



Arroyo de la Laguna Streambank Restoration Project

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Funding Announcement

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) was provided a special allocation of \$1.3 million to provide financial and technical assistance in the Alameda Creek Watershed in the recently signed FY 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act. According to sponsoring Congressman Jerry McNerney, the intent of the funding is to “demonstrate the use of bioengineered stream restoration practices, focusing on the control of stream flow and restoration of the Arroyo de la Laguna tributary to the Alameda Creek” (The Independent, March 5, 2009).

The NRCS will implement the funding through its Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations program (Small Watershed Program) in conjunction with the Alameda County Resource Conservation District and other local partners. We anticipate that future projects will build on our experience during the 2006 Phase I Streambank Restoration Project.

Background

Arroyo de la Laguna’s channel drains approximately 400 square miles of Alameda Creek watershed in the Tri-Valley region and is the main tributary to Alameda Creek, the second largest drainage to the San Francisco Bay. The arroyo currently supports diverse riparian vegetation and provides habitat for the Western pond turtle, migrating songbirds, the California red-legged frog, and future habitat for steelhead trout.

The Arroyo de la Laguna is experiencing bank erosion and channel widening along much of its reach as it adjusts to alterations in flow and sediment supply, channel modifications and the impacts of major storm events.

2006 Phase I Streambank Restoration Project

In 2006, a demonstration streambank restoration project was completed along a 1,000-foot section of Arroyo de la Laguna owned by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC), about a half-mile south of the Verona Road bridge between Pleasanton and Sunol. The project focused on reducing streambank erosion, establishing vegetation, and improving riparian habitat through a series of “biotechnical and bioengineered” stream restoration practices. The final installation cost of the project was approximately \$700,000.

2006 Phase I Streambank Restoration Project, cont'.

The project was a collaborative effort by the following local, state and federal agencies:

- San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
- Alameda County Resource Conservation District
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Alameda County Water District
- Zone 7
- Alameda County Public Works Agency
- San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Dublin San Ramon Services District

The project also received donations of woody materials from Four Winds Growers and Robert Nielsen and was constructed by Hanford Applied Restoration & Conservation. More information on this project can be found at <http://www.acrcd.org/PartnershipProjects/CreeksandWatersheds.aspx>.

Watershed and Flood Prevention Program (Small Watershed Program)

The NRCS Small Watershed Program (<http://www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/watershed/>) assists local organizations in conducting watershed surveys and investigations, and in planning and installing structural and land treatment measures for watershed protection and flood prevention. The NRCS will support a local planning process that uses the best available science for solving problems, building on existing planning in the watershed. Planned conservation measures will be described in watershed project plans and can be implemented over multiple years.

Similar to the 2006 Phase I Project, which was a collaborative effort by several local partners, the Small Watershed Program is designed to involve local stakeholders as project sponsors and planning partners. Under the Small Watershed Program, project sponsors are public agencies who (collectively if there are more than one):

- Officially request authorization of watershed project plans for funding
- Conduct public meetings to assure local involvement
- Obtain permissions and permits required for the installation of works of improvement
- Provide local share of funds to install works of improvement
- Operate and maintain works of improvement

Next Steps

We are excited about this opportunity to work with our existing and future partners! We will be meeting with potential sponsors and planning partners in the near future. Please keep an eye on www.acrcd.org for updates on this and other upcoming conservation projects.