



## PROPOSITION 1 GRANT APPLICATION

### Urban Greening Projects in San Francisco Bay Area

#### CONTACT INFO

Organization	Contra Costa County Watershed Program		
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#### PROJECT INFO

Project Name	North Richmond Watershed Connections				
Summary	North Richmond Watershed Connections Project will implement a suite of multiple-benefit urban greening projects in the unincorporated community of North Richmond; to improve water quality and enhance the health of San Pablo and Wildcat Creeks and their watersheds, while expanding the urban forest, reducing heat islands, and improving this disadvantaged community's awareness of and safe access to their local natural resources with a 1.75-mile long "Walkable Watersheds" urban trail.				
Amount Requested	\$862,400	Total Project Cost	\$1,186,400	Amount of non-state match	\$324,000
Start Date	October 1, 2017		End Date	December 1, 2021	
Project Type	<input type="checkbox"/> Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Acquisition <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Implementation/Construction				
Primary Project Purpose	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improve Watershed Health <input type="checkbox"/> Create Public Green Space <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Urban Forest <input type="checkbox"/> Create or Restore Native Habitat <input type="checkbox"/> Improve Water Quality <input type="checkbox"/> Stormwater Capture* * Stormwater Capture Projects must be consistent with a Stormwater Resource Plan Refer to the Project Eligibility section of the solicitation for more information				
Are you applying to any other agencies for Prop 1 funding for this project? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No					
If yes, which agency(ies)?					
Acres	62	APNs (Acquisition Only)			

#### LOCATION INFO

County	Contra Costa	Specific Location	Fred Jackson Way, North Richmond
Is the project located within a disadvantaged community as defined by the Department of Water Resources <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially			
Latitude Format:	37.960306	Longitude Format:	-122.36665822
What point is represented by the lat/longs (eg., parking lot, center of site, etc):	Fred Jackson Way at Wildcat Creek – the approximate latitudinal center of project along Fred Jackson Way		

#### ELECTED OFFICIALS

Districts	Number(s)	Name(s)
State Senate	9	Senator Nancy Skinner
State Assembly	15	Assemblyman Tony Thurmond
Congressional	11	Congressman Mark DeSaulnier

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

<b>Project Name</b>	North Richmond Watershed Connections
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**1. Need for the project.**

North Richmond, a Community of Concern and Priority Development Area at the mouth of the San Pablo Creek and Wildcat Creek watersheds, and in unincorporated Contra Costa County, is a disadvantaged community facing a host of environmental, economic, and social challenges.

Built on an historic wetland, the community is plagued by poor infrastructure, and up until the 1980’s was frequently inundated by floods. Many major streets have no sidewalks and some are lined with drainage ditches, strewn with trash and/or illegally-dumped materials. Stormwater flows untreated into San Pablo and Wildcat creeks, degrading their water quality and the watersheds’ health, as well as the San Francisco Bay. Proximity to the West County Dump has heightened illegal dumping.

Wildcat Creek historically supported a steelhead run. The upper Wildcat Creek watershed is protected by the East Bay Regional Park District, and the lower reaches have largely remained open and unculverted, making it a strong candidate for restoration and habitat improvement. *Rainbow* trout have been successfully reproducing in upper Wildcat Creek since their reintroduction in 1983. Additionally, San Pablo Creek has been identified as a promising location for steelhead restoration. Water quality improvements in these creeks are needed to protect and enhance fish habitat.

Fred Jackson Way is the primary travel corridor through North Richmond and intersects San Pablo and Wildcat Creeks, offering opportunities for community access to these natural areas. Contra Costa County has been awarded a \$3.3 million federal grant to help enhance biking and walking access to regional trails, parks and open spaces, transit, schools and jobs. The Project offers a significant and time-sensitive opportunity to leverage these federal funds to close the community’s connectivity gap and utilize urban greening elements, such as street trees, rain gardens, and educational signage to improve water quality, watershed health, neighborhood walkability and increase the community’s connection to its natural spaces. The Project will also create a much-needed visual amenity to help reduce illegal dumping outside of the nearby dump.

A dearth of street trees is the result of haphazard 1940s era residential development patterns, red-lining, and a history of farming, horticultural and industrial uses. Rising temperatures due to climate change, increased hardscape, and a lack of urban canopy, have contributed to urban temperatures that can exceed 115 degrees in the summer. Recognized as a community with high vulnerability to heat impacts by the Contra Costa Health Services Department and the County’s Climate Action Plan (CAP), North Richmond’s need for increased urban forest is identified in the CAP for reducing urban heat islands to improve community health and to help mitigate climate change. This project’s street tree planting will help address this need. In addition, lack of public tree opportunity sites and narrow sidewalks requires an urban greening project with broad community support, to set a precedent for combining private property and public right-of-way to benefit the whole community.

The community faces an urgent need to improve poor air quality. Nearly twenty percent of residents in this area live in close proximity to railways and freight transportation infrastructure, a significant source of unhealthy levels of particulate matter air pollution. Urban greening, as part of this project, can help capture some of the particulate matter, including dust and coal dust blown from open railway cars.

**2. Goals and objectives.**

The North Richmond Watershed Connections Project knits together multiple-benefit urban greening projects and key watershed features in the heart of the disadvantaged North Richmond community to:

- Improve water quality in both San Pablo and Wildcat Creeks by constructing rain gardens (design funded by previous SCC grant) to treat urban runoff, as well as by reducing and removing trash and debris from the creeks and watersheds through Adopt-a-Block cleanups, increased trash and recycling receptacles, and community engagement and education.
- Enhance the health of the San Pablo and Wildcat Creek watersheds, through rain gardens installation, trash reduction and removal, and community engagement and education.
- Leverage concurrent County-led “complete street” pedestrian and bicycle transit improvements to benefit the watershed and enhance the community
- Expand the urban forest and reduce heat islands by planting street trees
- Connect residents with their natural landscape, improve public health, and inspire watershed stewardship through improved pedestrian and bicycle access to natural and public space by visually linking these elements via a walkable 1.75-mile “Watershed Connections” route.
- Protect and Enhance Anadromous Fish Habitat by improving water quality in Wildcat and San Pablo Creeks.

### 3. Project Description.

The North Richmond Watershed Connections Project (Project) knits together a suite of multi-benefit green infrastructure projects and key watershed features into a 1.75 mile-long urban trail. This walkable and bike-friendly route showcases creative responses to the North Richmond community’s need for cleaner, greener, safer, and more walkable neighborhoods. A collaboration between Contra Costa County and the local nonprofit organizations Urban Tilth and the Watershed Project, the Project will leverage concurrent County-led pedestrian and bicycle access street improvements on Fred Jackson Way to construct linear rain gardens, plant trees along streets, trails, and in parks, and promote the community’s improved access to natural and public space by visually linking these elements via “Watershed Connections” route.

First, the Urban Tilth North Richmond Farm **Fred Jackson Way Rain Gardens** will replace existing roadside drainage ditches along approximately 700 feet of Fred Jackson Way with bioretention facilities and road frontage improvements. The proposed rain garden and native vegetation will capture and treat 3,110,400 gallons of urban runoff annually, removing trash and pollutants before it is discharged to San Pablo Creek. This project and educational signage will help improve water quality of San Pablo and Wildcat creeks and enhance the health of both watersheds. The project’s associated sidewalk and bike lane will tie in to Contra Costa County’s First Mile/Last Mile project on Fred Jackson Way, closing the gap to complete the Watershed Connections route to San Pablo Creek on the north end.

Second, Contra Costa County will install approximately 37 street trees along Fred Jackson Way between Grove Avenue and the Wildcat Creek Trail. The **First Mile/Last Mile Tree Installations** project will leverage federal Active Transportation Project grant funding for the Fred Jackson Way First Mile/Last Mile project, which increases pedestrian and bicycling infrastructure to improve community access along a primary travel corridor. The North Richmond Watershed Connections Project will provide the street trees, community outreach and engagement to select the street tree species consistent with the desired community identity, as well as installation of an automated irrigation system to establish the trees, tree stakes, and tree grates. The tree grates will be ADA accessible to promote walking and access for all users. The federal transportation grant will fund a portion of the tree installation costs, thus providing matching funds for this project.

Third, The Watershed Project (TWP) will lead the **Clean and Green Adopt-a-Tree, Adopt-a-Block Cleanups and Watershed Connections Route** elements. The projects aim to: 1) increase the urban canopy by planting 50 street trees in collaboration with homeowners; 2) lead County-funded Adopt-a-block cleanups, anticipated to remove 4,500 pounds of trash from the creeks and watersheds annually, as well as leverage ongoing trash reduction efforts by providing “jewel boxes” (artful trash and recycling

receptacles) at litter hot spots and 3) improve watershed awareness, access and walkability with wayfinding, artwork and interpretive elements along the Watershed Connections route.

While the Project was developed to achieve the greatest benefits to water quality, watershed health, urban forest, community health, as well as resource awareness and stewardship, some elements of the project could be scaled based on available budget while still achieving significant benefits.

#### 4. Future Phases.

The North Richmond Watershed Connections Project is part of a long-term North Richmond Urban Greening and Resiliency Plan and leverages existing community programs to broaden the project's reach. The successful implementation of these highly visible pilot urban greening projects will deepen public awareness and support of future multiple-benefit projects in the neighborhood. Importantly it will set a precedence for a sustainable partnership model for project design and implementation and community-based stewardship.

#### 5. Site Description.

The Project is in the heart of the unincorporated and disadvantaged community of North Richmond, a historic wetland near the mouth of Wildcat and San Pablo Creeks. These highly urbanized watersheds are historically quick to flood and slow to drain, and soil compaction, paving and development from farmland to residential, commercial and industrial uses has worsened the situation. There is little or no existing storm drain infrastructure in this zone.

The lower reaches of both creeks cross Fred Jackson Way, which like many major streets in this area, has no sidewalks and is lined with earthen drainage ditches strewn with litter, trash and illegally dumped materials. Stormwater collected in these ditches flows untreated into the two creeks. The Wildcat Creek Trail is a partially completed Connector Trail between the San Francisco Bay and Ridge Trails.

The site of the Urban Tilth Farm **Fred Jackson Way Rain Gardens** is currently unpaved and includes an earthen roadside ditch to convey stormwater. Sparse vegetation consists of weeds and fennel. Runoff from Fred Jackson Way adjacent to Urban Tilth's farm site currently drains primarily south to Wildcat Creek, with the northernmost portion draining to San Pablo Creek, via a trash-strewn roadside ditch. A portion of the ditch may lie within an archaeological site; an archaeologist will be consulted during the current project design. The site is owned and maintained by Contra Costa County. The farm, to open in 2018, will be a community resource, a gathering place providing fresh, healthy food, and local job opportunities. The farm will also be the permanent home of Urban Tilth's Basins of Relations program, which trains local young people with basic job skills in watershed restoration and stewardship.

**First Mile/Last Mile Tree Installations** will be located along Fred Jackson Way between Grove Avenue and the Wildcat Creek Trail. The federally funded First Mile/Last Mile Project will improve the pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure along this primary travel corridor by reducing the vehicle travel lanes and converting that space to bicycle or pedestrian improvements. The street improvements are within the currently paved area, therefore, are exempt from C.3 requirements. The proposed greening efforts and street trees goes beyond regulatory requirements.

The **Watershed Connections Route** threads 1.75 miles through the community and connects San Pablo Creek, North Richmond Urban Farm, ballpark, transit stops, First Mile/Last Mile improvements, Wildcat Creek and Trail, and Verde Elementary School. The **Adopt-a-Tree** and **Adopt-a-Block** projects will be located in this area.

The Regional Map, Site Scale Map and Design Plans are included in a single pdf file as Exhibit A. Site photos are included separately as jpeg files as Exhibit B.

## 6. Specific Tasks.

#	Task Name	Description
1	Fred Jackson Way Rain Gardens	Complete design and permitting for rain gardens and associated frontage improvements. Construction to include: clearing & grubbing, grading; sidewalk construction; curb & gutter; subdrain pipe installation and storm drain tie-in; rain garden construction: grading, soils; planting; interpretive signage installation. Trash and plant surveys performed pre and post construction of rain garden.
2	First Mile/Last Mile Tree Installations	Planning, Permitting and Design, Community outreach for tree species selection, etc.; tree installation; assessment and reporting
3	Neighborhood Adopt-a-Tree Program	Outreach: Recruit homeowners and community members for tree adoption and continued tree care resources and support; tree planting; assessment and reporting
4	Clean and Green Adopt-a-Block Cleanups	Community outreach and education; monthly cleanup events, trash removal assessment and reporting
5	Watersheds Connections Route	Community outreach and education; develop signage and interpretive elements; installation; assessment and reporting
6	Project Administration, Evaluation and Reporting	Project administration, evaluation and reporting of project tasks

## 7. Work Products.

- Final Plans Specifications and Estimates for the rain gardens and all site improvements
- Regular grant reporting and photo documentation of all project elements and post-project data collected during implementation of the grant project.
- Construct a 3,475 s.f. rain garden to treat 3,110,400 gallons of stormwater annually
- Establish 3,475 s.f. of native planting, including trees
- Plant 87 street trees to increase tree canopy cover from 10% to 30%.
- Obtain permits and approvals. Collect homeowner adopt-a-tree agreements and provide a template for the county. Conduct tree planting events. Document locations and species in a street tree database.
- Establish a sustainable approach to urban greening and tree maintenance in partnership with the county, NGO's, community partners and residents. Develop BMP's, standard construction details, approved street tree lists based on the Richmond Urban Forestry Master Plan.
- Prevent stormwater pollution by instigating behavioral change by constructing 19 environmental education features that improve watershed awareness and installing 3 litter receptacles at key locations to prevent littering.
- Coordinate and report results of regular cleanups and trash collection as part of the Clean and Green Adopt a Block program, funded by the County as matching costs.

## 8. Measuring Success.

Effectiveness of the suite of projects will be evaluated using varying methods. The effectiveness of the rain garden will be assessed in two ways by Urban Tilth's Watershed Technicians: 1) photo-documentation of litter (trash surveys) in the drainages pre and post construction, allowing for simple quantification of trash prevented from being entrained in stormwater runoff and discharged into San Pablo Creek. 2) pre and post-construction plant surveys to evaluate successful establishment of the rain garden plantings. Ongoing management and maintenance will be conducted by Contra Costa County Public Works, or Urban Tilth's Watershed Technicians under contract with the County.

All of the street tree locations and species will be entered into a collective street tree database. Ongoing

management and maintenance will be conducted by County Public Works on County property or by TWP and trained homeowner and community members using Adopt-a-Tree resources on private property. TWP staff and green collar corps interns will conduct annual monitoring and manage the County's street tree database. Adaptive management will include a post-pilot project program evaluation and recommendations for improving effectiveness.

TWP's cleanup activities and school-based programs will be collecting data and photos and comparing it to current program records. TWP tracks the number of residents engaged through outreach and volunteer activities, volume of trash removed through cleanups. Interpretive elements, educational signage and artwork are intended to instigate behavioral change. Effectiveness will be measured in reduction of trash collected during cleanup activities by TWP and community partners, city and county-maintained receptacles, and dumping hot spots.

#### **9. Project Maps and Graphics.**

The Regional Map, the Site Scale Map and Design Plans are included in a single pdf file as Exhibit A. Site photos are included separately as jpeg files as Exhibit B.

#### **Storm water Resource Plan (if applicable).**

Not applicable. The project's primary purpose is to enhance the health of the San Pablo and Wildcat Creek watersheds through a suite of multiple-benefit urban greening projects across a disadvantaged neighborhood, which includes tree planting to increase the urban forest, community engagement and education, increased trash receptacles for litter reduction, improved access to natural resources, as well as a stormwater capture project. The stormwater capture element is an important piece but not the primary purpose and does not represent the multi-faceted nature of the project, therefore a Storm Water Resource Plan is not required for this project.

**GRANT APPLICATION – PRELIMINARY BUDGET AND SCHEDULE**

In the budget matrix below, relist the tasks identified in #4 above and for each provide: 1) the estimated completion date for the task, 2) the estimated cost of the task, and 3) the funding sources (applicant, Conservancy, and other) for the task. The table will automatically sum the totals for each row and column. To do this, highlight the whole table and hit F9.

Task #	Task	Completion Date	REQUEST	MATCHING FUNDS		Total Cost
			Coastal Conservancy	Applicant's Funding (includes in-kind)	Other Funds	
1	Fred Jackson Way Rain Gardens	12/01/2020	\$400,000	\$0	\$0	<b>\$400,000</b>
2	First Mile/Last Mile Tree Installations	10/1/2021	\$234,000	\$0	\$224,000	<b>\$458,000</b>
3	Adopt-a-Tree Program	12/01/2020	\$70,000	\$0	\$0	<b>\$70,000</b>
4	TWP Clean and Green Adopt-a-Block Cleanups	12/01/2020	\$0	\$100,000	\$0	<b>\$100,000</b>
5	Wayfinding, interpretive elements, and mosaic trash cans	12/01/2020	\$80,000	\$0	\$0	<b>\$80,000</b>
6	Project Administration, Evaluation and Reporting	12/01/2021	\$78,400	\$0	\$0	<b>\$78,400</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$862,400</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>\$224,000</b>	<b>\$1,186,400</b>

**Categories of Matching Funds**

Please divide total Applicant Funding and Other Funding into the following categories:

Applicant Funds		Other Funds	
Cash	\$95,000	State	\$0
In kind	\$0	Non State	\$224,000
Total (should equal total above)	\$95,000	Total (should equal total above)	\$224,000

In kind match could include donated: staff time, volunteer time, donated materials, bargain sales, etc.

**PROPOSITION 1 GRANT APPLICATION – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

For each question unless otherwise specified, please limit your answer to one concise paragraph. See grant application instructions for more information. Questions should be answered by all applicants, enter “not applicable” if a specific question does not pertain to your project.

1. **Proposition 1 Goals.** Which of the following purposes of Chapter 6 of Proposition 1 are achieved by the project (check all that apply):

- Protect and increase the economic benefits arising from healthy watersheds, fishery resources and in-stream flow.
- Implement watershed adaptation projects for which Grantee has consulted with the state and local conservation corps and included their services if feasible (for restoration and ecosystem protection projects only). Grantees must submit a completed Corps Consultation Review Document. The process for obtaining this required consultation is described in Appendix D.
- Restore river parkways throughout the state, including but not limited to projects pursuant to the California River Parkways Act of 2004 and urban river greenways.
- Protect and restore aquatic, wetland and migratory bird ecosystems including fish and wildlife corridors and the acquisition of water rights for in-stream flow.
- Fulfill the obligations of the state of California in complying with the terms of multiparty settlement agreements related to water resources.
- Remove barriers to fish passage.
- Collaborate with federal agencies in the protection of fish native to California and wetlands in the central valley of California.
- Implement fuel treatment projects to reduce wildfire risks, protect watersheds tributary to water storage facilities and promote watershed health.
- √ **Protect and restore rural and urban watershed health to improve watershed storage capacity, forest health, protection of life and property, storm water resource management, and greenhouse gas reduction.**
- √ **Protect and restore coastal watersheds including but not limited to, bays, marine estuaries, and near shore ecosystems.**
- √ **Reduce pollution or contamination of rivers, lakes, streams, or coastal waters, prevent and remediate mercury contamination from legacy mines, and protect or restore natural system functions that contribute to water supply, water quality, or flood management.**
- √ **Assist in the recovery of endangered, threatened, or migratory species by improving watershed health, instream flows, fish passage, coastal or inland wetland restoration, or other means, such as natural community conservation plan and habitat conservation plan implementation.**
- Assist in water-related agricultural sustainability projects.



1. **Regional Significance:** Describe the regional significance of the project. Through this round the Conservancy seeks to support qualifying urban greening projects, such as water retention and storage, and shade trees for heat relief, which are layered with other community public benefits consistent with the Conservancy’s mandate and authorities.

Implementation of the North Richmond Watershed Connections Project will have regional significance. This suite of projects was chosen for their combined benefits: water quality improvements, watershed health, public access to natural resources, and public health benefits to the North Richmond community. Second, as these highly visible and community-supported projects were chosen to be the first implemented from the North Richmond Urban Greening and Resiliency Plan, their successful completion will help catalyze further engagement and implementation of urban greening in the community. Third, these project help develop the Bay Trail linkages via creating connections between the City of Richmond’s Yellow Brick Road Project, the Wildcat Creek Trail, and the planned San Pablo Creek Trail.

2. **Sustainability.** Described how the project will deliver sustainable outcomes in the long-term. Who will operate and maintain the project?

The Project’s various components will be operated and maintained by different entities. The Fred Jackson Way Rain Gardens will be maintained by Contra Costa County Public Works or Urban Tilth’s Watershed Technicians under contract with the County. The First Mile/Last Mile Tree Installations will be maintained by the County’s Transportation Engineering Department. In the Adopt-a-Tree program, TWP will have homeowner agreements as to the long-term maintenance of the trees. TWP will utilize best management practices, construction details and specifications from the City of Richmond Urban Forestry plan, and will provide supplies and oversee planting activities, document the trees in the online inventory database and monitor the trees during the plant establishment period including watering them for the first two years, while recruiting and educating green collar kids, neighbors and homeowners for continued tree care and providing resources and support to ensure that the urban canopy will thrive and provide multiple benefits to the community. The Watershed Connections route will be operated and maintained by the County and its partners. The additional trash and recycling containers will be serviced and maintained by Richmond Sanitary Services.

3. **Disadvantaged Communities.** Does the project benefit a disadvantaged community? Proposition 1 defines a disadvantaged community as “a community with an annual median household income that is less than 80 percent of the statewide annual median household income.” (CA Water Code Section 79505.5.) The Department of Water Resources has developed an online [map viewer](#) which shows the maps of California’s disadvantaged communities, based on census data including the American Community Survey. Communities are defined at different geographic scales, including county, census tract and census place. Please indicate if the project is located in a disadvantaged community. Whether or not the project is in a disadvantaged community, it may provide benefits to one. If the project benefits a disadvantaged community, please explain (job training, clean water, etc.)

The project is located in the disadvantaged community of North Richmond, with the project site split between disadvantaged and severely disadvantaged community block groups. The project will benefit the residents in multiple ways: through cleaner water in the San Pablo and Wildcat Creeks, healthier and greener watersheds, increased access to green and public spaces to support increased recreational opportunities and a healthier population, job training opportunities, reduced litter and illegal dumping, increased tree canopy to reduce urban temperatures, a greater awareness of and connection to local natural assets, and improved pride of place.

4. **Consistency with State Coastal Conservancy Strategic Plan (as revised June 2015):** Identify which goals and objectives of the California State Coastal Conservancy the project will promote or implement and quantify how much progress the project will make towards the Conservancy's numeric goals for each cited objective.

The project will support the following State Coastal Conservancy Strategic Plan goals and objectives:

- The project will promote Goal 2: Expand the system of coastal public access ways, open-space areas, parks and inland trails that connect to the coast by implementing OBJECTIVE 2A: Develop projects that expand opportunities for barrier-free access to and along the coast and coastal trails. The project will link the North Richmond community with Wildcat Creek Trail and extend community access toward the future San Pablo Bay Trail. The project will progress the Conservancy one project toward their goal.
- The project will promote Goal 5: Enhance biological diversity, improve water quality, habitat, and other natural resources within coastal watersheds by implementing OBJECTIVE 5G: Implement projects to improve water quality to benefit coastal and ocean resources. The project will improve water quality in the San Pablo and Wildcat Creeks and enhance the health of these two watersheds through rain gardens, native vegetation and tree planting, litter reduction and removal, and community outreach and education. The project will progress the Conservancy one project toward their goal.
- The project will promote Goal 7: Enhance the resiliency of coastal communities and ecosystems to the impacts of climate change by implementing OBJECTIVE 7F: Implement projects that reduce greenhouse gases by increasing carbon sequestration, or by supporting land uses that reduce energy consumption including vehicle miles traveled, as well as and OBJECTIVE 7G: Implement tree and vegetation planting projects that reduce urban heat islands and provide other benefits such as reduced energy use, improved air quality, enhanced stormwater management, and improved quality of life. The projects installation of trees and native vegetation, as well as the improved pedestrian and bicycling transit opportunities will increase carbon sequestration, reduce energy consumption, reduce urban heat islands, improve air quality, enhance stormwater management and improve quality of life. The project will progress the Conservancy one project toward their goal.
- The project will promote Goal 9: Expand environmental education efforts to improve public understanding, use and stewardship of coastal resources by implementing OBJECTIVE 9A: Support programs and events that improve public understanding of coastal resources; OBJECTIVE 9B: Support the design and installation of interpretive or educational displays and exhibits related to coastal, watershed, and ocean-resource education, maritime history, and climate-change; OBJECTIVE 9C: Construct or improve regional environmental education centers that educate the public about environmental issues affecting the coast and inland watersheds; through the project's community education and outreach by Urban Tilth's activities, classes and signage at the North Richmond Farm, by Contra Costa County's community outreach program, and TWP's outreach and engagement in tree adoptions and care, Walkable Watersheds, and watershed cleanups. The project will progress the Conservancy one program, one exhibit and one center toward their goal.
- The project will promote Goal 12: Improve public access, recreation, and educational facilities and programs in and around San Francisco Bay, along the coast, the ridgelines, in urban open spaces, and natural areas by implementing OBJECTIVE 12B: Implement projects that provide recreational facilities such as picnic and staging areas, docks and piers, campgrounds, parking lots, interpretive signs, interpretive or educational centers, and natural play spaces; OBJECTIVE 12H: Develop plans for regionally significant public access trails and community connectors, including links between the Bay Trail, Ridge Trail, Water Trail, and Coastal Trail, and links between regional trails and urban

communities; OBJECTIVE 12I: Construct regionally significant public trails and community connectors, including links between the Bay Trail, Ridge Trail, Water Trail, and Coastal Trail, and links between regional trails and urban communities. Through the project's rain garden, signage and educational activities at Urban Tilth's North Richmond Farm, improved safe public access to the creeks, farm, trails, and park, and the Walkable Watersheds route will progress the Conservancy one project, one plan and one connector toward their goals.

## 5. Consistency with California Water Action Plan.

- a. Identify which goals of the California Water Action plan the project will promote or implement.

The project promotes two objectives of the California Water Action Plan. The project supports the restoration of important species and habitat by protecting Wildcat Creek, one of the last few creeks in the East Bay with protected fish species habitat, and serving as an important wildlife corridor that needs enhancement for improved water quality and cooler stream temperatures. Second, the project supports a more resilient, sustainably managed water resources system (water supply, water quality, flood protection, and environment) that can better withstand inevitable and unforeseen pressures in the coming decades through improving the health of San Pablo and Wildcat Creek watersheds with rain gardens and native vegetation and tree planning.

- b. Identify the Integrated Watershed Management Plan(s) and/or any other regional or watershed plans that apply to the specific project area. For each, list those goals, objectives, priority actions, etc. that the project will promote or implement.

The project will support four of the SF Bay Area IRWM overarching goals: First, the project will provide environmental sustainability through improving water quality and watershed health, as well as increased urban forest, economic and social sustainability in a disadvantaged community through improved safe access to community and green spaces, job training opportunities, and increased community engagement and environmental stewardship. Second, the project will help protect and improve Bay water quality through improving water quality of San Pablo and Wildcat Creeks which flow into the Bay, and improving watershed health and function through reduction of litter and increase of urban forest and native vegetation in the Wildcat and San Pablo watersheds, and through community involvement and water resource education via Watershed Connections route. Third, the project will improve regional flood management by constructing rain gardens and planting native vegetation to reduce stormwater runoff volumes in flood prone areas. Fourth, through the construction of rain gardens and planting native vegetation, community education, as well as litter reduction and removal, in the watersheds that drain to creeks, wetlands, and the Bay, the project will protect, enhance, and maintain environmental resources and habitats.

6. **Consistency with Other State Plans.** If the proposed project will help to implement or promote the goals of any of the other State Plans listed below, check that plan and specify which goals, objectives, priority actions, etc. will be furthered by the project in 1-3 sentences.

### ✓ **California @ 50 Million: The Environmental Goals and Policy Report**

The project will reduce petroleum use and steward natural resources to ensure that they store carbon, are resilient, and enhance other environmental benefits through improved pedestrian and bicycling access to public and green spaces, increased community awareness to natural resources, and increased tree and native vegetation planting.

✓ **A Climate Adaptation Strategy/Safeguarding California: Reducing Climate Risk Plan**

The project will reduce climate risks through improved pedestrian and bicycling access to public and green spaces, increased community awareness to natural resources, and increased tree and native vegetation planting.

✓ **CA Wildlife Action Plan**

The project will support *Goal 2.3 (Water Quality, Quantity, and Availability)*: Maintain and improve water quality and water quantity and availability vital for sustaining ecosystems.

- California Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan
- California Essential Habitat Connectivity Strategy for Conserving a Connected California
- State and Federal Species Recovery Plans (specify the plan)
- Habitat Conservation Plans/Natural Community Conservation Plans (specify the plan)
- California Coastal Sediment Management Master Plan
- Completing the California Coastal Trail

✓ **Other relevant state or regional plan(s) (specify the plan)**

The North Richmond Watershed Connections Project includes sub-projects identified through development of the North Richmond Urban Greening and Resiliency Plan. Additionally, the project will support:

- The City of Richmond Urban Greening Master Plan through the proposed urban greening projects.
- The County's Climate Action Plan through improving pedestrian and bicycling transit opportunities to reduce carbon emissions, increased urban forest to reduce heat islands (of which North Richmond is a priority) and increase carbon sequestration.
- The North Richmond Community Vision Plan for Shoreline by San Francisco Estuary Partnership by enhancing public access to Wildcat Creek Trail.
- The Bay Trail Plan by expanding access toward the Bay Trail.

7. **Best Available Science.** Describe how the project is consistent with best available science.

The project incorporates a rain garden, a proven and effective best available science practice for urban stormwater management. Soil structure and vegetation associated with rain garden and bioretention facilities promote infiltration, storage, slow release, and treatment of stormwater runoff to more closely mimic natural conditions. Bioretention has been proven to provide runoff flow control via detention, attenuation, and losses due to infiltration, interception, and evapotranspiration. In addition, increasing the urban forest has been shown to be an important measure to control urban temperatures, increase carbon dioxide absorption and help mitigate climate change.

8. **Sea Level Rise Vulnerability:** If the project involves a site that is close to a shoreline (i.e. potentially flooded or eroded due to climate change), please identify vulnerabilities of the site in relation to flooding, erosion, and sea level rise/storm surges for the years 2050 and 2100 (assume 16 inches and 55 inches of sea level rise respectively). Describe any strategies you have considered for addressing Sea Level Rise. Specify the expected lifespan or duration of the project.

This project is planned concurrently to the Adapting to Rising Tides Program, led by San Francisco Bay SCC Prop 1 Application

Conservation and Development Commission to increase the resilience of Bay Area communities to sea level rise and storm events. The Project addresses sea level rise vulnerability by incorporating urban greening improvements that will help alleviate localized flooding associated with lack of stormwater infrastructure.

9. **Vulnerability from Climate Change Impacts Other than Sea Level Rise:** Using appropriate models, predictions or trends, describe how the project objectives or project may be vulnerable to impacts (fire, drought, species and habitat loss, etc.) from climate change, other than sea level rise, coastal erosion or flooding. Identify design, siting, or other measures incorporated into the project to reduce these vulnerabilities.

The project site is in a historic floodplain that experiences high groundwater levels and flooding conditions. In addition, the community has been identified as high vulnerability to heat resulting from climate change. This project seeks to mitigate these issues by installing rain gardens and planting native species, thereby increasing infiltration and reducing volumes of stormwater runoff to reduce flooding, as well as by increasing the urban forest to reduce urban heat islands.

10. **Environmental Review:** Projects funded by the Coastal Conservancy must be reviewed in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”). CEQA does not apply to projects that will not have either a direct or indirect effect on the environment. For all other projects, if the project is statutorily or categorically exempt under CEQA, no further review is necessary. If the proposed project is not exempt, it must be evaluated by a public agency that is issuing a permit, providing funding, or approving the project, to determine whether the activities may have a significant effect on the environment. The evaluation results in a “Negative Declaration (Neg Dec),” “Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND),” or “Environmental Impact Report.”

The proposed project.... (select the appropriate answer):

- Is not a project under CEQA. Briefly specify why.
- Is exempt under CEQA. Provide the CEQA exemption number and specify how the project meets the terms of the exemption.
- Requires Neg Dec, MND, or EIR.** Specify the lead CEQA agency (the agency preparing the document) and the (expected) completion date. Please note that the Conservancy will need to review and approve any CEQA document. For more information on CEQA, visit: [http://ceres.ca.gov/topic/env\\_law/ceqa/flowchart/index.html](http://ceres.ca.gov/topic/env_law/ceqa/flowchart/index.html) .

The Urban Tilth’s Fred Jackson Way Rain Gardens will required MND due to archeological concerns. Contra Costa County Public Works Department will be the lead agency, with CEQA documentation expected to be completed Spring 2018.

The tree planning component of the project is not a project under CEQA due to Class 4 exemption: minor alteration to land.

11. **Willing Seller:** Projects that involve acquisition of property must involve a willing seller. If your project includes property acquisition, please describe the status and expected conclusion of landowner negotiations.

Not applicable. The project does not involve acquisition of property.

12. **Project and Applicant History:** Provide a history of the project, and any background information not provided in the project description. Is the project related to any previous or proposed Coastal

Conservancy projects? If so, which ones and how are they related?

Urban Tilth has been awarded a planning grant from the State Coastal Conservancy for the design of the project plus two creek restoration demonstration sites, and for submitting applications for necessary regulatory permits; the planned completion date for this work is at the end of 2017. The current grant application would provide funding for completing permit negotiations and any minor changes to the design required by the permitting agencies, and for construction of the rain garden Project on Fred Jackson Way. (Creek restoration demonstration sites are anticipated to be funded under a separate source.)

13. **Support:** List the public agencies, non-profit organizations, elected officials, and other entities and individuals that support the project.

**The following public agencies, non-profit organization, and elected officials** have submitted Letters of Support to communicate their support and participation in the proposed project. The letters are included in Exhibit C.

Project Partners (2):

- a. Urban Tilth
- b. The Watershed Project

Agency and Non-Profit Collaborators (providing in-kind support) (9)

- c. Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia
- d. Contra Costa County Dept. of Conservation and Development, John Kopchik
- e. Contra Costa Health Services Dept., Safe Routes to School Program
- f. City of Richmond, City Manager's Office
- g. American Rivers
- h. Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)
- i. Neighborhood House of North Richmond
- j. Reach Fellowship
- k. West County Waste Water District

Community/Non Profit Group Support (8)

- l. North Richmond Municipal Advisory Council (Don Gilmore, Chair)
- m. North Richmond Missionary Baptist Church
- n. YES Families (Richmond based non-profit)
- o. Citizens for East Shore Parks (CESP)
- p. Verde Elementary School (Principal)
- q. Contra Costa County Resource Conservation District
- r. Earth Team
- s. N Richmond Community Housing and Development Corporation
- t. California Urban Streams Partnership

14. **New Technology.** Does the project employ new or innovative technology or practices? If yes, describe those technologies and/or practices.

The incorporation of rain gardens, particularly constructed in the right of way, are relatively new to this area. As the rain gardens will be a demonstration project, the effectiveness and sustainability of this type of urban greening project under these specific conditions will likely have a significant impact on its usage in the larger area moving forward.

15. **Need for Conservancy Funds:** What would happen to the project if no funds were available from the Conservancy? What project opportunities or benefits could be lost and why if the project is not implemented in the near future?

The project takes advantage of current momentum and community support for urban greening and the environment. The also project leverages and builds upon \$3.8 million in federal grant monies awarded for the First Mile/Last Mile street improvements under the Active Transportation Program. And, it sees the Fred Jackson Way Raingardens, whose design is currently grant-funded, to construction. If the projects proposed in this application are not funded and are not then able to be implemented concurrently with the street improvements, the difficulty and cost of the projects will be significantly increased. Retrofitting new street improvements at a later date to include the proposed urban greening elements would not only mean higher costs, but also fail to take advantage of newly increased access and potentially enhanced awareness of and stewardship for the community's natural resources.

16. **Greenhouse Gas Emissions/Climate Change:** If the proposed project will result in production of greenhouse gas emissions (including construction impacts and vehicle miles travelled as part of a public access component), describe the measures your project includes to reduce, minimize or avoid greenhouse gas emissions through project design, implementation construction, or maintenance. What, if any, are the possible sources or sinks of greenhouse gases for your project, such as carbon sequestration from habitats at the site? If one of the project goals is to sequester carbon (reduce greenhouse gas concentrations), how do you intend to ensure continued long term sequestration while achieving project objectives? Do you have any plans to seek carbon credits for the carbon sequestration activities on the project site?

As the project leverages the First Mile/Last Mile street improvements to increase safe pedestrian and bicycling transit to community centers, green spaces, transit and job opportunities, the project will result in less use of vehicles and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. The urban greening approach was chosen as it offers greater climate change mitigation opportunities, is more sustainable in a summer-dry climate, and as installation and maintenance is less expensive, it can be more frequently implemented in the community. In addition, the use of local materials for construction and planting lowers the project' carbon footprint. As the street improvements will permanently reduce vehicle travel in this neighborhood and the trees and native vegetation planted in this project will be maintained, the long term reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and increased carbon sequestration will be sustained. The County is not seeking carbon credits for this project.