

California Department of Water Resources NEWS

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DWR Holding Fast Track Application To Help Improve Urban Streams

SACRAMENTO -- Local communities must act quickly to tap into \$750,000 in current funds to improve urban streams.

The Department of Water Resources is holding an expedited Urban Streams Program Grant Application cycle to select projects by late June. The application deadline is April 18, 2000. The grant cap for this cycle is \$200,000 per project.

This fall, another grant application cycle will make available an additional \$2 million in funds authorized by the March 2000 Water Bond. Communities not ready to apply by April 18 can wait and apply this fall for grants up to \$200,000 per project.

Enabling legislation for the Urban Streams Restoration Program requires that projects address urban flooding or erosion, while restoring or enhancing the aesthetic, recreational, and fish and wildlife values of waterways. High priority is given to projects which stress community involvement. To encourage community participation, all grant applications must have both a local government agency and citizen group co-sponsor.

Since the program started in 1985, DWR has worked with local governments and non-profit groups to provide technical assistance and funding to enhance urban streams. Past grants have funded a variety of activities, including creek cleanups, revegetation efforts, bioengineering bank stabilization projects and acquisition of parcels for flood management.

In 1998, the program provided a grant of \$150,000 in River Parkway funds to the City of Pacifica and the San Pedro Creek Flood Control Committee to help fund the creation of a flood bypass and riparian open space area along San Pedro Creek.

"This project, which will reduce flooding, restore riparian and aquatic habitat, and provide open space in the City of Pacifica, is a great example of what the grant monies can help communities accomplish," said Sara Denzler, program coordinator.

Current grant applications are available on DWR's Division of Planning and Local Assistance web site at: http://www.dpla.water.ca.gov/urban_streams.html. For more information call Sara Denzler at (916) 327-1664 or Kurt Malchow at (916) 327-1617.

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The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project, provides dam safety and flood control and inspection services, assists local water districts in water management and water conservation planning, and plans for future statewide water needs. The State Water Project provides water to two-thirds of California's population.

For more on-line information, see [Find DWR Info](#) or return to the [DWR California Water Page](#)