

Work Task E37: Palo Verde Ecological Reserve-South

FY16 Estimate	FY16 Actual Obligations	Cumulative Expenditures Through FY16	FY17 Approved Estimate	FY18 Proposed Estimate	FY19 Proposed Estimate	FY20 Proposed Estimate
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$200,000	\$500,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000

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Start Date: FY17

Expected Duration: FY55

Long-Term Goal: Habitat creation

Conservation Measures: BEVI1, ELOW1, GIFL1, GIWO1, MNSW2, SUTA1, VEFL1, WIFL1, WRBA2, WYBA3, YBCU1, and YWAR1

Location: Reach 4, River Miles 123–125, California

Purpose: To create and manage a mosaic of native land cover types for LCR MSCP covered species

Connections with Other Work Tasks (Past and Future): Vegetation monitoring is conducted under Work Task F1, and wildlife monitoring is conducted under Work Tasks F2–F4, and F7.

Project Description: Palo Verde Ecological Reserve-South, located within the Palo Verde Irrigation District, is a 350-acre property with a mix of active agricultural fields, undeveloped ground, and portions of an old river meander. This property has been made available for LCR MSCP habitat restoration activities by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Development of the project is intended to satisfy both the LCR MSCP requirements and a portion of California Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2005-008-06.

The eastern boundary of the property is adjacent to the Colorado River, and the western boundary is adjacent to active agricultural fields and a main irrigation canal for the Palo Verde Irrigation District. Existing infrastructure, which includes lined canals, can deliver water to approximately 200 acres of active agricultural lands.

The intent of this project is to develop the property in a mosaic of land cover types using the active agricultural lands, undeveloped lands, and the former river meander. A Restoration Development and Monitoring Plan will be drafted to inform the development and monitoring of the property for LCR MSCP covered species.

Previous Activities: Identification of the property and evaluation for inclusion into the LCR MSCP were conducted under Work Task E16.

FY16 Accomplishments: This is a new start in FY17.

FY17 Activities:

Maintenance/Restoration/Management: The Restoration Development and Monitoring Plan is expected to be drafted in coordination with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Based on the requirements of the plan, design, permitting, and compliance will be initiated. The development schedule will be integrated with construction activities of other conservation areas.

Monitoring: Pre-development monitoring will be conducted in FY17 and funded under post-development work tasks (Section F). This will include general bird surveys from mid-April through June.

Proposed FY18 Activities:

Maintenance/Restoration/Management: Remaining permitting and compliance activities will be completed. The LCR MSCP will maintain a cover crop on the site until restoration activities are ready to begin. The Palo Verde Irrigation District will provide water to the Palo Verde Ecological Reserve and a record of diversionary amounts.

Monitoring: Pre-development monitoring will be conducted in FY18 if additional data are needed for compliance documentation.

Pertinent Reports: N/A