

99C-140  
Panel B**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Sonoma Creek Conservancy is a partnership of local stakeholders including Southern Sonoma County Resource Conservation District (RCD), Sonoma Ecology Center (SEC), Sonoma Valley Vintners & Growers Association (SVVGA), San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI), and Sonoma Creek Adopt-A-Watershed (SCAAW). This collaborative alliance of stakeholders has a proven track record of successful watershed planning and implementation work, including work funded by a previous CALFED grant. The Conservancy now proposes to implement riparian and aquatic habitat restoration activities, and to continue watershed stewardship activities and education programs in the Sonoma Creek watershed.

Sonoma Creek's watershed is a manageable scale at 170 square miles. It is close to the mouth of the San Francisco estuary, has no dams, supports a diverse native fish community, and has a high level of public awareness to support restoration projects. CALFED funding will enable the Conservancy to implement a series of restoration and enhancement actions which will directly benefit CALFED target species, including steelhead and the California freshwater shrimp. Proposed stewardship and education tasks will expand the Conservancy's existing efforts to inform and engage the public in watershed issues while providing critical data for adaptive management. These activities continue successful programs begun with CALFED funding to the Conservancy in 1998.

All proposed tasks will take place in the Sonoma Creek watershed. The project spans three Topic Areas. Project tasks are listed below with their lead agency or organization indicated (tasks may be referred to by number in the application.):

*Habitat Restoration*

- 1) Fish Passage Enhancement, Asbury Creek at Arnold Drive—SEC
- 2) Pool Habitat Enhancement and Restoration, Sonoma Creek and tributaries—SEC
- 3) Bank Erosion Repair and Riparian Restoration, Carriger Creek at Arnold Drive—RCD
- 4) Bank Stabilization, Nathanson Creek—RCD

*Local Watershed Stewardship*

- 5) Vineyard Demonstration Projects—SVVGA
- 6) Expand Sonoma Valley Stream Stewards Program—SEC
  - a) Continuing Analysis of Factors Limiting Steelhead
  - b) Produce Watershed Map Through Volunteer Watershed Assessment
  - c) Monitor Conservancy Projects

*Environmental Education*

- 7) Workshops for Local Government Staff on Using Existing Regulations to Preserve and Enhance Watershed Health—SEC
- 8) Education Coordination for Watershed Studies—SCAAW
- 9) Publication of Anecdotal Ecological History of Sonoma Valley—SEC

*Project Management*

- 10) Watershed Coordinator—RCD
- 11) Grant Administration and Project Management—RCD

The existing RCD Watershed Coordinator will manage projects and programs under this proposal and oversee Conservancy partners. The Coordinator will report directly to the RCD Board of Directors.

Conservancy partners will meet bi-monthly to discuss projects. The proposed tasks will be accomplished over a period of one to three years. Restoration projects are ready to begin immediately following a signed contract with CALFED.

This CALFED request is for \$483,923 for the first year of a 3-year \$702,633 program. This cost is matched by \$143,030 in local in-kind contributions.

No adverse third party impacts are expected. All tasks in this proposal include one to two years of monitoring. Qualified Conservancy partners will review monitoring and data to ensure QA/QC.