

CONTRACT SUMMARY

This information will be made available to the public on the State Water Resources Control Board's (SWRCB) Website (see address below).

Use the "tab" and arrow keys to move through the form. If field is not applicable, please put N/A in block.

Date filled out: February 10, 2005

A) Contract Information Please use complete phrases/sentences. Fields will expand as necessary as you type.
1. Contract Number: 04-133-553-0
2. Project Title: Arroyo Grande Water Quality Enhancement Project (AGWQEP)
<p>3. Project Purpose – Problem: Arroyo Grande Creek is located in the southern coastal portion of San Luis Obispo County. For over a century the Arroyo Grande Valley (the upper valley) and the La Cienega Valley (the lower valley) have been famous for growing high-quality vegetables because of the mild climate and rich soil. Excessive erosion throughout the watershed threatens continued viability of farming in the lower valley. The Arroyo Grande Creek Flood Control Project was completed in 1961 to protect homes and farmland in La Cienega Valley. The main feature of the project is a levee system which constrains Arroyo Grande Creek as it flows downstream from its confluence with Los Berros Creek. The channel is maintained by San Luis Obispo County Flood Control Zone 1/1A. Today the lower portion of the channel is filled with sediment. The creek and its riparian vegetation provide habitat for a number of species, including steelhead trout. However, the channel can currently carry only fifteen percent (15%) of its originally designed capacity, which is the equivalent of a storm with a return frequency of two (2) to five (5) years. In March 2001, the levee broke on the south side of the channel, flooding hundreds of acres of farmland and several residences. If the northern levee had broken, more homes and a wastewater treatment plant would have been flooded.</p> <p>Pismo Lake is located between Grover Beach and Pismo Beach in the Pismo Lake Ecological Reserve. The lake is fed by Meadow Creek which drains a three thousand eight hundred (3,800) acre watershed above Arroyo Grande and Pismo Beach. The reserve covers sixty-nine (69) acres including a thirty (30) acre lake with four islands planted with native vegetation. The lake is unique because it has both salt and fresh water. Over two hundred fifty (250) bird species, mammals, reptiles and amphibians inhabit this protected environment. The lake is an important resting and feeding area for birds migrating on the Pacific Flyway. The location of the reserve provides a relatively undisturbed area for wildlife, within an urban environment. The Pismo Lake watershed contains steep, highly erodible soils, and is threatened by sediment and other pollutants from urban activities as well as erosion from agricultural practices and improperly designed or maintained dirt roads.</p>
<p>4. Project Goals: Over the next three (3) years, the Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District (RCD) proposes to provide technical assistance and cost-sharing funds for landowners to install Best Management Practices (BMPs) on their land in order to reduce sedimentation problems in Arroyo Grande Creek and Pismo Lake. The funding will translate directly into BMP projects.</p> <p>The primary focus will be on implementing the following Nonpoint Source Management Measures:</p> <p>1A: Erosion and Sediment Control. 1E: Grazing Management. 1F: Irrigation Water Management. 1G: Education/Outreach.</p> <p>The desired outcomes of implementing the Arroyo Grande Water Quality Enhancement Project (AGWQEP) are a reduction in erosion, sediment loading, and nutrient and pathogen loads to water bodies in the Arroyo Grande and Pismo Lake Watersheds. The project will increase awareness and use of rangeland and farmland agricultural BMPs by landowners throughout the watershed.</p>
<p>a. Short-term Goals: Reach out to landowners via press releases, articles in local media, and organizational newsletters. Coordinate and participate in a minimum of 3 watershed tours, and give presentations to public groups</p>

including schools, agricultural organizations, citizens and stakeholder groups. Hold at least one of each of the following workshops: Rangelands Water Quality Planning, Farm Water Quality Planning, and Positive Point System. Develop a minimum of 5 conservation plans with a minimum of 5 to 7 detailed, ready-to-build BMP designs. Implement BMPs, conduct photo documentation, monitor effectiveness in terms of feet of stream bank protected, riparian areas fences, native species planted, and estimated of reduction in nonpoint source sediment loads using the Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation.

b. Long-term Goals: The goals of the project are to improve water quality, reduce local flood impacts, and improve the ecological health of Arroyo Grande Creek, Pismo Lake, and their tributaries by reducing erosion, sediment loading, and nutrient and pathogen loads to water bodies in the Arroyo Grande and Pismo Lake Watersheds. The project will increase the quality of habitat for steelhead and other listed and sensitive species. Project objectives include reducing agricultural soil loss and increasing stakeholder development and implementation of BMPs, and reducing stream-bank soil erosion. The actions proposed as part of this project are consistent with the management plans currently being drafted by the Arroyo Grande Watershed Forum and the Pismo Lake Task Force. The AGWQEP can be used as a model as an effective way to partner with private landowners to improve water quality and agricultural practices. By seeing that erosion control BMPs are effective, planners and landowners would begin to embrace solutions that target causes of problems, rather than symptoms.

5. Project Location: (lat/longs, watershed, etc.) *Arroyo Grande Creek and Pismo Lake watersheds, San Luis Obispo County, California.*

a. Physical Size of Project: (miles, acres, sq. ft., etc.) *To be determined as conservation plans are completed.*

b. Counties included in the project: *San Luis Obispo*

b. Legislative Districts: (Assembly and Senate)
Assembly District 33

Senate District 15

6. Which SWRCB program is funding this contract? Please put an "X" by the one that applies.

Prop 13 EPA 319(h) Other

B) Contract Contact: Refers to contract project director.

Name: *Julie Thomas*

Job Title: *Watershed Coordinator*

Organization: *Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District*

Webpage Address:
http://www.coastalrcd.org/

Address: *545 Main Street, Suite B-1, Morro Bay CA 93442*

Phone: *805-772-4391*

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C. Contract Time Frame: Refers to the implementation period of the contract.

From: *11/15/04*

To: *11/15/07*

D) Project Partner Information: Name all agencies/groups involved with project. *Coastal Conservancy, Natural Resources Conservation Service*

E) Nutrient and Sediment Load Reduction

Projection (if applicable): *Projections will be possible once specific project sites are identified.*

PLEASE PROVIDE A HARD COPY AND AN ELECTRONIC COPY TO YOUR CONTRACT MANAGER AND YOUR PROGRAM ANALYST WITH YOUR QUARTERLY/MONTHLY REPORT. ALL APPLICABLE FIELDS ARE MANDATORY. IF FIELD IS NOT APPLICABLE, PLEASE PUT N/A IN BLOCK. INCOMPLETE FORMS WILL BE RETURNED. THE ELECTRONIC VERSION OF THIS FORM CAN BE FOUND AT:
<http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/nps/319hproj.html>.