American River Conservancy Interim Grant Report for Women’s Fund of El Dorado

**Organization Address:** American River Conservancy, PO Box 562, Coloma, CA 95613

**Name and Title of Person Submitting Report:** Cathy Mueller, Stewardship Manager

**Grant Title:** Impact Grant

**Award Date:** 6/1/2022

**Grant Amount:** $10,000

**Date Grant Report Complete:** 5/19/2023

1. American River Conservancy’s Cosumnes River water quality monitoring program has accomplished the anticipated goals of the Cosumnes River Water Quality Monitoring program through the 2022/2023 monitoring season. Dedicated volunteers have collected sound water quality data that will be used by government agencies, private landowners, and researchers to benefit the health of the Cosumnes River. Each month volunteers have spread out across the watershed to collect samples across an 80-mile reach and provide a snapshot of the health of the watershed at that time. During the 2022-2023 monitoring season, we were able to train 15 new monitors, to add to our current list of 40+ trained monitors.

2. Women’s Fund of El Dorado grant funds supported staff in the organization of people, equipment, data, photos and samples for multiple sites each month. Grant funds contributed to the purchase of equipment and supplies needed to perform monitoring activities at 17 different sites across the watershed. Grant funds contributed to effective and welcoming training events and volunteer appreciation events. In addition to the scientific benefits and environmental benefits to the Cosumnes River watershed already mentioned, this program connects volunteer citizen scientists with the importance of maintaining the health of the watershed. As trained monitors in this program, they also become ambassadors of watershed health to the greater community.

3. Challenges faced over the 2022-2023 monitoring season included staff turnover and extreme weather. Staff turnover was managed through quick replacement with staff who were already familiar with the program and trained as monitoring volunteers. Long term volunteers and previous program organizers stepped in to support this transition. The extreme weather of this past winter caused staff to make many difficult decisions regarding access to the sampling sites. Thorough and frequent communication between staff and volunteers was necessary to sample as many sites as possible each month while also keeping volunteers safe.

4. This past year, staff focus was on organization of the physical space used for the considerable number of tools and supplies used for this program as well as streamlining the volunteer coordination process. Going forward, we plan to spend more time on outreach prior to training events and are hoping to attract more and diverse volunteers to ensure the longevity of the program.

5. The Women’s Fund of El Dorado grant has helped ARC to take the time to streamline our program. Volunteer satisfaction has increased through the simplification of communication and equipment management. Although we have not attracted new funding yet, our program is now in a better position to do so.

6. A success story from this project is the creation of our Stewardship Headquarters which is the physical space used by staff and volunteers to organize supplies, calibrate instruments, pick up gear and drop off gear and samples. With so many people involved each month, clear expectations on how and where to pick up and drop off supplies have greatly improved volunteer and staff effectiveness and satisfaction. The longevity of ARC’s Cosumnes River Water Quality Monitoring program is dependent on high volunteer satisfaction. The Women’s Fund of El Dorado grant gave us the paid time to make this physical space a well-organized reality.

Part II: Program Budget

1. Approved budget (note: with approval, funds were moved from training, printing and copying to staff time.)

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| PROGRAM/PROJECT |
| Line-Item Budget |
| Grant Title: | Cosumnes River Water Quality Monitoring Program |
| Name of Person Preparing Budget Report: | Cathy Mueller |
| A. Original Grant Budget Submitted: |  $ 10,000 -  |   |
| B. Grant Amount Approved\* |  10,000 | *\* if different than original grant submittal* |
| C. Interim Expense Report: | Start Date: | 6/1/2022 | End Date: | 11/30/2022 |
| D. Final Expense Report: | Start Date: | 12/1/2023 | End Date: | 5/31/2023 |
|   |
|   |   | A  | B | C | D |
| Line  | Revenue\* | Original Budget as shown in original grant application | Approved Grant Budget if different than original grant submittal | Interim Report  | Final Report |
| 1 | Women's Fund El Dorado |  10,000 -  |  -  |  $ 8,250.66 | 10,000 |
| *\* report only expenditures for Women's Fund Grant (B from above) - not local organization contribution* |
|  |  | A  | B | C | D |
| Line | Grant Expenditures\*\* | Original Budget as shown in original grant application | Approved Grant Budget if different than original grant submittal | Interim Report (expenditures to date) | Final Report  |
| 2 | Staff salaries and wages |  $ 5,000.00  | 6234.66 |  $ 5,978.13  | 6234.66 |
| 3 | Fringe benefits |   |   |   |   |
| 4 | Occupancy and utilities |   |   |   |   |
| 5 | Equipment |  $ 2,000.00  |   |  $ 1,126.28  | 2,000  |
| 6 | Supplies and materials |  $ 1,000.00  | 586.89  |  $ 535.01  | 1000 |
| 7 | Printing and copying |  $ 500.00  | 100.00  |  $ 100.00  | 100.00  |
| 8 | Telecommunications |   |   |   |   |
| 9 | Travel and meetings |   |   |   |   |
| 10 | Marketing and advertising |   |   |   |   |
| 11 | Staff and volunteer training |  $ 1,500.00  | 665.34  |  $ 511.24  | 665.34 |
| 12 | Contract services |   |   |   |   |
| 13 | Miscellaneous |   |   |   |   |
| 14 | Other |   |   |   |   |
| 15 | Other |   |   |   |   |
| 16 | Total Expenditures (equals revenue line 1 except for Interim Report) |  $ 10,000.00  |  $ -  |  $ 8,250.66  |  $ 10,000 -  |
| *\*\* Not all categories of expenditures may pertain to your proposal* |

Budget notes: These numbers do not reflect the total cost of the water quality monitoring program to our organization, and instead reflect the cost covered by the WFED grant.

1. This program will be sustained in the future through continued efforts to find grant funding. ARC staff will continue to reach out to organizations who wish to support citizen science efforts in the Cosumnes River watershed.