

## Program Application: 80980481

---

### Linked Pre-Application Form - DO NOT DELETE

Chinook Salmon Monitoring in the South Bay

### Grant Amount Requested

\$36,858.00

### Organization Name

South Bay Clean Creeks Coalition

## Urban Grant Program Application Questions

---

### Overview

#### Type of project (check all that apply)

#### Grant category (check all that apply)

Environmental Stewardship and Restoration, Parks, Trails, and Public Access, Environmental Education

### Project Location: Address / Neighborhood

**What is the physical location of the project? If there is no physical location, please enter "N/A." If the project will be in multiple locations, please list all. Note: project location(s) must be within the Authority's jurisdiction.**

Coyote Creek - 100 yards up stream and down stream of 101 Freeway

Los Gatos Creek - From San Tomas express way north to the confluence with the Guadalupe

Guadalupe River - Almaden Lake to Mineta Airport

San Tomas Aquino Creek - Monroe Street to 101 Bayshore Freeway

Alamitos Creek- Almaden Lake to 100 yards upstream of Graystone Lane

### Project Location

#### Open Space Authority District of Project Location(s)(check all that apply)

Authority District 1, Authority District 3, Authority District 4, Authority District 5, Authority District 6

#### Who does the project serve? Please indicate which Open Space Authority Districts are served (where do the people served by the program live) (check all that apply)

Authority District 1, Authority District 3, Authority District 4, Authority District 5, Authority District 6

#### Project Abstract

Chinook salmon monitoring serves the general San Jose populace by providing education, awareness, and citizen science opportunities dedicated to mapping, monitoring, and preserving the native Chinook salmon population. We conduct awareness activities such as town hall meetings where we address our concerns over their environment in our metropolitan area, how they benefit our environment, and how to help ensure that their population continues to grow. More of these activities include volunteer salmon monitoring, citizen science opportunities, and public salmon viewing experiences where we provide an up close look at the spawning salmon and the salmon's migratory paths. Through these first come, first serve, events we hope to connect the everyday person back to the local waterways and instill in them a personal interest in the wildlife, specifically the Chinook salmon, that inhabit these riparian corridors.

### Project Planning

#### Describe the proposed project.

Chinook salmon monitoring is a vital part of developing the Chinook salmon population in the Guadalupe Watershed and its tributaries. Our goal is to encourage the growth of the Chinook salmon population to the sustainable size of 2,000 and establish the fact of a native Chinook salmon population. Our latest monitoring activity in 2024 estimated a population size of 600. Monitoring activities allows us to assess the migration population and understand its patterns. Tracking the population of Chinook is foundational in our ability to help it grow, it is the metric by which we

track their progress. Understanding the migration patterns of the salmon gives us insight into how best to assist them. By understanding what areas they spawn and what areas they avoid we can either create new spawning ground or help to ensure the places that they do spawn stay that way. Just one example of our ability to monitor their migration has identified an avoided section of roughly 10 acres that was due to invasive species that were chemically polluting the water and harming spawned salmon eggs. The process by which we monitor salmon is by the following steps: Barrier Removal, Town Hall Meeting, Salmon Monitoring, and Salmon Viewing. Public awareness is a large aspect of this project and public involvement is key to the success of our monitoring season. The "Town Hall Meeting", "Salmon Monitoring," and "Salmon Viewing" are community oriented events meant to give the public access to a fall salmon run experience in a free and local way. By educating the population on the Chinook and by connecting the community back to the creeks allows them to better understand the condition that our environments are in and how its condition affects the wildlife in their community. With the information we provide the community is able to communicate their findings, such as salmon or carcass spottings, to us so that we are able to collect samples for scientific purposes to determine native population levels.

#### Step 1) Barrier Removal

Barrier removal is conducted throughout

October. This is the process of priming the waterways to receive migrating Chinook salmon. This activity includes our core team of 4 surveying the creeks and rivers we intend to monitor (Los Gatos Creek, Guadalupe River, Los Alamitos, Coyote Creek, San Tomas Aquinos). When we survey the creeks we are searching for and removing large barriers to fish passage which typically includes the removal of fish nets, karts, wood planks, pallets, mattresses and more. The barriers can also cause issues for our emergency flood control system. In past years, this activity has cleared dozens of obstructions that had great potential in negatively impacting migrating salmon by either injuring them, exposing them to poaching practices, or by completely preventing salmon from migrating to their spawning ground.

#### Step 2) Town Hall Meeting

The Town Hall Meeting is conducted in late October or early November, depending on the first sightings of Chinook salmon. This event will update and educate the community on our activity and our year end totals both for our regular volunteering activities and past year salmon monitoring. This event is held at community centers with a typical max capacity of 100 people. Once we schedule the Town Hall on Eventbrite, we will begin outreaching for the event. This task will include tabling on sections of our trails both on the Guadalupe River and Los Gatos Creek. This will take two team leaders and each tabling is conducted for 2 hours. Another section of this task will be outreach on our social media. Both our Instagram and Facebook will broadcast information on how to attend this event. Our social media presence reaches 7,000+ followers. We will also outreach on our newsletter which reaches 3,500+ community members. We also plan to do door to door outreach in underserved communities handing out 100 fliers with event information. The Town Hall Meeting is a two hour event that includes a presentation, a signup section, and mingling section. Our presentation is conducted for roughly 45 minutes not including questions. The presentation is a culmination of our year end totals for our regular volunteering activities and a larger section addressing the Chinook salmon history and overfishing, our salmon monitoring results from the previous year, and details on our research including why and how we monitor. A section will also be included on how to inform us of possible salmon spottings and or salmon carcass spottings which we will use to gather our data, more on this in the Monitoring section. The signup section of our Town Hall is intended for motivated individuals who would like to monitor the waterways with us for the fall run year 2026. We will be providing a link to our easy to access communication platform. The mingling event at the end is meant to answer more questions from our attendees and for our more storied volunteers to express their sentiment and encourage the newcomers to attend the monitoring or viewing events. This event is very efficient in motivating the community to interact with their local trails and parks in search of these migrating Chinook salmon.

#### Step 3) Monitoring

From November to December of 2026 we will conduct our salmon monitoring activity. This task includes walking the creeks and rivers previously stated to track, collect data, collect salmon carcasses, and provide volunteers with an in-depth look at the Chinook salmon population and our monitoring procedures. The permit required for this work names three of our core team members as able to provide monitoring activities to external individuals (volunteers). One individual with 10+ years of experience salmon monitoring, one with 5+ years, and one with 3+ years of experience. Depending on demand, two core team members will take a group of up to 6 to one of the aforementioned locations and conduct the monitoring activities in accordance with the permit requirements for up to 8 hours per event. The volunteers are not obligated to stay for the entire 8 hours. Volunteers are able to attend on dates that work best for them. The volunteers and their leads will conduct activities related to searching for Chinook salmon, salmon carcasses, and their nests known as redds. Waders are required for monitoring activity. With this grant we will acquire a selection of wader sizes meant to provide accessibility to individuals unable to purchase waders privately. During the monitoring events, when we spot salmon, the volunteers will learn how to record their observations for live fish, redds, and carcasses to our ArcGIS database. Data will include water temperature, water velocity, conditions of the environment, sex, length and whether or not the salmon successfully spawned. This database compiles on an interactive map on our website that is updated in real time to track and record each observation made for that fall season. It accumulates all observations across every day of monitoring for that year's fall run. Our samples and observations will then be compiled and sent to Kramer Fish Sciences for gastrochromatography which helps us distinguish between native Chinook and farmed Chinook. This research provides us the real population number of native Chinook salmon. We currently have 8 years worth of data recorded and open to the public on our website. These events give volunteers hands-on experience with salmon monitoring and provide an up close and personal experience with the nature of the creeks and rivers in San Jose. Volunteers come out with an appreciation for the salmon by better understanding the difficulties that they face.

Another lesson the volunteers take with them is a larger responsibility to help clean and maintain the natural areas around them. When we traverse these waterways we provide a better context of the channelization of our waterways and its effect on the environment along with the discussion of pollution and its effect. Volunteers who join these events learn about the fall Chinook salmon run, citizen science capabilities, salmon monitoring procedures, how salmon affect nature and our communities impact on salmon.

#### Step 4) Viewing

Our monitoring period helps us understand the size and strength of that year's migration. Early November monitoring allows us to gauge the best time and location for a public salmon viewing event. Our public salmon viewing event is held in early December when the inhabiting salmon is at its largest population size. Our public viewings are typically held on a plateau just off the Los Gatos Creek Trail next to the Pruneyard in Cambell. This area is easily accessible and provides the best view for salmon viewing with the least amount of disturbance to the salmon themselves. We would dedicate the first two weekends of December, give or take a week depending on migration, to the salmon viewing. We hold three time slots an hour and a half apart from each other with a capacity for 25 attendees each time slot. This allows us to service a max of 300 individuals. We will also outreach for this event with our previous stated methods to also include canvassing of neighborhoods with 100 fliers with early access codes to the underserved communities stated and depicted on the CalEnviroScreen. The public viewings will be held for 1 hour per time slot. Within the hour we will begin with a presentation. The presentation consists of printed poster boards with graphics and descriptions of the ecosystem, chinook salmon, monitoring, beaver, and volunteer cleanup activities. We will speak to these posters providing further description and elaboration. Once the poster session is complete, we will lead the attendees to the plateau's edge where they will be able to view the salmon and their nests. Past events have showcased roughly 4 Chinook salmon spawning in this area. Once we speak more on their mating and spawning habits, we will also demonstrate in person our salmon carcass harvesting procedures with a stored salmon carcass. Attendees will be able to stay for the remaining minutes of the hour and once complete will be escorted out of the viewing area. This will repeat twice more to conclude that day's viewing events. 3 more days on weekends will be conducted in this manner.

#### **Describe key project deliverables and estimated completion dates.**

Barrier Removal Deliverables to include:

1. Date
2. Location
3. Before and After Photo of removed barrier and videos
4. Description of Removal Process
5. List of Attendees

Quantity: 10

Amount per Deliverable: \$800

Total: \$8,000

Expected completion date: 10/31/2026

Tabling Deliverables to include:

- Date
- Location
- Photo and videos of Interaction with public
- list of new emails acquired for Newsletter
- number of interactions

Quantity: 4

Amount per Deliverable: \$150

Total: \$600

Expected Completion Date: 11/04/2026

Town Hall Meeting Deliverables to Include:

1. Scheduling and cost for Rented Room
2. Flier to include:
  - flier created
3. Community Canvassing with Flier to include:
  - Date
  - Location
  - Number of Fliers dispersed
  - Number of community members engaged
  - Photos and videos of event

Quantity: 1

Amount per Deliverable: \$1,150

Total: \$1,150

Expected completion date: 11/04/2026

4. Broadcast and creation of event recap to include:

- date
- url of publicly available recorded live stream
- creation of recap video
- link to recap video

Quantity: 1

Amount per Deliverable: \$300

Total: \$300

Expected Completion Date: 11/15/2026

5. Day of Event to include:

- Date
- Location
- Number of Attendees
- Presentation provided
- pictures and videos of event

Quantity: 1

Amount per Deliverable: \$1,250

Total: \$1,250

Expected Completion Date: 11/10/2026

Monitoring deliverables to include:

1. Waders purchased

- sizes
- receipt
- photos and videos

Quantity: 1

Amount per Deliverable: \$1,680

Total: \$1,680

Expected Completion Date: 10/31/2026

2. Monitoring events to include:

- Date
- Location
- Attendees
- Photos and videos of event
- length of event
- number of salmon, carcasses, and redds spotted

Quantity: 20

Amount per Deliverable: \$400

Total: \$8,000

Expected Completion Date: 12/31/2026

Salmon Viewing Deliverables to include:

1. Flier to include:

- flier created

Quantity: 1

Amount per Deliverable: \$450

Total: \$450

Expected Completion Date: 10/31/2026

2. Community Canvassing with Flier to include:

- Date

- Location
- Number of Fliers dispersed
- Number of community members engaged
- Photos and videos of activity

Quantity: 2  
Amount per Deliverable: \$200  
Total: \$400  
Expected Completion Date: 11/08/2026

3. Public Viewing to include:

- Date
- Location
- Attendees
- Photo and videos of Event

Quantity: 4  
Amount per Deliverable: \$700  
Total: \$2,800  
Expected Completion Date: 12/20/2026

Indirect Costs Deliverables to Include:  
General Administrative Support:  
Quantity: Flexible  
Amount per Deliverable: Flexible  
Total: \$3,078

A-Storage Facility:  
Quantity: 3  
Amount per Deliverable: \$1,000  
Total: \$3,000

**Does this project require permission, permits, or other approvals? If so, please describe the status of these.**

Permits Required:

CDFW Scientific Collecting Permit  
Status: awaiting renewal

Valley Water Adopt a Creek Permit  
Status: Acquired / Active

**What is the lifetime of this project? If applicable, describe plans for operating and maintaining the project in the future.**

The life-time of this project is for one fall season (October to December) in the year 2026. Subsequent fall seasons Salmon monitoring events will be funded by donations from the community.

**Describe the project's readiness for implementation.**

The Scientific Collecting Permit from CDFW is the only item awaiting renewal. Every other aspect is ready for the project schedule to start.

---

## Project Budget

Budget Summary - Grant Request & Budget Summary - Matching Funds

**Grant request: Personnel**  
\$28,800.00

**Grant request: Contracted Services**  
\$0.00

**Grant request: Supplies / Materials**

\$1,680.00

**Grant request: Other Direct Costs**

\$300.00

**Grant request: Indirect Costs**

\$6,078.00

**Total Matching Funds**

\$0.00

**Total Budget**

\$36,858.00

**Please upload a detailed version of your budget by accessing the link below:**

Appendix D - Chinook Salmon Monitoring in the South Bay.pdf

Materials and Budget Template (item #9) found here: <https://www.openspaceauthority.org/programs/grant.html#Materials>

**Provide a brief budget narrative to explain the expenses listed in each of the budget categories (e.g. Personnel).**

Personnel:

Task: Barrier Removal

- Four core team members coordinating volunteers for 16 dedicated hours per river or creek (5)

Task: Town Hall Meeting

- 16 hours dedicated to flier mockup, finalizations, printing, and prep

- 2 core team members dispersing early access flier to underserved communities, 2 4-hour days

- tabling with 2 core team members for 3 hours with 4 events

- 1 core team member for media content creation and broadcasting event details and video recap after event completion

- 4 core team members for 5 hours to include equipment transportation, setup, hosting, presentation, and breakdown

Task: Monitoring

- 2 core team members dedicating 32 hours to locations stated across 2 months, 4 hour events (8 events) with volunteers, per creek or river (5)

Task: Salmon Viewing

- Flier Creation for early access to tickets to be distributed to underserved communities, 16 hours for mockup, finalization, printing, prep

- 2 core team members dispersing early access flier to underserved communities, 2 4-hour days

- 4 7-hour days, 4 core team members, events held from 9am-10am, 11am-12pm, and 1pm-2pm on each day

Direct:

1. Town Hall Meeting Room Rent

2. Waders

Indirect:

1. General Administrative Support

- 10%

2. A-Storage Facility Rent

- 3 Months

**Award Amount: The Board reserves the right to award partial funding on projects. If your project were to receive partial funding, what would this mean for your project?**

The tasks that would best benefit the community would be either Monitoring (\$17,400) and/or Salmon Viewing (\$3,600). Monitoring is the task that is necessary in order to conduct a successful and engaging Salmon Viewing event. Its main purpose is to provide our community volunteers citizen science experience in tracking and monitoring the migrating Chinook salmon population which also allows us to understand when would be the best weekends to schedule our salmon viewing events. Salmon Viewing will also be of great benefit if partial funding is awarded to it because it will keep this experience solely as a first come first serve, free, experience.

---

## Project Goals

### **Describe the specific problems, issues, or unserved needs the project will address.**

Our first goal is to remove 2 barriers to fish passage per creek(5).

Goals:

- 10 barriers to fish passage removed.

The goal for our tabling event is to increase awareness. We will be hosting 4 tabling events for 2 hours each. This is meant to engage 150 new individuals with information about Chinook salmon, our Town Hall events, Salmon Monitoring, and our Public Salmon Viewing events through Q4. Collecting 30 new Newsletter sign-ups which will notify that individual once a month of our upcoming events. We will also be dispersing literature about the local inhabitants of the creek and about our non-profit.

Goals:

- 4 tabling events
- 150 community members engaged
- 30 new Newsletter sign-ups

The goal of our Town Hall Meeting is to get individuals to sign up to monitoring activities, viewing events, and increase awareness. We hope to host 100 individuals at full capacity. We also hope to fill 25 slots of our volunteer monitoring events and 25 slots of our viewing events.

Goals:

- 100 attendees
- 25 monitoring volunteer sign-ups
- 25 salmon viewing sing-ups

The goal of our salmon monitoring is to get individuals practiced in our citizen science capabilities, educated on monitoring procedures, and monitor 5 creeks dedicating 32 hours to each across 2 months. We want 75 volunteers to monitor with use for up to 4 hours for each monitoring event.

Goals:

- 75 volunteer sign-ups for salmon Monitoring

Our last goal is to provide a public presentation to 300 individuals at our salmon viewing event. 4 days each with 3 different time slots with a capacity of 25 individuals in each slot. We also will be asking individuals to sign up to our upcoming creek cleanups. We are hoping to receive 25 volunteer sign-ups for our next volunteer cleanup event.

Goals:

- 300 total attendees
- 25 volunteer cleanup sign-ups

How does this project serve the community?

### **Number of people served**

625

### **Number of youth served**

156

### **Number of programs provided**

53

### **Other Grantee Goal #1 (optional)**

### **Other Grantee Goal #2 (optional)**

---

## Impact

**Describe the lasting impact of the project. Please include whether the program is open to the public and whether any materials developed will be available to the public.**

This program is open to the public on a first come first serve basis. For several aspects of this project, fliers will be sent to underserved communities providing first access to our events through a special early access code. All materials developed for and from our event including citizen science activities will be accessible on our website, specifically the contributions from salmon monitoring will appear on our public database and viewable on the maps associated with our website. All events will be posted on our social media channels and other contact channels such as our Newsletter.

The lasting impact of our project is the awareness we spread of the fall Chinook salmon run. Watching salmon migrate and spawn is a magical moment for everyone that is able to witness it. It shows just how alive our ecosystem is despite how urban the Guadalupe Watershed has become. The story of the salmon is also a grueling one fraught with over hunting, habitat degradation, and the migration necessary to reach spawning ground. This yearly migration has become a purpose for our community to come out to their local trails and parks in hopes of seeing this impactful animal. By explaining their history and current situation we are arming our community with knowledge that will affect how they interact with our parks and rivers. Our citizen science initiatives and salmon viewing experience are meant to provide community members the opportunity to develop a sense of responsibility to their natural areas and in the development of the Chinook salmon population. Chinook salmon returning year after year brings the community back to the rivers and creeks year after year as well and the more we spread awareness for them the more individuals will engage with our nature spaces.

---

## Climate Resilience

**How does this project enhance and/or raise awareness about climate resilience? Please include any metrics that can be used to help quantity or understand the climate benefits of the project.**

During our monitoring experience and our salmon viewings, we engage in topics of climate resilience and awareness by communicating information on the channelization of our waterways, our flood control systems effect on the Chinook salmon, the effects on our creeks by our urban areas, the environmental impact of regulated water flows, and the environmental benefits of Chinook salmon spawning and migration in these riparian corridors.

The channelization of our waterways and its effect on the ecosystem is best when visualized at our monitoring areas which demonstrate flow rate and its contribution to erosion along with gravel and sediment deposition which is visible at our monitoring areas. The emergency flood control systems are discussed in terms of flow rate as well along with discussion on general management along with the accumulation of trash that can negatively affect its ability to operate properly. This is also attributed to the creeks running through the heart of our downtown area and that is one of the most impacted sections that could be considered the last leg of the journey for Chinook salmon. Channelized systems are great when you are trying to remove water from a system or transport water quickly but have negative effects as well. They can lead to increased erosion due to the high velocity of water and can destabilize riparian corridors by restricting meandering of rivers which can leave sections of creeks and river with large sediment deposits and downstream scouring which can damage salmon spawning habitat. Regulated water flows have their pros and cons. For salmon it can be a tricky situation. The trouble occurs when we need the fish ladders operational during their fall run but due to early release in anticipation of heavy rains, when the salmon enter they may be waiting days to weeks to use the fish ladder. Another issue with regulated flow rates is early releases may trigger fish to migrate up our streams too early in the season which decreases successful spawning and could also decrease the population of spawning salmon.

Another factor of streams and rivers running through urbanized areas is the prevalence of pollution. Another aspect of our nonprofit is creek and river volunteer cleanups. We experience large removal efforts on a weekly basis and remove more than a ton of trash from our local creeks every week. Items from these events include carts, mattresses, nets, sleeping bags, tarps, carpets, buckets, motorcycles, bikes, and much much more. Other controversial items include needles and batteries. All of these items contribute to the degradation of salmon spawning ground by either reducing access to healthy and safe areas or by introducing harmful chemicals and heavy metals which harm embryo development.

Salmon themselves are considered a keystone species which means that they create and maintain ecosystems. The most direct way that they contribute to this aspect of themselves is by completing their life cycle by dying in our streams. Their lifecycle starts in our streams and as they develop, they eat insects and invertebrates and migrate to the mouth of our rivers and feed until they are large enough to traverse the open ocean. After two or three years they return. They are drawn to the scent of their natal stream and migrate up it to where they were born. Once they spawn, they die. Their bodies, having acquired a large amount of mass and nutrients from the ocean, deposit these nutrients into these water channels which has been show to grow vegetation three times as fast. This act helps revitalize the riparian corridors. Beavers are also common in these waterways and they have a symbiotic relationship with the Chinook salmon. Since vegetation grows faster in salmon rearing waterways, trees become more plentiful for the beaver. The beavers can prosper and create dams which is the aspect that also makes beaver a keystone species. Dams made by beavers help sequester water into our aquifer and also lower sedimentation downstream which provides salmon beneficial spawning ground. Beaver dams also create flooded areas which push out invasive species and promote native plant growth. These dams also provide shelter for the other inhabitants of the riparian corridor.

All of these topics are discussed during our Salmon Viewing events and are touched on in our Town Hall Meeting. Awareness and disseminating this information to impact our 625 attendees is meant to better inform and educate on the riparian corridor and the human effect on the environment on a local level.

---

## Community Engagement / Stakeholder Support / Community Building

**Describe the community support and/or community engagement process. Please upload any community support letters in the Documents Upload section below.**

Every year we ramp up cleanups and prime our volunteer base for the incoming Chinook salmon run. We remind our volunteer base that this is the reason that we conduct our volunteer cleanups, to prime the waterways for the incoming Chinook salmon population. We start with more strategic cleanups that we call Barrier Removals and these are areas that tend to be harder to reach and more intense. Our dedicated volunteers assist with this section immensely and have continuously reminded us that they are just as excited as we are about the incoming Chinook. Leading up to the fall run, the few months before we start integrating into our outreach reminders that we will be hosting our Town Hall Meeting soon and subsequently our Salmon Viewing events. Many prospective volunteers sign-up to our Newsletter specifically because of this information and it is our largest driver of new signups.

Our outreach on our social media is just as impactful. We outreach stating that salmon are returning soon. These are also the channels where we will provide basic information on how to attend and where to sign up.

We also have a dedicated communication channel on the Signal platform that maintains communication amongst all of our dedicated volunteers. We are also able to state more information that they may need and better coordinate volunteer needs and address concerns more readily.

Our core group of volunteers has showcased that they are engaging individuals that they know in their daily lives and have recruited them to our monitoring events and cleanup efforts. There have been several instances where our volunteers have outreached on our behalf in informal settings and have inquired into possible collaborations as well.

Aside from our volunteers we are also involved with the Chairs at SJSU and De Anza college in the environmental fields. These stakeholders relay our public events to their students and faculty in an effort to further educate their base on local affairs and wildlife policies and impacts.

---

## Underserved Communities

**Describe how the project addresses open space needs for sensitive populations such as residents of park-poor neighborhoods, underserved, or disadvantaged communities, youth, seniors, persons with disabilities, or is located within an under-resourced community.**

Our general operations includes volunteer creek and river cleanups. This effort is stated at every cleanup to be an effort for the rehabilitation of the Chinook salmon population. Our dedicated group of volunteers along with our connected group of schools and corporate volunteers connect to this call to action. Our current volunteer base does consist of able, mainly retired, volunteers who are a part of schools that mandate volunteer hours to graduate and or corporate groups that are hitting their community involvement goals. We have a hard time connecting with our underserved communities purely because of the nature of our work.

This project has specific goals to change that. We want to provide special opportunities for the communities that have not been able to dedicate time to volunteer work or to the specific act of educating themselves on the Chinook salmon population. We hope to remedy this by reaching out directly to these groups with first access to our events and at a quantity of 100 per outreach event(2), 200 attendees. This means that 1/3 of the total attendance is provided first to the underserved community. The regions that are along our work area consist of regions that have individuals in large housing burden communities (low income and housing cost burden) with the highest areas connected to our project area being 92% above the state average. These areas also include decreased education, at its highest being 31% above state average. All of this demographic information was provided by CalEnviroScreen.

---

## Organizational Capacity

**Briefly describe the organization and its ability to successfully implement this project. This might include successful past projects, key staff qualifications, financial resources, etc.**

We have been monitoring the stated waterways for the past six years and have been able to manage our ArcGIS database effectively to allow public access to all previous monitoring data. We have been able to execute past salmon viewing events effectively and to the extent of having 300 attendees.

Our founder has been an avid restorationist and advocate. He has personally owned and operated several successful business ventures and has been advocating for this restoration work for close to 15 years. He has created and drafted this non-profit from his own savings and has amassed funding that at its peak had a cash flow of \$200,000. This funded cleanup activities, citizen science initiatives, community/school educational experiences, and salmon monitoring and testing. Our core team of four includes Steve Holmes, our CEO with 13 years in this organization, Carol Szymkiewicz our operations manager with 10 years in this organization, Josh Lopez our event coordinator with 5+ years, and Jordan Almaguer our Project Manager with 3+ years. Several team leaders made up of our dedicated volunteers help us conduct events and manage volunteer groups throughout events.

---

## Leadership & Innovation

**Describe how this project employs innovative approaches or encourages collaboration and partnerships.**

Our approach to promoting community action and education has changed throughout the year but we have found the best way to turn intrigue into direct action. Through our tabling events we hit individuals with the historical context of our creeks and rivers along with the historical facts of the Chinook salmon and Beaver. This provides a better understanding of the history of our creeks and how San Jose decided to develop without these creatures in mind. Once we state their current status in our creeks there is a general census that they need help. We provide the opportunities that directly contribute to the betterment of their habitats. Our volunteer cleanups are the direct impact section of our organization. Each event, through volunteer labor we remove roughly 1+ tons of trash every event. We work closely with the city, specifically BeautifySJ and Mayor Matt Mahan on trash removal projects that have been a part of the past several city addresses. We also work directly with the Santa Clara Valley Water District who provides and signs our Adopt-a-Creek Permits which gives us access to Valley Water property which consist of the majority of waterways in San Jose. For this specific project we also work directly with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife who provides and signs our Scientific Collecting Permit which gives us access to monitor, enter, and collect scientific data on the Chinook Salmon. The effort and capital required to collect these permits and conduct our monitoring and research is larger than the scope and budget of this project. It would be impossible if we did not have a well maintained relationship with Valley Water and the City of San Jose. CDFW has also been foundational in providing us with the scientific collecting permits which broke ground on our research.

This project is a community effort, by community members, for our natural areas. We want to be able to share the work we have conducted with all of our neighbors.

---

## Documents Section

**Document Uploads (please combine into one file if possible)**

Salmon Monitoring in the South Bay Photos.pdf

**Additional files (if needed)**

**Additional files (if needed)**

**Submitted Date - Internal**

## Summary Field:

Name: Average Score (no bonus)

Form: Staff Review

Summary Type: average

Field: Base Score Total

Decimal: 2

Currency: No

Description/Help Text: NONE

Short Name: NONE

Field Purpose: NONE

Filter:

- ALL:
  - isComplete | is | true

#### Summary Field:

Name: Total Count of Submitted Reviews

Form: Staff Review

Summary Type: count

Field: NONE

Decimal: NONE

Currency: No

Description/Help Text: NONE

Short Name: NONE

Field Purpose: NONE

Filter:

- ALL:
  - isComplete | is | true
  - Folder | is | Submitted

#### Program Application: File Attachments

---

**Please upload a detailed version of your budget by accessing the link below:**

Appendix D - Chinook Salmon Monitoring in the South Bay.pdf

**Document Uploads (please combine into one file if possible)**



**Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority | 2025 Urban Grant Program**

**PROJECT BUDGET**

Highlighted cells are automatically calculated.

<b>PROJECT</b>	
<b>Project Name:</b>	Chinook Salmon Monitoring in the South Bay
<b>Organization:</b>	South Bay Clean Creeks Coalition

**PERSONNEL**

Estimate employee and volunteer time directly related to the project. Hourly rates for employees can include salary plus fringe benefits, payroll tax, etc, but can not include indirect costs. Note: please list position titles only.

Position Title	Description of Budget Item	Grant Request (\$)	Matching Funds (\$)	Total
CEO	(123 hours at \$75/hr) 80 hours for Barrier Removal, 15 hours for Town Hall Meeting, and 28 hours for Salmon Viewing.	\$ 9,225.00		\$ 9,225.00
Project Manager	(311 hours at \$25/hr) Manages all aspects of Salmon Monitoring in the South Bay including budget and management aspects. 80 hours for Barrier Removal, 35 hours for Town Hall Presentation including outreach, 160 hours for Salmon monitoring, and 36 hours for salmon viewing including outreach.	\$ 7,775.00		\$ 7,775.00
Stream Leader	(359 hours at \$25/hr) 80 hours for Barrier Removal, 65 hours for Town Hall Meeting including outreach, 160 hours for Salmon Monitoring, and 54 Hours towards Salmon viewing including outreach.	\$ 8,975.00		\$ 8,975.00
Stream Leader	(113 hours at \$25/hr) 80 hours for Barrier Removal, 5 hours for Town Hall, and 28 hours for Salmon Viewing.	\$ 2,825.00		\$ 2,825.00
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
<b>TOTAL PERSONNEL</b>		<b>\$ 28,800.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 28,800.00</b>

**CONTRACTED SERVICES**

Labor, supplies, and materials to be provided by consultants/contractors for project implementation.

Item	Description of Budget Item	Grant Request (\$)	Matching Funds (\$)	Total
				\$ -





Salmon Monitoring Pictures:



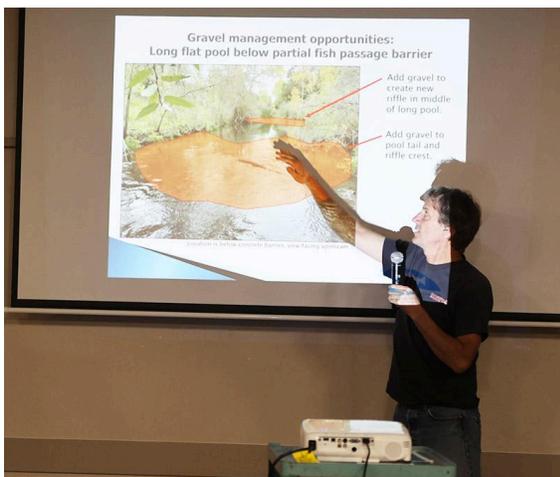
Salmon Viewing Photos:



Barrier Removal:



Town Hall Meeting:



# Survey123 Data Tool (app/template):

**2024-2025 Monitoring**

**Untitled question 17**  
Official survey for the 2024-2025 monitoring season.

This is to be completed on-site where the specimen is found in order to ensure geographic accuracy, NOT AT HOME.

Complete the survey at the area in which you spotted the specimen, NOT AT HOME.

**NOTE: DO NOT complete this survey if you are not willing to enable location services on your phone or manually select a location. If you accidentally do this, you must re-do your submission - location cannot be changed after the fact.**

**Upload any photos or videos of specimen below\***  
Upload a photo from your image library or take a photo by clicking the camera icon.

1 Drop image here or select image (minimum number of files required: 1)

**Type of Specimen\***

**Type of Specimen\***  
Required. If more than one specimen, fill out an additional survey.

Live Fish

Carcass

Redd

**Carcass Harvested \***

Yes  No

**Carcass Details**

**Sex\***

M  F

**Adipose Fin\***

Yes  No

**Spawned\***

Yes  No

**Length (inches)\***

**Water Flow (Qualitative)\***  
Required.

Stagnant

Steady

Rapid

**Which waterway? \***  
Select from below. If "other," indicate.

Los Gatos Creek

Guadalupe River

Alamos Creek

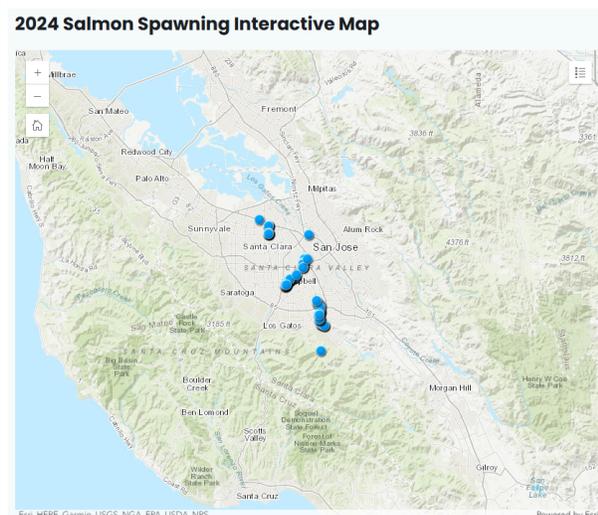
**Specific Location?\***  
Important: This question will try to use your location. Press to continue. Ensure location sharing is enabled on your phone, and that you allow your browser or survey app to use your location to ensure accuracy. If you don't have it enabled, you must manually input your exact location.

Location should autofill if enabled, check to ensure accuracy. Adjust using map that appears. Accuracy is essential!

Find address or place



Bureau of Land Management, Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, NGA, EPA, USDA, NPS Powered by Esri



Poster Boards for Tabling and Salmon Viewing:

## ENGINEERS OF THE WATERSHED

Beavers create, modify, and maintain healthy habitats and ecosystems.








Beaver dams improve water quality and contribute to the biodiversity of the watershed.

Hunted to extinction by the 1850's, beavers began to return to the Bay Area in 2008.

Scan the QR code to learn more

With help from the community, we have been tracking the return of beaver to South Bay waterways.



## Salmon Redd

A gravel nest for salmon to lay their eggs.

### Signs of a Redd

- A clean patch of gravel
- Prior to spawning




the female digs her redd




Tail damage from building a redd

Male and female spawning on redd



## South Bay Clean Creeks Advocacy

"Our mission is to Reclaim, Restore, and Revitalize South Bay Waterways"




**Salmon Monitoring**  
We monitor the late fall run of Chinook Salmon along South Bay Waterways.



**Otolith/Ear Bone**  
By comparing otolith and water chemistry data, we can determine where a salmon was born.



**Adipose Fin**  
Hatcheries harvesters clip this fin of 25% of the salmon they release for visual identification in the field.



**Eye Lenses**  
Testing for the absence of nitrate anions to identify wild fish from the other 75% of fish released from hatcheries.



**Water Testing**  
SBCCC takes water samples from various parts of the Guadalupe Watershed to compare against otolith data.



**We look for salmon carcasses in the watershed, collect samples and send these to UC Davis for strontium isotope analysis.**



We are applying science to establish the possibility of a native strain of Chinook Salmon here in the South Bay



Or visit our website [www.sbccc.org](http://www.sbccc.org) to learn more about the SBCCC.

