

- c. *County assessor parcel map(s) outlined to show which parcel(s) is to be acquired, and priorities if applicable.*

Not applicable, this is not an acquisition project.

- II. *Include color photographs showing important features of the property if possible. Include only one set.*

Site photographs are attached.

- III. *Provide additional information such as real estate brochures or land planning reports.*

See Exhibit A, "Open Space Element, City of Long Beach, General Plan Program", 1973. Related sections are attached, the complete plan will be provided upon request.

Cost Estimate

	Grant	Other	Total
<u>Study</u>			
Feasibility Study	* <u>\$82,500</u>		<u>\$82,500</u>
Subtotal	\$82,500		\$82,500
 <u>Construction</u>			
Grading	\$52,272		\$53,272
Wetlands Filtration Systems	\$300,000		\$300,000
Flood Control System Modifications	\$250,000		\$250,000
Landscaping and Irrigation	\$100,000		\$100,000
Trail Connection to LA River		**\$500,000	
Interpretive Signage & Trails	\$100,000		\$100,000
Maintenance (3 years)	<u>45,000</u>		<u>\$45,000</u>
Subtotal	\$847,272	\$500,000	\$1,347,272
 <u>Administration</u>			
Design and Engineering	\$84,727		\$84,727
Project Management and Inspection	<u>\$67,782</u>		<u>\$67,782</u>
Subtotal	\$152,509		\$152,509
 TOTAL	 \$999,781	 \$582,500	 \$1,582,281

Please note that the above Cost Estimate does not include long-term maintenance costs. The cost of maintenance will be accepted by the Long Beach Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine.

* Coastal Conservancy funding

**MTA funding. Part of funding is for off-site connection to downtown Long Beach, the Long Beach Civic Center, the MTA Blue Line Transit Station, the Bike Station, and the downtown Transit Mall.

Cesar E. Chavez Park Wetlands

Restoration Project Along the Los Angeles River

1. Site Name

Please select a name, based upon geographic location, for the project. State whether this is an acquisition in fee title or easement, improvement project, or grant.

The name of the project is "Cesar E. Chavez Park Wetlands" (Project). The project is a restoration project on land owned by the City of Long Beach and adjacent to the Los Angeles River.

2. Project Summary

Summarize the primary purpose of the project, its biological resources, and the objectives. Please describe any unusual circumstances, partnerships, joint management agreements, possible conflicts, and costs. Include specific information as to how this project will meet the Conservancy's Parkway and Open Space Plan objectives – Natural, Cultural, and/or Recreational.

Cesar E. Chavez Park Wetlands will create a four-acre wetland along the Lower Los Angeles River and adjacent to the 23-acre Cesar E. Chavez Park. The requested \$999,781 in grant funding will provide for the construction, development, and three-year maintenance of the site. The project site is located along the east border of the Los Angeles River, and along Sixth Street in the City of Long Beach. Currently, the site is a denuded area with scattered exotic vegetation. Once restored, it will be a place for native and endangered and threatened species, both plant and animal, to find food, water, shelter, and nesting sites. Bird watching, walking and other passive recreational pursuits will be offered in the site. In addition, educational programs and tours will be provided for the community on-site by the El Dorado Nature Center. Educational program costs will be absorbed by the City, as well as, long-term site maintenance costs.

Full funding is requested so that the project may not be delayed or only partially completed, and that staff may continue their work on other environmentally significant projects without taking valuable time in search of other funding.

3. Geographical Location and Description

State the location of the property: including county, city, roads and important landmarks. Provide directions on how to access the property. Describe the current land use and any improvements, such as, buildings, fences, wells, and non-moveable structures. For each property provide the assessor parcel number, acreage, and township, range and section.

The Cesar E. Chavez Park Wetlands project is an approximate four-acre site located along Sixth Street, south of the Shoreline Drive extension of the Shoemaker Bridge. The site is shaped like the letter "P" with the northern and eastern edges defined by the western curb of southbound Shoreline Drive. The western edge is defined by the Los Angeles River Flood Control Channel property line or the Union Pacific Railroad right-of-way property line, and the southern boundary is defined by the extension of Fourth Street. It is situated adjacent to Cesar E. Chavez Park. A pump station that delivers storm water from city streets to the Los Angeles River is located in the center of the area, at approximately Sixth Street and must remain. The site is adjacent to downtown Long Beach, the Aquarium of the Pacific, and the estuary of the Los Angeles River. Expansion to part of all of 13 additional acres north, along the river to Anaheim Street is being investigated. The expansion will require acquisition of 11 acres of private property.

The specific assessor parcel number, township, range and section were not available at the deadline. These numbers will be provided at a later date. Please see attached maps.

4. Purpose of Project

State the primary purpose of the project: Natural, Cultural and/or Recreational Resource. Please refer to the Conservancy's web page for a description of these resources. Elaborate on the specific reason(s) the project applies to one of the above criteria, and identify any additional purposes. State if the property contains critical habitat for Threatened & Endangered or Rare Species. Be specific in describing how the particular species use this habitat, and whether or not the species are known at present to exist on or use the habitat. State if the property lies within a designated "Significant Ecological Area" (SEA). State whether the site contains, or is likely to contain, significant archeological, historical, or ethnographic resources. Describe the project's proximity to other federal, state, county, city or private conservation lands.

During the last 120 years, Los Angeles County, and particularly the Long Beach portion of the County, has changed from a sparsely populated rural and undisturbed natural area to an intensely developed urban metropolis. This urbanization included the Los Angeles River, which was encased in a concrete channel to limit the threat to life and property damage from floods. The urbanization process displaced almost all of the native flora and fauna from the river and has deprived the population of the Long Beach area of the spiritual,

recreational, and educational values of contact with nature. The goal of the project is to restore a portion of the natural wetlands habitat along the Los Angeles River in an area surrounding Sixth Street. The second goal is to recover some of the storm water runoff from the adjacent streets and clean it for use as irrigation or introduction to the river. This will be done through gravity flow and natural cleansing process such as oxidation ponds and biological filtration.

Historic maps show that, prior to development, the site was within the perimeter 4450-acre tidal marsh. The marsh has been reduced to a few isolated remnants, one of the largest being a seven-acre mitigation project one-half mile away at the river mouth. The majority of the project site is currently a denuded dirt lot surrounded by residential and industrial areas. The water in the Los Angeles River adjacent to this site is tidally influenced and varies in salinity concentrations.

Over the past ten to fifteen years, citizen activism and public agency focus have crystallized around the concept of taking advantage of the Los Angeles River and adjacent lands for fish and wildlife habitat restoration, public recreation, and trail linkage between the interior and the coast. This project is proposed in the context of widespread and growing public interest in bringing back fish and wildlife habitat in and around the Los Angeles River and in making the best use of the river as a recreational and open space amenity. The proposed project also falls within the range of river restoration concepts that seem likely to be realized in the next fifty years, and is consistent with public agency plans. In particular, Los Angeles County has prepared a Los Angeles River Master Plan that calls for a river "greenway" incorporating parks, open space, and wildlife habitat. The project is also consistent with the City's General Plan, which designates the river areas for recreation and open space.

Currently, the world-renowned engineering firm of CH2M HILL is completing a study of the Cesar E. Chavez Park Wetland project site to determine:

- Restoration concepts, including identification of sustainable wildlife and development of a plant palette of native vegetation species.
- Compatible recreational features.
- Plans to mitigate nuisance vectors (mosquitoes, rats, etc.) that may be attracted to the restored wetlands, and odor control.
- Conceptual plan that will create a functioning wetland.
- Public access and security provisions.

The primary purpose of the four-acre restoration project is the creation of a Natural Resource, with a secondary resource being a Recreation Resource. Interpretive and trail experiences are expected to be included as recreation resources.

As a Natural Resource (Watershed, Trail & Wildlife), the project:

- Will establish seasonal or muted tidal wetlands, either type of wetland will provide refuge, nutrients, and added space to complement the in-channel habitat, and in addition may provide nesting sites. Scientists for the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History report that some 200 species of birds use the adjacent river.
- Will provide raptors, and other federally protected species, with a place to live and hunt.
- This project is along the Pacific Flyway of migratory birds. The project site is proposed to provide resources and shelter during the migration period. Wood ducks and pied billed grebes stay in the area in the winter. The great blue heron, the great egret, the snowy egret, and the green backed heron are favorites of the bird watchers, which come to the river and are expected at the project site.
- Is located within a significant ecological area, due to its relationship to the Los Angeles River and Pacific Flyway.
- Will contain native wetland habitat species and communities.
- Will contribute to the connection of existing protected core areas by serving as a habitat linkage or movement corridor for wildlife.
- Will re-introduce plant species to provide food and cover for birds and other wildlife that do not have suitable habitats due to the intense urban development of the surrounding area.
- Increase in the size of Chavez Park will expand its carrying capacity. It is expected that the insect and bird population will increase in numbers and diversity with the addition of new plant materials and the creation of new microhabitats not represented currently at the park.
- Will provide a wetland plant community more appropriate to the river.

As a Recreation Resource (Recreation, Urban, Access, Scenic, Partner, Economic), the project:

- Is located in an under-served/park-poor community. The City of Long Beach is lacking parkland as calculated under National Park and Recreation Association standards. The addition of four acres will benefit the local community, the regional Lario Trail users, and increase the available city parkland to bring the City closer to NRPA standards. The multi-ethnic community adjacent to Cesar E. Chavez Park is served by only one-tenth of the park space per person as is recommended by the NRPA.
- Contributes to the linkage of the Los Angeles River greenway.
- Will provide amenities, such as a natural trail that will enhance public use of the trail and area.
- Will provide a new public use opportunity into a currently inaccessible area.
- Will increase the effective size of a park area. This project will increase the amount of parkland at Cesar E. Chavez Park.

- An opportunity to educate the public about watersheds, rivers, native plants and wildlife will result in better care for our rivers and streams resulting in healthier fish, marine mammals, less pollution, and trash.
- In the immediate area there are several schools, which may benefit from nature study at the restored site.
- Will provide a link to Chavez Park and the Lario Trail.
- Will contain a suitable area for passive recreation, such as walking, bird watching, educational classes and tours.
- Enhance the adjacent and newly created Cesar E. Chavez Park.
- Is in walking distance of public transportation, and a Class I bikeway
- Will be accessible to the public.
- Is part of an urban area of natural and scenic value.
- Will contain scenic resources that are representative of the area.
- Is significant to local and regional citizens.

Upon restoration of the project there will be a great impact to the local ecosystem, as well as, an opportunity for public recreation and an educational component focusing on the Los Angeles River.

The property contains no known critical habitat for threatened and endangered or rare species; however rare species inhabit at the adjacent river and are expected to expand into the new area, including:

According to the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, the Los Angeles River does not officially lie within a designated "Significant Ecological Area". The project property is a disturbed site with no known archeological, historical or cultural resources.

5. Management Objectives

Provide a brief summary of the management objectives. State whether cooperative management agreements with other agencies and/or conservation groups will be considered or pursued and describe their benefits.

- Conservation, protection, restoration, and/or enhancement of species, habitats, or communities:*

To conserve one of the few remaining open space areas on the estuary of Los Angeles River.

To conserve, clean and reuse storm water runoff.

To protect the site from development.

To restore a remnant of historical tidal marsh wetlands.

To enhance the diversity of all bird, insect, mammal, and native plant species, including endangered and threatened flora and fauna.

To achieve an equitable distribution of open space throughout the city.

To create a wide variety of recreational opportunities within a unified system of local parks coordinated with the regional and statewide systems.

b. Re-introduction of extirpated species or restoration of degraded habitats

To reintroduce extirpated native plant and animal species.
To restore a degraded wetland habitat.

c. Public use and access (from trails to interpretive functions to exclusion)

To provide public use and access to a closed site.
To provide a public use trail.
To provide a unique resting spot for travelers on the Lario Trail.
To utilize public easements for a system of connecting corridors between major recreational facilities and open space.

d. Water quality, water enhancement

To enhance available clean water for bird and mammal species.
To improve water quality by cleaning and reusing local storm water runoff.

e. Education

To provide a river wetland oriented educational site.
To provide school, youth and adult tours and educational classes regarding wetlands, nonsource water pollution, and river habitat.

f. Parkland for under-served populations

To increase to available parkland for the local under-served population
To increase the available parkland for the regional under-served population.
To increase the available parkland and resting area along the Lario Trail.
To recognize the value of open space as providing contrast to, and relief from, the tensions associated with urban living.
To beautify the area

No cooperative management agreements with other agencies and/or conservation groups are predicted. Preliminary discussions have begun, however, with the Aquarium of the Pacific to create possible educational partnerships. The City may also contract with the Long Beach Conservation Corps (an agency that provides training and employment for at-risk youth) for assistance in planting and maintenance. The restoration of this area may also create opportunities for connections with the Audubon Society, Sierra Club, Long Beach City College, and California State University, Long Beach.

6. Financial Information

Please provide the following financial information.

A. Name and Address of Property Owner(s):

City of Long Beach
Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine
2760 N. Studebaker Road
Long Beach, CA 90815-1697

B. Name of any outside contacts, such as realty agents, if known

Not applicable

C. Sale price and comparable sales information, if available

Not applicable. The site is owned by the City of Long Beach.

D. Other governmental entities or non-profit organizations that may have funds and/or the ability to accomplish the project.

None

E. List any encumbrances, which are associated with the property.

None

F. Please provide a rough estimate of ongoing operation and maintenance expenses (security, public health and safety, resource management, infrastructure and public use) to maintain and/or restore the property according to the management objectives stated earlier in the evaluation.

Ongoing operation and maintenance expenses of the project will be the responsibility of the City of Long Beach. The Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine will provide on-site operation and maintenance. Security and public safety will be the responsibility of the Long Beach Police Department. All public health related matters will be handled by the Long Beach Health Department.

7. Hazardous Materials

List any known present or historic usage or dumping of hazardous materials on the property.

There are no known hazardous materials located at the property.

8. Local and Regional Issues

Discuss potential opposition to or support of the project by local government and/or organizations. If problems are anticipated, describe them. Provide the names of Senate and Assembly District representative, County and City representatives.

There are no known or anticipated local or regional issues regarding the restoration of the property.

State Senator – Betty Karnette, District 27

State Assemblyperson – Alan Lowenthal, District 54

County Representative – Don Knabe, 4th District Supervisor

City Council – Bonnie Lowenthal, 1st District Councilmember

9. Threats

Describe the specific type and degree (long or short-term) of threat to the resource that will be protected by this project. Provide a best estimate on how soon these threats could be realized.

Lack of native plants, lack of clean water, and overgrowth of exotic vegetation are threats to the animals and plants, which are native to Southern California. This project is an effort to take back another site, which over the years varies from being overgrown with exotic plants to being bulldozed to a denuded and dirt state, in an urban area with intense pressure from a growing population. South of Willow Street Habitat Restoration site is another linkage in the growing movement to provide a greenway of habitat to assist the coyote, fox, egret, and migratory birds with another spot to grow strong, reproduce and continue the species, which could be lost without funding.

10. Contact Person(s)

Give the name, address, and phone number of the person(s) preparing the proposal, as well as, the names, addresses and phone numbers of other supporters of the project.

Contact Person:

Dennis Eschen, Manager of Planning and Development

Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine

2670 N. Studebaker Road

Long Beach, CA 90815-1697

(562) 570-3130

Project Supporters:

Phil T. Hester, Director

Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine

2760 N. Studebaker Road

(562) 570-3170

Mary Blackburn, Director
El Dorado Nature Center
7550 E. Spring Street
Long Beach, CA 90808
(562) 570-1748

Betty L. Davenport, President
Partners of Parks
2760 N. Studebaker Road
Long Beach, CA 90815-1697
(562) 570-3209

11. Letters of Support

Please include letters of support for the project from neighbors, agencies, etc.

Included is a letter of support from Partners of Parks. Due to the extremely short timeframe, additional letters of support for the project could not be solicited. Upon request, additional letters of support can be provided.

12. Cost Estimate

Please see attached Cost Estimate

13. Timeline

Please see attached Timeline

Appendices

Provide the following maps, 8.5"x 11", copy ready, BLACK & WHITE ONLY; DO NOT USE COLOR MAPS.

1. a. *Thomas Guide 2000 vicinity map, with site noted.*

See attached map

- b. *USGS quad map(s) with site outlined in black. Provide name of USGS QUAD ON MAP(S).*

USGS quad map was unavailable at the deadline. The map can be provided at a later date. In addition, a Project Location map and Site Plan are attached.

TIMELINE

CESAR E. CHAVEZ PARK WETLANDS

TASK	TARGET COMPLETION DATE
Execution of Grant Documents	July 2001
Engineering/Construction Documents	May 2002
Plan Check Process	June 2002
Bidding Process	August 2002
Award of Construction Bid	October 2002
Construction Notice to Proceed	November 2002
Construction	June 2003
Maintenance (contractor guarantee)	June 2004
Plant Establishment Period	June 2008