



Lower American River Conservancy Program Project Updates

Project Name: *American River Ranch Animal Management and Education Program*

Grantee: *Soil Born Farm Urban Agriculture Project*

WCB Grant Amount: *\$142,545*

Planning or Implementation Grant: *Planning*

Grant Term: *11/18/2021 to 3/31/2023*

Brief Project Summary: As caretakers of the American River Ranch (Ranch), Soil Born Farm Urban Agriculture Project (SBF) is fulfilling the site's potential as a dynamic center for hands-on learning, land stewardship, and community connection. The goal of this planning project is to lay the groundwork for bringing livestock to the Ranch landscape, for the dual purposes of holistic land management and experiential education. Planning for a new animal barn facility, animal management, and an education partnership with Cordova High School will be completed as part of the project. Key objectives include:

- Objective #1: A new Animal Barn facility enables the use of targeted grazing to steward Parkway lands.*
- Objective #2: The animal program provides experiential education to local high school students and the general public about land stewardship, animal science and sustainable agriculture.*

Deliverables Status:

Primary outcome and deliverable: Barn Design Plans, Construction Documents and Approvals

- Recreation and Park Commission (RPC) meeting summary with approval of 100% designs: 50% completion. RPC reviewed barn conceptual drawings in March 2022. Estimated approval of 100% designs will be in September 2022.

- Building permit granted by City of Rancho Cordova (City) Building Department, submitted as appendix of final project report. 0% complete. Revised date will be determined based on approval by Central Valley Flood Control Board permit approval.

- City-approved 100% design plans and construction estimate for animal barn facility, submitted as appendix of final project report. 0% complete. Revised date will be determined based on approval by Central Valley Flood Control Board permit approval.

Primary outcome and deliverable: Education Programming and Animal Management Plan

- Executed MOU between SBF and Cordova High School Agriculture Academy, submitted as appendix of final project report. 75% complete. Awaiting district approval from board. Estimate completion September 2022.

- Final Animal Management Plan for the American River Ranch, submitted as appendix of final project report. 25% complete. Estimated Completion December 2022.

Upcoming Work:

- *Central Valley Flood Control Board permit*
- *Revised barn design/footprint based on CVFCB feedback*
- *Submission of plans to City of RC for review*
- *Completion of animal program plan with specific education and management detail*

Is the project on track for completing by end of grant term? *No. An upcoming pre-application meeting with CVFCB will determine if delays will be incurred to complete the project.*

Describe any significant delays, oversights, or shortfalls with the project: *The CVFCB permit process was not planned. A previously completed project funded by WCB located in the same area as the proposed animal barn was determined to be exempt. However, CVFCB is now requiring additional flood analysis in this project area and subsequent permit submission. SBF is doing the flood analysis now, preparing its permit application, and is requesting an expedited review and approval in order to avoid significant delays.*

Will a time extension request be needed? *Yes*

Will a funding augmentation be needed? *No*