

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA: JULY 15, 2014

SUBJECT: AWARD OF CONTRACT - MAINTENANCE OF THE VALLEY ELDERBERRY LONGHORN BEETLE MITIGATION SITE

SOURCE: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

COMMENT: On May 20, 2014, the City Council authorized staff to distribute a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the maintenance of the Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle (VELB) mitigation site. The services to be rendered under this contract would include, but not be limited to, project coordination, irrigation system maintenance, control of competing vegetation, monitor condition and survival of plantings, and if needed, install replacement plantings as needed in compliance with the United States Department of Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) Habitat Management Plan (HMP). The entire VELB mitigation site includes the 7.3± acres identified in the HMP and an additional .4± acres currently being reviewed by the FWS.


The RFP was sent to five firms that specialize in this field of work and have offices within the Central Valley. The City received only one response from Sequoia Riverlands Trust who is the current provider. Although only one firm responded, the Statement of Qualifications provided confirms Sequoia Riverlands Trust's eligibility, and staff requests that they be awarded the contract. The term of the agreement would be three years, beginning July 16, 2014. The City would establish a three-year contract, with an option to renew on a year-to-year basis for up to two additional years upon agreement of both parties. The proposal amount for the three-year contract is \$108,425.

Local Transportation Funds is the funding source for this annual maintenance effort, which primarily mitigates road improvement projects. The funding for the first year of this contract has been allocated in the 2014/2015 Annual Budget; the second and third year amounts would be allocated for those budget cycles assuming the Council authorizes the contract.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council:

1. Award the contract for maintenance of the Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle Mitigation Site with Sequoia Riverlands Trust; and
2. Authorize the Mayor to sign contract documents.

ATTACHMENT: Sequoia Riverlands Trust Proposal

DD  Appropriated/Funded MB CM 1

Item No. 5



RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR  
MITIGATION SITE MAINTENANCE

TO: City of Porterville

FROM: Hilary Dustin / Sequoia Riverlands Trust  
Name/Company

427 S. Garden St.  
Address

Visalia, CA 93277  
City, State, Zip Code

(559) 738-0211 ext 102  
Telephone No. Fax No.

Proposal Amount: \$ 108,425

(Summary of qualifications, references and relevant experience must be attached.)

Hilary Dustin 6/12/14  
Signature Date

Hilary Dustin, Conservation Director  
Name and Title (Printed)

RECEIVED

JUN 13 2014

Community Development  
Department

Sequoia Riverlands Trust Proposal  
City of Porterville Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle Mitigation Site Maintenance Contract  
June 13, 2014

**1) Description, including background, size and orientation of Sequoia Riverlands Trust**

Sequoia Riverlands Trust (SRT) is a regional land trust serving the southern Sierra Nevada and San Joaquin Valley. Our mission is to protect working landscapes, wildlife habitat, and scenic open space while ensuring community and economic vitality. We fulfill our mission through land and easement acquisition, land stewardship (including restoration, grazing management and a native plant nursery operation), mitigation services, environmental education, community outreach, and diverse partnerships with land managers, businesses, educators, and community organizations.

SRT owns and actively manages six nature preserves in Tulare County representing a variety of Valley and foothill habitats. We also hold 25 perpetual conservation easements in five counties, as well as deed restrictions on more than 50 properties within the Carrizo Plain National Monument.

Sequoia Riverlands Trust achieved Land Trust Alliance accreditation in 2014, and is approved by the California Department of Fish & Wildlife to hold mitigation lands under Government Code Section 65965-65968 as amended. SRT employs 11 full-time and 5 part-time staff, and supplements this capacity through consultants and contractors on an as-needed basis. SRT has direct access to locally adapted native plant stock growing on SRT preserves, and propagated through its native plant nursery operation.

**2) Summary of SRT's qualifications to perform the services described in the City of Porterville's 2014 RFP for Mitigation Site Maintenance including, but not necessarily limited to:**

**a. Previous experience in managing mitigation sites**

SRT has maintained the City of Porterville's VELB mitigation site since July 2008. During that tenure we have collaborated with City staff and consultants to address a variety of site-specific challenges, and have continually adjusted site maintenance practices based on lessons learned.

SRT has also done extensive habitat restoration work and follow-up maintenance at the Dry Creek Preserve (reclamation of 152-acre alluvial and hard-rock gravel mine; first state-certified reclamation in Tulare County), James K. Herbert Preserve (vernal pool/valley grassland and seasonal wetland habitats), Blue Oak Ranch Preserve (riparian habitat) and Kaweah Oaks Preserve (riparian woodlands and alkali meadows).

**b. Previous experience in performing similar services for other agencies**

SRT successfully established a Valley elderberry longhorn beetle mitigation site at its Kaweah Oaks Preserve (for a Cal Trans project), and is in the process of establishing riparian mitigation plantings at the Dry Creek Preserve for the Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District. SRT recently took title to a conservation easement on a burrowing owl mitigation site, and is in negotiations with local governments and renewable energy providers on a number of other habitat mitigation projects.

**c. Previous experience with the City of Porterville and familiarity with the community**

SRT's primary association with the City of Porterville has been through our involvement with the City's VELB mitigation site. SRT has held the conservation easement on the property since 2004, and began providing site maintenance services in 2008, shortly after the plantings and infrastructure were installed. We interact regularly with City of Porterville staff to coordinate site maintenance activities and adapt practices to fulfill the requirements of the site management plan.

**d. Ability to perform the required effort in a timely fashion, within budget**

SRT has a six-year track record of maintaining this challenging site. There have been ups and downs, but we have demonstrated a strong commitment to solution seeking, and have consistently stayed within budget.

**3) Description of all professional personnel to be assigned to this project, including a summary of similar work or studies each member has performed and resumes.**

Hilary Dustin, Conservation Director for SRT, will be the supervising officer to this project. She has served in this capacity for this project since 2008. She also provided oversight for implementation of the Cal Trans and Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District (KDWCD) mitigation sites described above.

Ann Huber, Director of Stewardship, will be the project manager to this project. Ms. Huber is currently managing this project for SRT through direct and frequent communication with Art Spangler (field technician); regular reporting and communication with the City of Porterville (primarily with Fernando Rios); monthly site visits; and oversight of SRT's periodic plant counts to determine percent survivorship and planting needs. She has also provided technical support for KDWCD mitigation site maintenance. Ms. Huber has expertise related to soil moisture measurement and monitoring related to plant survival from her graduate work at Cal Poly State University.

Andrew Glazier, Nursery Manager, will grow and provide native plants for this project. Mr. Glazier has demonstrated skill, knowledge, and ability to propagate and plant elderberry and associated species required for VELB habitat mitigation for this site since 2011. In the last four years, Mr. Glazier has learned from direct experience at the City of Porterville's VELB Mitigation Site which species are most likely to succeed under local conditions, and has refined establishment methods to improve survival rates.

Art Spangler will continue to serve as field technician at the site. He has gained substantial knowledge and skills as a member of SRT's site maintenance team over the last several years. Mr. Spangler's regular maintenance duties will include: check and maintain the drip line irrigation system via adjustments and repairs; monitor and record the status of the batteries; wash the solar panels; monitor the status of the elderberry and associates; conduct weed control; record water meter readings; and direct and frequent communication with the project manager, Ann Huber.

Alvin Smith Disking will continue to provide his contracting services for weed abatement and fire hazard reduction. Mr. Smith has demonstrated expertise and experience with fire-safe practices of disking and mowing as a contractor for weed abatement for the City of Porterville for 8 years and for the County of Tulare for 22 years. Mr. Smith does not have a resume, therefore it is not attached to this proposal.

**4) Project Manager to be employed in this effort:**

Ann M. Huber, MS  
Director of Stewardship, Sequoia Riverlands Trust  
(559) 738-0211 ext. 109

# **Budget for July 2014 – June 2017 Maintenance Proposal** **Porterville VELB Mitigation Site**

Budget allocated approximately as follows:

PROJECT ELEMENT													
DESCRIPTION OF EXPENSES	1			2			3			Year 1 Subtotal	Year 2 Subtotal	Year 3 Subtotal	TOTAL
	Coordinate Site Maintenance & Other Admin			Operate / Maintain Irrigation System, Manage Weeds and Pests, and Reduce Fire Hazard			Monitor Survival / Install Replacement Plantings						
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3				
Personnel: Land Specialists	5896	5896	5896	17035	17035	17035	4463	4463	4463	\$27,394	\$27,394	\$27,394	\$82,182
Financial (working directly on project)	1376	1376	1376	0	0	0	0	0	0	\$1,376	\$1,376	\$1,376	\$4,128
Contract Services (disk perimeter firebreak once/yr)	0	0	0	275	275	275	0	0	0	\$275	\$275	\$275	\$825
Equipment Rental & Maintenance (rent trailer at \$20/trip, maintain quad, line-trimmers, movers)	0	0	0	782	782	782	210	210	210	\$992	\$992	\$992	\$2,976
Materials & Supplies (plants, wire cages, misc flags and tags; fuel for weed trimmers and quad; irrigation replacement parts)	0	0	0	2020	2020	2020	2520	1267	1267	\$4,540	\$3,287	\$3,287	\$11,114
Mileage	200	200	200	2000	2000	2000	200	200	200	\$2,400	\$2,400	\$2,400	\$7,200
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$7,472	\$7,472	\$7,472	\$22,112	\$22,112	\$22,112	\$7,393	\$6,140	\$6,140	\$36,977	\$35,724	\$35,724	\$108,425
	Year 1 Subtotal	Year 2 Subtotal	Year 3 Subtotal							3-Year Total			

Year 1 = July 2014 through June 2015

Year 2 = July 2015 through June 2016

Year 3 = July 2016 through June 2017

See next page for description of each project element.

## **Budget for July 2014 – June 2017 Maintenance Proposal**

### **Porterville VELB Mitigation Site**

#### **Description of Project Elements:**

- 1) Coordination of site maintenance and other admin includes work planning and scheduling; summary, analysis, and reporting of site monitoring data; cost accounting; billing; and communication and coordination with City of Porterville and its consultants.
- 2) Irrigation system maintenance includes system inspections approximately three times a week during the dry season (April to September) and once per week during the rainy season (October to March) to ensure proper delivery of water to plantings, plus routine system maintenance (e.g. timing and volume adjustments, replacement of damaged tubing & emitters).
- 3) Management of weeds, pests and fire hazards may include mowing, disking, hand grubbing, weed-eating, mulching, selective herbicides (away from plantings), installing owl nest boxes; installing wire cages around individual plants, or other measures consistent with USFWS regulations and the management plan for the site. Primarily done from Jan. to May. Routine litter clean-up is also included. Litter clean-up does not include removal of hazardous wastes or excessive amounts of waste dumped illicitly on the site.
- 4) Condition and survival of plantings will be monitored on an ongoing basis to enable quick remediation if survival rates are at risk of falling below USFWS survival thresholds. Year 1 costs for replacement plantings assume a replacement of about 363 plants in order to maintain a 100% survival rate of the original 907 elderberry and 907 associates installed by Wildlands, Inc. All new plants to be installed in a protective basket of aviary wire to minimize rodent damage. Year 2 and Year 3 costs assume replacement of about 181 plants per year.



## Hilary Dustin

Conservation Director, Sequoia Riverlands Trust

427 S. Garden St., Visalia, CA 93277 / [hilary@sequoiariverlands.org](mailto:hilary@sequoiariverlands.org) / (559) 738-0211 X 102

### EDUCATION

- M.S., Range Management, University of California, Davis, 1978
- B.A., Biology, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, 1976

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2004-present – Land Steward, then Conservation Director, Sequoia Riverlands Trust (SRT)
- 2001-2003 – Facilitation Consultant, Writer
- 1993-2000 – Collaborative Design Facilitator/Managing Partner, Place Architecture
- 1989-1992 – Public Affairs Officer, Gallatin National Forest, USDA Forest Service
- 1985-1989 – District Ranger, Finger Lakes National Forest, USDA Forest Service
- 1978-1985 – Range Conservationist/Timber Sale Planner, Hume Lake District, Sequoia National Forest

### SELECTED PROJECTS

- 2009-2010 -- *"Framework for Cooperative Conservation and Climate Adaptation for the Southern Sierra Nevada and Tehachapi Mountains"*, Southern Sierra Partnership. Team leader for southern Sierra Nevada conservation action planning, and assistant editor for Framework document. Funded by a private foundation (anonymous).
- 2004-2011 – *Ecological restoration, visitor amenities and visitor use guide for retired 152-acre aggregate mine* along Dry Creek, Tulare County, California. First state-certified mine reclamation in the County. Served as lead editor for restoration plan and project coordinator for implementation, project designer and manager for landscape and interpretive elements of visitor amenities project. Also instrumental in obtaining grants and in-kind contributions totaling \$1.2 million. Funded by a private foundation (anonymous), NRCS Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program, Sierra Nevada Conservancy and California River Parkways grant program.
- 2004-present – *Planned, coordinated and raised funds for several other comprehensive, multi-year restoration and enhancement projects in vernal pool/grassland, riparian and oak woodland habitats.* Funded by CVPIA Habitat Restoration Program (US Bureau of Reclamation), NRCS Farm Bill incentive programs, USFWS Partners for Fish & Wildlife program, National Fish & Wildlife Foundation Pulling Together Initiative, Southern California Edison.
- 2004-2013 – *Instrumental in acquiring 8 conservation easements*, including easement negotiations, baseline documentation, and obtaining/administering associated grants.
- 2008-2013 – *Team leader and main author for integrated management plans (habitat restoration, stewardship, visitor uses, education) for four SRT preserves.* Funded by Sierra Nevada Conservancy, CVPIA Habitat Restoration Program. Ongoing coordination of implementation with stewardship, native plant nursery, education and communications staff.
- 1997-1999 – *Concept for the Montana State University Epicenter.* Co-represented Place Architecture on a team of experts led by BNIM Architects for this Green Building National Demonstration Project to design a new chemistry building. Funded by the National Institute of Standards and Technology.
- 1991 -- *Public Affairs Plan for the Gallatin National Forest.* Author and implementation coordinator.
- 1986 – *Land and Resource Management Plan for the Finger Lakes National Forest.* Plan coordinator and lead author for this sub-unit of the Green Mountain National Forest.

## **Ann M. Huber**

P.O. Box 64 Three Rivers, CA • ahuberdas@gmail.com • (559) 804-2047

### **EDUCATION**

BA Biology and Environmental Studies (double major), Sonoma State University 1995  
MS Biology, CalPoly State University San Luis Obispo 2005

### **WORK EXPERIENCE**

**Stewardship Director**, Sequoia Riverlands Trust (SRT) 12/2013-current

- Project manager for restoration and mitigation projects
  - Valley elderberry long-horn beetle habitat mitigation
  - Riparian native plant restoration
- Conservation easement monitoring
- Natural resource monitoring and management (e.g., invasive plants, special status plants, birds, residual dry matter measurements to monitor grazing, etc.)

**Contracting Biologist**, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks 7/2011-current

- Oversight of plant monitoring program at Sequoia; conducted plant surveys
- Authored technical report on rare plant surveys in the parks
  - Sought out, compiled, and analyzed survey data of rare plant populations
  - Utilized ArcGIS and Microsoft Access plant occurrence data

**Academic Science Coordinator**, UC Berkeley 10/2007-7/2011

Coordinator for the Sierra Nevada Adaptive Management Project, a multi-disciplinary, large-scale research study of U.S. Forest Service forest management practices

- Oversight of science teams' research progress - wildlife, remote sensing, water quality, fire and forest health, and public participation
- Served as subject matter expert and lead author for a rare plant condition assessment for Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks
- Budget management and oversight

**Plant Ecologist**, Wetlands Research Associates, Inc. 4/2006-8/2006

- Conducted plant surveys: rare plant surveys, biological assessments, vegetation monitoring, and wetland delineations

**Rangeland Ecology Lab Manager**, UC Berkeley 1/2003-3/2006

- Managed long-term studies of grazing effects on plants in freshwater wetlands, grasslands, and oak woodlands in central and northern California, and Yosemite toad habitat in the Sierra Nevada
- Statistically analyzed ecological data
- Coordinated and conducted plant surveys
- Hired, trained, assigned work, and evaluated performance of staff
- Budget management and oversight

**Project Manager**, Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District 5/2001-10/2001

- Served as lead for stream surveys of salmon habitat; supervised field crews
- Recommended stream and riparian restoration activities
- Prepared final report and presented findings to landowners and federal and state agencies

**Biological Science Technician**, Point Reyes National Seashore 4/2000-9/2000

- Conducted vegetation mapping, identify plants, and wetland delineations in the field

**Biological Science Technician, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks** 4/1998-10/1999  
• Vegetation, fuels, and forest inventory surveys to evaluate the effects of fire

**Biological Science Technician, U.S. Geological Survey, Three Rivers, CA** 3/1997-3/1998  
• Collected and analyzed stream samples for water quality and water quantity

**AmeriCorps Intern with CA Department of Fish and Game** 6/1995-3/1996  
• Conducted fisheries surveys: stream surveys of salmonid habitat (habitat typing); spawning surveys; electroshocking; and channel typing surveys  
• Recommended and implemented restoration projects: soil erosion control, sediment control, cattle exclusion fences, and control methods for invasive plants near streams

### TRAINING COURSES

Datums and Projections Workshop, UC Berkeley Geospatial Innovation Facility	2008
Introduction to GIS Workshop, GIF, UC Berkeley	2008
Poaceae Weekend Workshop, UC Berkeley Jepson Herbarium	2007
Vegetation Classification and Mapping Workshop, Jepson Herbarium	2004
Determining Federal Wetlands Delineation, UC Extension	2004
Red Card Certification- Wildland Firefighter Type I, National Park Service	1997, 98, 99
Fire Effects Vegetation Monitoring, National Park Service	1997, 98
Erosion Control Techniques, CA Department of Fish and Game	1999
Bioengineering Restoration Techniques Workshop, CA Department of Fish and Game	1997
Stream Restoration Techniques Workshop, CA Department of Fish and Game	1996
Coho and Steelhead Habitat Typing, DFG	1996

### PUBLICATIONS

Huber, A.M., A.J. Das, R.C. Wenk, S.Haultain. 2013. A natural resource condition assessment for Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks: Appendix 14 – Plants of Conservation Concern. Natural Resource Report NPS/SEKI/NRR—2013/665.14. National Park Service, Fort Collins, Colorado.

Haultain, S., A.M. Huber. 2013 (in review). Special status vascular plant surveys in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, 2003-2004. Natural Resource Technical Report NPS/SEKI/NRTR—2013/XXX.XX. National Park Service, Fort Collins, Colorado

Huber, A.M. 2005. Moisture requirements for the germination and early seedling survival of *Cirsium loncholepis*: a thesis. San Luis Obispo, CA: California Polytechnic State University

### MEMBERSHIPS

Board Member Alta Peak Chapter of the California Native Plant Society  
Sequoia Riverlands Trust

### REFERENCES

Hilary Dustin, Conservation Director at Sequoia Riverlands Trust (559) 738-2011 ext. 102  
[hilary@sequoiariverlands.org](mailto:hilary@sequoiariverlands.org)

John Battles, Forest Community Ecology Professor at UC Berkeley (510) 643-0684 or  
[jbattles@berkeley.edu](mailto:jbattles@berkeley.edu)

# ▶ Arthur Spangler

33493 Globe Drive Springville CA 93265

Phone: (559) 936-1193

## Education

**HS Santa Paula High**

**US Army Training Facility, Ft Jackson S. Carolina (GED 1973)**

## Experience

VELB Mitigation Site Maintenance Technician (July 2012 – current)

Contractor for Sequoia Riverlands Trust (427 S. Garden Street Visalia CA 93277)

- Inspect drip-line irrigation system on site; make repairs and adjustments as needed
- Remove weeds as needed
- Inspect condition of plants at site and help with plantings
- Monitor status of batteries, tank pressure, and water meter
- Document work in monitoring log and call-in reports to Project Manager at Sequoia Riverlands Trust (Ann Huber)

Ranch Manager (2005 – current)

Sopac Mulholland

- Manage all aspects of cow-calf ranch operation (i.e., animal husbandry, fence building and repair, moving cattle, operating construction equipment, etc.)

US Air Force, Sergeant (1981-1983) (honorable discharge)

**349<sup>th</sup> Military Airlift Wing, Travis Air Force Base**

US Army, Corporal (1974-1977) (honorable discharge)

## References

Soapac (Soapy) Mulholland, Sequoia Riverlands Trust (559) 738-0211 ext. 100

▶ Ann Huber, Sequoia Riverlands Trust (559) 738-0211 ext. 109

# Andrew Glazier

## Experience

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2009 - Current                                      Sequoia Riverlands Trust                                      Visalia, CA

### **Nursery and Field Operations Manager**

- Propagate native plants for habitat restoration projects
- Build and maintain greenhouses and shade structures for nursery needs
- Design and implement small and large-scale native plant restoration and mitigation projects
- Conduct invasive plant control projects
- Field maintenance operations for all aspects of Preserves (e.g., trails, parking lots, facilities, etc.)
- Supervise field crews

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## Education

Otis Art Institute                                      Los Angeles, CA

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## References

Sopac (Soapy) Mulholland, Sequoia Riverlands Trust, Executive Director (559) 738-0211 ext. 101

Hilary Dustin, Sequoia Riverlands Trust, Conservation Director (559) 738-0211 ext. 102

