

Project Summary Sheet

Project Name: Los Osos Wetland Reserve Enhancement Tracking No: 4024

Location: Los Osos Creek, Morro Bay Watershed

County: San Luis Obispo County

Project Sponsor: Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District

Point of Contact: Malcolm McEwen, Project Manager. (805) 772-4391

Co-applicant(s): None

Assembly District: #33

Senate District: #15

Project Description (including size):

The project will acquire easements and other interests in real property from willing sellers on 41 acres of floodplain, riparian wetland, and associated uplands. These areas will be replanted with native riparian wetland plant species and will be managed to preserve natural floodplain processes that improve water quality, reduce flooding impacts, and enhance wildlife habitat. The project will also develop a long-term sediment removal program for the section of Los Osos Creek within the Wetland Reserve.

Flood Benefits:

Dredging will reduce water elevations in the portion of the channel that will be dredged and flow velocities will decrease at the lower portion of the site. These changes will primarily provide flood benefits for farmers along Warden Creek and Los Osos Creek. There is little to no flooding benefits for people and/or structures.

Agricultural Benefits:

Reduced flooding will protect approximately 17 acres of low-lying farmland (along Warden Creek) from flooding once every 4 years. With an average production cost of \$2,000 per acre, reduced flooding will result in an annual decrease in flood damage of \$8,500 on the lower portion. Also protecting 11 acres of farmland along Los Osos Creek from flooding once every 10 years would result in an annual decrease in flood damage of \$2,200, bringing the total annual decrease in flood damage to \$10,700.

Agricultural Land Conserved, acres, if any: None

Wildlife Benefits:

The proposed project will change flood management along Warden Creek by allowing the creek to continue its natural process of meander formation, flooding, and sediment deposition. The dredging will also reduce sediment loads to Morro

Bay, and preserve a clearly defined channel for steelhead as they pass between Morro Bay and the upper Los Osos Creek watershed.

Wildlife Habitat Conserved, acres, if any: 41.0 acres

Total area conserved: 41.0 acres.

Other Benefits:

The site expands the existing Los Osos Creek Wetland Reserve (112-acre site placed under a wetland conservation easement in 1995), which is part of the Morro Estuary Greenbelt. The Morro Estuary Greenbelt serves as a wildlife corridor around the community of Los Osos between Montaña de Oro and Morro Bay State Parks.

Total Cost: \$ 647,000

FPCP Cost: \$ 500,000

Funding Partners and Share of Cost:

State CREF through MEGA*	\$100,000
Morro Bay National Estuary Program	\$ 47,000