slough wetland complex, between the Walker Street Bridge and the intersection of Watsonville Slough and Ford Street. Through the implementation of this project, 8.4 acres of wetland and riparian habitat will be acquired by the City of Watsonville and placed under a conservation easement to afford permanent protection to an important portion of Watsonville Slough. In the surrounding areas, existing low value weedy habitats will be restored to high value native riparian habitat and several urban storm water best management practices will be put into place to improve the water quality of Watsonville Slough. Through its water quality and habitat improvements, this project is expected to benefit a large suite of State and Federally listed species and species of special concern, including the California red-legged frog (FT), tricolored blackbird (CSC), Northern harrier (CSC), and Western Pond Turtle (CSC). In addition to habitat and water quality enhancement, 360 linear feet of bicycle and pedestrian trails will be constructed over a branch of Watsonville Slough, providing an

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important linkage between two existing trail segments of the Watsonville Scenic Trails Network. A highly desirable wetland overlook will be created to enhance access for recreational birding, which is becoming increasingly important in support of the local tourism industry. Permanent protection of wetland habitat through the establishment of an easement and fee title purchase is not expected to provide an obstacle to implementation.

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.

This project is identified as a high priority project in the City of Watsonville Urban Greening Master Plan.

Pajaro River Watershed IRWM Regional Goals & Objectives

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

Water Supply	
	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.
	2. Meet 85% M&I and 75% agriculture demands (both current and future conditions) in second and subsequent years of a drought.
	3. Identify and address water supply needs of disadvantaged communities in the Pajaro River Watershed.
	4. Implement water conservation programs to reduce M&I and agricultural water use consistent with SBx7-7 and CVPIA.
	5. Maximize the use of recycled water during the irrigation season and expand other uses of recycled water.
	6. Optimize the use of groundwater and aquifer storage.
	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.
0	3. Protect groundwater resources from contamination including salts and nutrients.

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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-year event
X	3. Work with stakeholders to preserve existing flood attenuation by implementing land management and conservation strategies throughout the watershed.
	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
x	2. Improve biological and cultural resources, including riparian habitats, habitats supporting sensitive plant or animal species and archaeological/historic sites when
x	3. Address opportunities to protect, enhance, or restore habitat to support Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary marine life in conjunction with water supply management
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

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	
	Matching Quality to Use	

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	Pollution Prevention	x
	Salt & Salinity Management	
	Urban Runoff Management	x
Improve Flood Management	Flood Risk Management	
Practice Resources Stewardship	Agricultural Lands Stewardship	
	Economic Incentives (Loans, Grants, & Water Pricing)	
	Ecosystem Restoration	x
	Forest Management	
	Recharge Area Protection	x
	Water-Dependent Recreation	x
	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: Through the preservation of a 8.4 acres of Watsonville Slough and the restoration of .90 acres of native upland habitat and the implementation of best management practices for urban storm water management this project will improve water quality and native habitats to benefit a large suite of State listed and special status wildlife species.

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

This project is a single project. None were integrated to develop a single proposed project.

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

City of Watsonville, Watsonville Wetlands Watch

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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

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

Please describe: Through the permanent preservation of wetland and native riparian habitat, associated riparian restoration work, and implementation of urban storm water bmps, this project will improve the resiliency of the Watsonville Sloughs for flood attenuation and habitat diversity and mitigate increased enviromental impacts caused by climate change.

Mitigation Strategies

	Increase water use efficiency or promote energy-efficient water demand reduction
	Improve water system energy efficiency
	Advance / expand recycled water use
	Promote urban runoff reuse
0	Promote use of renewable energy sources
x	Contribute to carbon sequestration

Please describe: Removal of annual invasive weedy species currently growing in the riparian areas surrounding Watsonville Slough and the restoration of deep rooted perrenial native plant species, this project will sequester atmospheric carbon and store it in the soil profile. The recreational pedetrian and bicycle trail will promote the bicycle and pedetrian communiting, reducing vehicular use within the community of Watsonville.

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

This project will establish a pedestrian and bicycle trail, linking two existing sections of the Watsonville Scenic Trails Network, greatly improving bicycle and pedestrian commuter access from the western side of the City of Watsonville to the downtown area. The impact of this is expected to be less vehicle trips per day. Additionally, by restoring native perennial riparian and wetland plants along Watsonville Slough, this project sequester atmospheric carbon and provide deep storage of carbon in the wetland and upland soil profile.

Social Benefits and Impacts

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

Through the preservation and restoration of open space, wetland and riparian habitat and the creation of a high priority recreational trail, this project will provide important benefits to the community of Watsonville, an economically disadvantaged community.

Does the project address any known environmental justice issues?

Obesity, 2009 City of Watsonville Parks Master Plan identifies a lack of parks as a primary concern for residence of the City of Watsonville

Project Cost

Total Estimated Capital Cost	\$250,000
Annual Operation & Maintenance (O&M) Cost	\$10,000
Cost Basis (Year)	
Source(s) of Funding for Capital	
Source(s) of Funding for O&M Cost	City of Watsonville
Project Life (years)	
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.

No.

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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.

This project will permanently protect and preserve 8.4 acres of important wetland and riparian habitat and restore .8 acres of riparian habitat along 525 linear feet within Watsonville Slough and in so doing, will benefit a large suite of fish and wildlife species, including several State and federally listed and species of special concern, enhance ground water recharge of the aquifer, and preserve surface water storage capacity and flood attenuation. Through the implementation of best management practices within urban industrial areas surrounding Watsonville Slough, there will be significant improvement to storm water run-off and water quality in Watsonville Slough. Water quality improvement is greatly needed in Watsonville Slough, as it is currently listed as a 303 D impaired waterbody and has a Total Maximum Daily Load listings for sediment, pesticides, bacteria, and nutrients. 360 linear feet of pedestrian and bicycle trails will be constructed, including a diserable overlook, which will have benefits to commuters, hikers, bird watchers, as well as to the local restaurant and tourism industry that benefits from a slough system that is increasingly recognized as a birding and recreational destination.

Project Readiness

Proposed Project Start Date:	Jun-13
Anticipated Project Completion Date:	Dec-14

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

Project Element	Status	% Complete	Estimated Completion Date
<i>Feasibility Study</i>	complete		
<i>Preliminary design</i>	in process	50	
<i>CEQA/NEPA</i>	none		
<i>Permit Acquisition</i>	none		
<i>Construction Docs</i>	in process	60	