

## **SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT AT OLD MILL PARK RESTORATION, OUTREACH & EDUCATION 2008-2009**

The Sewerage Agency of Southern Marin (SASM) proposes to undertake a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) in the amount of **\$12,000** that will benefit Old Mill Creek in Mill Valley. The project site is located at Old Mill Creek in Old Mill Park. The creek is tributary to the Arroyo Corte Madera del Presidio as shown in the attached Figure 1. Old Mill Creek flows year round and supports a small but viable population of federally threatened steelhead trout.

The Sewerage Agency of Southern Marin is proposing to fund a SEP project to be carried out jointly by The Bay Institute's (TBI) STRAW program, the Marin County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program (MCSTOPPP), Mill Valley StreamKeepers (MVSK), and the City of Mill Valley to restore 500 linear feet of riparian habitat within Old Mill Park and to hold an educational hands-on workshop for creek-side property owners and the general public on creek stewardship and riparian and biotechnical bank restoration methods. The riparian restoration will be implemented by local students, STRAW, and MCSTOPPP. The half-day, hands-on public workshop will be designed and led by a creek restoration specialist, with assistance from STRAW and MCSTOPPP staff and will be held at the restoration site.

The SEP funding would complement and greatly expand upon current efforts to restore this riparian corridor. The funding will support additional STRAW staff time to perform monitoring and maintenance for three years after students plant 100 native plants on the restoration day and after members of the public plant native plants, pull invasive species and assist with a simple biotechnical bank stabilization project. Funding will also support the procurement of supplies such as dri-water gel packs that will be installed and replaced as needed to provide summer irrigation. Additionally the riparian restoration project would be promoted to local residents as a demonstration site for creek stewardship.

MCSTOPPP and TBI's Students and Teachers Restoring A Watershed (STRAW) would provide matching funds and all participants will provide staff support. The existing MCTOPPP/STRAW collaboration will help to fund additional restoration efforts at the park and additional riparian restoration education. Volunteer(s) from Mill Valley StreamKeepers will attend a meeting with MCSTOPPP staff to plan the outreach and education component of the project (half-day hands-on workshop) and will continue to play an advisory role throughout the restoration and education & outreach project. City of Mill Valley staff will play an advisory role for the restoration design and will provide some assistance with reserving Old Mill Park for the public workshop. In addition, they will assist with distribution of workshop invitations and registration materials at City offices and will provide staff to assume responsibility for disposal/recycling of non-native vegetation that will be removed on the day of the Riparian Restoration Workshop for Creekside Residents, and the STRAW Project restoration day.

### **Project Description**

1. Implement a riparian restoration project along 500 linear feet of Old Mill creek in Old Mill Park. Remove invasive species, augment soil for planting, plant 100 native plants, and install dri-water irrigation. The project will be implemented by elementary school classes working with STRAW and MCSTOPPP. The Bay Institute's STRAW Program will finalize planning and design with input from MCSTOPPP and The City of Mill Valley Parks and Recreation Department. The restoration plan will follow, with some modifications, a plan by Artemis Gardens developed for and partially implemented by MCSTOPPP and STRAW in 2007. SEP funds from SASM will all go to The Bay Institute for this portion of the overall SEP in order to cover their labor costs, plants and supplies (\$1403: plants, deer protection, turbo blend, dri-water tube/gel packs for summer irrigation and \$1812: staff time for planning, design and implementation). See attached spreadsheet for a detailed budget for The Bay Institute's (STRAW) portion of the project.

2. Plan, develop and implement an educational, hands-on, creek restoration and biotechnical bank stabilization workshop at Old Mill Creek in Old Mill Park for the creek side owners and the interested public. The workshop will be designed to provide hands-on experience with riparian restoration and biotechnical bank stabilization techniques. MCSTOPPP will develop and distribute a postcard invitation (see attached draft) to the workshop, planned for November 15, 2008. The postcard itself will promote watershed stewardship and will invite recipients to contact MCSTOPPP to receive free brochures on creek care, native plants, and creek restoration. The invitation will be sent directly to owners of creek side parcels along Old Mill Creek, along Arroyo Corte Madera del Presidio upstream of the confluence with Warner Creek, and along Warner Creek. The postcard will also be distributed to parents of STRAW students and at various locations within the watershed so that members of the public who are interested in riparian and biotechnical bank restoration can register for the workshop. The postcard will acknowledge the support provided by SASM and the Regional Water Quality Control Board. The postcard advertisement will be available in a digital format and will be posted to Mill Valley StreamKeepers, MCSTOPPP, and City of Mill Valley websites. The half day workshop will include instruction on pulling invasive plants and on planting native riparian plants. It will also include an opportunity to assist with a simple biotechnical bank stabilization project which will be designed and led by a consultant with years of experience in the creek restoration and environmental education fields. MCSTOPPP public outreach staff will provide brochures on stormwater pollution prevention and creek protection at the event and STRAW and MCSTOPPP staff will help to lead the instruction. The majority of the SEP funds will be used to hire the consultant to design the biotechnical bank stabilization project and to lead that portion of the workshop. MCSTOPPP is designing the postcard in house. Any remaining SEP funds will be used to pay for the costs of printing and mailing the postcard. (\$2,280)
3. Provide 3 years of monitoring and maintenance (\$5,785: labor)
4. Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) third party for Regional Board project oversight \$ 720 .

### Schedule

Task	Start	Completion
1) Riparian restoration	February 2008	March 2009
a) Plan restoration day and workshop	May 2008	September 2008
b) Hold public workshop (1/2 day)	November 2008	November 2008
c) Conduct riparian restoration (1 day)	November 2008	March 2009
d) Maintenance (water, weed, monitor )	May 2009	October 2011
2) Education and outreach	May 2008	March 2009
3) Final Report (after 1 yr summer maintenance)		October 2009

### Participants

**Mill Valley StreamKeepers** is a 501c3 non-profit, volunteer-based watershed group established for the protection, restoration and improvement of the Arroyo de Corte Madera del Presidio watershed.

**Marin County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program (MCSTOPPP)** is a joint effort of Marin's cities, towns and unincorporated areas to prevent stormwater pollution, protect and enhance water quality in creeks and wetlands, and preserve beneficial uses of local waterways. It is administered by the Marin County Department of Public Works.

**The Bay Institute (TBI)** is a 501c3 non-profit dedicated to the protection and restoration of the ecosystems of San Francisco Bay, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, and the rivers, streams,

and watersheds tributary to the Estuary. TBI works to promote comprehensive ecological restoration throughout the entire watershed. STRAW is a program of TBI.  
**City of Mill Valley Parks and Recreation and Department of Public Works** contribute to MCSTOPPP's countywide effort through the City's local stormwater pollution prevention program.

