

Mira Vista Field Stewardship Committee  
c/o The Watershed Project  
1327 South 46th Street, Bldg 155  
Richmond, CA 94804

March 13, 2026  
Via e-mail

Contra Costa County Fish & Wildlife Committee  
Attn: Maureen Parkes  
Department of Conservation & Development  
30 Muir Road, Martinez, CA 94553  
[Maureen.Parkes@dcd.cccounty.us](mailto:Maureen.Parkes@dcd.cccounty.us)

**Subject: Mira Vista Field Restoration Project Grant**

Dear Ms. Parkes:

We are requesting early disbursement for a portion of grant-funded project expenses (half the grant amount). As you may know, with restoration work timing can be critical and this season it was imperative to jump quickly on the control of invasive weeds which are copious, resulting in earlier-than-anticipated purchases of grant-funded items needed to work on their control. Our volunteer organization has a limited balance available to front costs of restoration tools and materials, and so *receipt of Fish and Wildlife Propagation grant funding on a cost reimbursement basis will create a financial hardship and be detrimental to the operation of the field restoration program.*

Unfortunately, we did not anticipate this situation at the time of grant application. (Note that while The Watershed Project is the fiscal sponsor for the Mira Vista Field Stewardship Committee, the Stewardship Committee is responsible for fronting the grant-reimbursible costs)

In addition to the purchase of tools and materials necessary to attack the invasives, our 2025 fund balance was further depleted by costs incurred to mulch the walking paths with wood chips prior to the rainy season. This work was completed prior to Board of Supervisors approval of the grant award and so is not eligible for reimbursement at this time. I only mention it to demonstrate another item that has depleted our little groups' available funds. We will be applying for reimbursement for grant-funded path mulching work to be completed in the Fall of 2026.

We have been able to accomplish a lot of the planned work since the award of the grant, in particular:

- identifying focus areas for the current restoration work, that are highly visible and where we can get "the most bang for the buck"

And, in those areas,

- hand weeding with volunteers
- spraying young invasive weeds with vinegar to stop their growth
- hand mowing around areas with established native grasses to prevent spread of non-native vegetation into those areas
- sheet mulching areas of the highly invasive oxalis, which seems to be especially aggressive this year

All of the above has been accomplished by our volunteers using tools and supplies provided for in the grant award. We have a current complete log of expenditures, which we understand is to be submitted with our project final report.

We apologize for this inconvenience but hope that our request can be approved. Please let us know if you have any questions or require additional information. Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adèle Ho', written in a cursive style.

Mira Vista Field Stewardship Committee, by Adèle Ho

Cc: Juliana Gonzales, Executive Director, The Watershed Project