# 2014 CONCEPT PROPOSALS
## For the Greater Monterey County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan

| Project Proponent & Project Title | Project Summary | Resource Area(s) |
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| Big Sur Land Trust, City of Salinas, CSUMB Watershed Institute and Return of the Natives: Carr Lake Property Acquisition | The goal of this project is the acquisition of the 450-acre Carr Lake basin, and its conversion into parkland for the multiple uses of recreation, restored wetlands and riparian wildlife habitat, stormwater detention, open space, and water quality enhancement for downstream areas including the Reclamation Ditch and the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. The restored Carr Lake Regional Park will connect via trails to Natividad Creek Park, which lies immediately upstream. Re-creation of wetlands and floodwater detention areas will provide reduction of flood impacts to the City of Salinas and to downstream agricultural and community lands. Water quality will also improve due to restored wetlands and natural vegetation, via sediment capture and the biological treatment of constituent chemicals. | natural resource enhancement + flood control + water quality |
| Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board: Healthy Functioning Watersheds: Green Infrastructure and the Preservation and Protection of Hydrologic Processes | The RWQCB's Vision of Healthy Watersheds calls for watershed protection in part through the use of green infrastructure. Green infrastructure is the set of practices that mimic natural processes to retain and use stormwater. Through infiltration, evapotranspiration, and harvesting stormwater throughout the landscape, green infrastructure preserves and restores the natural water balance of a watershed. Environmental benefits include reducing flooding, improving water quality, providing habitat, reducing the urban heat island effect, mitigating global warming and increasing groundwater recharge. Healthy sustainable watersheds supported by green infrastructure use less energy for imported water, have fewer greenhouse gas emissions, and a lesser carbon footprint than unhealthy watersheds. With this concept proposal the RWQCB is encouraging organizations to implement green infrastructure projects. | flood control + water quality + natural resource enhancement + water supply |
| Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board: Healthy Functioning Watersheds: Irrigation Efficiency and Nutrient Management on Agricultural Lands | With this concept proposal the RWQCB is encouraging organizations to work with farmers to implement irrigation and nutrient management projects. The RWQCB's Vision of Healthy Watersheds calls for watershed protection through the implementation of irrigation efficiency, and nutrient as well as pesticide and sediment management on agricultural lands. This includes conducting irrigation evaluations and corresponding actions designed to address pollutant loading from tailwater, creating un-farmed buffers that improve water quality (e.g., filter and infiltrate runoff), and protecting or improving habitat (e.g., stabilize streambanks and shade streams) between intensive agriculture and wetland/riparian areas. The Central Coast Water Board has prioritized implementation in the Salinas watershed and other impaired waterbodies included in the Greater Monterey County region. Irrigation and Nutrient Management, especially related to protection of shallow domestic drinking water wells, continues to be one of the Water Board's highest priorities. Implementation would be carried out via various partnering organizations in collaboration with growers. | water quality |

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| Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board: Safe and Affordable Drinking Water for Disadvantaged Communities | This concept proposal is focused on prioritizing projects that address the immediate drinking water needs of disadvantaged communities (DACs) and is in alignment with the RWQCB's highest priority of preventing and correcting threats to human health. Nitrate pollution of groundwater is one of the most significant threats to human health in our region. Domestic wells and small water system wells within or adjacent to intensive agricultural areas are the most at-risk of nitrate pollution in the Salinas Valley, and DACs generally shoulder a disproportionately higher share of the health and economic-related cost associated with nitrate pollution. In many cases DACs can't afford to address drinking water pollution, don't qualify for available funding, and have difficulty navigating the myriad of drinking water related funding and regulatory programs. This concept proposal is focused on a three-pronged strategy to address the immediate needs of DACs who currently do not have a safe and affordable drinking water supply. The three-pronged strategy includes: 1) comprehensively and uniformly identify the drinking water problems and associated needs of DACs with the Greater Monterey County IRWM funding area; 2) the provision of interim safe water supplies (e.g. bottled water, etc.) to residents until more permanent solutions are implemented; 3) the evaluation and implementation of long-term safe and affordable drinking solutions (e.g. treatment, new water supply, consolidation, etc.). This concept proposal is focused on prioritizing projects that resolve drinking water contamination problems with an emphasis on, but not limited to, nitrate pollution and DACs. | water quality + water supply |
| Central Coast Wetlands Group: Historic and Existing Drainage Network Mapping Project: Phase 1 | This project proposes to utilize available public domain digital elevation models and orthophotography as a base for a GIS based mapping of drainage networks in the Salinas River, Elkhorn Slough, and Moro Cojo watersheds with two primary goals. The first, to recreate the pre-development drainage network of the subject area watersheds based on existing topography, historical records and field verification to determine historical surface drainage conditions. Secondly, to map the existing drainage network of the subject watersheds based on existing topography and drainage infrastructure. | flood control + natural resource enhancement + water quality |
| Central Coast Wetlands Group: Sustainable Agriculture and Sustainable Development - Field Station and Demonstration Area | This project proposes to establish a large acreage (100-640 acres) sustainable agriculture and sustainable development field research station to develop innovative sustainable land use practices for agriculture, residential, and commercial development on a landscape scale. The site will provide continuous monitoring of practices to ensure that the desired outcomes are achieved, establish long-term data sets and allow for new innovations and practices to be developed. The field station will also provide a demonstration area that can be reviewed and studied by other landowners and land managers to determine applicability to their individual projects or farms. The primary goal of this project is to improve water resources on and offsite in the context of modern land use. | water quality |
| City of Salinas: Replacement Raw Sewage Pipeline to Monterey Regional WWTP and City of Salinas Industrial Wastewater Treatment System Expansion | The City has identified two potential projects at a conceptual development level—expanding the City's capacity to treat and reuse industrial wastewater and increasing conveyance capacity for transferring raw sewage from the City to the Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency (MRWPCA) wastewater treatment plant (WWTP), for treatment, followed by reuse or disposal. | water quality + water supply |

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| Coastal Watershed Council: Community-Based Water Research and Education | This project involves Community-Based Participatory Research (CPBR) with a goal of engaging diverse individuals and groups in future discussions of water supply, water quality, and other environmental issues. This approach lends greater legitimacy to future plans and actions by ensuring community involvement. Outcomes from this research will help elected officials and water agency boards to best serve their constituents and establish connections that will benefit all future planning and implementation efforts. This process further benefits the entire region, as it empowers and engages the public in crucial water issues where they might not otherwise be informed or active. The Coastal Watershed Council will lead the efforts to administer the CPBR on a specific watershed-by-watershed basis. Ultimately, this approach could foster the creation of specific watershed management and/or restoration plans, filling a noticeable void within the region. The holistic approach of this CBPR project would also address numerous objectives in all seven goals outlined in the region's IRWM Plan. | flood control + water quality + natural resource enhancement + water supply |
| Coastlands Mutual Water Company & Big Sur Land Trust: Post Creek Water Supply and Watershed Restoration Project | The Post Creek Water Supply and Watershed Restoration Project includes two objectives: (1) securing a water supply system and (2) restoring watershed function to a degraded coastal stream and its receiving watershed. The water supply system portion of the project will include the rehabilitation of the Coastlands Mutual Water Supply Company spring box intake and 3000 feet of the company's water supply distribution line servicing 60 customers in Big Sur. The water supply system is the only supply for the 60 water customers and was destroyed in the Basin Complex Fire of 2008. The project's other objective is to work to restore geomorphic function back to the Post Creek drainage and to rehabilitate the watershed from the effects of the Basin Complex Fire. Currently the Post Creek watershed is drained through a 24-inch culvert located within the creek bed at Coast Ridge Road. Due to the presence of debris from the Basin Complex Fire and the continual source of sediment and materials coming from the burned watershed, the undersized culvert fills with sediment and debris and results in road failure and sediment deposition in Post Creek and ultimately to the Big Sur River. The project proposes the placement of a box culvert at the location of the existing culvert to provide proper drainage and for a more natural sediment flow through the drainage without road failures and debris flows as in the current conditions. | water supply + natural resource enhancement + water quality |
| CSUMB Return of the Natives: Return of the Natives Restoration Education Project—An IRWMP partner | The Return of the Natives Restoration Education Project (RON) is the education and outreach branch of Watershed Institute of the California State University Monterey Bay. For this concept proposal, RON would like to present their organization as a partner to other IRWM Plan projects. They offer to bring the marriage of native plant restoration and community engagement, which has become known as "community based habitat restoration" to IRWM Plan projects. RON's social goal is to bring people and nature together on restoration and garden projects in the watersheds of the Monterey Bay. RON's partnership has the capacity to bring tens of thousands of native grasses, forbs, shrubs, and trees to restoration projects. The plants grown by volunteers and RON staff and CSUMB students are eventually planted by these same volunteers on restoration sites. RON has the capacity to grow and out-plant from 25,000 to 50,000 native plants annually. | natural resource enhancement |
| CSUMB Watershed Institute: Monitoring Water Quality Improvements with BMPs | The Watershed Institute is offering to conduct monitoring for IRWM Plan projects, as requested and as needed, to test water quality as a result of urban, suburban, rural, and agricultural management practices. | water quality |

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| Marina Coast Water District: Monterey Bay Regional Desalination Project | The Regional Desalination Project will provide approximately 10,500 AFY of potable water on an average annual basis to both the California American Water Company (CalAm) and Marina Coast Water District (MCWD) service areas. The Regional Desalination Project generally consists of a reverse osmosis desalination plant to treat a mix of seawater and brackish groundwater water extracted from the seawater-intruded 180-Foot Aquifer of the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin to produce 10 million gallons per day (mgd) of product water. Intake facilities include intake wells and an intake pipeline that will convey the extracted water to the desalination plant for treatment. The desalination facilities will include a pretreatment system, the RO system, a post-treatment system, clearwell tanks, and brine disposal. The brine from the desalination plant will be blended with treated effluent from the Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency's (MRWPCA's) Regional Treatment Plant and disposed of via MRWPCA's existing ocean outfall. Distribution pumping and a transmission pipeline will convey the desalinated (product) water to MCWD's and CalAm's service area for potable use. The existing aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) system operated by Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (MPWMD) will be expanded as part of the project to provide additional storage capacity for the desalinated water produced by the Regional Desalination Project. A portion of the facilities will be powered by Monterey Regional Waste Management District's cogeneration facility, reducing the carbon footprint of the Regional Desalination Project and greenhouse gas emissions. | water supply |
| Monterey Coastkeeper/ The Otter Project: Maintenance and Flood Control Planning for the Old Salinas River Channel and Reclamation Ditch | A facilitated stakeholder process is proposed to bring people together to find common ground in regard to maintenance and flood control planning for the Old Salinas River Channel and Reclamation Ditch. Various visions for these highly modified waterways may require iterative review by consultants knowledgeable about the area and skilled in hydrology and geomorphology. Agencies such as the US EPA, RWQCB, MCWRA, NMFS, and DFG should be involved. Growers and landowners should be involved. And stakeholders such as Sierra Club, Surfrider Foundation, CA Native Plant Society, Audubon, and Monterey Coastkeeper should be involved. Such a process is the only way to bring people together, find common ground, maintain the waterways, and provide flood control. Deliverables from the process will be a 401 permit application and a Channel Maintenance Technical Memorandum. | flood control |
| Monterey Coastkeeper/ The Otter Project: Finding a Common Ground Approach to Salinas River Flood Management | A number of groups and agencies resisted grower and Monterey County Water Resource Agency plans to undertake bulldozing projects in the Salinas River channel without an environmental impact study. The US EPA designated the Salinas River an Aquatic Resource of National Importance (ARNI) essentially stopping the Army Corps of Engineers 401 permit process. The MCWRA has now funded environmental review. While the review may satisfy CEQA requirements, the study may do little to balance the value conflicts of growers, fish, water quality, and other users. Environmental review will certainly not address the ARNI designation. A facilitated stakeholder process is proposed to bring people together to find a common ground approach to flood management in the Salinas River. | flood control |
| Monterey County Public Works: Boronda County Sanitation District Guide Rail Upgrade Project | The goal of the Boronda County Sanitation District Guide Rail Upgrade Project is to replace the T-rail system and replace it with dual tube guide rail system. This project is through the beginning stage. Planning is underway between the Wastewater Collection crew and the Bridge crew to complete the project in a timely manner. This guide rail project will significantly improve performance. It is an effective way to ensure that the pump has a good seal and the flow is diverted with out seepage. Estimated project completion is within 90 days with proper funding. This project will minimize the pump seepage and reduce the amount of Sewer System Overflow occurrences. | water quality |

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| Monterey County Public Works: Chualar Wastewater Collection and Treatment System Upgrade Project | Chualar Ponds operate as a percolation system which requires dredging, disking the ponds on an annual basis. This project requires the following repairs and items to be implemented: 1) Valve replacement: Each pond has a valve to allow ponds to divert flow from one pond to another. Without the pond rotation we cannot operate the ponds successfully. The Department of Public Works will also develop a way to tie in to a water supply in the area to obtain potable water. 2) Monitoring: Monitoring constituents in the ponds will require meters, including a dissolved oxygen meter and a pH meter. 3) Back-up generators: Back-up generators will be rented or purchased to ensure that the public is protected from Sanitary Sewer Overflows. 4) Guide rail project for CSA-75: The 30-year-old infrastructure which has the old T-rail system will be replaced. This includes replacing the base in some of the lift stations and replacing the T-rail system with the guide rails. 5) Plan of Action: This includes the process of communicating with other districts and agencies to form a one-time fee for confined space training for additional County employees. 6) CSA-75 SSMH: The Public Works Department will elevate three manholes to reduce the amount of water intrusion in the Sanitary Sewer System. | water quality |
| Monterey County Public Works: County Service Area 72 - Las Palmas Monitoring Wells | In order to operate the wastewater facilities and to discharge recycled water via irrigation systems, a WDR is required. The RWQCB issued a WDR Order to meet this requirement for the Las Palmas Ranch Residential Development. On December 1, 2006, the RWQCB issued Master Reclamation Requirements (MRR) that required a Groundwater Monitoring Well Work Plan. That Monitoring Plan was prepared by Schaaf & Wheeler and submitted to the RWQCB on May 31, 2007. That plan called for the installation of additional monitoring wells at an estimated cost (in 2007 dollars) of $130,000. There are insufficient funds within the CSA 72 accounts to pay for the full costs of the plan. Grant funding consideration is requested for the installation of groundwater monitoring wells to implement the submitted Work Plan. | water quality + water supply |
| Monterey County Public Works: Moss Landing County Sanitation District Wastewater System Upgrade Project | The goal of the Moss Landing County Sanitation District Guide Rail Upgrade project is to improve the T-rail system and replace it with the guide rail system. This project is already in process however it is at the beginning stage. Planning is underway between the Wastewater Collection crew and the Bridge crew to complete the project in a timely manner. This guide rail system will last as long as the T- rail system is properly maintained. This project will minimize the pump seepage and reduce the amount of Sewer System Overflow occurrences. | water quality |
| Monterey County Public Works: SCADA Project | This concept proposal is to implement a SCADA program for all County Sanitation Systems, which will ensure accurate monitoring for the Sanitary Sewer System. Implementing this project will be an effective way to reduce the amount of man hours as well as to efficiently monitor system performance and avoid emergency events. | water quality |
| Monterey County Water Resources Agency: Granite Ridge Expansion Project (tentative name) | The project described in this concept proposal represents a sustainable solution to water supply in the Highlands South/Granite Ridge subareas of the northern portion of Monterey County. The project consists of a conveyance pipeline that starts near Castroville and runs along Castroville Boulevard and ties in to the Granite Ridge Distribution System (which for the purposes of this project is assumed to be built). Along the conveyance pipeline alignment, there are laterals/spurs that would provide water to smaller areas along the pipeline route. This project would build upon the success of the Granite Ridge Distribution Project (GRDP), which provides water to an area of Monterey County that is in great need of a sustainable water supply solution. The GRDP is listed as another project in this IRWM Plan. The GRDP utilizes water from two wells and distributes the water via pumps, storage tanks, and pipelines. Conversely, the GREP utilizes the existing infrastructure from the GRDP and augments the water supply of surrounding areas, with a different source of water. | water supply |

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| Monterey County Water Resources Agency: Implement Reclamation Ditch Improvement Plan Advisory Committee Recommendations | The Reclamation Ditch Improvement Plan was developed by the Reclamation Ditch Improvement Plan Advisory Committee (RDIPAC) to address the flooding, erosion, and sediment issues impacting the Reclamation Ditch system, a 157 square mile watershed. The desired project types submitted here will implement recommendations by the RDIPAC. Some of the recommendations include the following: replace Potrero Tide Gates, increase channel capacity and embankment stabilization (various locations), conduct bridge replacements (12), modify Main Street box culvert, increase pumping capacity at pump stations (2), conduct a comprehensive watershed assessment and management plan, and conduct survey of existing right-of-ways. | flood control + water quality |
| Monterey County Water Resources Agency: MCWRA Reservoir Roads Assessment and Upgrade Project | This project will assess the water quality impacts of approximately 40 miles of unpaved roads that are located on land owned by the Monterey County Water Resources Agency (MCWRA) and will create a plan to address these impacts. These roads drain directly or indirectly into either the San Antonio Reservoir in Monterey County or the Nacimiento Reservoir located in San Luis Obispo County. The majority of the land owned by the MCWRA around the reservoirs has historically been used for cattle grazing leases; many of these roads have delivered a significant amount of sediment into the reservoirs. The excess sediment impairs water quality and may be a means of carrying other pollutants such as Mercury into these water bodies. The need for this project was first documented in the San Antonio and Nacimiento River Watershed Management Plan (known as the Nacitone Plan); it was listed as a high priority project. | water quality + water supply |
| Monterey County Water Resources Agency: Monterey County Water Supply Augmentation Program | This project is an over-arching effort to augment the current water supply for Monterey County. It incorporates new surface water storage facilities, as well as surface water treatment, distribution systems for both agriculture and urban uses, and expanded utilization of recycled water. | water supply + water quality + flood control |
| Monterey County Water Resources Agency: Nacimiento Dam Hydroelectric Plant Upgrade | This proposal entails the upgrading of hydroelectric power generator unit No.2 at the Nacimiento Dam Hydroelectric Plant. The MCWRA recently completed the construction of the Salinas Valley Water Project (SVWP). This project has changed the way MCWRA schedules releases from Nacimiento Dam due to conditions dictated by state and federal regulatory agencies. In the past MCWRA typically released 25 cfs for conservation releases and/or fish passage flows. Unit No.2 was originally designed to generate power at this low-flow conservation release condition. As a result of the implementation of the SVWP, this low-flow conditional parameter has been increased from 25 to 60 cfs. Upgrading Unit No.2 to operate in and round this new conditional flow parameter shall allow for an increase in hydro-power generation efficiency. | water supply |
| Monterey County Water Resources Agency: Potrero Road Tide Gates Construction Project | The Reclamation Ditch Improvement Plan by the RDIPAC addresses the flooding, erosion, and sediment issues impacting the Reclamation Ditch system. The Potrero Road Tide Gates Project submitted here will implement recommendations by the RDIPAC. The Potrero Road Tide Gates Project will reduce the risk of flooding in the City of Salinas and surrounding areas from current and future flow rates in the system, minimizing crop damage and reducing erosion and sedimentation from widened channel sections in the Reclamation Ditch watershed. | flood control |

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| Monterey County Water Resources Agency: Salinas River Diversion Facility Expansion | The project described in this concept proposal asks the question, "Can the Salinas River Diversion Facility's functionality be expanded?" The need comes from the desire to utilize the water in Monterey County with increasing effectiveness. Monterey County receives no water from sources outside of itself, therefore needs to be both effective and efficient with the resources it does have. The MCWRA proposes to develop this concept as a feasibility analysis that would evaluate possible alternatives that could increase Salinas River Diversion Facility (SRDF) functionality. Increased functionality could potentially be found with: 1) develop an urban water supply component, 2) expand the availability of water for agricultural use, and 3) other alternatives that may come from an alternatives identification analysis. | water supply |
| Monterey County Water Resources Agency: Salinas River Diversion Facility Solar Energy Enhancement Project | The Salinas River Diversion Facility Solar Enhancement Project will consist of a solar energy field located on property owned by the MCWRA around Lake Nacimiento in relatively near proximity to the substation that currently serves the hydroelectric project. The Salinas River Diversion Facility consists of four 300 horsepower pumps that will extract water from the Salinas River that will, after treatment, be added into the recycled water storage pond for delivery to the 12,000 acres of agricultural fields in the project. Providing solar power into the grid to offset the power requirements of these large pumps will add to the combined benefits of all of these projects. | water supply |
| Monterey County Water Resources Agency: Salinas River Lagoon Fisheries Enhancement Project | During minimum flows in the Salinas River, the Old Salinas River Channel (OSRC) outlets through a slide gate into the Pacific Ocean, in Monterey Bay. This outlet is seasonally disconnected from the Pacific Ocean by a naturally forming sandbar at the mouth of the river forming the Salinas River Lagoon. The OSRC was constructed to provide flood protection for adjoining farm land and controlling water surface elevations in the lagoon when flows to the ocean are not possible. South-central California coast steelhead, a federally threatened species, uses the lower Salinas River as a migration corridor between the ocean and their upstream spawning grounds. When seasonally closed to the ocean, the Lagoon may serve as rearing habitat for juvenile steelhead. An existing slide gate is opened to allow Lagoon discharges to the OSRC. Steelhead may be entrained into the OSRC (drawn into the water diversion by hydraulic forces). To protect steelhead and other fish entrainment into the OSRC, MCWRA proposes to install fish screens at the slide gate. The proposed fish screen facility is also designed to prevent back flow from the OSRC to the Lagoon, which would eliminate influxes of agricultural runoff that currently contributes to the degradation of water quality in the Lagoon. The proposed project would enhance the Salinas River Lagoon as steelhead migration and rearing habitat, limit the ability of fish to leave the closed Salinas River Lagoon while allowing an outlet for flood management, and decrease debris loading in the channel approach. | natural resource enhancement + water quality |
| Monterey County Water Resources Agency: San Antonio Dam Hydro Electric Power Plant | In the last 20 years the concept of constructing a hydro electric power plant at San Antonio Dam had been considered as a green source of electrical power to sell to PG&E at a premium kw/hr rate. The concept of a San Antonio Dam hydro electric power plant would be structurally similar to that which exists at Nacimiento Dam. The power plant structure would be an all-weather type facility and would house turbines, generators, controls and electrical equipment. The San Antonio power plant would also work in concert with the controlled releases for groundwater recharge to the lower Salinas River Valley. It is anticipated that the controlled releases from San Antonio Dam will continue to be less than that of Nacimiento Dam and therefore the San Antonio power plant would potentially have a lower production rate of electricity than the Nacimiento power plant. Even though the San Antonio power plant may have less production capacity of electricity than the Nacimiento power plant, there would be an added source for green electrical energy. | water supply |

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| Monterey Regional Waste Management District: Monterey Regional Waste Management District Renewable Energy Facility | The Monterey Regional Waste Management District (MRWMD) is evaluating plans to construct an additional 6,000 kW cogeneration plant on the southern side of its landfill site, immediately adjacent to the proposed Regional Desalination Project facilities. The combined power from both the existing and new MRWMD cogeneration facilities would be sufficient to provide all of the power needed for operation of the Regional Desalination Project facilities, specifically the desalination water treatment plant and distribution pumping. The power would be delivered to the Regional Desalination Project through a new power transmission line running directly from the MRWMD cogeneration facilities to a substation at the desalination plant. Powering the Regional Desalination Project from the MRWMD Cogeneration Facility provides the following benefits: Reduced greenhouse gas emissions and carbon footprint for the Regional Desalination Project; power potentially provided at a cost lower than buying from PG&E; and power would not be required from PG&E on a regular basis. | water supply |
| Nacimiento Regional Water Management Advisory Committee: Interlake Tunnel between Lake Nacimiento and Lake San Antonio | The purpose of the project is to plan, engineer, permit, construct and operate of an interlake tunnel between Lake Nacimiento and Lake San Antonio. Lake Nacimiento and Lake San Antonio are manmade reservoirs within the Salinas River Basin that provide a number of vital functions to the area. These functions consist of flood control, water supply and recreation. Rain water and runoff from the surrounding watershed is typically stored during winter months and then released in a controlled fashion during the dry summer months. The water supply is used for groundwater recharge in the Salinas Valley via releases from both lakes which combine in the upper Salinas River. Flood control is achieved by retaining water and limiting flow in the Nacimiento and San Antonio rivers during winter storm events. This captured water stored in the two lakes would be used later in the dryer seasons as release water which would flow downstream for groundwater recharge, abatement of salt water intrusion, and the promotion of fish habitats. Increasing the total available supply of water will benefit all of these uses, industries, and communities. | water supply |
| Resource Conservation District of Monterey County: Monterey County Integrated Watershed Restoration Program | The Integrated Watershed Restoration Program (IWRP) for Monterey County is modeled after the IWRP pioneered in Santa Cruz County. The flagship component of IWRP is the creation of an interagency process to identify, design, and permit high priority water quality, fish passage, and wetland restoration projects. The Santa Cruz County IWRP partner organizations and agencies recognized that implementing the recommendations of multiple assessments and plans is best accomplished by bringing together federal, state, and local resource and permitting agencies to identify the highest priority projects and assisting with locating funding sources, providing technical assistance, and facilitating permitting. While in many ways this sounds potentially redundant with the mission of the Greater Monterey County (GMC) IRWM Plan, the key distinctions with IWRP are: 1) the focus on restoration projects, 2) the closely involved role of regional Coastal Conservancy staff in supporting the IWRP process and projects, and 3) the participation of state and federal (along with local) agency representatives in the IWRP Technical Advisory Committee for a more vertically-integrated approach to facilitating, directing and supporting selected projects. As such, IWRP can be a critical asset for supporting GMC IRWM Plan restoration-focused projects, and it could facilitate coordination between neighboring IRWM regions. Typical IWRP restoration projects can include rural road erosion reduction, fish passage improvement, and wetland and lagoon restoration. The individual watershed projects will be identified by the IWRP Technical Advisory Committee based on recommendations in local watershed plans, including the Coho and steelhead recovery plans developed by DFG and NMFS, or otherwise supported by state or federal resource agencies or local watershed groups. The IWRP will also support a number of potential projects recommended in other Monterey County IRWM Plans for the Pajaro River and the Carmel Valley and Monterey Peninsula. | natural resource enhancement + water quality |

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| Resource Conservation District of Monterey County: Rural Roads Erosion Assistance Program for Monterey County | RCDMC will serve as the program lead with regular guidance from a Rural Roads Technical Advisory Committee, in providing education and training on rural roads drainage techniques, on-site technical assistance, and funding for road erosion assessments, project design and permitting, and road drainage project implementation. The outreach aspects of the program will include demonstration workshops and trainings, outreach material development and public communications. The TAC will help to develop and review criteria to select road association projects that will receive funding as well as assess program success. Road association projects that are selected will require 50% of the project costs to be contributed by the road association. This match share will be from in-kind services and/or cash contributions. In addition to the match share, a long-term maintenance agreement will be required as part of the project. Success will be measured by the amount of reduction in sedimentation coming from rural unsurfaced roads and from surfaced roads that are not maintained. | water quality |
| Ventana Wilderness Alliance: Arroyo Seco Wild and Scenic River Recreational and Habitat Enhancement | The Arroyo Seco River is the only major tributary of the Salinas River that remains undammed. The purpose of this concept proposal is to demonstrate the willingness of the nonprofit Ventana Wilderness Alliance (VWA) to collaborate with the US Forest Service and other agencies to enhance the outstanding recreational and habitat values of the Arroyo Seco River. With proper funding, VWA is prepared to initiate projects on the designated Wild and Scenic sections of the Arroyo Seco River either before or after H.R.4040 is passed. Potential projects to be initiated in conjunction with the Forest Service include: Implementation Monitoring: Ensure visitor information/education material is available; provide Wilderness Ranger personnel to assist in public education and help maintain the outstanding values of the river). Effectiveness Monitoring: Annual review of patrol logbooks for overall river corridor condition, including but not limited to amount of trash, development of fire rings, cutting of live vegetation, invasive weeds, overcrowding of campgrounds, number of dogs off-leash. Adaptive Management: If annual review of monitoring indicates repetitive documentation of excessive trash, development of fire rings, cutting of live vegetation, spread of invasive weeds, overcrowding of campgrounds, and dogs off-leash, then site specific environmental analysis will be conducted as appropriate and an approved process will be used to determine the appropriate corrective action. | natural resource enhancement + water quality |
| Ventana Wilderness Alliance: Big Sur Wild and Scenic River Monitoring and Adaptive Management | The purpose of this concept proposal is to secure funding for a collaborative approach to Monitoring and Adaptive Management along the Wild and Scenic Big Sur River. The VWA is prepared to work with the US Forest Service to conduct implementation monitoring and effectiveness monitoring as outlined in the CRMP. Due to budget constraints, little if any of these activities have taken place since the adoption of the CRMP in 2003. The project includes Implementation Monitoring, Effectiveness Monitoring, and Adaptive Management as described above. | natural resource enhancement + water quality |

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| Ventana Wilderness Alliance: Los Burros Abandoned Mine Survey and Remediation | Literally hundreds of abandoned gold mines and at least one mercury mine litter the southern Big Sur coast. These relics of the former Los Burros Mining District discharge liquid runoff into watersheds known to harbor spawning populations of Federally Endangered southern steelhead. Further downstream, this effluent enters the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Prior to the VWA's Los Burros Abandoned Mine Survey project, the chemical composition of such runoff was completely unknown. Initial testing at one of the sites revealed effluent with highly elevated levels of mercury, flowing out of an abandoned adit (i.e., horizontal mine shaft) and directly into a tributary of San Carpoforo Creek. Agency officials at Los Padres National Forest have been aware of this situation for decades, but have yet to allocate funding for testing or remediation. The VWA's solution has been to address these conditions so that remediation efforts can be undertaken. Phase I of the Silver Peak/Los Burros Abandoned Mine Project has begun with testing of the most suspect sites for the presence of heavy metals, and the scheduling of biological surveys for sensitive species habitat. Future phases will pursue remediation of any toxics found and the installation of bat gates at mine openings as needed to protect sensitive species and forest users, and to deter vandalism. | natural resource enhancement + water quality |
| Ventana Wilderness Alliance: Milpitas Special Interest Area and San Antonio River - Grazing Allotment Monitoring | The Milpitas Special Interest Area (SIA) contains approximately 9500 acres, located in the upper watershed of the San Antonio River, much of which is within the Ventana Wilderness. Within the Milpitas SIA is the Milpitas Grazing Allotment. Together these two entities cover virtually the entire headwaters region of the San Antonio River watershed, which is the major contributor to San Antonio Reservoir. In the Los Padres National Forest Management Plan of 2005, the US Forest Service recognized the unique aspects of the area and designated the Milpitas SIA. Due to decreases in funding and personnel, the Forest Service has been unable to develop a management plan for the SIA to achieve the desired condition. The VWA has facilitated and funded an agreement between Los Padres National Forest and Mountain Heritage Associates to create a comprehensive management plan for the area with input from the Salinan tribes, recreational users, and the local community. A key Management Objective of the management plan is to "provide forage for cattle in a way that complements ethnobotanical management objectives." One objective is the development of a "new allotment management plan with grazing prescriptions that complement ethnobotanical resources, maintains functional riparian areas, and uses infrastructure as needed to reduce cattle grazing impacts on heritage sites." To achieve this objective, funding is necessary to monitor grazing, study its impacts and test and assess the water quality of the San Antonio River and its tributaries. It is the VWA's hope that this concept proposal will lead to a cooperative and collaborative Implementation Project to develop a new grazing allotment management plan on the Milpitas Special Interest Area. | water quality |