

**MORRO BAY**  
**NATIONAL**  
**ESTUARY**  
**PROGRAM**

601 Embarcadero, Suite 11 Morro Bay, California 93442  
805-772-3834 Fax 805-772-4162

**Community Grant Program Application**

**Summary Coversheet**

**Project Title: Western Snowy Plover Nesting Area Signs**

**Applicant: California State Parks San Luis Obispo Coast District**

**Address: 11 State Park Road Morro Bay, CA 93442**

**Contact Person: Regena Orr**

**Phone: (805) 550-4815 FAX: (805) 772-6106**

**Email: [regena.orr@parks.ca.gov](mailto:regena.orr@parks.ca.gov)**

**Grant Amount Requested: \$2,784.18**

**Total Estimated Project Cost: \$3,022.42**

**Amount & Source of Other Funding (if relevant): \$238.24 match (California State Parks in kind support and volunteer effort)**

**Project Description Summary: Four hundred-fifty Western Snowy Plover nesting area signs will be purchased and installed to protect one of the largest nesting populations of the Federally Threatened Western Snowy Plover which reside on the Montana de Oro State Park Sandspit. The main benefits of this project are protection of sensitive nesting habitat and species on the Sandspit and addressing in part three Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan Priority Issues.**

**Check off the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan Priority Issue(s) addressed by the proposed project:**

- Sedimentation.
  - Bacterial contamination.
  - Elevated nutrient levels.
  - Toxic pollutants.
  - Scarce freshwater resources.
- Preserving biodiversity.
- Environmentally balanced uses.

The proposed project must work to implement, at a minimum, one of the Action Plans that address the Priority Issues listed above. Please list the relevant Action Plans that will be addressed by this project below. The Action Plans are detailed within the Management Plan which can be found at [MBNEP.org](http://MBNEP.org) or from the Estuary Program's office.

#### Implemented Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan (CCMP) Action Plans

ECR-14: Support the implementation of species recovery plans.

The Western Snowy Plover (WSP) (*Charadrius nivosus nivosus*) is a Federally threatened species, and the Sandspit has the fourth largest nesting population throughout its entire range from Washington to Southern California and the largest population in the State Park System. Recovery of this species is highly dependent upon the success of the breeding population on the Sandspit. This project will implement ECR-14 by carrying out the following seven WSP recovery actions within the Recovery Plan:

- 2 Manage breeding and wintering habitat of the Pacific coast population of WSP to ameliorate or eliminate threats and maximize survival and productivity.
  - 2.3 Prevent disturbance of breeding and wintering WSPs by people and domestic animals.
    - 2.3.1.1 Restrict access to areas used by breeding WSPs, as appropriate.
      - 2.3.1.1.1 Seasonally close areas used by breeding WSPs.
      - 2.3.1.1.2 Post signs in areas used by breeding WSPs.
- 5 Undertake public information and education programs.
  - 5.2 Alert landowners and beach-goers about access restrictions within WSP habitats.

USE-1: Recreation Uses -- Encourage the enjoyment of Morro Bay through environmentally responsible and sustainable recreational activities.

Many visitors to the Sandspit are unaware of the nesting WSP. These signs will inform the public of the areas where the WSP are nesting, while still allowing them to recreate on the beach in an environmentally responsible manner.

EO-1: Public Education and Outreach -- Conduct general public education and outreach focused on the value of a healthy environment and the role of individuals in protecting the natural resources of the Morro Bay watershed, and to communicate the results of the Estuary Program conservation and monitoring efforts.

The signs were designed by California State Parks (CSP) to educate the public about the WSP nesting habits, while also protecting the area. Increased awareness will help protect the entire dune ecosystem.

ECR-5: Support installation of new and help maintain existing sediment traps to reduce sediment delivery to Morro Bay. Support efforts to reduce erosion from sediment source areas, such as gullies and bank failures.

Fenced access corridors will allow native vegetation to expand into areas that would otherwise be trampled by people crossing the Sandspit at numerous locations. Erosion of sand into the estuary is thus minimized. This natural method of increasing vegetation will not impact the WSP. It will actually benefit the WSP by stabilizing potential breeding areas.

## **Narrative Information Section**

**Project Title:** Western Snowy Plover Nesting Area Signs

**Full Project Description:**

Purchase 450 Western Snowy Plover Nesting Area signs.

Background

The Pacific coast population of the WSP is Federally listed as threatened. Habitat loss and degradation, invasive plant species, and expanding predator populations have resulted in declines in WSP populations throughout its range from Washington to Southern California. The San Luis Obispo Coast District (District) of CSP provides habitat for one of the largest nesting populations of this species. The District continually strives to achieve an increase in breeding adult WSPs and provide long-term protection of breeding and wintering WSPs and their habitat. The District WSP program includes habitat protection, habitat enhancement, predator management, enforcement of CSP regulations, education and outreach, and monitoring the breeding activities of this Federally listed species. The WSP program is also an essential part of the larger dune/strand restoration efforts being undertaken in the District.

The WSP program has never had a dedicated funding source which is why the District is seeking financial aid from the Morro Bay National Estuary Program (MBNEP) to help fund this project. With the MBNEP Community Grant, the District is seeking to have WSP signs purchased, which will inform the public that the nesting area is closed during the breeding season.

Activities to be accomplished by project

The Community Grant will purchase 450 WSP area closed signs. One third of the WSP area closed signs purchased by MBNEP will have a yellow background. These signs will be placed along the access corridors, so that they are easily visible to the public. The other signs will have a beige background, so that they will have less of an impact on the view shed. A sample sign is attached (Attachment 1). The MBNEP logo can be added to the sign.

Tayco Screenprint, Inc. will produce the signs. CSP has utilized their services several times in the past. Tayco Screenprint, Inc. signs and service have always been high quality.

To protect the WSP habitat on the Sandspit, over five miles of symbolic fence (rope strung through metal eye posts) with interpretive area closed signs will be installed at the beginning of the nesting season during the first week of March and removed the last week of September by District staff and CSP volunteers. The District also assists the City of Morro Bay with installation and removal of the symbolic fence on their property at the northern end of the Sandspit. Corridors at the main access points to the beach will allow for continued public recreation. In addition to protecting WSPs, managing human access through the Sandspit will prevent adverse impacts to the vegetation and other wildlife around the estuary. A secondary benefit of the fenced access corridors is that erosion of sand into the estuary is minimized. Some

of the signs purchased with the MBNEP grant will be installed by CSP staff and volunteers immediately in areas needing additional signs. The other signs will be installed in subsequent years.

**Community Engagement:**

The District WSP program currently has four very dedicated volunteers. These volunteers help to install and remove the symbolic fencing and signs around the WSP breeding habitat.

**Audience:**

The WSP program is very important to the public in that it allows access to the beaches, while protecting nesting habitat at the same time. The signs are an integral part of the WSP program. Without the signs, visitors wouldn't know why the area was closed. Everyone accessing the beach on the Sandspit will see these signs. The WSP program is also an essential part of the larger dune ecosystem and a springboard to implementing CCMP Action Plans.

**Benefits:**

- Protection of the WSP, other wildlife and beach/dune vegetation on the Sandspit by informing the public of closed areas
- Education of the public about the WSP nesting habitat on the Sandspit through signage
- Implementation in part of CCMP Action Plans ECR-14, USE-1, EO-1, and ECR-5

The benefits of this project will be immediate as many of the signs will be installed this breeding season. The benefits will last for years to come, as well, since the signs are reused year after year.

**Project Budget:**

150 8.5" x 14" plastic signs with yellow background	\$ 928.06
300 8.5" x 14" plastic signs with beige background	<u>\$1,856.12</u>
Total	\$2,784.18

See attached quote (Attachment 2).

District staff and volunteers will install the signs with in-kind funding. ~\$238.24

**Evaluation:**

To measure the success of this project, MBNEP can visit the project site to observe the WSP signs. Eventually, all 450 signs will be utilized. At the completion of the WSP breeding season, MBNEP will receive the annual report.

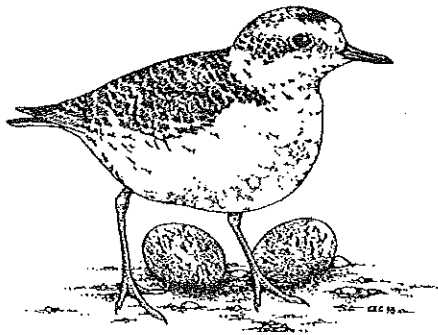
**Schedule:**

May 2017	Signs purchased by MBNEP
June 2017	Signs installed in needed locations by CSP
October - November 2017	Annual report written
December 2017	Annual report submitted

**Qualifications:**

The project manager for the MBNEP Community Grant is the WSP Program Coordinator who has been managing the WSP program for the District since 2003. Under the District permit, the WSP Program Coordinator is authorized by United States Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Wildlife to independently conduct nest monitoring activities, handle/float eggs, erect single nest exclosures, and use remote sensing cameras near nests. The WSP Program Coordinator trains District employees and others on WSP natural history, endangered species protection, and regulations to protect WSP and their habitat. Individuals from other WSP beaches have also come to the District to be trained in our WSP monitoring protocols. The District annually installs over eight miles of symbolic fencing with signage to protect the WSP nesting habitat located within the District.

# DO NOT ENTER



**WESTERN SNOWY PLOVER NESTING AREA**

**DISTURBANCE MAY CAUSE  
LOSS OF EGGS AND YOUNG  
OR LOSS OF MIGRATING ADULTS.**



**AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY**

**VIOLATORS WILL BE CITED**



**SIGN PROOF**

- OK AS-IS
- OK W/CHANGES
- MAKE CHANGES;  
SEND NEW PROOF
- CANCEL ORDER

YOUR SIGNATURE HERE →

PROOF #

DATE

## Attachment 2 – Price Quote

From: Tayco Screenprint, Inc. <taycooffice@att.net>  
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 8:57 AM  
To: Orr, Regena@Parks  
Subject: RE: Snowy Plover Nesting Area signs

Yes. I will keep the prices the same. Please remind me when you place the order that I already quoted them.

Tom Trapasso  
Tayco Graphics  
916-451-2832

On Tue, Feb 21, 2017 at 8:54 AM, Orr, Regena@Parks  
<Regena.Orr@parks.ca.gov> wrote:  
Thank you, Tom.

I am applying for a grant to pay for these signs. If we are selected to receive the grant, it won't be awarded until May. Will the prices still be the same, if the purchases aren't made until then?

Regena

Regena M. Orr  
Environmental Scientist  
California State Parks  
regena.orr@parks.ca.gov  
(805) 772-6325

-----Original Message-----

From: tom@taycoscreenprint.com [mailto:taycooffice@att.net]  
Sent: Monday, February 20, 2017 4:33 PM  
To: Orr, Regena@Parks  
Subject: Re: Snowy Plover Nesting Area signs

Hi Regina,

Here are the price options:

8.5"x14" signs printed 2 colors on white .030 styrene plastic:  
150 signs = \$4.30/each x 150 = \$645.00 + \$53.21(tax) + \$35.00(freight) =  
\$733.21

8.5"x14" signs printed 2 colors + background color (yellow / beige) on .030 styrene plastic:  
150 signs = \$5.50/each x 150 = \$825.00 + \$68.06(tax) + \$35.00(freight) =  
\$928.06



Thank you,  
Tom Trapasso  
Tayco Screenprint, Inc.  
916-451-2832

-----Original Message-----

From: regena.orr@parks.ca.gov  
Sent: Thursday, February 09, 2017 1:42 PM  
To: peggy@taycographics.com ; ccmbyrce@gmail.com ; tom@taycographics.com  
Subject: Snowy Plover Nesting Area signs

Company Name:California State Parks

Contact Info

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Project Name:Snowy Plover Nesting Area signs

Contact Name: Regena Orr  
Contact Phone 805-772-6325  
Contact E-mail regena.orr@parks.ca.gov

Project Info

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Choose Your Sign Material: Styrene plastic (.030) Choose Your Decal Material:

Size:  
Width: 8.5 inches  
Height: 14 inches

Sides:  
Printer Colors: 2 Colors  
Quantity: 150  
Finishing: Holes

Other Information

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Previously purchased this sign #740-001 on 5/12/15 Invoice 25817. Is it possible to have a yellow background for 50 signs and beige background for 100 signs?

**MBNEP Community Grant Application Follow-up Questions**  
**Project name: Western Snowy Plover Nesting Area Signs**  
**Applicant: State Parks**

Upon review of the application, MBNEP staff had a few follow-up questions for the applicant. Here are those questions and the applicant's response.

*MBNEP Question 1. The requested amount pays for 450 signs. How long will that amount of signs last your program?*

The last time I purchased yellow and beige signs was in 2008. We're running pretty low right now, so I'd say the 450 signs would last us at least 10 years.

*MBNEP Question 2. Typically how long does a sign last in the field? A few brittle ones were picked up during our Coastal Cleanup Day effort on the Sandspit, so were just curious how long they typically last.*

We rotate new signs out into the field every year, so it's hard to say exactly how long each sign lasts, but I would say they last at least 5 years or more.

*MBNEP Question 3. If we are not able to fund the application in full, would it still be helpful to State Parks to receive a portion of the request?*

Yes, any funding for signs would be helpful. My original quote was for 300 signs at \$1,956.12. If we go below 300 signs, the price per sign will go up.