

Conejo Valley Botanic Garden

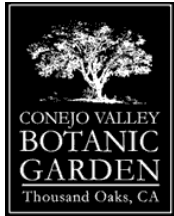
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Addendum to CVBG Prop 68 Proposal

Vegetation Management Project Evaluation Criteria

I. Prioritization Value

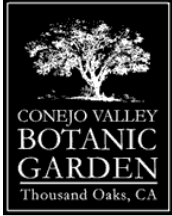
PV1	The project will restore a portion of the Arroyo Conejo watershed by reintroducing native plants and getting rid of invasive ones.
PV2	The project will allow more areas of the creek to open up, allowing student volunteers from community college and high school to do water testing and biodiversity studies. Also, we will only be using local contractors for any other work.
PV3	This project restores the natural ecosystem of a part of the Arroyo Conejo watershed, making the existing trail along the creek more accessible and allowing better integration of the adjacent community park into our natural native environment. Furthermore, this project allows us to further expand our corporation with local schools to use our garden as an open laboratory for their environmental studies. The project also creates a natural oasis within an urban area. We will also be benefiting the downstream watershed.
PV4	The project improves habitat quality by increasing the amount of native trees, and eliminating non-native species. The project also will improve the quality of surface water in the creek by allowing water to flow freely, increasing dissolved oxygen levels. Making the creek bank more accessible allows further opportunities to educate students of all ages, enabling them hands-on experience with scientific field work.



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II. Category Value

CV1	Part of our proposal is to use the CCC to clear out dry, dead brush that are potential wildfire risks during the dry season.
CV2	One part of our project is focused on the removal of fire hazardous, dry dead brush, and garbage in the creek to promote watershed health.
CV3	We will be removing invasive crayfish to entice native amphibians to return to the watershed. In addition, we will be removing invasive, nonnative plants.
CV4	By clearing out areas of the creek bank, volunteers will be able to replant native plant species near the bank.
CV5	By clearing out areas of the creek bank, volunteers will be able to replant native willow trees and watercress and other native aquatic plants near the bank, reducing erosion. Furthermore, the project will substantially reduce the crayfish population. Studies have shown that crayfish is one of the major contributors of creek bank erosion by constantly burrowing into the soil.
CV6	The project will improve water quality by decreasing blocked, stagnant water areas and increasing dissolved oxygen levels. Volunteers will also be replanting native willow trees, watercress and other native aquatic plants to enhance the habitat. It will also benefit all downstream areas.
CV8	We have employed GIS technology to create an inventory of our plant collection and to map the distribution of invasive species along the creek. We will be using GIS technology to monitor restoration progress.
CV9	The project opens up access to the creek bank for everyone and better integrate our garden with the adjacent community park. Cleaning up the creek bank not only restores native flora but also provides more access points to set traps, reducing crayfish population and restoring native fauna.



Conejo Valley Botanic Garden

III. Implementation Value

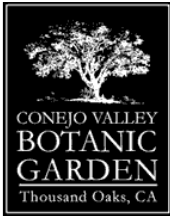
I1	We have a detailed plan in place as outlined in the proposal.
I2	Yes
I3	For over the past 30 years we have been maintaining the entirety of our 33-acre property. This project is identical type of work we do in other parts of the garden. The only difference is the location.
I6	See I3
I7	The Conejo Recreation and Park District has approved us to submit this grant.

IV. Climate Change Value

CC3	After taking out dead brush, we will plant native trees and eliminate heat islands on the west side of the creek.
CC5	We have already participated with Westlake High School Environmental Honors Class to do biodiversity studies in the creek. The project, once completed, will allow the students to gain more access points to do more extensive studies. We also plan to cooperate with more local schools and community colleges once the project is completed.
CC6	Volunteers will be planting native willow trees, watercress and native aquatic species which only use the water from the creek. Further away from the creek on the bank, we will only plant native drought tolerant species.

V. Additional Consideration

AC1	We will be hiring the CCC.
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Proposal of Creek Bank Cleanup at Conejo Valley Botanic Garden

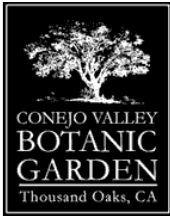
I. Introduction

The Conejo Valley Botanic Garden is a 33-acre nature garden located in Conejo Valley. The Garden is encircled by the City of Thousand Oaks. Over the past thirty years, we have meticulously collected a wide variety of California native/endemic plants and plants from all over the world that are suitable for growing in a Mediterranean and Desert Coastal climate. The aim of our collection is that, once they are rooted, we can let nature take its course and have little to no maintenance (Figure 1).

Because of limited funding, there is one part of the garden we are not able to care for and develop. A half mile long portion of the Arroyo Conejo Water Shed creek enters the Garden from the Conejo Community Center and exits at Tuolumne Avenue near an apartment complex (Figure 2). The water is city runoff and is littered with garbage, populated by invasive, non-native plant species and crayfish, which is detrimental to native amphibians.

We plan to use the Proposition 68 grant, together with our volunteers and local community colleges/high schools to restore the creek to its native ecosystem. Work done will only cover the creek bank, and will not be done inside of the creek.

Our proposal will reap benefits past the boundaries of our garden. Our garden is managed as a nature garden, the plants free to grow, without the use of pesticides or fertilizers. This means that we add no pollutants into our creek. With the creek restored to its natural state, our ½ mile creek will act as a bio-filter to benefit the ecosystem downstream, outside of our garden.



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II. Proposal Necessities, Details and Future Maintenance

The strategy we will employ to restore the creek is defined by three milestones: creek bank clean up, native aquatic plant repopulation, and crayfish eradication. The goal is to restore and enhance the natural wildlife habitat.

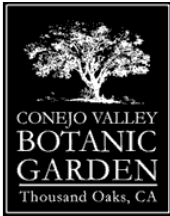
A. Creek Bank Clean Up

Currently, the creek bank is overrun with invasive non-native plants such as ash trees, palm trees, fig trees, pampas grass etc. (Figure 3). Ash and palm trees cause major harm due to their roots extending into the creek causing blockages, which traps garbage that flows downstream.

The garbage creates stagnant spots and pools within the creek that become a breeding ground for mosquitoes, a major disease vector. Furthermore, oxygen levels decrease due to the lack of water flow. According to our study, dissolved oxygen levels progressively decrease from the entrance point to the exit point. In such low oxygen levels, amphibians have no chance of survival, and the creek is left to be overrun by invasive crayfish. From a study done by UCLA, crayfish advance the proliferation of mosquitoes by eating dragonfly nymphs, the natural predators of mosquitoes.

In addition to improving the water quality of our creek, we need to clean up the creek bank to prevent fire hazards. On the West side of our creek along Tuolumne Avenue next to Thousand Oaks Seventh-day Adventist Church and the apartment complex, there are piles of dry, dead wood that has not been cleared in the past thirteen years. As the dry season approaches, it will become a major fire hazard.

Our garden is a volunteer run organization. Over the years, all of our garden maintenances have been done by volunteers. However, most of the creek bank is not accessible without professional machineries. The work on the creek bank is outside of our volunteers' ability.



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We propose to use the Proposition 68 grant to hire a professional arborist crew to clear out all large invasive plant species on the creek bank without disturbing the watershed. Afterwards, we will hire the CCC to clear less challenging areas.

B. Native Aquatic Plant Repopulation

To restore the creek to its native state, we will use our volunteers and students at our local community colleges to plant native aquatic plants in the creek bank once creek becomes accessible.

At the moment, we have already mapped out the area where we can plant native willows and watercress and other native aquatic plants.

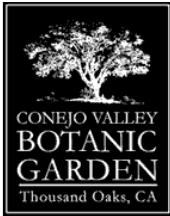
The garden will continue to maintain the creek with the help of our volunteers after the clean-up is completed.

C. Crayfish Eradication

The creek will not be restored into its natural state if the crayfish population is not reduced to level that is low enough to be managed. According to Dr. Gary Bucciarelli, Director of Stunt Ranch in the Santa Monica Mountains Reserve, crayfish corrode the creek bank by burrowing into mud.

Crayfish also prey on dragonfly nymphs, the predator of mosquito larvae, and native amphibians. The result is the proliferation of mosquitos, and the elimination of native amphibians. Therefore, even with the elimination of invasive plants and replanting native aquatic plants, the creek's native ecosystem cannot fully be restored as long as crayfish are still there (Figure 4).

We have been trapping crayfish since Summer of 2018. So far, we have trapped over 5000 crayfish and have been donating them to the California Wildlife Center for rehabilitating orphaned raccoons and possums. We have also donated live crayfish to Dr. Lee Katz's group at Pepperdine University



Conejo Valley Botanic Garden

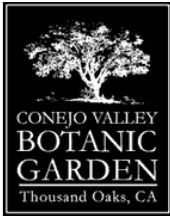
for their research. However, there are many inaccessible areas of the creek where we cannot place additional crayfish traps. In addition, we need funding to purchase more traps.

We understand that crayfish cannot be completely eradicated. However, if we can reduce its population to certain critical point, the native wildlife will have a chance to settle back in.

D. Future Maintenance

Once the clean-up job is done and the creek bank is accessible, our garden volunteers will perform the regular monitoring of invasive plant species to make sure they will not return. The Garden will be using our own funds to hire the CCC to perform annual small scale clean-ups to keep fire hazards at bay.

Local high school and community college students will monitor wildlife restoration progress by regularly measuring the water nutrient content, dissolved oxygen, and bio-diversity index. Westlake High School Environmental Science students have visited our garden three times and have conducted water testing in the creek. One Ventura College student has already obtained an EarthEcho Water Challenge partnership and the Environmental Science Club at Ventura College has started the effort of continuing monitoring activities.



Conejo Valley Botanic Garden

III. Cost Analysis

Activities	Details	Total
Creek Bank Cleanup	Professional arborist crew (\$3000 per day x 3 days) CCC (\$300 per day x 5 days) Dumpster rental (\$418 per day x 8 days)	\$13,844
Native Aquatic Plant Repopulation	Purchase of native aquatic plants	\$500
Crayfish Eradication	Purchase crayfish traps (\$10 each x 50)	\$500
Project Total		\$14,844

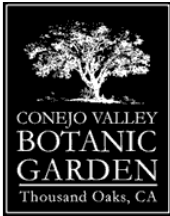
The garden will use our own funds and our volunteer and students to perform all ongoing maintenance.

IV. Timeline

The proposed project is estimated to start May 1st, 2019 and be completed by September 30th, 2019.

V. Conclusion

We are applying for a grant of \$14,844 under Proposition 68 to restore and enhance the ½ mile creek running through Conejo Valley Botanic Garden. The restoration work will be restricted to the creek bank only and will not be inside of the creek.



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Our goal is to clean up the creek bank and get rid of invasive plant species without affecting the watershed. The cleanup will provide access for our volunteers to facilitate the restoration of the creek through replanting native aquatic plants and restore native aquatic plants and wildlife. The grant will also provide funds for purchasing traps to eradicate the invasive crayfish to ensure the native wildlife will have a chance to repopulate the creek.

With the grant and our own funds and volunteers, the creek will be restored to its native ecosystem, mosquito infestation will be eliminated, and fire hazard to our community will also be eliminated. The proposed project will also benefit local students allowing them to have firsthand experience in environmental science, turning our garden to be an open laboratory for learning.

The environmental effect of this grant will not just benefit our garden but many miles downstream as well. Once the project is completed, it will benefit the ecosystem in our garden, entice native amphibians, and positively impact the watershed as a whole.



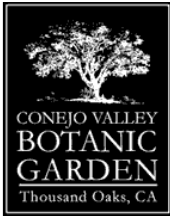
Conejo Valley Botanic Garden



Figure 1: Conejo Valley Botanic Garden

www.conejogarden.org/

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/162842557@N06/albums>



Conejo Valley Botanic Garden

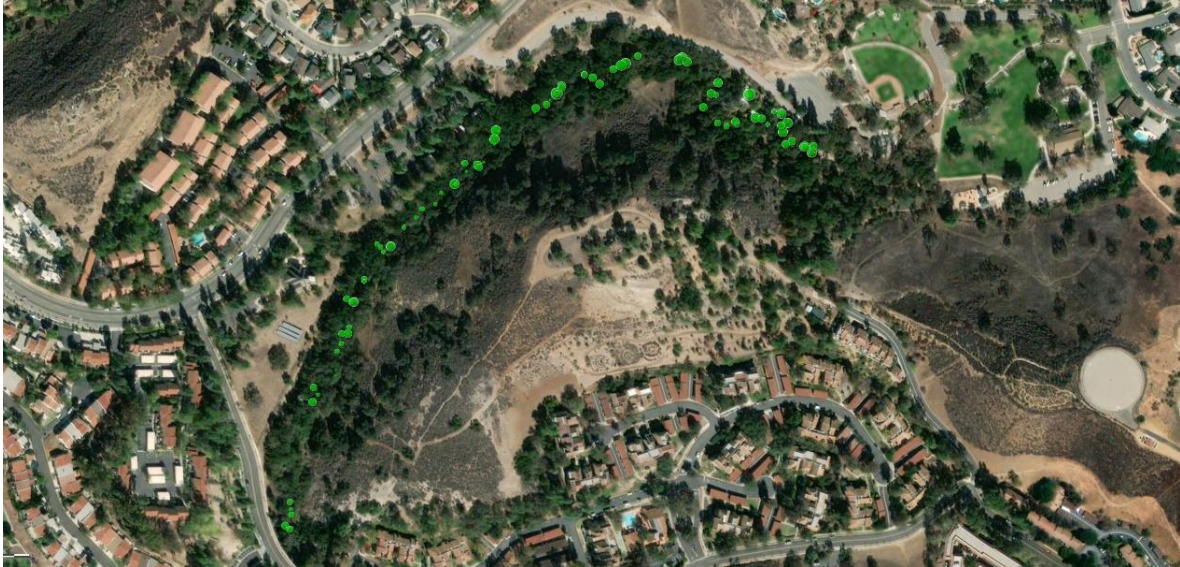


Figure 2: The ½ mile creek running through Conejo Valley Botanic Garden. Our proposed project will restore the creek to its native ecosystem

<https://flic.kr/s/aHsmiWf7xT>

Conejo Valley Botanic Garden



Figure 3: A GIS map created by Westlake High School students showing the locations of nearly all invasive plant species in the garden.



Figure 4: A matured female crayfish is about to release her young

**SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY
GRANT APPLICATION**

Project Name: Conejo Valley Botanic Garden Creek Restoration		Amount of Request:	\$14,844
		Total Project Cost:	\$14,844
Applicant Name: Conejo Valley Botanic Garden		Matching Funds:	\$0
		Lat/Long:	
Applicant Address: 400 W. Gainsborough Road, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360		Project Address:	400 W. Gainsborough Road, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360
		County	Senate District
		Ventura	27
		Assembly District	44
Phone:	(805)410-2645	Tax ID:	23-7327643
Email:	conejo.garden@yahoo.com		
Grantee's Authorized Representative:			
Beverly Brune, President		(805)494-7630	
Name and Title		Phone	
Overhead Allocation Notice:			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Any overhead costs will be identified as a separate line item in the budget and invoices. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Conservancy encourages grantees to reduce overhead costs including vehicle and phone expenses. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The overhead allocation policy has been submitted prior to, or with, the grant application.			
Outreach and Advertising Requirement:			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Applicant has read the staff report and board resolution regarding contract policies. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Applicant has adopted contract policies for the purpose of increasing outreach and advertising to disadvantaged businesses and individuals.			
<i>All check boxes must be checked</i>			
Brief Project Description:			
We will restore the Conejo Valley Botanic Garden's creek to its natural wildlife habitat in three parts: creek bank clean up, native aquatic plant repopulation, and crayfish eradication. The goal is to restore and enhance the natural wildlife habitats.			
Tasks / Milestones:		Budget:	Completion Date
Creek Bank Clean-up		\$13,844	September 31 st , 2019
Native Aquatic Plant Repopulation (Plant purchase)		\$500	July 31 st , 2019
Crayfish Eradication (Crayfish trap purchase)		\$500	June 30th, 2019
For Acquisition Projects:	APN(s):	(N/A)	
	Acreage:	(N/A)	
I certify that the information contained in this Grant Application form, including required attachments, is accurate.			
Beverly Brune		Feb. 20, 2019	
Signature of Authorized Representative		Date	
STATE OF CALIFORNIA ♦ THE NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY			

Grantee Data Sheet

Print Form



State of California
 The Natural Resources Agency
 Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

5750 Ramirez Canyon Road
 Malibu, California 90265
 Phone: 310-589-3200
 Fax: 310-589-3207
 www.smmc.ca.gov

Date:

New Revised

Grantee Name:
 Address:
 State/Province:
 Zip/Postal Code:
 Tax ID Number:

Phone:
 Fax:

Project Name:

Information

Will administrative/overhead costs be included?

If yes, is the overhead policy attached to this sheet?

Will vehicle costs be included?

If yes, is the vehicle policy attached to this sheet?

Will cell phone costs be included?

If yes, is the phone policy attached to this sheet?

I have completed and submitted the STD 204 Payee Data Record form.

I have read and accepted the policies and procedures within the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Grant Administration Manual.

I am aware that the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy has urged a reduction of costs associated with overhead, cell phone, and vehicle charges.

*If a reduction in the above costs has been made, please document the reductions and attach to this data sheet.

Primary Contact Information

Name (1):
 Address:
 State/Province:
 Zip/Postal Code:
 Phone (1):
 Phone (2):
 Fax:
 Email:

Name (2):
 Address:
 State/Province:
 Zip/Postal Code:
 Phone (1):
 Phone (2):
 Fax:
 Email:

Notes:

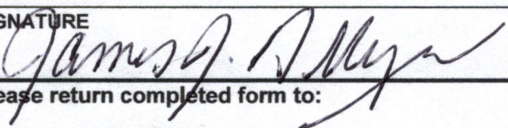
Signature Field

STATE OF CALIFORNIA-DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

PAYEE DATA RECORD

(Required when receiving payment from the State of California in lieu of IRS W-9)

STD. 204 (Rev. 6-2003)

1	INSTRUCTIONS: Complete all information on this form. Sign, date, and return to the State agency (department/office) address shown at the bottom of this page. Prompt return of this fully completed form will prevent delays when processing payments. Information provided in this form will be used by State agencies to prepare Information Returns (1099). See reverse side for more information and Privacy Statement. NOTE: Governmental entities, federal, State, and local (including school districts), are not required to submit this form.		
2	PAYEE'S LEGAL BUSINESS NAME (Type or Print) CONEJO VALLEY BOTANIC GARDEN SOLE PROPRIETOR – ENTER NAME AS SHOWN ON SSN (Last, First, M.I.) E-MAIL ADDRESS conejo.garden@yahoo.com MAILING ADDRESS 400 W GAINSBOROUGH RD BUSINESS ADDRESS 400 W GAINSBOROUGH RD CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE THOUSAND OAKS, CA 91360 CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE THOUSAND OAKS, CA 91360		
3	ENTER FEDERAL EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (FEIN): 23 - 7327643 <input type="checkbox"/> PARTNERSHIP <input type="checkbox"/> ESTATE OR TRUST <input type="checkbox"/> INDIVIDUAL OR SOLE PROPRIETOR ENTER SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER: _____ <small>(SSN required by authority of California Revenue and Tax Code Section 18646)</small>	CORPORATION: <input type="checkbox"/> MEDICAL (e.g., dentistry, psychotherapy, chiropractic, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> LEGAL (e.g., attorney services) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXEMPT (nonprofit) <input type="checkbox"/> ALL OTHERS	NOTE: Payment will not be processed without an accompanying taxpayer I.D. number.
4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> California resident - Qualified to do business in California or maintains a permanent place of business in California. <input type="checkbox"/> California nonresident (see reverse side) - Payments to nonresidents for services may be subject to State income tax withholding. <input type="checkbox"/> No services performed in California. <input type="checkbox"/> Copy of Franchise Tax Board waiver of State withholding attached.		
5	I hereby certify under penalty of perjury that the information provided on this document is true and correct. Should my residency status change, I will promptly notify the State agency below. AUTHORIZED PAYEE REPRESENTATIVE'S NAME (Type or Print) JAMES J. ALLYN TITLE TREASURER SIGNATURE  DATE 02/16/2019 TELEPHONE (805) 494-7630		
6	Please return completed form to: Department/Office: _____ Unit/Section: _____ Mailing Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____ Telephone: (____) _____ Fax: (____) _____ E-mail Address: _____		