



**Nature  
Collective**

CONNECT. EXPERIENCE. PROTECT.

**Project Title:** Protecting Nature at a Rare Coastal Wetland

**Rotary Year:** 2022-23

**Country:** United States

**Location:** Solana Beach + Del Mar, California

**Areas of Focus:** The Environment

**Activity Type:** Education: Volunteer Services

**Project Summary:** Engage 200 volunteers to assist in restoring 25 acres of riparian woodland habitat in the San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve to support the federally and state endangered Least Bell's Vireo and the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher.

**Project Description:** This project has two primary goals.

Goal 1: To show how people impact the natural environment

The project will engage 200 volunteers in 12 hands-on community restoration experiences during the project timeline. Participants will assist in restoring 25 acres of riparian woodland habitat in the San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve to support the federally and state endangered Least Bell's Vireo and the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher. Activities will include removing invasive species, providing water to growing plants, monitoring flora and fauna, and planting seeds in an indigenous plant nursery. Past agricultural practices and development negatively impacted the acres in need of restoration.

Goal 2: To demonstrate the wonder of nature and develop knowledge of and respect for the environment

Rotarians of Del Mar-Solana Beach, Solana Beach Eco and other local Rotary Clubs will be invited and encouraged to attend weekly volunteer experiences, including a private 6-hour team-building event. Protecting our natural resources requires informed and inspired people willing to take action. Engaging Rotarians to be active participants in volunteer experiences will enhance the natural area we all live in and help build a more cohesive, safer, stronger community and increase the social network between communities and neighborhoods. In addition, volunteering promotes more active civic engagement and helps solve environmental problems, including climate change.

Project success will be measured through public and volunteer surveys and an increased number of volunteers and volunteer-led programs.

**District Number:** 5340

**Rotary Club of:** Del Mar-Solana Beach

**Primary Contact:** Herbert Liberman

**Email:** heliberman@comcast.net

**Total Budget:** \$5,000

**Program Budget:** Funding from this grant will expand on our existing 2022-23 volunteer outreach and experiences. Rotary funding will provide project implementation, including time to recruit, train, organize, host meetings and events and develop the volunteer experiences offered.

Item	Amount Requested	Matching Funds
Project Implementation + Coordination (staff + internships)	3,605	24,395
Materials (uniforms, activity supplies, etc.)	500	1,000
Event/Meeting Expenses (snacks, water, Zoom, etc.)	395	
Annual Appreciation (food, certificates, etc.)		1,000
Rotary Private Event + Engagement	500	1,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,000</b>	
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>\$26,395</b>	