

Grant Application Project

Coyote Creek Restoration

Alex King
Ryan Matarangas
Tate Hartley
Luke Sutter
Liam Gilson

Grant Application Project

From Nikki Katz, Homeowner and Community Leader

The storms on 12/27 hit Foster Park, Ventura CA incredibly hard causing severe damage on 1/9-1/10. Camp Chaffee Rd., our main way in and out was a fair weather crossing through Coyote Creek. Our main road was flooded/filled with debris and sediment, which expanded through Coyote Creek to our entire community running approximately 2 miles from Casitas Dam to the Ventura River.

The community of Foster Park is nestled downstream and predates Casitas Dam (built in 1958) with 48 -54 homes along Coyote Creek, south of the dam. 30 of these homes (63%) predate Casitas Dam and were part of a planned community. Since there were no provisions or agreements put into place at the time the dam was built with the Bureau of Reclamation to routinely release water from the spillways for regular maintenance, Coyote Creek has been unable to keep its natural flow. The dam prevents southern Coyote Creek from naturally clearing out and the water does not get enough volume or gain enough turbidity to keep the silt suspended. Assuming (conservatively) that Coyote Creek accounts for about 25% of the flow of water into Lake Casitas, tens of thousands of acre-feet of water have been prevented from naturally flowing through the creek, preventing natural erosion of the presently built-up silt. This diversion/catchment of water is a large contributing factor to the creek's present state (approximately 10' deep and 30'+ across of additional debris and silt that are preventing the natural flow). Casitas Dam does not protect the homes in Foster Park. It impacts us greatly and we are finally seeing the effects from the dam in terms of property damage and potential community loss.

We tried to work with the Ventura County District Supervisors office (starting in 2018) regarding flooding along Coyote Creek but got nowhere. Following the Thomas Fire, which severely burnt our area, our community reached a level far beyond the original issues.

When this project originally started in January 2023, a private road wide enough to be one way with switchbacks, turns and small drop-offs was our only way to get in and out of our street. In the event of a mandatory evacuation due to flood/mud-debris slide, cars would not be able to back up or down with no access for large emergency vehicles. Residents trying to get home to get loved ones, parents, spouses and or children to get them out, will not be able to reach them nor will people be able to leave. The same if we had another fire. With this being the only way in and out people would be trapped and residents placed in a life threatening position, especially if a fire broke out in the middle of the night like the Thomas Fire. This was the basis of the original project. We needed to clear the creek, get our road back and literally save our community.

We knew something needed to be done that was more of a permanent fix. While a band-aid like the one done in 2018 to remove a small portion of silt would be momentarily successful, it would be expensive, requiring ongoing cleanup to Casitas Vista Rd. along

and below the two existing catchments following future episodic debris flows/atmospheric rivers/storms and would not address the root of the underlying issues.

The entire project was based on correcting what has been done over the years by removing what the natural flow could not, freeing up sediment and foliage. This would allow the natural flow to join and move freely in areas that no longer have the power to be removed under the current conditions. Following the storm in 1969 Coyote Creek was cleared from the open flow at Foster Park Bridge to Casitas Dam. After 56 years this needs to happen again.

I worked with the NRCS, USDA, Ventura County Watershed Protection District (VWPD) and Ventura County Public Works (VPW), The Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CALOES) and the Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services starting in February 2023 on clearing a channel in Coyote Creek due to the amount of silt and debris in the creek. In some areas there was 8-10 ft deep and 30-50+ ft wide of build up. The levels were so high that they had become level and wall to wall with the homes along the creek.

During the duration of getting the project off the ground I met or spoke with the following agencies and individuals regarding our situation. Ventura County Board of Supervisors, District 1, Army Corp of Engineers, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Director of Public Works, Director of Ventura County Watershed protection District, Senior Representative for Salud Carbajal's Office, Senior Representative for Diane Feinstein's Office, Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, Ventura County Supervisors, District 2,3,4 and 5, Roads and Transportation, County Planning Department, Deputy Directors for the Ventura County Watershed Protection District, Design Engineers, Design & Construction Division for the Ventura Watershed Protection District, USDA (with NRCS) Project Managers, Federal Infrastructure Bill and the Inflation Reduction Act, Regional Conservation Partnership Program or the CDFW Fisheries Restoration Grant Program (FRGP), FEMA (Through the Governor's Office Of Emergency Services), Congresswoman Brownley, Senator Limon, Senator Padilla and the Governor's Office Of Emergency Services.

With the support of Supervisor Matt LaVere's office and in collaboration with Ventura Public Works, Watershed Protection District, NRCS/USDA, Ventura County Emergency Services Agency, Congressman Salud Carbajal's, Senator Limone, Senator Feinstein and CALOES something was going to finally be done.

In May 2023, a proposal for this project was sponsored by Ventura Public Works and submitted by NRCS to create a pilot channel 25 ft wide and 5 ft deep, from the confluence of the Ventura River and up Coyote Creek 3,200'. This project was supposed to remove existing silt and debris, repairing our channel and providing a level of protection that was lost during the storms, reestablishing the downstream flow. In September 2023, the project was approved by Washington DC . With this channel, our road was supposed to be freed of sediment giving us back our road crossing and protecting our homes from flooding.

The total project cost was \$1,500,000.

Residents and the community of Foster Park were required to contribute \$94,000 for the project.

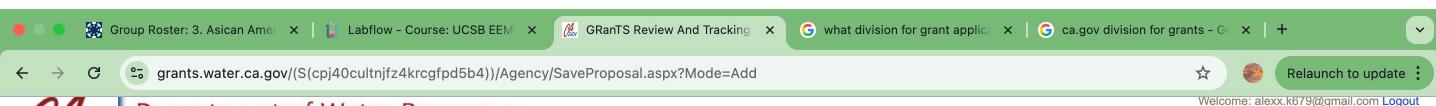
When the county bid out for the project no one wanted to touch it. Toro Construction came in over the anticipated bid and the county accepted. In October 2024 the project began, but they ran out of money and cut the project in half stopping all work on county owned property under and below Coyote Creek Bridge. In addition, they dug 1/2 of the projected depth of the channel, stopping level to Camp Chaffee Rd., not clearing the culvert or continuing with the natural downhill slope that would help any potential flow.

If we get one strong Atmospheric River, it could very possibly fill under the bridge. With so little space left between the ground and under the bridge (only 2 1/2'-6') it would cause structural damage to the Coyote Creek Bridge itself. If it doesn't happen this year, it will surely happen during future big storms. There is just no place for the dirt to go. When I discussed this with the new director of WDPD, he said that in these situations there is no funding available to prevent a disaster but if something happens, then they will be able to get funds to fix it. Please note, Coyote Creek Bridge is one of two ways out of the Ojai Valley. In the event of a natural disaster, if the bridge is compromised the results could be catastrophic.

I understand they ran out of money, but without the bottom portion of the project being completed under Coyote Creek Bridge, I believe the county put us back in the exact same position they have put us in before. We are incredibly grateful for the work that was done but the rest of the project needs to happen and the county has officially washed their hands of us and any further work. One of our community members who is a county approved vendor and contractor even offered to do the necessary work pro bono to ensure the success of the project. They just say no and will not let any further work be done.

Since there is no money and our homes are safe, I had suggested and think the only way we can make this happen is to change the narrative and turn this into a "Creek Restoration" project. If we can bring multiple agencies together and additionally find ways to use the resources we have, I think we can make it work.

My motto through all of this with the county has been "Let us help you, help us, help you" and "We want to work with you, not against you". I want to keep this going and refuse to give up. I know there has to be a way.



CA.GOV Department of Water Resources GRANTS REVIEW AND TRACKING SYSTEM

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Applicant Info Projects Concept Proposal Questions Full View

Applicant Information

APPLICANT INFORMATION				
Organization Name	Camp Chaffee Communities <small>* Maximum Character Limit: 50</small>			
Point Of Contact	First Name:	Nikki	Last Name:	Katz
	Email:	nikkiktz@gmail.com	Confirm Email:	nikkiktz@gmail.com
	Division Name:			
	Address Line 1:	8001 Camp Chaffee Road	Phone:	(805) 570-9998 Ext: _____
	City:	Ventura	Address Line 2:	
	Zip:	93001	State:	California
	Point Of Contact Position Title	Community Leader <small>* Maximum Character Limit: 50</small>		
Proposal Name	Camp Chaffee Coyote Creek Restoration <small>* Maximum Character Limit: 150</small>			
Proposal Objective	Clearing out the sediment, debris, and vegetation that causes back-ups and flooding to the neighboring communities surrounding Coyote and China Creek, tributaries to the Ventura River. The sediment is 8-10ft. higher than what is safe and has caused the channel to be level with the floodplain endangering homes and people. Flooding can get so dangerous that emergency vehicles are unable to reach the communities.			
<small>* Maximum Character Limit: 2000</small>				

BUDGET

Other Contribution	
Local Contribution	
Federal Contribution	
Inkind Contribution	
Amount Requested	

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Email:	nikkiktz@gmail.com	Comm Email:	nikkiktz@gmail.com
Division Name:		Phone:	(805) 570-9998 Ext: __
Address Line 1:	8001 Camp Chaffee Road	Address Line 2:	
City:	Ventura	State:	California
Zip:	93001	* Maximum Character Limit: 50	
Point Of Contact Position Title	Community Leader		
Proposal Name	Camp Chaffee Coyote Creek Restoration		
Proposal Objective	Clearing out the sediment, debris, and vegetation that causes back-ups and flooding to the neighboring communities surrounding Coyote and China Creek, tributaries to the Ventura River. The sediment is 8-10ft. higher than what is safe and has caused the channel to be level with the floodplain endangering homes and people. Flooding can get so dangerous that emergency vehicles are unable to reach the communities.		
* Maximum Character Limit: 2000			

BUDGET

Other Contribution	\$1,000,000.00
Local Contribution	\$56,068.00
Federal Contribution	\$1,000,000.00
Inkind Contribution	\$37,075.00
Amount Requested	\$3,000,000.00
Total Proposal Cost	\$5,093,143.00

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Latitude Help	DD(+/-) 34	MM 21	SS 48	*
Longitude Help	DD(+/-) -119	MM 19	SS 17	*
Longitude/Latitude Clarification	<input type="text"/> Maximum Character Limit: 275			
Location	Sections of Coyote Creek and China Creek below Casitas Dam Maximum Character Limit: 250			
County	Trinity Tulare Tuolumne Ventura			
Ground Water Basin Help	1-001 Smith River Plain 1-002.01 Klamath River Valley-Tulelake 1-002.02 Klamath River Valley-Lower Klamath			

Group Roster: 3. Asican | Labflow - Course: UCSE | GRanTS Review And Tra... | what division for grant a... | ca.gov division for grant... | how much does it cost... | +

grants.water.ca.gov/(S(cpj40cultnjfz4krcgfpd5b4))/Agency/SavcProposal.aspx?Mode=Add To Exit full screen, press and hold esc

Relaunch to update :

Other Contribution	
Local Contribution	
Federal Contribution	
Inkind Contribution	
Amount Requested	*
Total Proposal Cost	*

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Latitude Help	DD(+/-) 34 MM 21 SS 56 *
Longitude Help	DD(+/-) -119 MM 19 SS 27 *
Longitude/Latitude Clarification	Creek restoration from above coordinates to lat: 34 21 6.537 lon: -119 18 25.733, approximately 1 mile Maximum Character Limit: 275
Location	Sections of Coyote Creek and China Creek below Casitas Dam Maximum Character Limit: 250
County	Trinity Tulare Tuolumne Ventura
Ground Water Basin Help	1-001 Smith River Plain 1-002.01 Klamath River Valley-Tulelake 1-002.02 Klamath River Valley-Lower Klamath 1-003 Butte Valley
Hydrologic Region Help	Central Coast Colorado River North Coast North Lahontan
Watershed Help	Ventura River Maximum Character Limit: 250

LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION

Assembly District Help	10th Assembly District 11th Assembly District 12th Assembly District 13th Assembly District
Senate District Help	10th Senate District 11th Senate District 12th Senate District 13th Senate District

Project Location

1.) Describe the project location. Include the physical address if applicable, on site and adjacent land uses, and the distance to the nearest town or city.

The project is located along Coyote Creek, a tributary to the Ventura River, near the unincorporated area of Casitas Springs in Ventura County. The project area runs parallel to Casitas Vista Road starting approximately 500 feet upstream of Camp Chaffee Road and extending about 1,060 feet downstream of the Santa Ana Road bridge. The Casitas Dam is located about two miles upstream of Camp Chaffee Road.

Latitude	Longitude
34° 21' 37.49" N	119° 19' 5.63" W
34° 21' 37.85" N	119° 19' 5.05" W
34° 21' 16.94" N	119° 18' 41.27" W
34° 21' 15.57" N	119° 18' 41.57" W

Project Description

1.) Why is this project needed? What are the project goals? What are the anticipated outcomes of the project?

The project is located along Coyote Creek, a tributary to the Ventura River, near the unincorporated area of Casitas Springs in Ventura County. Coyote Creek is a tributary to Lake Casitas, and from the Casitas Dam, traverses about 2.5 miles to the confluence at the Ventura River. The creek in the project area is soft-bottom with ephemeral flow. The presence of the dam has altered sediment transports and flow patterns to the Creek, resulting in reoccurring problems with flooding of the residential properties along Coyote Creek due to sediment aggradation and heavy vegetation that has substantially reduced the capacity of the creek and prevents adequate drainage to the Ventura River. Most recently, high precipitation in 2023 resulted in high flows exceeded the existing creek flow capacity and damaged properties and flooded and destroyed the Camp Chaffee Road crossing. The Project aims to resolve these issues by restoring channel capacity and restoring access across the Camp Chaffee Road.

It is important to note that approximately 63% of homes affected by flooding, which is a consequence of the Casitas Dam, predate the dam.

2.) How much funding is being requested? What are specific components and activities to be funded by this grant?

Excavator operator: \$31,188.42

Dirt movement and disposal: \$4,898,600

Renting an Excavator: \$37,075 (**this cost could be ignored if we use the neighbor's excavator**)
Environmental Supervisor: \$56,068.74

Total: \$5,022,932.20 (**\$11,275,692.20 If we use \$380/ cubic yard instead of \$170**)

3.) How does this project support RSP solicitation priorities?

Removing flow impeding sediment will allow for species, including Southern Steelhead, to reach breeding grounds upstream that they would not be able to do due to the lack of depth in the channel.

4.) How does this project support the racial inequalities in the Project area?

This project does not experience racial inequalities for this project area.

5.) What is the status of CEQA? If complete, please provide link.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UY1PvRKSyfBKWHACpJ7JD7NfBXi_j-c1/view?usp=sharing

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1upOzjeivZt7x4MI4pYr1DTFEoEMQ8bRt/view?usp=sharing>

6.) What is the proposed project schedule?

Planning- September 2026 through November 2025; Estimates, marking, permits, hiring, testing

Execution- February 2026 through September 2026; Actual movement of dirt and vegetation during dry portion of the year

Ongoing – Maintenance occurring every year starting in April and ending in June

ENVS 193AW Grant Application Group Project - Budget

Coyote Creek (Ventura County)

Dredging out Creek Channel

- Part of the Creek is done, county does not want to touch past a certain point even though they were told to
- Signed contract with them

Companies that can Help:

Pax Environmental, Inc.

Pax Environmental has been actively involved in various creek and watershed restoration projects in Ventura County. Notably, they supported the Middle Stewart Canyon Creek Restoration Project in Ojai, CA, providing environmental permitting and biological monitoring services. Additionally, Pax assisted the Ventura County Watershed Protection District with emergency stabilization of Santa Paula Creek banks following winter storms.

Noble Consultants, Inc.

Noble Consultants offers hydrology and hydraulic engineering services, including creek and river dredging projects. They have conducted feasibility studies and provided design and permitting for maintenance dredging of urban waterways such as Semeniuk Slough in Newport Beach and the Mandalay Canal in Oxnard. Their expertise encompasses sediment analysis, channel design, and regulatory compliance.

CALFire

- Mudflow Debris

Safety

Budget (Ryan and Tate)

Excavator operator

- 31.89/hour in Ventura
 - 978 hours x \$31.89 = **\$31,188.42**

Dirt moving company (to move dirt) (I called the company and asked them their prices)

- Could provide 3 24-foot-long open-top dump trucks
 - Each truck can move 270 cubic feet of dirt per hour
 - 810 cubic feet of dirt being moved per hour
- 792,000 cubic feet/ 810 per hour = 978 hours
 - 8 hours a day, five days a week would be: **25 weeks**

- Costs \$380/ cubic yard (**This is the price the guy gave me on the phone, but chatgpt says \$140 to \$230 per cubic yard**) **I'm do \$170 instead**
 - \$6.30/ cubic foot of dirt
 - $792,000 \times \$6.30 = \$4,898,600$ (for dirt moving and disposal)

https://goloadup.com/ventura/?srsltid=AfmBOoqvqYY3fByE0q4-pmen2mBasaCh_1sX5sloEb33Kg6Lg7t5Xwei

Company: Loadup

Excavator (to dig up the dirt)

- 1 Mile long (5280 ft), 15ft wide, 10 ft deep
 - 792,000 cubic feet
- 18-ton excavator (\$360/day) or (\$1,483/week)
 - 3105 ft³/hr excavator, but can only move 810 per hour due to limitations of trucks
 - Need the excavator for 25 weeks
 - 25 weeks x \$1,483=
 - **\$37,075 for an excavator for 25 weeks**

<https://dozr.com/rent/excavator/Ventura-CA>

company: Warrior Machine

Environmental Supervisor (To comply with regulations)

- Average Environmental Supervisor makes \$57.33/hour
 - 978 hours x \$57.33 = **\$56,068.74**

The entire project estimation if everything goes perfectly

Excavator operator: \$31,188.42

Dirt movement and disposal: \$4,898,600

Renting an Excavator: \$37,075 (this cost could be ignored if we use the neighbor's excavator**)**

Environmental Supervisor: \$56,068.74

Total: \$5,022,932.20 (\$11,275,692.20 If we use \$380/ cubic yard instead of \$170)

Small Communities Flood Risk - Asking \$1,000,000

Dam Safety and Climate Resilience Local Program - Asking \$1,000,000

Supporting Documents and Images

Dropbox Link Due to Large Amount of Documents

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/48yomuinfjp26iwxt2pzs/AK8Z6s7eu6UvpyVrnrtVbu8?rlkey=rwkbvn866eximd8p41klib2z4&st=hy6h5u3y&dl=0>

Images

