

1b. Rossmoor Bar Trail Enhancements Planning

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Advisory Committee of the Lower American River Conservancy Program recommend this project as proposed and recommend WCB staff present this project to the Wildlife Conservation Board for approval at a future Board meeting.

Project Title:	Rossmoor Bar Trail Enhancements Planning
Project Type:	Planning
Applicant/Grantee:	City of Rancho Cordova
Amount Recommended:	\$597,000
Funding Partners:	City of Rancho Cordova
Landowner(s):	County of Sacramento
Funding:	Proposition 68
Program Goals:	Public Access, Education, Habitat
Disadvantaged Community:	Within a Severely Disadvantaged Community
Average Score:	80.5

LOCATION

The Rossmoor Bar Trail Enhancements Planning (Project) is located within the city of Rancho Cordova in the Rossmoor Bar Area of the American River Parkway (Parkway). Rossmoor Bar is home to several locally rare native plants including narrow-leaved mules ears, and the only known populations of Wright's buckwheat and sulfur buckwheat. The site also boasts populations of other native plants such as coyote mint, foothill penstemon, and sky lupine. This area has been identified in the American River Parkway Natural Resources Management Plan as an area for remediation of social trails and promoting native vegetation growth. Current threats to site are undesirable off trail hiking and biking, and invasive species such as tree of heaven, Spanish broom, and yellow star thistle.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

There are currently 10.5 miles of 'social trails' within the Rossmoor Bar that pose a risk to both the surrounding ecosystem and human safety and wellbeing. The current informal trail system causes habitat fragmentation, degrades wildlife habitat, and is characterized by excess dead foliage which increases the risk of fire. The unimproved social trails are a hazard to users and limit public access to Rossmoor Bar.

The Project will determine the best approach to closing and enhancing trails and constructing an ADA-compliant trail to the river and will include habitat restoration on closed trails and developing interpretive materials to install along the enhanced trail system.

Planning activities will include field visits to identify and determine trails for closure or enhancement and subsequent conceptual designs and trail mappings to inform project alternatives. Two trail alternatives will be completed, including a mapping of proposed trail routes, and sign locations. To support the development of these

alternatives, the project team will develop concept design and seek input from stakeholders, the community, and local Native American tribes for interpretive sign and wayfinding sign content, including historical, Native American, and natural topics. Project concept designs will be presented to the public and stakeholders for input before developing the two trail alternatives.

All necessary environmental review and permitting will be conducted for the preferred alternative. An Environmental Impact Report was completed in 2008 for the American River Parkway, it is anticipated that an addendum will be drafted with supporting biological and cultural technical memorandums to meet California Environmental Quality Act requirements. Additionally, all permits and permissions will be applied for, including those required by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, Central Valley Flood Protection Board, Regional Water Quality Control Board, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Applicant will prepare 65% design plans for trail engineering and habitat restoration to inform future implementation of the project.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Total Cost
Project Management	\$45,106	\$6,740	\$51,846
Public and Stakeholder Engagement	\$25,500	\$3,810	\$29,310
Plans, Specification, and Estimates	\$148,294	\$22,039	\$170,333
Environmental Review & Permitting	\$323,900	\$45,411	\$369,311
Contingency	\$54,200	---	\$54,200
Total	\$597,000	\$78,000	\$675,000

Costs associated with WCB funding include:

- Project Management: Grant administration, invoicing, reporting, coordinating with project team and consultants, and overseeing all aspects of project.
- Public and Stakeholder Engagement: Two in-person community meetings, online survey, and agency coordination.
- Plans, Specifications, and Estimates: Two alternative trail concepts, content for three interpretive panels, two color rendered trailhead concept plans, civil construction documents, habitat restoration plan, and trail amenity plan.
- Environmental Review and Permitting: Draft and final CEQA document, aquatic delineation report, biological and cultural resources technical reports, permit applications.

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

The Project is statutorily exempt from CEQA pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15262, Feasibility and Planning Studies, as it would involve only feasibility and planning studies for possible future actions. Subject to approval of this proposal by the WCB, the appropriate NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

CONSISTENCY WITH AMERICAN RIVER PARKWAY PLAN

In accordance with Public Resources Code section 5845.5, the American River Parkway Compliance Analysis will be completed for the project at the October 2023 Recreation and Parks Commission meeting.

