

Padilla Reclamation Ditch Restoration Project

1. Project Name

Reclamation Ditch Restoration Project

2. Requesting Entity

County of Monterey

3. Requesting Individual(s)

County of Monterey Board of Supervisors

4. Grantee Point of Contact

Rob McKay

5. Grantee Point of Contact - Email

McKayR@countyofmonterey.gov

6. Grantee Point of Contact - Phone Number

(831) 682-9486

7. Requesting Entity Address

1441 Schilling Place Salinas, CA 93901

8. Grantee Legal Name

Monterey County Water Resources Agency

9. Type of Organization

Local government

10. Employer Identification Number (EIN)

94-6000524

11. Which Sen. Padilla State Field Office does this project fall under?

Fresno Office

12. Which county is the project located in?

Monterey

13. Project Priority Number: X of Y

4 of 6

14. Amount Requested

\$500,000

15. Total Project Cost

\$600,000

16. What percentage of the project will this funding cover?

83%

17. Additional Funding Sources

Monterey County Water Resources Agency

18. Project Scalability

Yes, \$250,000

19. Project Purpose

The Project proposes to rehabilitate 6.8 acres within the existing Salinas Reclamation Channel (Reclamation Ditch No. 1665) system and maintain lands to support public use and enjoyment and improve the riparian zone and waterway.

20. Project Description

A brief summary of the project including its purpose, goals, history, and current status, as well as the justification for the project (i.e., why funding is in the interest of taxpayers). The description should also state who/how many people the project will serve and what performance standards will be used to measure whether this project has achieved its objectives.

A detailed budget breakdown of how the requested federal funding will be spent among categories (i.e., \$ -x- for salaries; \$ -x- for programming; \$ -x- for equipment; etc.). Please be specific when describing the activities and expenditures. The most common issue in determining if a project is eligible for funding is a lack of specific information on what the funding will be used for. This budget should apply **specifically to the funding amount you are requesting**; if you are requesting \$1,000,000 for a project with a total cost of \$10,000,000, the

budget provided here must add up to \$1,000,000.

The status of planning and environmental review work.

The Project proposes to rehabilitate 6.8 acres within the existing Salinas Reclamation Channel (Reclamation Ditch No. 1665) system and maintain lands to support public use and enjoyment and improve the riparian zone and waterway. The Project will restore the Reclamation Ditch to comply with flood management requirements and water quality codes impacted by trash accumulation. The homeless encampments found in the area are sources of environmental pollution and damage. In addition, the effects of encampments on lands will be prioritized, soil pollution will be cleaned from the Reclamation Ditch up to the entrance near the Rossi Rico Parkway, and trash cans placed. These improvements will result in a larger and better organized space, well suited to reduce flood risk and provide other benefits such as fish and wildlife habitat, improved soil health, enhanced water supplies, and public access to recreation.

More than 100 years of flood management, allowing for the “reclamation” of land for agricultural, residential, and commercial use, is a key component of a system to control water levels and make previously unusable land suitable for development. Draining and preventing waterlogging, has proven to help convert the watershed to approximately 40% cropland, 29% grazing, 23% woody and other natural vegetation, and 8% urban and industrial. Taxpayer funds in this project will be used to support local government who is equipped to handle improving its infrastructure and solving the unique problem of trash and other environmental issues caused by human influence and homeless encampments and reduce any burden on the federal government. The project will rely on the CDS requested funding delivery for approximately 83% of costs, and the technical assistance will be in-kind. Funding contributions from MCWRA will reduce out-of-pocket financial assistance expenses and support project management via a blend of the two contributions. The funded project would allow for more innovation in solutions to service the soil, restore ecological function, and cleanup debris in and near impeding waterways and culverts. Based on the project schedule for restoration, a combination of grant funds and MCWRA contributions will be able to support treatment of 6.8 acres of reclamation and recreation lands, and approximately 50% of the estimated acres in the project area could be better conserved by a commitment to maintain the area free of trash.

In the state of California, only 5% to 10% of its original riparian habitat exists today, and much of the remaining habitat is in a degraded condition. This trend disproportionately affects urban landscapes and disadvantaged communities, perpetuating cycles of ecological loss and limiting access to healthy hydrologic systems. Research shows that restoring soil health in urban waterways can bring environmental, ecological, and social benefits. However, loss of urban biodiversity and declining green open spaces may reduce citizen’s exposure to beneficial time in nature. Without intervention, the

surrounding project area in the City of Salinas is more prone to flooding and degradation, and studies show a need to restore the wider landscape.

The MCWRA's Salinas Reclamation Ditch Restoration Project, aims to implement green infrastructure and contribute substantially to restoration activities including physically loosening the soil, removing debris, grading to create swales, excavating to create vegetated zones, and amending the soil with a mix of native plants and seeds. The project will directly benefit the community by contributing to environmental awareness, economic upliftment, and direct health benefits. When addressed, the conservation planning effort will emphasize the need to consider the relationship between better land and flood management. The restoration work will help improve soil characteristics where long-term care is needed to ensure success. On going maintenance (mulching, weeding) will be conducted to ensure the project performs as expected.

The requested \$500,000 would support the restoration activity consisting of construction and green infrastructure beautification costs. The total project cost estimate of \$600,000 (using \$500,000 in total CDS requested funding) reflects all costs associated with the project including non-construction costs of approximately \$150,000 for a). direct project management & administration (staff time, technical consultants) and b). planning, design, & permitting (design, engineering, and environmental documents); and construction costs of \$450,000 for c) site preparation (demolition, grading), d) greening elements (trees, plants, mulch); e) other (hazard insurance/bond, inspection, funding acknowledgement sign). The project elements are separated into non-construction (not to exceed 25%) and construction (approximately 75 %), and funds are intended to provide conditions for restoration implementation such as restoration of the channel area; establishment, enhancement, and expansion of the community space; greening of the public lands; and installation of multi-objective stormwater features such as bioswales and mulching alongside the riparian corridor. All final budget categories would be closely detailed and customized for direct charges such as personnel, equipment, supplies, and construction, and any indirect charges.

Environmental review work will be completed upon award of funds.

21. Project Website

N/A

22. Has the organization or any potential sub-grantees been subject to sanction or litigation by State, Local, or Federal governments in the past five years? If so, please provide details.

No.

23. Subcommittee

THUD

Which account are you applying to?

EDI

Additional Information

For EDI requests you MUST include relevant data on how activities or projects address at least one of the three National Objectives of the broader [CDBG program](#). HUD defines the national objectives of CDBG as:

- Benefiting low- and moderate-income persons or communities;
- Preventing or eliminating slums or blight; or
- Addressing community development needs having a particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community for which other funding is not available.

Please use data from HUD as much as possible to justify your project's eligibility. If you are justifying the project's benefits to low- and moderate-income (LMI) persons or communities, please review this HUD

resource: <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/cdbg/cdbg-low-moderate-income-data/>

Use the “Map Application” tool to provide the necessary data points demonstrating the LMI

benefit: <https://hud.maps.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=ffd0597e8af24f88b501b7e7f326bedd>

This project will benefit the City of Salinas, CA which according to HUD data has a LOWMOD_PCT of 56.81. This project would address the community's flood and waterway infrastructure needs. It will remove the trash and other build-up in the waterway, enhancing water quality as well as safety for the residents of Salinas. The project will directly benefit the community by contributing to environmental awareness, economic upliftment, and direct health benefits.

24. Is this project being submitted to Senator Schiff's Office?

Yes

25. Is this project being submitted to your member(s) in the House of Representatives?

Yes, Rep. Lofgren and Rep. Panetta

26. Letters or Resolutions Submitted in Support of Project Required

27. List Any Other Elected Officials, Government Entities, or (Non-Government) Organizations Partnering in or Supporting the Project Required

County of Monterey Board of Supervisors

28. Has this project previously been submitted by Senator Padilla or another member of Congress to the Appropriations Committee?

Yes

29. Has this project previously been awarded funds through Congressionally Directed Spending/Community Project Funding from any Member of Congress?

No

30. Previous CDS/CPF Awards

N/A

31. Time-Sensitive Point of Contact Name

Rob McKay

32. Point of Contact Affiliation

Monterey County Water Resources Agency

33. Phone Number

(831) 682-9486

34. Email

McKayR@countyofmonterey.gov