

Community Funding Request Application

Organization Information

Name Coloma Lotus Ditch Users Association (CLDUA)

Address of Organization: P.O. Box 550 Lotus, CA 95651

Type: Non-profit Public Community Organization (informal Nonprofit)

Event/Project for which funds are requested: Extraordinary storm damage repairs to Coloma / Lotus community irrigation / fire suppression water ditch

Event/Project Location: Coloma and Lotus valleys

Event Date/Project timeline: NOW! Work planned to take less than 2 months

Website: <https://cldua.org/>

Name of Contact Person: Bob Hansen

Telephone Number: 530 521-8061

E-mail address: bob.hansen@cldua.org

Total Amount Requested (Limit: \$5,000): \$5000

Event/Project Description

1. Describe the purpose of the event/project/organization for which funds are being requested.

Repair the extraordinary storm damage to the Coloma Lotus irrigation ditch.

The historic Coloma Lotus Ditch, which has been operating continuously since 1852, was severely damaged by the record-breaking winter storms of '22/'23. This is a hand dug, unlined, open ditch that runs for 7 miles through the Coloma and Lotus valleys. Damage includes downed trees, large breaks in the ditch wall, a granite boulder that is blocking the water flow and several locations where a large amount of silt was washed into the ditch. Most of the ditch runs through very rugged country and is not accessible with heavy equipment. Nearly all the repair work will have to be completed by hand crews.

The CLDUA performs repairs and prepares the ditch for the irrigation season every spring using volunteer labor, Association dues and fees, along with some community donations. We have raised the ditch membership fees this year, but repairing the extraordinary storm damage will require additional funding.

Cost Estimate for extraordinary storm damage repairs:

\$1000 – Tree removal and tree damage repair

\$1500 – Ditch wall breach repair

\$1000 – Boulder removal (boulder must be drilled, split then removed)

\$3000 – Silt removal (mostly shovel work)

\$6500 total

Note:

Most of the community funding grant will go to hiring laborers from the community. CLDUA will manage the repairs and provide crew supervision.

2. How will the event/project support or produce a public benefit to El Dorado County?

The Coloma Lotus irrigation ditch is a valuable community resource that has been providing seasonal agricultural irrigation water to the area since 1852. Ditch water also creates green fire breaks and fills many ponds in the valley that provide fire suppression water for both fire professionals and residents. The value of ditch water for fire suppression has been recognized by Cal Fire, El Dorado County Fire, Coloma Lotus Fire Safe Council, Coloma Lotus Advisory Council and the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors. The California State Water Resources Board has also recognized the community benefit of the ditch by granting CLDUA a waiver from water curtailment restrictions that may be imposed during drought years.

There is an active proposal, supported by the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council, Coloma Lotus Advisory Council, Cal Fire and El Dorado County Fire to use ditch water to supply a system of tanks and fire hydrants strategically located in the valley in areas where EID water is not available.

The California State Gold Discovery Park (Coloma) has requested funding for multiple tank/hydrant systems, with water supplied by the ditch, to be installed in the park.

Most of the grant money will be used to hire local El Dorado County laborers.