



Clear Lake Blue Ribbon Committee

Lake County Conservation, Restoration, and Stewardship Improvement and Capacity Building Project December 2025

Project Title: Lake County Land Trust Conservation, Restoration, and Stewardship Improvement and Capacity Building Project

Project Description: *Short (1-2 pages) description of the project. What is the project purpose? What does “success” look like? Who will conduct the work? Provide brief description/breakdown of tasks or phases.*

Of Note: Generally, this project will help meet BRC mission and goals, as described in **AB 707**, “activities aimed at cleaning up [Clear] lake for environmental gains that will revitalize its regional significance so that it may once again be used for recreational purposes, thus creating jobs and inciting new economic development.”, while also helping CNRA (Grant administrators) meet the newly passed **AB 900** directives within Lake County, including “Require the CNRA to develop strategies to reduce the barriers to and increase support for stewardship of conserved lands... understanding stewardship needs, best practices, benefits and workforce needs, as well as highlighting new innovative stewardship practices and technologies.”

This project will provide the necessary resources and capacity to further the Lake County Land Trust (LCLT) mission and vision to conserve and restore land and water resources of important environmental, scenic, cultural and historic value on behalf of present and future generations. For more than 30 years, the Lake County Land Trust has worked to protect the natural environment of Lake County. In the past, and as planned in the implementation of this project, the LCLT is dedicated to working with local partners, businesses, organizations, and tribal partners.

The LCLT is a non-governmental, charitable, non-profit, community-based organization dedicated to conservation and heavily relies on direct financial donations and in-kind contribution from the local community. This grant project will be essential in the guided growth of the LCLT to maximize the community’s contribution by increasing the amount of conservation acres purchased and preserved.

Currently, the LCLT owns and / or manages about ~730 acres of wildlands and waters within Lake County, most of those acres are located within the Clear Lake basin. LCLT conservation and restoration of these lands and future acquired and managed lands are extremely important to the improvement of watershed health. This is a major and important goal of the Blue Ribbon Committee for the Rehabilitation of Clear Lake. This grant will improve the LCLT staff and partner capacity to acquire additional high-priority wetland, shoreline, and riparian properties, conduct management and restoration

planning, seek additional funding to implement restoration and stewardship, provide access for education and recreation, and establish project and organization sustainability.

In this project, the LCLT will complete four major tasks: 1) Project Management, 2) Education and Outreach Enhancement, 3) Wildlands and Waters Recreational and Cultural Accessibility Enrichment, 4) Conservation Lands and Restoration Prioritization and Acquisition.

Task 1 (*Project Management*) provides staff capacity to manage this project over the estimated three-year duration, including support for reporting to CNRA, BRC, and / or County boards, Municipal Councils, City Councils, LCLT Board and relevant community organizations as requested or needed.

Task 2 (*Education and Outreach Enhancement*) will strive to develop and implement educational opportunities utilizing LCLT properties and other public spaces, with bilingual and tribal partner emphasis. This task will also include the recruitment and support of educational stewardship interns, fellows, or part time staff from the local community to execute educational outdoor experiences suitable for all ages. LCLT would like to provide at least two positions over the three-year period. This task will also work with local videographer and partners to create a series of informational and educational videos and reels to highlight LCLT properties and conservation activities.

Task 3 (*Wildlands and Waters Recreational and Cultural Accessibility Enrichment*) allows the LCLT to improve the accessibility of current and recently acquired LCLT properties so they can safely be used for ecologically minded recreation and cultural access and use. This task would support improving any access roads, parking, bathroom facilities, trail maintenance, vegetation maintenance, gates, fencing repairs, and more, to ensure safe accessibility, stewardship and use of these lands to better meet and provide for other tasks (like task 2). This task would also work with existing LCLT tribal partners to include a “good fire” or beneficial fire management of LCLT properties, to improve access, manage invasive species, promote culturally and ecologically important plant communities, and engage with ancestral partners in shared management. While the Tribal EcoRestoration Alliance (TERA) isn’t explicitly included in budget in this proposed grant, the LCLT is currently engaged in a grant-funded stewardship development project with TERA, HPUL, and Robinson for Upper Lake LCLT properties. Outcomes of this contributing project will provide a clear pathway for how TERA and LCLT can work together to move forward on projects and lands, like those included in this proposal.

This task will increase the ability of the LCLT to directly meet their mission and vision goals while maximizing local contributions, donations and giving for land purchases and acquisition. While land purchasing for direct conservation value is important, it’s only the first step in continued sustainability or improvement of that conservation value for the space on the landscape, and improvement to benefits realized downstream. This task would directly help LCLT staff by providing needed equipment to access properties

around the 120-mile lake shoreline such as partial purchase of a LCLT field truck and / or UTV needed to access and manage wildlands.

Task 4 (*Conservation lands and restoration prioritization and acquisition*) will provide LCLT and tribal partners support to update or create land management or stewardship plans for LCLT properties (which can further meet and guide tasks 2a&c and 3a - see table below). At times there are expensive barriers to acquiring high value conservation properties, such as conducting appraisals and lot line adjustments to allow property owners financial ability to sell properties for conservation, and this task would allow for LCLT to assist selected properties progress towards the conservation acquisition, or pipeline. This task would also support the preparation for entering into conservation easement agreements with private and public property owners, as an alternative pathway to land conservation. Additionally, and lastly, task 4 will facilitate collaborative working relationships with project partners, including current LCLT members, donors, and contributors, to maximize their contributions and create an environment of ongoing giving and support with the execution of this project. This task includes identifying and targeting specific high-value properties that would maximize watershed and water quality health in Lake County, and provide education and awareness to new and current LCLT supporters and funders so that the LCLT, and the outcomes of this project, can be beneficial long after the project funds expire.

Task # and Descriptions (estimating 3-year grant)	Budget Estimate
1. Project Management a. Staff project facilitation - \$75,000 (\$25,000 per year) b. Contracting, Reporting & Tracking - \$9,000 c. Accounting - \$6,000 d. Final Reporting, Presentations - \$2,500	\$ 92,500
2. Education and Outreach Development and Enhancement a. Nature Education Partnership Development: Develop and provide nature-based education opportunities with partners, public spaces around Clear Lake and at LCLT properties – accessibility, supplies, utilize pre-existing educational curricula where it exists (<i>i.e. UCD-CRC, CLISS, and Xabatin videos and modules</i>) - \$8,000 b. Conservation sector pipeline through outreach: Fund two outreach/ stewardship internships / fellowships / part time staff opportunities (<i>bilingual and tribal partner emphasis</i>) - \$65,000 c. Educational materials: Create and Enhance current educational materials, digital and in-person displays at LCLT properties and with partners (<i>bilingual development, tribal cultural emphasis</i>) - \$15,000 d. Marketing and Outreach: Creation and distribution instructional and informational video series highlighting LCLT properties along with importance of wildlands, waters, and watershed health. -	\$115,000

\$27,000 (estimating \$7k per year for contractor and current staff, with funds for distribution)		
3. Wildlands and Waters Cultural and Recreational Accessibility Enrichment		
a. Lands and Water Maintenance and Improvement: Improve property conditions and accessibility by public, staff, partners, and cultural monitoring and use by tribal partners (<i>i.e. walking, hiking, parking, facilities, fire mitigation, trail maintenance, gates, security, road grading, road improvements</i>) - \$125,000 (~\$83 per acre / year) b. Good Fire and Indigenous Knowledge in conservation: Incorporation of tribal stewardship and good fire and tribal partner management - \$55,000 c. Equipment and supplies: Tools, purchases, rentals to better manage wildlands and accomplish tasks 3a&3b (<i>i.e. field supplies, gear, equipment, UTV, truck or partial truck purchase, mileage</i>) - \$50,000		\$230,000
4. Conservation Lands Acquisition and Restoration Prioritization		
a. Conservation, MOU, stewardship plan development: Update or create conservation, stewardship and management plans of current and new LCLT trust properties, including support for tribal partners co-management and MOU development with tribal partners (to best guide task 3a and 2a&c, and incorporated task 4b) - \$25,000 b. Property acquisition package building: Staff and contractor support for preparation of property acquisition through fee purchase, donation, or easement agreement for conservation, protection, and restoration (<i>i.e. funds for tribal inclusion/approval, due diligence, property appraisals, lot line adjustments, acquisition grant preparation</i>) - \$65,000 c. Community communication and workshops: Targeted communication, letters, webinars, and workshops to Lake County community for high priority properties (Clear Lake wetlands, tributaries, hitch habitat) - \$12,000 d. LCLT Sustainability enhancement: Enhance and increase organizational sustainability by providing workshops, outreach to support, retain, and recruit donors and maintain financial support – how the LCLT will match and maximize this grant going into the future - \$10,000		\$112,000
Project Subtotal		\$549,500
Contingency / Indirect (10%)		\$54,950
Project Match (other grants, in-kind, funds raised)		\$100,000 (18%)
Project total		\$704,450
Total requested from BRC / CNRA / Prop 4		\$604,450

**Project Timeline & Budget by Task and Subtask
(assuming a Summer 2026 start date):**

Task	Sub Task & Description	Est Subtask cost	2026		2027				2028				2029	
			SU	F	W	SP	SU	F	W	SP	SU	F	W	SP
1 Project Management	a. Staff Project Facilitation	\$75,000	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	b. Contracting Reporting & tracking	\$9,000	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	c. Accounting	\$6,000	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	d. Final reporting presentations	\$2,500		x				x				x		x
2. Education and Outreach Development and Enhancement	a. Nature Education Partnership Development	\$8,000			x	x	x	x						
	b. Conservation sector pipeline: Outreach / Internships / Fellowships	\$65,000			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	c. Education materials	\$15,000					x	x	x	x	x	x		
	d. Marketing & Outreach	\$27,000		x	x	x	x	x		x		x		x
3. Wild Lands and Waters Cultural and Recreational Accessibility Enrichment	a. Lands and Water Maintenance and Improvement	\$125,000	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	b. Good Fire and Indigenous knowledge in stewardship and conservation	\$55,000			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	c. Equipment and supplies	\$50,000		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
4. Lands Acquisition and Restoration Prioritization	a. Conservation, MOU and stewardship planning	\$25,000	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				
	b. Property acquisition package building	\$65,000		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	c. Community communication and workshops	\$12,000				x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
	d. LCLT sustainability enhancement	\$10,000							x	x	x	x	x	x

Contact Information:

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Additional Information:

Provide any supporting information such as:

- We are finalizing a MOU and Co-Management Plan with Big Valley and of Pomo Indians for the 283-acre Kuhlanapo Wetland Preserve in Lakeport.
- We received a \$92,000 CA Council of Land Trusts to co-develop stewardship plans with Upper Lake Tribes, HPUL, Robinson, and TERA, with project facilitation by LACO and this will be a direct contribution to this grant project as it relates to Tasks and subtasks 3b, 4a and 4b and portions of 2a. Partnership responsibilities developed out of this project will help determine additional roles for these partners in this proposed project.
- We are preparing LOS requests to partner organizations, agencies and tribes to support this project and commit to entering discussions when partnering opportunities become relevant, i.e. a specific property for acquisition becomes for sale within ancestral lands of a supporting tribe, we can enter discussions to support that tribes involvement in purchase planning.