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May 12, 1992

Mr. Carey Smith
United States Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
911 N.E. Eleventh Avenue
Portland, OR 97232-4181

Dear Mr. Smith,

The Pacific Coast Joint Venture, Southern Implementation Area (Sonoma County) committee is pleased to submit the following project proposal for fiscal year 1992 matching funds and fiscal year 1993 funding package.

PROJECT NAME

Laguna de Santa Rosa Wetlands Enhancement Project (Phase One)

STATE/COUNTY

Sonoma County, California

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Sixth District

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The Laguna de Santa Rosa is a 7000 acre floodway connected to the Russian River at Mirabel, and extends some 18 miles south to Rohnert Park and Cotati. It is formed by the Santa Rosa Plains on the east, predominantly valley oak grasslands with vernal pools, and on the west by historic coniferous and redwood forest. The heart of the floodway grades from permanent marsh and riparian forest, to seasonal marsh and vernal pools.

The Laguna de Santa Rosa is a major wetland complex that historically provided significant waterfowl production. It has been drained, farmed, irrigated, and otherwise managed resulting in the reduction of waterfowl and wetland species numbers and value. The City of Santa Rosa and subregional wastewater system are presently focusing on this area for program mitigations that include the redevelopment of historic features including ponds, permanent marshes, and the termination of irrigation on upland areas for greater waterfowl production and holding capacity.

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The project site is located north of Occidental Road on the western edge of the Laguna de Santa Rosa basin, and is owned by the California Department of Fish and Game. It is bisected by a channelized portion of the Laguna which was built and is owned by the Sonoma County Water Agency. The project intends to augment wetland habitat by intermittently breaching the existing channel and restoring historic braided stream contours. The project should not alter present flood control storage capacity.

The area habitat tends towards both seasonal and perennial fresh water marsh and riparian woodlands. Enhancement of this habitat will increase the biodiversity within this section of the Laguna basin, affecting wildlife which include the following species:

Vegetation:

Scirpus spp.
Typha spp.
Carex spp.
Polygonum spp.
Juncus spp.
Rumex spp.
Salix spp.
Fraxinus latifolia
Acer negundo

Fish:

Oncorhynchus mykiss
Cyprinus carpio
Hesperoleucus symmetricus
Hysteroecarpus traski
Ptychocheilus grandis
Catostomus occidentalis
Gasterosteus aculeatus
Lepomis cyanellus
Lepomis macrochirus

Birds:

Agelaius phoeniceus
Cistothorus palustris
Melospiza melodia
Podilymbus podiceps
Fulica americana
Egretta thula
Ardea herodias
Anas crecca
Anas platyrhynchos
Anas acuta

Mammals:

Procyon lotor
Mustela vison
Lutra canadensis
Bassariscus astutus

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Activity

Restoration - wetlands
Restoration - associated habitat

Acres

Total area - approximately 80 acres
Area of improved wetlands - approximately 40 acres

Units

500 willow sprigs @ \$1.00/each
350 liners of wetland associated plants @ \$1.50/each
-installation by local volunteer groups

Budget

1. Planning/Coordination - see Matching Funds
2. Implementation - portions of actual costs may be donated
 - grading - \$13,800
 - associated enhancement - \$1,200

Other Information

1. Implementation - see Exhibits A & B
 - grading of historic channel contours as needed
 - intermittent breaching along existing flood control channel
 - vegetation enhancement/restoration
2. Letter of support and access permission from Sonoma County Water Agency - see Exhibit C

PROJECT SPONSORS AND CONTACT PERSONS

California Department of Fish and Game: Ken Zanzi
Sonoma County Water Agency: Bob Beach
Sonoma Land Trust: Joan Vilms
Laguna Foundation: Kim Cordell
Circuit Rider Productions: Karen Gaffney
Ducks Unlimited: Tim Fitzpatrick
City of Santa Rosa: Carolyn Dixon
Madrone Audubon Society: Clyde Vance

FUNDING REQUEST

\$15,000

MATCHING FUNDS

County Fish and Wildlife Advisory Board - \$2,200
Circuit Rider Productions - 100 hrs. @ \$50/hr.
Laguna Foundation - 100 hrs. @ \$55/hr.
Sonoma Land Trust - 100 hrs. @ \$100/hr.
Vicky Reynolds, Wetland Field Biologist - 100 hrs. @ \$75/hr.
Marco Waaland, Golden Bear Biostudies - 25 hrs. @ \$75/hr.

TIME TABLE

Summer 1992 and/or Summer 1993

Laguna de Santa Rosa Wetlands Enhancement Project (Phase 1)

Exhibit B

PROJECT BOUNDARY

IMPROVED WETLANDS

ENHANCED CHANNEL

