## Greater Monterey County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan: 2022 Ranked Project List

Approved by the Greater Monterey County Regional Water Management Group on August 17, 2022

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Rank	Project Sponsor	Project Title	Grant Request	Local Match	State Match	Total	Project Description
1	Big Sur Land Trust	Carr Lake 2	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$12,000,000	\$13,000,000	In 2017, Big Sur Land Trust (BSLT) purchased 73 acres within the Carr Lake basin in the City of Salinas with the intent of creating a new multi-benefit park and open space in the heart of this urban area. There are two components to this park project: a 6-acre traditional neighborhood park, and a 67-acre restored open space with natural water-related elements. This application seeks funding for implementation and construction of the 67-acre open space area. Specifically, the project will restore and enhance wetland and riparian fish and wildlife habitat, improve water quality through enhancement of natural physical and biological processes and constructed stormwater treatment green infrastructure, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enhance carbon sequestration in seasonal wetlands and vegetated areas, and offer public access to a large natural area in the center of the largest city in Monterey County with trails, boardwalks, interpretive signs, and educational opportunities.
2	City of Soledad	Soledad Wetlands & Recreational Enhancements Project	\$1,410,154	\$201,451		\$1,611,605	Create wetlands and associated recreational elements at the Soledad Water Reclamation Facility (WRF). Water for wetlands will be supplied by WRF effluent. Seasonal and perennial wetlands, open water pond and riparian habitat are proposed to be created. Recreational elements include small parking lots, trails, overlook decks, a boardwalk, a 1-stall prefabricated restroom, and interpretive signage focused on natural habitat, wildlife and water.
3	Ecology Action	Salinas Valley Climate Victory Garden Direct Installation Program	\$493.000	\$396.018		\$889.018	The proposed project supports Salinas Valley-based landscape contractors, public agencies, and water utilities in retrofitting existing landscapes to comply with state and local water efficient landscape ordinances (WELO) and storm water post-construction requirements. A 'Climate Victory Garden' direct installation program to help residents, public agencies, HOAs and property management organizations replace turf grass with low-water use landscaping installations, all the while educating the community about climate-appropriate landscapes that create beauty, add value and reduce GHG emissions. To overcome cost and technical barriers that prevent property owners from taking action, Ecology Action staff will provide landscape design services, and partner with Green Gardener contractor alumni, CA Conservation Corps and Climate Corps fellows to implement lawn conversion projects that are capped at \$6/sq ft, funded by both property owner cost- share.

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3	Central Coast Wetlands Group*	Espinosa Lake Flood Retention Project	\$505,000	\$505,000		\$1,010,000	The first objective of the project is to negotiate a land agreement on 10 acres of land adjacent to North Espinosa Lake to allow seasonal flooding. This 10 acre addition will help optimize winter flood attenuation and spring water supply. The second objective is to modify flood management expectations with adjacent land owners and flood management infrastructure as needed to flood Espinosa Lake with 5 ft of seasonal storm water (approximately 850 acre feet). Finally, the third objective is to construct a sinuous drainage system to treat lake waters for beneficial reuse. This will be accomplished by the construction of containment berms, flood conveyance and water treatment channels. The drainage system will be a treatment wetland planted with California native plants that will improve surface water quality through a 50% reduction in nitrates and a decrease in suspended sediment and organic matter. There are also possible recreational opportunities including a walking trail and/or nature viewing locations in the newly improved freshwater habitat.
3	Elkhorn Slough Foundation	Ridgeline to Tideline	\$475,000	\$495,000	\$20,000	\$990,000	The Ridgeline to Tideline project is a comprehensive approach to addressing water resource issues in an estuarine watershed. The three phases of this work include: 1) restoring ecosystem function in tidal wetlands of Elkhorn Slough plus restoration of an adjacent upland buffer, 2) acquiring properties that are chronic sources of Slough degradation, and 3) re-contouring and stabilizing their steep eroding slopes with native vegetation. This phase: We will acquire/protect and restore up to 100 acres of key watershed lands, retiring ~ 45 acres of marginal farm fields, eliminating pumping of ~45 million gallons of ground water per year in a highly overdrafted watershed. In addition, we will restore native vegetative cover reducing runoff, increasing recharge and improving water quality.
4	Monterey County Water Resources Agency	Salinas River Water Resource Management and Habitat Improvement Project	\$1,000,000	\$2,350,000		\$3,350,000	MCWRA has developed a Salinas River Long-Term Management Plan (LTMP) to help solve complex management challenges on the Salinas River. It is MCWRA's intent that this LTMP be the first step in a process to establish comprehensive solutions to water resource management along the Salinas River. MCWRA intends to develop this management strategy in partnership with all interested parties to meet the goals and objectives for the entire system, while maintaining necessary flexibility. This multi-benefit management program will address needs related to MCWRA facilities and operations, as well as related issues such as flood risk reduction, water supply, water quality, natural resource conservation, threatened and endangered species management, and federal and state Endangered Species Act compliance.

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5	Monterey County Water Resources Agency	Interlake Tunnel and Spillway Modification Project	\$60,000,000	\$30,000,000		\$90,000,000	The proposed interlake tunnel would be a gravity flow water conveyance tunnel approximately 12,000 feet (2.3 miles) long connecting the Nacimiento and San Antonio Reservoirs. Conceptual design envisions a reinforced concrete lined tunnel with an inside finished diameter of 10 feet and a slope from Nacimiento to San Antonio of approximately -0.4 percent. The tunnel will be designed to accommodate internal pressures and seismic activity in the region. The proposed modification to the spillway at the San Antonio Reservoir would provide up to a 7- foot increase in the maximum lake elevation, effectively increasing the storage capacity of the reservoir.
6	Central Coast Wetlands Group*	Construction of a Cooperative Treatment Wetland on the Old Salinas River	\$245,000	\$325,000	\$80,000	\$650,000	The project includes the construction of a treatment wetland on the historical floodplain of the Old Salinas River to treat dry season base flow water from the entire Gabilan Watershed. The project will redirect flow from the Tembladero Slough drainage ditch. The wetland will include a containment berm, a forebay to support sediment settling and a tidally driven uni- directional gravity fed wetland area 0.2- 0.3m deep with vegetated and open wetland areas. Water will drain to the Old Salinas River approximately 200m downstream of the current pump discharge location.
6	Central Coast Wetlands Group*	Implementation of the Moro Cojo Slough Management and Enhancement Plan: Restoration of the Upper Slough	\$465,000	\$465,000		\$930,000	This project will negotiate the purchase or conservation easement on 30 acres of un-farmable lands east of rail road tracks in the Moro Cojo Slough, to be linked with Ag Trust conservation lands in main channel. We will return fresh water to those lands, with appropriate buffer from Ag operations. We will also install a wetland treatment system on Calcagno land adjacent to drainage and document improved water quality.
6	Central Coast Wetlands Group*	Construction of a Cooperative Treatment Wetland on the Lower Alisal Creek	\$200,000	\$200,000		\$400,000	The project includes the construction of a treatment wetland adjacent to the Alisal Creek to treat dry season base flow water from the Alisal Creek subwatershed. The project will redirect flow from the north ditch pump discharge to an upland area north east of the farm lands and drainage network. The wetland will include a containment berm, a forebay to support sediment settling and a bi-directional gravity fed wetland area 0.2-0.3m deep with vegetated and open wetland areas. Water will drain to the Alisal creek approximately 30m downstream of the current pump discharge location.

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6	City of Salinas	Closter Park	\$7,600,000	\$1,400,000		\$9,000,000	Closter Park is a community park of seven (7) acres located in Alisal. This Closter Park Green Street Project (Project) will enhance the Alisal community by creating three (3) green streets with diverse, drought-tolerant native plants, trees, permeable pavement and traffic and pedestrian safety improvements. The Project includes 33 biofiltration cells which will mimic natural systems to treat and infiltrate stormwater. The vegetation will improve stormwater quality and reduce runoff, while also reducing greenhouse gases, air pollutants, and extreme heat threat in the area. The street parking will be replaced with permeable pavement to further enhance stormwater infiltration and reduce flood risks. Flooding is a known issue in this community due to minimal investment in storm drain infrastructure.
6	Resource Conservation District of Monterey County	Monterey County Farm Nutrient Management and Water Quality Assistance Program	\$351,287	\$365,263		\$716,550	The Resource Conservation District of Monterey County (RCDMC), in close partnership with University of California Cooperative Extension Crop Advisors and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service will provide a comprehensive bilingual on-farm erosion, irrigation and nutrient management assistance program for Monterey County farmers. The service will continue and build upon previous work that has been performed by the RCDMC that 1) evaluates erosion potential, irrigation system and application efficiency, and nutrient budgeting; 2) develops recommendations as needed for field configuration, soil stabilization, and refined water and nutrient applications; and 3) assists growers' voluntary implementation of those recommendations to help reduce excess soil, water and nutrient movement off area farms while optimizing farm productivity.
7	Monterey County Water Resources Agency	Integration and Reoperation of Nacimiento and San Antonio Reservoirs	\$750,000	\$1,070,000		\$1,820,000	This project will develop decision support tools that will enable the Grantee to improve reservoir operations and better plan for future conditions, particularly considering anticipated impacts of climate change. The quantifiable benefit is development of re-operation protocols.
8	Resource Conservation District of Monterey County	Salinas River Habitat Stewardship Program	\$496,340	\$496,340		\$992,680	In 2014, the Resource Conservation District of Monterey County began an ambitious multi-year program to eradicate arundo, control other nonnative woody plants (primarily tamarisk and tree tobacco), and track and encourage revegetation with native species in the Salinas River watershed. Due to the fast growth rate of arundo (up to 4" per day), arundo stands could quickly recover their former extent and dominance if treatments are not continued. We propose to use IRWM funds to monitor and re-treat arundo and other woody nonnatives over three years within the cumulative footprint of arundo control work that will have been done under other funding sources. By preventing the reestablishment and spread of arundo and other woody nonnatives, this project will protect the \$5 million investment made by state and local funders to control invasive plants in the Salinas River watershed, and enable the recovery of the ecosystem.

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Kenk							The Water Supply Reliability Project is designed to provide improvements and upgrades to MCWRA facilities that provide ground and surface water supplies and flood control to the Salinas Valley. These improvements include: • Bradley School Warning System-Downstream of Nacimiento Dam • Plunge Pool Engineering & Construction - Nacimiento Dam • Abutment Drainage System – San Antonio Dam • Dam Crest Road and Bridge Deck Road Repair-Nacimiento Dam • Log Boom Repair-Nacimiento Dam • Log Boom Repair-Nacimiento Dam • Log Booms - San Antonio Dam • New Piezometers – San Antonio Dam • New Piezometers – San Antonio Dam • Spillway Drain System and Chute Concrete – San Antonio Dam • Reline 84" Internal Penstock - San Antonio Dam • Fabricate and Install Trash Racks -San Antonio Dam • Pump Efficiency Study-Reclamation Ditch (Flood Control) • Jarvis Lateral Design-Reclamation Ditch (Flood Control) • Blanco Drain Pump-Reclamation Ditch (Flood Control) • Hatch Cover in Switch Yard-Nacimiento • Cross Connect Compliance (Env. Health)-CSIP • Cathodic Protection Survey-CSIP
							Supplemental Well Destruction-CSIP
							Supplemental Well Decommission-CSIP
	Monterey County						Standby Well Destruction-CSIP
	Water Resources	Water Supply					New Security Gate-SRDF
9	Agency	Reliability	\$10,500,000	\$5,500,000		\$16,000,000	Flow Meter-SRDF

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10	California Marine Sanctuary Foundation	Decision Support Tool to Inform Agricultural Management Practices for Improved Water Quality and Food Safety Protection	\$525,000	\$525,000		\$1,050,000	This study will compare wildlife communities, including birds, and movements among agricultural ditches and treatment wetlands having bare ground, managed vegetation, and unmanaged vegetation. During surveys of wildlife in ditches, we will radio-tag rodents and frogs and use an innovative automated telemetry system to track movements of animals 24 hours per day for the duration of the 3-year study. We'll conduct GIS evaluation of the statistical relationship of bird related food safety responses between location and relative distance to various aquatic resources. Movement data collected by autonomous, solar-powered sensor stations will provide information on frequency, duration, and distances of animal movements from ditches or wetlands into crops - key data in estimating food safety risks. During Year 3 of the study we will add fencing, a management practice commonly employed by growers to deter animal movement into crops. Results of this study will be shared with the entire distribution chain through outreach presentations at grower-targeted meetings and meetings with distributors and buyers to promote informed decisions for food safety standards and compliance. Understanding the impact of vegetated agricultural ditches and wetlands on wildlife movement can provide the distribution chain with the critical data needed to implement non-crop vegetation ditch practices that both reduce food safety risk and promote benefits to water quality and management.
11	Monterey County Water Resources Agency	Salinas River Fisheries Monitoring and Evaluation	\$2.000.000	\$3.000.000		\$5,000.000	The Salinas River Fisheries Enhancement Project (SRFEP) has three main purposes: (1) population monitoring to quantify the presence of the Endangered Species Act listed Oncorhynchus mykiss (steelhead trout) in the lower Salinas River system (2) monitor river flows to ensure adequate water for fish passage (migration monitoring) (3) monitor water quality to determine habitat suitability. Tasks that identify the presence and/or enhance the population of O. mykiss will be performed within the Salinas River Watershed in the Salinas River, the Salinas River Lagoon, the Nacimiento River and the Arroyo Seco River.
TOT	AL		\$88,015,781	\$47,294,072	\$12,100,000	\$147,409,853	

\* Note that these four Central Coast Wetlands Group projects have been combined into a single project, entitled "Multi-benefit Water Quality Enhancement Projects in the Salinas Valley."