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Meeting of the Wildlife Conservation Board
November 15, 2018

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EDMUND G. BROWN Jr., Governor
NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD
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WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

November 15, 2018
10:00 a.m.

Natural Resources Building
First Floor Auditorium
1416 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Meeting Minutes

The Wildlife Conservation Board met on Thursday, November 15, 2018, in the auditorium of the Natural Resources Building in Sacramento, California. Chair Chuck Bonham, Director of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) called the meeting to order and invited John Donnelly, Executive Director of the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) to perform roll call.

1. **Roll Call**

Wildlife Conservation Board Members

Charlton H. Bonham, Chair
Director, Department of Fish and Wildlife

Alina Bokde, Public Member

Diane Colborn, Public Member

Fran Pavley, Public Member

Eric Sklar, Member
President Fish and Game Commission

Joint Legislative Advisory Committee

Catherine Freeman
Vice, Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia

Executive Director
John P. Donnelly

Wildlife Conservation Board Staff Present:

Elizabeth Hubert	Dan Vasquez
John Walsh	Chad Fien
Mary Ahern	Chris Garbarini
Ron Wooden	Candice Marg
Colin Mills	Cara Allen
Lloyd Warble	James Croft
Don Crocker	Jessica Schroeder
Brian Gibson	Jasen Yee
Celestial Reysner	Hardeep Kaur
Justin Gonzales	Dan Vasquez

Others Present:

Keith Cialino, Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia's office
Mark Andre, City of Arcata
Sharon Wasserman, The Nature Conservancy
Peter Satin, MDLT
Allyson Lavender, MDLT
Liz Bellas, Sacramento County Regional Parks
Julie Oltmann, CDFW
Matthew Reischman, CALFIRE
Katharine Moore, SNRW
Rebecca Fris, CDFW

Chair Bonham noted that our hearts go out to all Californians affected by the catastrophic fires in the last week or so. For our Department, the list is almost 30 individuals either relocated or having lost homes or their close families have lost homes. As the Governor said, this is sadly likely to continue to happen. Each fire seems to be worse than the one prior and it's important for us to take a moment and realize a lot of Californians are suffering through some really difficult things right now.

Chair Bonham then went on to explain this was a short agenda and that the consent calendar would be considered followed by staff presentation of the remaining seven projects. He said there would be an opportunity to ask questions or voice concerns for each project. He then invited questions and explained that anyone wishing to speak could find a speaker card at the back of the room.

2. Public Forum for Items not on this Agenda

An opportunity for the general public to share comments or concerns on topics that are not included in this agenda. The Board may not discuss or take action on any matter raised during this item, except to decide whether to place the matter on the agenda of a future meeting. (Sections 11125, 11125.7(a), Government Code)

Executive Director Donnelly invited members of the public to speak. No one responded.

3. Funding Status

Informational

The following funding status depicts Capital Outlay and Local Assistance appropriations by year of appropriation and by fund source and fund number.

WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND (0447)		\$1,000,000.00
	November 2018 Board Meeting Allocation:	(250,000.00)
	Total Project Development:	(650,000.00)
	Projected Unallocated Balance:	\$100,000.00
HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (0262)		\$81,374,487.00
	November 2018 Board Meeting Allocation:	(603,000.00)
	Total Project Development:	(39,817,345.00)
	Projected Unallocated Balance:	\$40,954,142.00
SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS, CLEAN WATER, CLEAN AIR, AND COASTAL PROTECTION BOND FUND (Proposition 12) (0005)		\$3,893,880.00
	November 2018 Board Meeting Allocation:	0.00
	Total Project Development:	(110,000.00)
	Projected Unallocated Balance:	\$3,783,880.00
CALIFORNIA CLEAN WATER, CLEAN AIR, SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS AND COASTAL PROTECTION BOND FUND (Proposition 40) (6029)		\$8,648,648.00
	November 2018 Board Meeting Allocation:	(150,000.00)
	Total Project Development:	(7,816,803.00)
	Projected Unallocated Balance:	\$681,845.00
WATER SECURITY, CLEAN DRINKING WATER, COASTAL AND BEACH PROTECTION FUND OF 2002 (Proposition 50) (6031)		\$26,988,779.41
	November 2018 Board Meeting Allocation:	0.00
	Total Project Development:	(18,916,980.00)
	Projected Unallocated Balance:	\$8,071,799.41
SAFE DRINKING WATER, WATER QUALITY AND SUPPLY, FLOOD CONTROL, RIVER AND COASTAL PROTECTION FUND OF 2006 (Proposition 84) (6051)		\$29,344,695.94
	November 2018 Board Meeting Allocation:	(1,755,000.00)
	Total Project Development:	(9,745,819.94)
	Projected Unallocated Balance:	\$17,843,876.00
WATER QUALITY, SUPPLY, AND INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT FUND (Proposition 1) (6083)		\$93,866,681.36
	November 2018 Board Meeting Allocation:	0.00
	Total Project Development:	0.00
	Projected Unallocated Balance:	\$93,866,681.36
THE CALIFORNIA DROUGHT, WATER, PARKS, CLIMATE, COASTAL PROTECTION, AND OUTDOOR ACCESS FOR ALL ACT OF 2018 (Proposition 68) (6088)		\$71,000,000.00
	November 2018 Board Meeting Allocation:	\$0.00
	Total Project Development:	(\$3,000,000.00)
	Projected Unallocated Balance:	\$68,000,000.00

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GENERAL FUND (0001)		\$13,975,000.00
	November 2018 Board Meeting Allocation:	(500,000.00)
	Total Project Development:	0.00
	Projected Unallocated Balance:	\$13,475,000.00
GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION FUND (3228)		\$20,000,000.00
	November 2018 Board Meeting Allocation:	0.00
	Total Project Development:	0.00
	Projected Unallocated Balance:	\$20,000,000.00
TOTAL – ALL FUNDS		\$350,092,171.71
	Grand Total - November 2018 Board Meeting Allocation:	(3,258,000.00)
	Grand Total -Project Development	(77,056,947.94)
		269,777,223.77
RECAP OF NATURAL HERITAGE PRESERVATION TAX CREDIT ACT OF 2000		
Natural Heritage Preservation Tax Credit Act of 2000		
Chapter 113, Statutes of 2000 and Chapter 715, Statutes of 2004 (through 6/30/08)		\$48,598,734.00
Chapter 220, Statutes of 2009 (effective 1/1/10)		\$8,662,500.00

Executive Director Donnelly noted the new format with just a recap and summary of all the funding that's available. In past agendas we had individual budget year allocations, four or five pages of information that made up these numbers and we thought it was getting overwhelming and confusing so we decided to try something different. We have summed all of our current funding pots into this document. Bottom line, the Board has at its discretion \$350 million; about \$3.2 million worth of projects being considered today, approximately \$77 million worth of projects in development right now, with a balance of unallocated and uncommitted-type funding for about \$269 million. He asked if the Board or public had any questions.

Board member Eric Sklar noted it was really helpful and much easier to digest. Chair Bonham asked if there were any other questions or comments. There were none.

4. Proposed Consent Calendar (Items 5-11)

Executive Director Donnelly addressed Item 4, the consent calendar, which represented items 5-11, including the Recovery of Funds. He wished to point out a pretty sizable recovery of funds on this particular item related to Prop 84, which is \$4.6 million. We typically don't have that large of recovery. The reason being was that it basically covered two projects. One project was about \$185,000 from the Alameda Whipsnake Stock Pond Enhancement Project. The project called for development and restoration of about 11 ponds and we were able to get 4 landowners to complete 4 ponds and the rest of the landowners just weren't agreeable to move forward at this time so we are recovering that funding. Under the same funding pot is the Reef to Ridge Coastal Protection Project up on the north coast. We were not able to go forward with that project because of an unwilling landowner at the time. All of those funds will go back into the pot from which they came and then the Board will have an opportunity to allocate those funds once again to different projects.

Mr. Donnelly indicated the rest of the items were on consent and he would be happy to answer any questions from the Board.

Chair Bonham had a comment on Consent Item 8 that was informational. The energy crisis in California that was experienced almost 20 years ago eventually resulted in Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) creating a stewardship council to think through the long-term approach with its watershed lands in the headwaters. This project has had a

long journey where at the beginning the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) and the Maidu Consortium were each competing for this particular property and along the way the Department and the Maidu Consortium decided to join forces. This is an incredible outcome of Governor Brown's commitment to tribal coordination. President Sklar has the same commitment at the Fish and Game Commission. This project brings home to the Maidu the ancestral lands that they will own and we will manage together collectively using traditional ecological knowledge. It's one of the better things I have been involved with as Director.

He then noted there was a speaker card for Item 8 and introduced Mr. Kenneth Holbrook, Maidu Summit Consortium. Mr. Holbrook indicated he represented the Maidu Summit Consortium, a non-profit organization in California serving the area around Plumas County. They represent the interests of the Maidu people as they relate to the local community values around restoring this particular site at Tasmam Koyom. It's a very critical heritage site for the Maidu people and it's a real vocal point in the local community as an area that can be restored. It is largely pristine. There is some fantastic public programming being done in terms of education. They're taking a lot of local students from the Plumas Unified School District out to the site and doing guided tours with other local groups. The Maidu Summit Consortium, through this process, has begun to develop a fantastic partnership with CDFW and its been very encouraging for us for the last four or five years to learn how that partnership could work, bringing a lot of new value to the local community and to begin learning ways that the Maidu tribe and its cultural and history can become a factor in some of the planning in the local area. It has been a fantastic opportunity and they are very grateful for the role the CDFW has played.

Chair Bonham asked if there were any questions or comments on the consent items. There were none.

It was moved by Board Member Eric Sklar that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve Consent Calendar Items 5-11 as proposed in the individual agenda explanations.

Passed Unanimously.

Bokde – Yes

Bonham – Yes

Colborn – Yes

Pavley – Yes

Sklar – Yes

***5. Approval of Minutes**

May 24, 2018 and August 30, 2018 Wildlife Conservation Board
March 22, 2018 WCB Stream Flow Enhancement Program

***6. Recovery of Funds**

The following projects previously authorized by the Board are now completed, and some have balances of funds that can be recovered and returned to their respective funds. It is recommended that the following totals be recovered and that the projects be closed.

RECOVERIES BY FUND	Amount
Habitat Conservation Fund	\$41,434.00
California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Fund	\$47,202.74
Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002	\$0.00

Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006	\$4,663,919.19
Total Recoveries for All Funds	\$4,752,555.93

Habitat Conservation Fund	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel and Delta Conservation Area, Mecca Land Development Property	\$75,000.00	\$73,344.00	\$1,656.00
Lower Sonoma Creek Wetland Enhancement	\$700,000.00	\$700,000.00	\$0.00
Palo Verde Ecological Reserve, Expansion 4 (Crescent Shores)	\$1,885,000.00	\$1,861,053.00	\$23,947.00
Wheeler Ridge, Expansion 6 (Adriani)	\$305,000.00	\$289,169.00	\$15,831.00
Total Recoveries to Habitat Conservation Fund			\$41,434.00

California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Fund	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Carmel River, San Clemente Dam Removal	\$7,000,000.00	\$7,000,000.00	\$0.00
Carmel River, San Clemente Dam Removal, Augmentation	\$1,000,000.00	\$1,000,000.00	\$0.00
McCloud Soda Springs Working Forest	\$610,000.00	\$599,100.00	\$10,900.00
San Joaquin River Parkway, River Vista Public Access Planning and Environmental Review	\$180,000.00	\$143,697.26	\$36,302.74
Total Recoveries to California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Fund			\$47,202.74

Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Lower Sonoma Creek Wetland Enhancement	\$1,000,000.00	\$1,000,000.00	\$0.00
Total Recoveries to Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002			\$0.00

Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Alameda County Stock Pond Enhancement, Phase II	\$85,800.00	\$0.00	\$85,800.00
Alameda County Stock Pond Habitat Enhancement	\$200,000.00	\$99,883.18	\$100,116.82
C& R Ranch Habitat Enhancement	\$270,000.00	\$266,806.00	\$3,194.00
Coal Oil Point Reserve Improvements	\$505,000.00	\$505,000.00	\$0.00
Leininger Ranch Habitat Improvement	\$271,000.00	\$269,586.63	\$1,413.37
Reef to Ridge Coastal Forest Protection Project	\$4,480,000.00	\$11,605.00	\$4,468,395.00
Yucca Loma Road/Yates Blvd/Green Tree Blvd Transportation Improvement Project Parkland Conversion	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
Total Recoveries to Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006			\$4,663,919.19

***7. Shasta Valley Wildlife Area Fishing Access, Augmentation
Siskiyou County
\$150,000.00**

This proposal was to consider the allocation for an augmentation to an existing grant to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to improve fishing access to Trout Lake on CDFW's Shasta Valley Wildlife Area (SVWA).

LOCATION

The SVWA was acquired by CDFW and designated as a wildlife area by the Fish and Game Commission in 1991. It contains approximately 4,700 acres of Great Basin juniper woodland, riparian forest, seasonal wetlands, and crop lands, with Mt. Shasta as a backdrop. Sandhill cranes, waterfowl, raptors, and shorebirds are commonly seen at Shasta Valley. Deer, porcupines, and coyotes are among the mammals present. There are three deep water reservoirs, including Trout Lake, and numerous seasonal wetlands in the SVWA. The SVWA is approximately 1.5 miles east of the town of Montague in Siskiyou County.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In 2017, CDFW entered into a grant agreement with WCB to improve launching capabilities and provide safe access to the fishing opportunities at Trout Lake to accommodate the expected increase in annual usage of the facility. The project proposed to widen and repave the SVWA entrance road, replace/repair the public access bridge located on the Little Shasta River, and improve the boat launch facility at Trout Lake.

The boat launch facility has been substantially completed as proposed within the original construction budget.

The initial design for the bridge improvements included removing the existing timber bridge and replacing it in kind with a steel deck bridge and cantilevered pedestrian pathway, using the same abutments. However, consultation with CDFW staff identified the need for the bridge to be strong enough to support a CALFIRE truck in case of a fire. The original design was not sized appropriately to handle such a large vehicle. The re-design of the bridge created a tremendous escalation in the budget; a scope change and budget augmentation is now necessary. The budget for the bridge has increased from \$75,285 to \$350,000. The proposed signage and entry road improvements will be removed from the project to decrease cost. Should the bridge come in under budget, the remaining funds would be eligible to improve the entrance road, consistent with the original project.

WCB PROGRAM

The proposed project will be funded through the Public Access Program and meets the program's goal of providing public access for hunting, fishing, or other wildlife-oriented recreation statewide.

STRATEGIC PLAN CONSISTENCY

The project furthers the following goals outlined in the WCB Strategic Plan:

Goal C.1 – Support a wide range of recreational activities (e.g., hunting, fishing, birding, hiking, camping, photography, etc.) in conjunction with other land uses and without degrading environmental resources.

Goal C.4 – Place greater emphasis on projects that accommodate compatible wildlife-oriented public uses, while supporting urban areas and disadvantaged communities.

The construction of the bridge and Trout Lake boat launch will provide a safer and more enjoyable experience for visitors and will provide a variety of wildlife-oriented recreational activities including fishing, boating, and bird watching. These activities are compatible with the extraordinary diversity and beauty of the SVWA. The nearby communities of Montague and Yreka are classified as disadvantaged communities.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The useful life of the bridge will be 50 years or more and should require little to no maintenance. Trout Lake boat launching facility will have a useful life of more than 20 years, and is designed to withstand heavy use with minimal maintenance. The project will be managed by CDFW.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Task	WCB Augmentation	WCB Original Grant	Total
Entry Road	\$0	\$106,974	\$0
Bridge Replacement	\$150,000	\$75,285	\$350,000
Trout Lake BLF	\$0	\$553,707	\$700,000
Entry Sign	\$0	\$9,639	\$0
DGS Project Management	\$0	\$154,395	\$0
Total	\$150,000	\$900,000	\$1,050,000

The original project costs will be for the replacement of the bridge over the Little Shasta River; and the installation of a two-lane boat ramp, boarding floats, fishing pier, paved parking, sidewalks and other amenities at Trout Lake. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Sport Fish Restoration Act (SFRA) provides grants to States to improve or construct boat launching facilities. A SFRA grant has been awarded for the original proposal to allow for the reimbursement of 75 percent of project costs to WCB upon completion of the project. The SFRA grant will be amended to request a 75 percent reimbursement of the cost of this augmentation.

FUNDING SOURCE

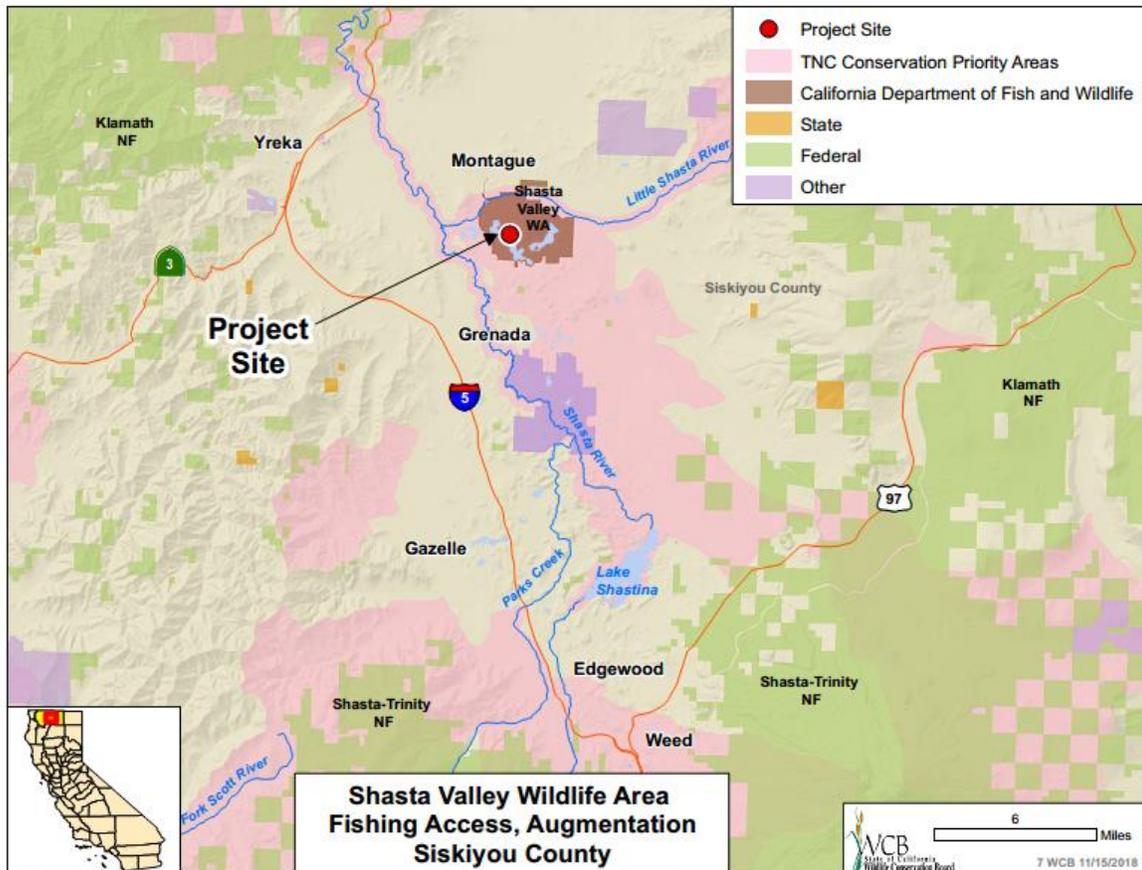
The proposed funding source for this project is the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Fund (Proposition 40), Public Resources Code Section 5096.650(a), which allows for the development of public access facilities for hunting, fishing and other wildlife compatible recreational activities, and are consistent with the purposes of this project.

CEQA AND CDFW REVIEW/ RECOMMENDATION

The CDFW, as lead agency, prepared a Negative Declaration (ND) for the project pursuant to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Staff considered the ND and has prepared proposed, written findings documenting WCB’s compliance with CEQA. Subject to approval of this proposal by the WCB, the appropriate Notice of Determination will be filed with the State Clearinghouse. CDFW has reviewed the project and recommends it for funding by the WCB.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommended that the Wildlife Conservation Board adopt the written findings and approve this project as proposed; allocate \$150,000.00 from California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Fund (Proposition 40), Public Resources Code Section 5096.650(a); authorize the acceptance of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Sport Fish Restoration Act reimbursement; authorize staff and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to proceed substantially as planned.



***8. Humbug Valley Conservation Easement
Plumas County
\$0.00**

This proposal was to consider the acceptance of a conservation easement (Easement) over 2,325± acres of land by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), which will be held with the Feather River Land Trust (FRLT) as co-grantee, for a cooperative project with the Maidu Consortium and Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) for the protection of the culturally significant Tàsmam Koyòm homeland of the Maidu, and to provide wildlife corridors, future wildlife oriented public use opportunities, and protection of the Yellow Creek fishery.

LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES

The property (Property) is located 11 miles south of Chester, California and 4.5 miles west of Butt Valley Reservoir. The property is accessed from Humbug Valley Road a short distance off State Route 89.

The Property is part of the greater Feather River Watershed. Yellow Creek, which flows through the Property, originates at Eagle Rocks at 7,063 feet of elevation and flows into the Feather River at Belden Town at an elevation of 2,400 feet. The lower most 15 miles of Yellow Creek from Big Springs to the confluence with the Feather River has been designated a state wild trout stream which supports rainbow, brown, and brook trout.

Many of the surrounding lands are privately owned production forest lands or owned by the U.S. Forest Service as part of the Lassen National Forest. In addition to the forest lands, parcels closer to Lake Almanor are utilized as recreational get-a-ways and are typically less than ten acres.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property is most threatened by recreational development associated with the greater Almanor and Butt Valley Lakes. There has been substantial subdivision development in this part of the county for summer homes and recreational get-a-ways over the last 50 years. The Property is not directly threatened because it has been managed as open space, and has been open to public recreation for many years while owned by PG&E. In 2018, ownership was granted to the Maidu Consortium as part of PG&E's 2003 bankruptcy settlement, which required PG&E to protect their excess lands with easements and donate the encumbered properties to qualified owners, in this case the Maidu Consortium.

The proposed Easement will protect the Property in perpetuity and acts as a backup to the underlying conservation-minded fee ownership. The acquisition as described above is the result of PG&E's bankruptcy settlement and has been vetted by the Pacific Forest Stewardship Council (Stewardship Council), CDFW, the Maidu Consortium, PG&E, and the FRLT. The Stewardship Council was created by the bankruptcy court's settlement statement to dispose of surplus PG&E lands throughout California. FRLT and CDFW will be co-grantees for the Easement. Easement monitoring activities will be done by both organizations. The Maidu have utilized the Property for many years as their home land and have strong cultural ties to Humbug Valley known in the Maidu language as Tàsmam Koyòm.

The landscape is that of typical mountain meadow habitat fed by cold clear waters supporting grasslands and wetlands. These meadows are often grazed by cattle and are surrounded by working conifer forests. The Property is nearly surrounded by other protected lands. These adjacent protected lands include U.S. Forest Service lands

bordering the Property on the east, south, and west sides. The Property does provide linkages between landscape scale conserved properties. Additionally, the Property is located 8 miles east of the Butte Creek House Ecological Reserve.

CDFW identified that this acquisition would result in:

- Protection of functional mountain wet meadow habitat,
- Protection of 9 miles of high quality trout streams,
- Protection of water quality,
- Protection of 162 possible bird species including willow fly catcher, sandhill cranes, and northern goshawks,
- Protection of as many as 64 mammal species,
- Protection of designated Wild Trout Stream Catch-and-Release fishing access on Yellow Creek,
- Protection of historic and prehistoric sites culturally important to the Maidu, and
- Protection of public access to the creek and associated campground.

There are a few improvements on the Property including a public campground, a fishing access area, and a few recreational properties with cabins that are privately owned inholdings.

The acquisition will combat climate change by protecting the Property, as it is today, a highly functional mountain meadow. Mountain meadow habitats function as carbon sinks that absorb carbon and produce oxygen and help maintain water quality for downstream users. In addition, mountain meadows often provide refuge to wildlife during warm and dry times, providing water year round in many cases.

WCB PROGRAM

The proposed Easement acquisition is being considered under the WCB's Land Acquisition Program. The Land Acquisition Program is administered pursuant to the Board's original enabling legislation, "The Wildlife Conservation Law of 1947" (Fish and Game Section 1300, et seq.) to acquire areas that can successfully sustain wildlife and provide for suitable recreation opportunities. Under this program acquisition activities are carried out in conjunction with the CDFW, evaluating the biological values of property through development of a Land Acquisition Evaluation (LAE)/Conceptual Area Protection Plan (CAPP). The LAE/CAPP is then submitted to the Director for review and approval and later transmitted to the WCB with a recommendation to fund.

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

This acquisition is guided by the WCB Strategic Plan and supports the following outlined goals:

Goal A.1 – Fund projects and landscapes that provide resilience for native wildlife and plant species in the face of climate change.

Acquisition of the Property will preserve mountain meadow habitat. Mountain meadows provide important water quality and storage functions to the overall river watershed. Yellow and Humbug creeks will continue to provide the larger Feather River with clean cold water in the face of future climate change. These waters are of statewide importance to both salmonids and farmers downstream.

Goal A.4 – Invest in priority conservation projects recommended under CDFW's land acquisition evaluation process or within other conservation plans supported by CDFW.

The Property was part of an LAE and makes up a large area of working forestlands and wildlife habitat open to public recreation.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The Property will be managed on a day-to-day basis by the property owner, the Maidu Consortium. FRLT and CDFW will share monitoring of the Easement. FRLT will develop a baseline documentation report by which the acquisition can be monitored in future years. PG&E will fund an endowment in the amount of \$270,000 to be paid to the FRLT for Easement monitoring and enforcement. The easement monitoring and defense fund is a pooled, non-wasting fund held by FRLT. There are no costs involved for CDFW other than yearly monitoring visits.

Proposed public use includes hunting, fishing, hiking, wildlife viewing, and camping.

TERMS

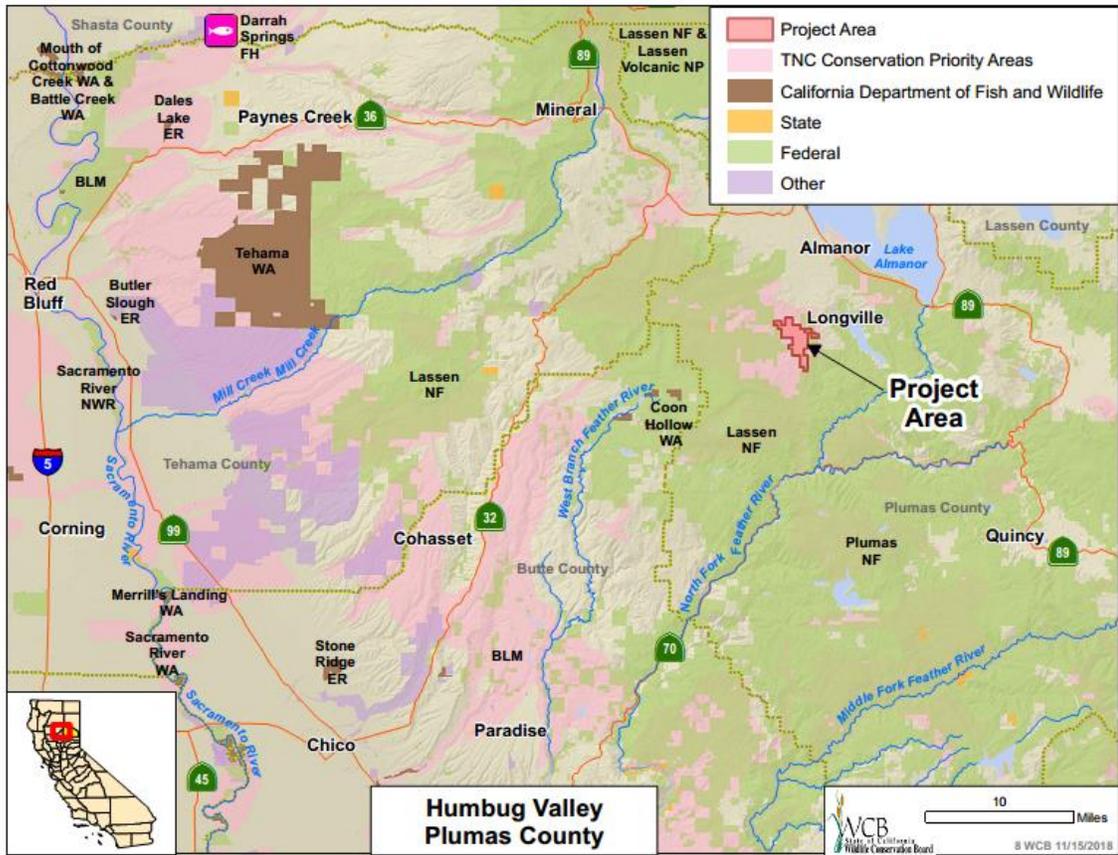
The Maidu Consortium agreed to grant the Easement to CDFW and FRLT. Staff of the WCB will review and approve all title documents, preliminary title reports, the Easement, and instruments of conveyance.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND STATE RECOMMENDATION

The acquisition has been reviewed for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements and is proposed as exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15313, Class 13, as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes, and Section 15325, Class 25, as a transfer of an ownership interest in land to preserve open space and existing natural conditions, including plant or animal habitats. Subject to authorization by the WCB, a Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommended that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed, authorize staff and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to enter into appropriate agreements as necessary to accomplish this project, and authorize staff and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to proceed substantially as planned.



***9. Hallelujah Junction Wildlife Area, Expansion 7**
Sierra County
\$92,000.00

This proposal was to consider the acquisition in fee of 162± acres of land as an expansion to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) Hallelujah Junction Wildlife Area for the protection of habitat supporting the Loyalton-Truckee deer herd (Herd) and to enhance habitat linkages and connectivity.

LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES

The property (Property) is located near the California and Nevada state line, approximately four miles northwest of Border Town, Nevada along State Route 395. The subject area is bounded on the north, south, and east sides by property owned by the City of Santa Clara, and by the existing CDFW wildlife area on the west side.

The Hallelujah Junction Wildlife Area is also bordered by U.S. Forest Service lands associated with the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest. The Property includes a number of canyons and drainages with small streams with riparian vegetation and wildlife habitat. The Property is located in a transition zone with evergreen trees on the higher elevation mountains to the west and sage scrub located on both sides of the California/Nevada border.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property consists of a single assessor parcel number and is "L" shaped. Elevations range from 5,350 to 6,025 feet. The topography ranges from gently sloping to steep and rugged, and includes grasslands, riparian, and high desert shrub habitats. This diversity of habitat types is preferred for the winter Herd range.

The Herd occupies the Property mostly during the winter months. The Herd has been experiencing stable to slightly declining numbers in recent years, and estimates by CDFW number 3,200 deer in the Herd. The deer summer on the higher elevation U.S. Forest Service and timber company-owned lands on the California side, and winter in lower elevation lands near the California/Nevada state line. This state line area winter habitat band is favored for residential and commercial development on both sides of the border, due to its relatively flat terrain and the availability of water. Land development and agricultural conversion along the border are a major reason for decreasing Herd habitat. The protection of this Property will help protect a wildlife corridor connecting wintering and summering grounds.

Several special status animal species can be found on or near the Property, including Swainson's hawk, northern goshawk, bank swallow, American badger, mountain lion, North American porcupine, willow flycatcher, greater sandhill crane, and both bald and golden eagles. Special status plants on or near the Property include Golden violet, Nevada daisy, Sierra Valley ivesia, and Webber's ivesia. Other, more common animals that call the area home include pronghorn antelope, black bear, coyote, fox, various waterfowl species, and birds of prey.

The Property, once part of the greater Hallelujah Junction Wildlife Area, will provide public access opportunities to locals and visitors along the State Route 395 corridor. Hallelujah Junction is a popular wildlife area for deer, quail, and rabbit hunters. Additionally, hikers and birdwatchers also frequent the area.

WCB PROGRAM

The proposed acquisition is being considered under the Wildlife Conservation Board's (WCB) Land Acquisition Program. The Land Acquisition Program is administered pursuant to the Board's original enabling legislation, "The Wildlife Conservation Law of 1947" (Fish and Game Code Section 1300, et seq.) authorizing the WCB to acquire real property, or rights in real property, on behalf of CDFW, grant funds to other governmental entities or nonprofit organizations to acquire real property, or rights in real property, and accept federal grant funds to facilitate acquisitions or sub-grant these federal funds to assist with acquisitions of properties.

Under the program, the WCB acquires lands and interests in land that can successfully sustain or be restored to support wildlife and, when practicable, provide suitable wildlife-oriented recreation opportunities. These activities are carried out in conjunction with the CDFW, which evaluates the biological values of property through development of a Land Acquisition Evaluation (LAE)/Conceptual Area Protection Plan (CAPP). The LAE/CAPP is submitted to CDFW's Director for final approval and submission to WCB for its consideration and recommendation to fund.

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

This Property is guided by the WCB Strategic Plan and supports the following outlined goals:

Goal A.1 – Fund projects and landscapes that provide resilience for native wildlife and plant species in the face of climate change.

Acquisition of the Property will preserve the Herd's traditional migration corridors that provide for transitional habitat by allowing for movement between the Property and the higher elevation peaks in the surrounding area. The Property will help deer and other wildlife migrations by providing a clear migration corridor to allow for free movement. According to CDFW biologists, the average migration within the Herd is 26 miles, but some individuals migrate up to 48 miles.

Goal A.4 – Invest in priority conservation projects recommended under CDFW's land acquisition evaluation process or within other conservation plans supported by CDFW.

The Property is an inholding within the greater Hallelujah Junction Wildlife Area and was deemed an important priority by CDFW's Region 2, which currently manages the wildlife area.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

CDFW will manage and monitor the Property. The management objectives will be the same as the rest of the Hallelujah Junction Wildlife Area and will include maintaining the Property as critical deer winter range, conducting wildlife surveys, and coordinating population surveys.

TERMS

The Property has been appraised as having a fair market value of \$92,000.00. The appraisal has been reviewed by WCB staff and reviewed and approved by the Department of General Services (DGS). The property owner has agreed to sell the Property for \$92,000.00. WCB staff must review and approve all title documents, preliminary title reports, documents for purchase and sale, escrow instructions, and instruments of conveyance prior to disbursement of funds directly into the escrow account established for

the acquisition. Once approved by the Board, the transaction will be exempt from DGS transaction review.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Wildlife Conservation Board	\$92,000.00
Total Purchase Price	\$92,000.00
<i>Total WCB Allocation</i>	<i>\$92,000.00</i>

WCB FUNDING SOURCE

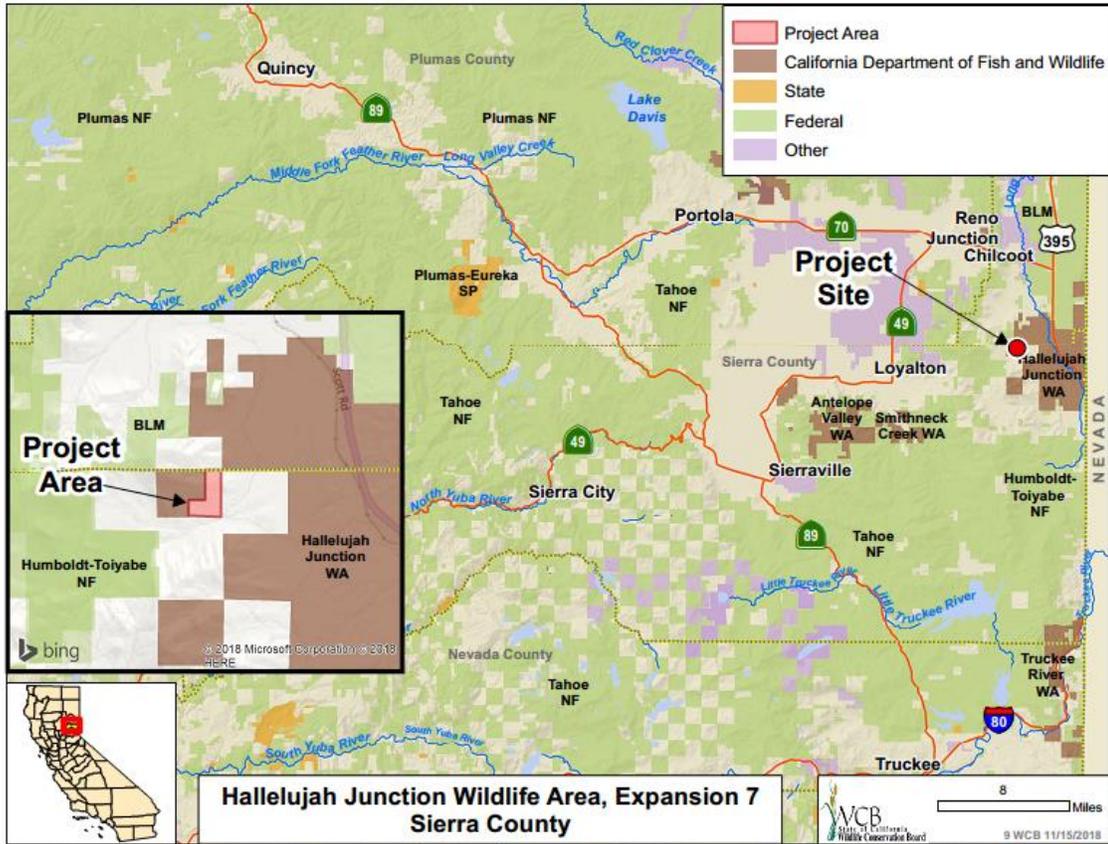
The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(a), which allows for the acquisition and protection of deer and mountain lion habitat.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND STATE RECOMMENDATION

The project has been reviewed for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements and is proposed as exempt under the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3) Section 15313, Class 13, as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes, and Section 15325, Class 25, as a transfer of an ownership interest in land to preserve open space and existing natural conditions, including plant or animal habitats. Subject to authorization by the WCB, a Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse. CDFW has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for approval.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommended that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$92,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(a); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to proceed substantially as planned.



***10. Jamul Creek Watershed Riparian Restoration, Augmentation
San Diego County
\$375,000.00**

This proposal was to consider the allocation for an augmentation to an existing grant to River Partners to restore 36 additional acres of riparian and coastal sage scrub habitat at the Hollenbeck Canyon Wildlife Area (HCWA) in San Diego County.

LOCATION

The HCWA is located on both sides of Highway 94, approximately three miles southeast of Jamul in southern San Diego County. The property was once part of the 11,000± acre Otay Ranch, which supported cattle grazing and dryland farming from the time of Spanish colonization through the late 1990s. Calcium limestone deposits on the property were historically used by the native Kumeyaay people and later by Franciscan missionaries to whitewash their adobe buildings. When a development boom began in San Diego in the late 1880s, a lime burning kiln and cement plant were constructed on the site, but were abandoned by 1906 when higher quality limestone was located nearby.

Beginning in 1998, the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) and other conservation organizations and agencies began acquiring portions of the Otay Ranch for conservation purposes. To date, 9,891± acres of land have been protected by WCB and are managed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) as the HCWA and the Rancho Jamul Ecological Reserve (RJER). The RJER and HCWA are surrounded by a mix of privately-owned ranches and public lands. They are also an important component of the San Diego Multiple Species Conservation Plan, which includes the U.S. Bureau of Land Management's Otay Mountain Wilderness, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's San Diego-Sweetwater National Wildlife Refuge, San Diego County lands, and the Cleveland National Forest.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In 2012, River Partners entered into a grant agreement with WCB to restore and enhance native habitat on 178 acres within the RJER and HCWA. The site was planted with two native vegetative communities including Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Woodland and Coastal Sage Scrub. The planting design was focused on the habitat requirements of target wildlife species, which include the least Bell's vireo, California gnatcatcher, and other resident and migratory bird species.

As part of the project design, River Partners used a "pod" configuration on 30 acres of Coastal Sage Scrub (CSS) and 30 acres of Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian (SCLOR) in the HCWA site. This method installs groups of plants at a density of 3 pods/acre with unplanted spaces between pods. This practice is recognized and commonly used in the restoration community; however, the pod design has proven to be less successful at this site due to intense weed pressure from non-native invasive plant species including Bermuda grass, annual grasses, and castor bean.

Without additional restoration, the spaces between the pods (approximately 16 acres of SCLOR and 20 acres of CSS) will be left with little natural vegetation recruitment due to weed competition. In order to effectively restore these areas and realize the habitat and wildlife potential of the site, River Partners and CDFW land managers propose to complete active restoration on the 36 acres of unplanted area between the pods.

WCB PROGRAM

The proposed project will be funded through the California Riparian Habitat Conservation Program and meets the program's goal of increasing riparian habitat across California by implementing riparian habitat restoration and enhancement projects.

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

The project furthers the following goals outlined in the WCB Strategic Plan:

Goal B.1 – Invest in projects and landscape areas that help provide resilience in the face of climate change, enhance water resources for fish and wildlife and enhance habitats on working lands:

- The restoration of native habitats increases the overall resiliency of ecosystems and dependent animals and plants to the damaging effects of climate change.
- The restoration of the riparian corridor will enhance wildlife access to the aquatic resources of Dulzura and Jamul creeks.

In addition, the proposed project addresses the following priorities outlined in the WCB Strategic Plan:

Improve habitat for threatened or endangered species:

- Once restored, the project site will provide habitat for a number of listed species including the least Bell's vireo, California gnatcatcher, and several other plant and animal species.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

CDFW owns and manages both the RJER and the HCWA. The Land Management Plans for the two properties provide for public use within the larger conservation and restoration goals. Public uses include environmental education and research, horseback riding, birding, hiking, and special hunts for upland game. Species focused for conservation include coast horned-lizard, Quino checkerspot butterfly, Otay tarplant, and San Diego thornmint. Controlled burns are part of the management strategy to increase burn frequency, decrease fuel load and fire intensity, and promote recruitment of native plant species. Control of non-native invasive weeds is an important part of these conservation efforts—native riparian vegetation is more resistant to fire than exotics. The proposed project will create a more resilient riparian habitat, which will resist future invasions of exotic vegetation, and will make the management of the property easier and more effective.

If at any time during the 25-year life of the project, River Partners does not manage and maintain the project improvements, the Grant Agreement requires that it refund to the State of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the project life.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Task	WCB Augmentation	WCB Original Grant	Original Matching Funds*	Total
Project Development			\$60,185	\$60,185
Management	\$30,200	\$184,000		\$214,200
Planning		\$42,700		\$42,700
Field Preparation	\$14,470	\$111,400		\$125,870
Irrigation Installation	\$32,120	\$136,300		\$168,420
Planting	\$95,000	\$271,400		\$366,400
Plant Establishment	\$137,769	\$588,300		\$726,069
Monitoring	\$31,350	\$189,500		\$220,850
Administration	\$34,091	\$152,400	\$76,159	\$262,650
RHJV Coordination		\$20,000		\$20,000
Total	\$375,000	\$1,696,000	\$136,344	\$2,207,344

** Includes \$76,159 from SANDAG towards Administration, \$10,200 in-kind contribution from River Partners, \$25,000 in-kind contribution from the San Diego City Water Department, and \$24,985 from the Resources Legacy Fund*

The augmented funds will go towards installing native species and maintaining the new plants until they become established. Project funds will also be used to prepare the site for the plantings, installation of irrigation line, and biological monitoring of the site during construction activities.

FUNDING SOURCE

The proposed funding sources for this project are the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786 (e/f), which allows for the acquisition, restoration or enhancement of riparian habitat, and the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(e/f) (Proposition 1E) which allows for the protection or enhancement of a flood protection corridor or bypass, and are consistent with the purposes of this project.

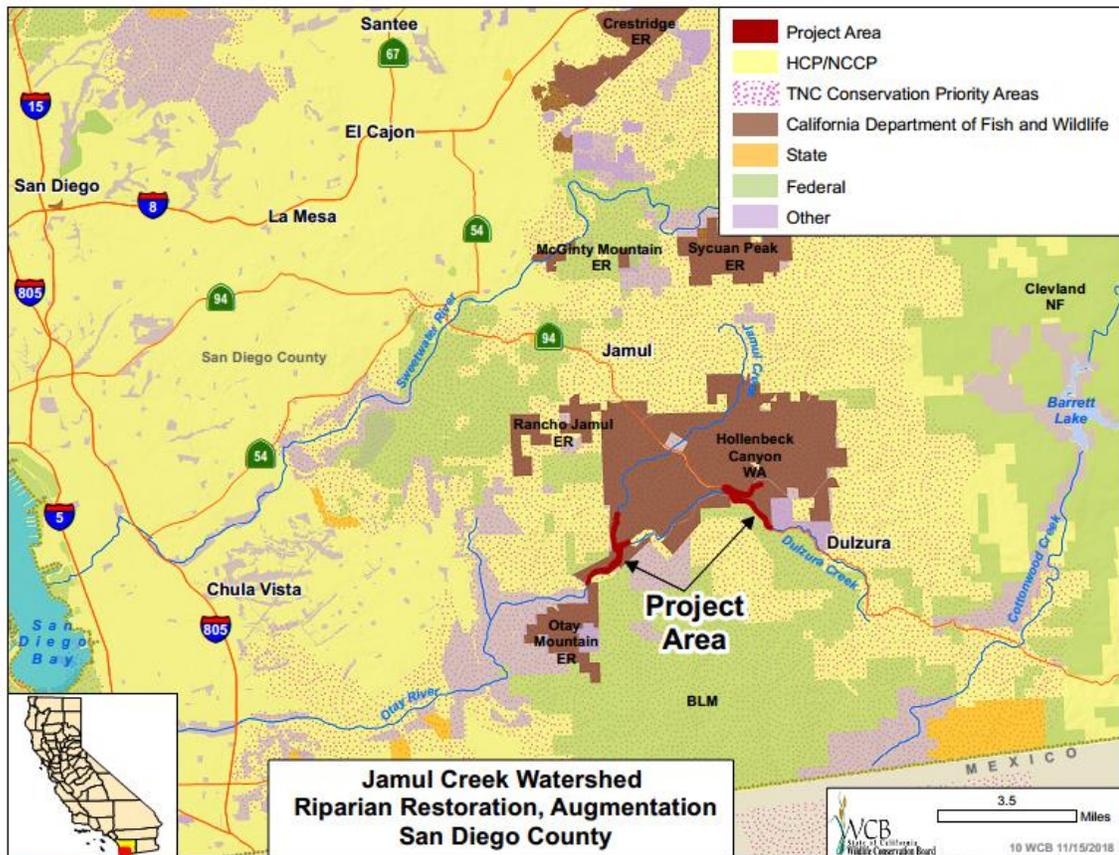
CEQA AND CDFW REVIEW/ RECOMMENDATION

The CDFW has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for funding by the WCB. The project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, Section 15304, Class 4, as a minor alteration to land, water and/or vegetation which does not involve the removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees. Subject to approval of this proposal by the WCB, the appropriate Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommended that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$375,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(e/f), and Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and

Game Code Section 2786(e/f) (Proposition 1E) for the grant; authorize staff and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to proceed substantially as planned.



***11. Morongo Basin, Expansion 4**
San Bernardino County
\$96,000.00

This proposal was to consider the allocation for a grant to the Mojave Desert Land Trust (MDLT) to acquire 320± acres of land for the protection of desert habitat corridors in the Morongo Basin.

LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES

The subject property (Property) is located within the Morongo Basin. The Property is located north of the Joshua Tree city limits, and is on the north side of Winters Road. Commercial development is common along State Route 62, with a number of rural residential subdivisions radiating out from the communities of Yucca Valley and Joshua Tree. These developed areas give way to large open desert habitat parcels heading south and north of State Route 62.

The Property is located in the Morongo Basin Linkages Conceptual Area Protection Plan (CAPP). The CAPP identified an urgent need to protect 10,000± acres of habitat corridors between federal, state, and locally owned Morongo Basin open spaces.

The Morongo Basin is a high desert region within the southeast portion of the Mojave Desert with relatively flat to rolling hill terrain. This desert region is known mainly for the Joshua tree that dominates most of the open space desert habitat areas. The state and federally threatened desert tortoise can also be found in this area, and is the focal point of many of the desert conservation efforts that take place in the region. To the south is the Joshua Tree National Park and to the north is the Marine Corp Air Ground Combat Center at Twentynine Palms, both are large, landscape-level open space and ecosystems. The acquisition will help preserve the Joshua Tree North Linkage that is a linkage to the larger portion of the Joshua Tree-Twentynine Palms habitat linkage connection. The linkage occurs within an ecological transition zone between the Mojave and Sonoran (Colorado) desert eco-regions and connects the Joshua Tree National Park and the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center at Twentynine Palms.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property is vacant and contains a gently sloping drainage throughout. The Property is zoned for residential uses. Acquisition of the Property will help maintain connectivity within the CAPP area and protect view-sheds associated with Joshua Tree National Park and the Marine Corp Air Ground Combat Center at Twentynine Palms, the two main economic drivers in the region. It also provides public access and educational opportunities through outreach to the Morongo Basin's 68,000 residents and to the Morongo Basin Unified School District's 9,500 students. With a growing human population in the Morongo Basin, acquisition of the Property is uniquely equipped to offer open space and outdoor activities to the area's youth and adults alike.

Acquisition of the Property will preserve existing habitat and potential habitat for listed and special status species including the state and federally listed desert tortoise; fully protected golden eagle; and species of special concern American badger, northern harrier hawk, loggerhead shrike, Le Conte's thrasher, and prairie falcon. The Property also contains rare and protected native plant species that include Joshua trees and Mojave Yucca.

WCB PROGRAM

The proposed grant for this acquisition is being made under the Wildlife Conservation Board's (WCB) Land Acquisition Program. The Land Acquisition Program is administered

pursuant to the Board's original enabling legislation, "The Wildlife Conservation Law of 1947" (Fish and Game Code Section 1300, et seq.) authorizing the WCB to acquire real property or rights in real property on behalf of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), grant funds to other governmental entities or nonprofit organizations to acquire real property or rights in real property, and accept federal grant funds to facilitate acquisitions, or sub-grant these federal funds to assist with the acquisitions of properties.

Under the program, WCB provides funds to facilitate the acquisition of lands and interests in land that can successfully sustain or be restored to support wildlife and, when practicable, provide for suitable wildlife-oriented recreation opportunities. These activities are carried out in conjunction with CDFW, which evaluates the biological values of property through development of a Land Acquisition Evaluation (LAE)/Conceptual Area Protection Plan (CAPP). The LAE/CAPP is then submitted to CDFW's Director for review and, if approved, later transmitted to the WCB with a recommendation to fund.

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

This project is guided by the WCB Strategic Plan and supports the following outlined goals:

Goal A.4 – Invest in priority conservation projects recommended under CDFW's land acquisition evaluation process or within other conservation plans supported by CDFW.

The strong partnership between the WCB, CDFW, MDLT, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the National Park Service (NPS), the Department of Defense, and others has allowed for the establishment of the Morongo Basin Linkages CAPP. The CAPP was approved by CDFW on December 1, 2016, and has allowed multiple agencies and land trusts to leverage available dollars and target specific lands deemed important wildlife corridors between Joshua Tree National Park, the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center at Twentynine Palms, and various BLM and MDLT owned lands.

Goal C.1 – Support a wide range of recreational activities (e.g. hunting, fishing, birding, hiking, camping, photography, etc.) in conjunction with other land uses and without degrading environmental resources.

The MDLT lands are open to the public for hiking, bird watching, and wildlife viewing. MDLT provides education/outreach experiences, and volunteer opportunities to all ages. Many lands owned by MDLT border publicly accessible areas and are often managed for public access to adjacent NPS lands or BLM lands.

Goal C.4 – Place greater emphasis on projects that accommodate compatible wildlife-oriented public uses, while supporting urban areas and disadvantaged communities.

The human population in the Yucca Valley is growing and sprawl has been moving into more traditional Morongo Basin desert areas. MDLT has successfully integrated its plan and mission into communities of Yucca Valley and Joshua Tree. MDLT receives strong local support and gives back with protected properties open to the public, thus supporting the urban area.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The Property will be managed and owned by MDLT. MDLT has acquired more than 900 properties in five and half years. All of these lands are being managed and/or conveyed in accordance with the Land Trust Alliance Standards and Practices. In addition, MDLT plans to develop an educational program with the Morongo Unified School District for students,

MDLT's 1,300 members, and the local communities to utilize the land for learning about desert ecosystems, wildlife, watersheds, and species.

TERMS

The Property has been appraised as having a combined fair market value of \$160,000.00. The appraisal has been reviewed by WCB staff and reviewed and approved by the Department of General Services (DGS). The Houssels family has agreed to sell the Property for \$160,000.00. The terms and conditions of the grant between WCB and MDLT provide that WCB staff will review and approve all title documents, appraisals, preliminary title reports, documents for purchase and sale, escrow instructions and instruments of conveyance prior to disbursement of funds directly into the escrow account established for the acquisition. In the event of a breach of the grant terms, WCB can require the grantee to encumber the Property with a conservation easement in favor of the State or another entity approved by the State and seek reimbursement of funds.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Wildlife Conservation Board	\$96,000.00
Mojave Desert Land Trust	\$64,000.00
Total Purchase Price	\$160,000.00
<i>Total WCB Allocation</i>	<i>\$96,000.00</i>

FUNDING SOURCE

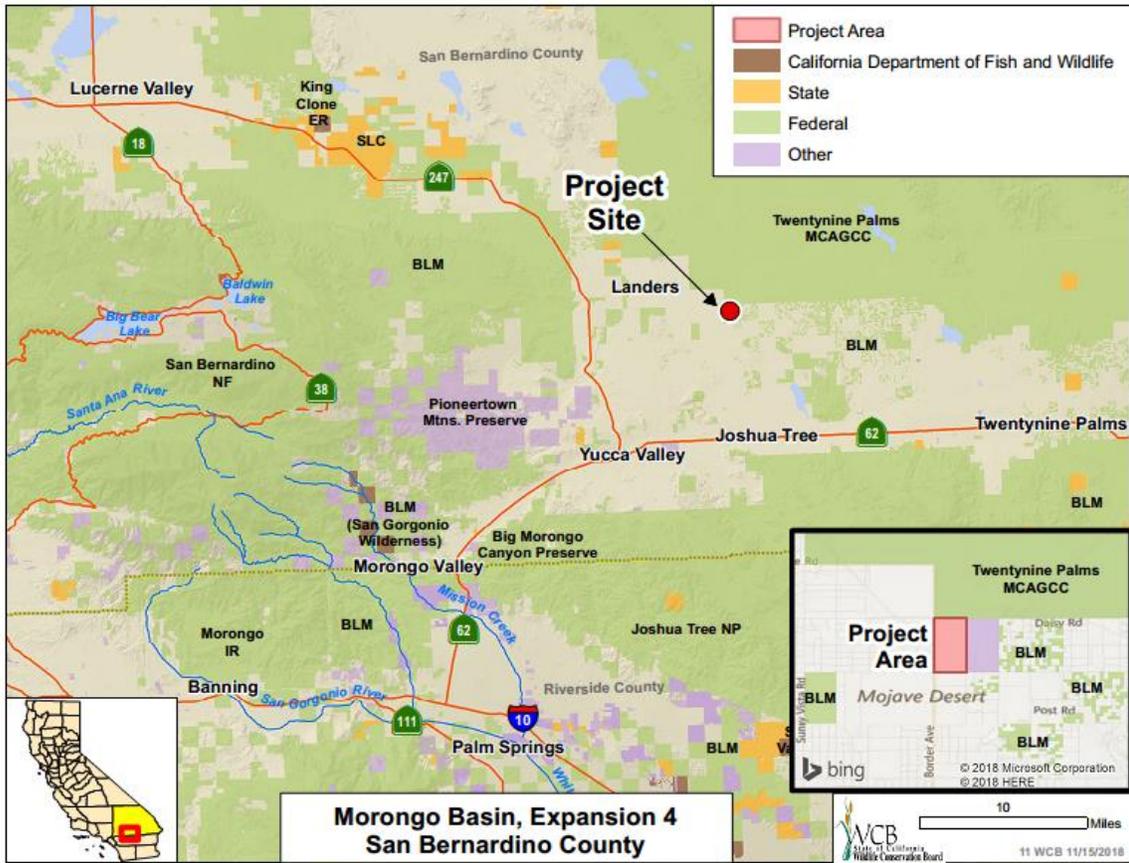
The purposes of this project are consistent with the proposed funding source, the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c), that allows for the acquisition of habitat to protect rare, endangered, threatened or fully protected species.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

The acquisition has been reviewed for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements and is proposed as exempt under CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3) Section 15313, Class 13, as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes, and Section 15325, Class 25, as a transfer of an ownership interest in land to preserve open space and existing natural conditions, including plant or animal habitats. Subject to authorization by the WCB, a Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse. CDFW has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for approval.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommended that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$96,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c), for the grant, authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to proceed substantially as planned.



**12. Humboldt State University/Arcata Jacoby Creek
Forest - Expansion
Humboldt County
\$1,725,000.00**

Mr. Brian Gibson presented this project.

This proposal is to consider the allocation for a grant to the City of Arcata (City) and Humboldt State University (HSU) to acquire 967± acres of timberland within the Jacoby Creek watershed and the acceptance of a conservation easement by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE) for a cooperative project with CALFIRE, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for protection of threatened and endangered species, working forest lands, forest reserve areas, watersheds, fisheries and habitat linkages. The conservation easement is being conveyed as a condition of the CALFIRE grant and will protect significant scenic, recreational, timber, riparian, fish and wildlife, cultural, carbon sequestration, and environmental values.

LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES

The subject property (Property) is located south of Fickle Hill Road in an unincorporated area of Humboldt County, about nine miles southeast of downtown Arcata and adjacent to the City's 1,306± acre Jacoby Creek Community Forest. North of the Property are City-owned timberlands and private timberland holdings. There are smaller private rural residential landowners on the west and south sides of the Property with larger private timberland holdings to the east.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property consists of 10 contiguous assessor's parcels of timberland which encompass a significant portion of Jacoby Creek (Creek). The eastern and northeastern portions of the Property have more gentle topography, whereas the southern and western portions of the Property are generally steeper. The Property elevation ranges from 960 feet to 2,080 feet. This acquisition will enable the Property to be managed sustainably for timber production while allowing for limited public access.

The primary purpose of this proposed acquisition is to protect and maintain the health of redwood, western hemlock, grand fir, Douglas fir, and western red cedar habitat and for protection of threatened and endangered species. Approximately 7,920± lineal feet of the upper reaches of the Creek are located on the Property. The Property is an integral part of the Jacoby Creek watershed and in large part contributes to the Humboldt Bay ecosystem that provides an adequate water supply to maintain habitat for fish, waterfowl, wading birds, shorebirds and other water associated wildlife. Acquisition of the Property located at the headwaters of the Jacoby Creek watershed will allow for a complete watershed to bay habitat and conservation project that includes the existing Jacoby Creek Community Forest lands, fee and conservation easements held by the Jacoby Creek Land Trust, the Jacoby Creek/Gannon Slough Wildlife Area and Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge.

Most of the middle and upper reaches of the Creek have traditionally been used for timber production. The Property consists primarily of second growth with a few small stands of old growth western red cedar timber still remaining. The lower portion of the Creek west of the Property was originally part of Humboldt Bay's extensive intertidal salt marsh and mud flats prior to the construction of the Northwestern Railroad line adjacent to the bay and State Highway 101. Construction of these facilities, timber harvest in the upper watershed,

and conversion of the riparian areas to agricultural uses in the lower watershed have negatively impacted the Creek. There are a number of listed and sensitive species that should benefit from this acquisition, including the northern red-legged frog, the foothill yellow-legged frog, northern spotted owl, Coopers hawk, osprey, yellow warbler, sharp shinned hawk, Pacific fisher, white footed vole, and red tree vole. Additionally coastal cutthroat trout, coho salmon, steelhead, and the tidewater goby would all benefit from this acquisition.

Acquisition of the Property would also provide the California State University system a forest area which will become a significant research and educational facility that will provide statewide benefits. Future public management of the Property with the proposed research and educational opportunities will optimize and provide guidance for forest management statewide on issues such as carbon sequestration, protection of spotted owl activity centers, protection of springs and wet soils, the importance of maintaining old growth individual trees, rocky outcrops, talus slopes, and other identified special habitat features. The Property will provide opportunities to demonstrate best management practices on "working forest land."

WCB AND CALFIRE PROGRAMS

The proposed grant is being considered under WCB's Land Acquisition Program. The Land Acquisition Program is administered pursuant to the Board's original enabling legislation, "The Wildlife Conservation Law of 1947" (Fish and Game Section 1300, *et seq.*) authorizing WCB to acquire real property or rights in real property on behalf of the CDFW, grant funds to other governmental entities or nonprofit organizations to acquire real property or rights in real property and accept federal grant funds to facilitate acquisitions or subgrant these federal funds to assist with acquisitions of properties. Under the program, WCB provides funds to facilitate the acquisition of lands and interests in land that can successfully sustain or be restored to support wildlife and, when practicable, provide for suitable wildlife-oriented recreation opportunities. These activities are carried out in conjunction with the CDFW, which evaluates the biological values of property through development of a Land Acquisition Evaluation (LAE)/Conceptual Area Protection Plan (CAPP). The LAE/CAPP is then submitted to CDFW's Regional Operations Committee (ROC) for review and, if approved, later transmitted to the WCB with a recommendation to fund.

The proposed acquisition of the conservation easement by CALFIRE is being considered under the California Forest Legacy Program Act (CFLPA). CFLPA (Public Resources Code section 12200, *et seq.*) allows CALFIRE to accept lands and interests in lands to protect environmentally important forestlands that are threatened by present or future conversion to non-forest uses. Priority is to be given to lands that can be effectively protected and managed and that have important scenic, recreational, timber, riparian, fish and wildlife, threatened and endangered species, and other cultural and environmental values. Under CFLPA, WCB may acquire conservation easements on behalf of CALFIRE (Public Resources Code section 12240).

Proposals under CFLPA are evaluated and recommended for funding by CALFIRE staff based on criteria established under the California Forest Legacy Program Act of 2007. Eligible properties may be working forests where forest land is managed for the production of forest products and traditional forest uses are maintained. These forest uses include both commodity outputs and non-commodity values. The purpose of the easement is to maintain the forest intact and to provide such traditional forest benefits as timber production, wildlife habitat, watershed protection, and increased carbon sequestration through increased growth and inventory and long-term management of the timberlands.

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

This project is guided by the WCB Strategic Plan and supports the following Strategic Plan goals:

Goal A.1 – Fund projects and landscapes that provide resilience for native wildlife and plant species in the face of climate change.

The Property preserves existing forest and riparian habitat and wildlife linkages by expanding a network of protected lands. Habitat connectivity is essential in maintaining the genetic viability of the region's listed/sensitive species. By protecting wildlife corridors and reducing development in the area, the species will have the potential to adapt to any climate change impacts.

Goal A.4 – Invest in priority conservation projects recommended under CDFW's land acquisition evaluation process or within other conservation plans supported by CDFW.

CDFW has recommended the acquisition of the Property as part of the Jacoby Creek Conceptual Area Protection Plan (CAPP). The Property is also located in the Arcata Planning Area as defined by the Arcata General Plan 2020.

Goal E.1 – Maximize expenditure of remaining bond funds and identify opportunities to leverage existing funds as effectively as possible.

The proposed WCB grant to the City and HSU to assist with the acquisition of the Property would be used along with CALFIRE, CNRA, CDFW, and USFWS grants.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The City and HSU are seeking to acquire the Property to protect its species, natural resources, and allow for management of a public working forest. A portion of the timberland would be owned by the City and a portion owned by HSU with the goal of separate ownership and cooperative management. Approximately 83 acres will be added to the City's Jacoby Creek Community Forest and 884 acres will establish the HSU forest. The City and HSU will manage the Property as part of the larger sustainable working forest as a research and educational asset thus maintaining both the ecological integrity and economic stability of the Property.

The ongoing and committed funding stream from the City's forestry program ensures proper oversight (including ranger patrol) and sustainable management of the Property, including restoration and erosion control projects as needed. This model has worked successfully for the City for the past 30 years.

CALFIRE will enter into the easement with the City and monitor the Property for compliance with the terms of the easement. The easement allows access by CALFIRE or its agents annually for monitoring purposes.

TERMS

The property owner has agreed to sell the Property to the City for \$4,540,000.00, significantly less than the \$6,245,000.00 appraised fair market value as approved by the Department of General Services (DGS). DGS reviewed the appraisal as well as the review provided by a registered professional forester of the timber valuation. Under terms of the grant, WCB staff is responsible for review of all acquisition-related documents prior to disbursement of grant funds. In the event of a breach of the grant terms, WCB can require

grantees to encumber the Property with a conservation easement in favor of the State or another entity approved by the State and seek reimbursement of funds.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Wildlife Conservation Board	\$1,725,000.00
CDFW	\$1,754,000.00
CALFIRE	\$ 800,000.00
CNRA (EEMP)	\$ 226,000.00
USFWS (NAWCA)	\$ 35,000.00
Total Purchase Price	\$4,540,000.00
<i>Total WCB Allocation</i>	<i>\$1,725,000.00</i>

FUNDING SOURCE

The purposes of this project are consistent with the proposed funding source, Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75055(b) which allows for the acquisition of corridors linking separate habitat areas to prevent habitat fragmentation, and to protect significant natural landscapes and ecosystems and other significant habitat areas.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND STATE RECOMMENDATION

The project has been reviewed pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and is proposed as exempt under the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3) Section 15313, Class 13, as an acquisition of land for fish and wildlife conservation purposes, and Section 15325, Class 25, as a transfer of an ownership interest in land to preserve open space and existing natural conditions, including plant or animal habitats. Subject to authorization by the WCB, a Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse. The CDFW has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for approval.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed, allocate \$1,725,000.00 from the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75055(b) for the grant, authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project, and authorize staff and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Gibson noted that in the audience were Mr. Mark Andre, the Environmental Services Director for the City of Arcata and Dr. David Green, Chair of the Forestry Department, Humboldt State University.

Chair Bonham asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none. He then noted a speaker card for Dr. David Green. Dr. Green noted the benefits of this property to undergrads, noting that Humboldt State produces three quarters of all forestry undergrads in California and the majority of Registered Professional Foresters. He stated that the one thing they never had available to them was a working forest for their students. There are about 35 forestry departments in the United States and almost every one of them has their own forest which they can work with and actually practice forest management. This

acquisition would be a very valuable addition. He noted the property was only about 13 minutes from campus. Given that their labs are about three hours long, the turnaround time is trivial. This property will be used, not just by the forestry department, but also for field trips from the environmental science and management, especially the restoration program, and fisheries and wildlife will all use this property on a daily basis. Dr. Green stated that the property will become an essential part of what we do in the college of science. Other great things will take place at the Jacoby Creek property including restoration, inventory, and contributions to the development of management plans. Finally, there will be some revenue accruing from the property once harvesting begins and HSU will use that money to bolster the field trip budget for the science college.

Chair Bonham then introduced a speaker card for Mark Andre, Environmental Services Director, with the City of Arcata. Mr. Andre thanked the WCB staff for sticking with the City and HSU on this project and for providing the initial support that allowed them to cobble together the other funding necessary to acquire the property. He also thanked the Emerson family and Sierra Pacific for the bargain sale and also for being patient. Mr. Andre stated that this is a great project that's not just a stand-alone conservation project, but it adds value to the existing Jacoby Creek forest that surrounds this property as well as investments made downstream, many by the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB). Mr. Andre stated that this summer the City did a fish habitat project in the estuary using \$700,000.00 of federal funding, to reconnect old tide channels. The work was done on a property which WCB funded in 2004 referred to as the Jacoby Creek/Gannon Slough Wildlife Area. He then said that this is a significant conservation project. The habitat in this upper watershed is significant and the City has worked all around it and are very familiar with it. He went on to say that the City was concerned that the property would be converted to other uses that weren't compatible with the surrounding public lands and this acquisition will really help buffer the City's forest which they've owned since 1944. The property is within a CAPP so it fits the strategic aspect of the Board's forward thinking and, for the City, it's a great opportunity to solidify our partnership with HSU. Mr. Andre stated that he is an alumni of HSU so it has been great to work on this project.

He then spoke on forest resilience, stating they intend to thin this forest to increase older stand structure, habitat, and to create a carbon resilient forest that will benefit the community.

Chair Bonham asked if there were any questions. There were none.

It was moved by Board Member Diane Colborn that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$1,725,000.00 from the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75055(b) for the grant, authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project, and authorize staff and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to proceed substantially as planned.

Passed Unanimously.

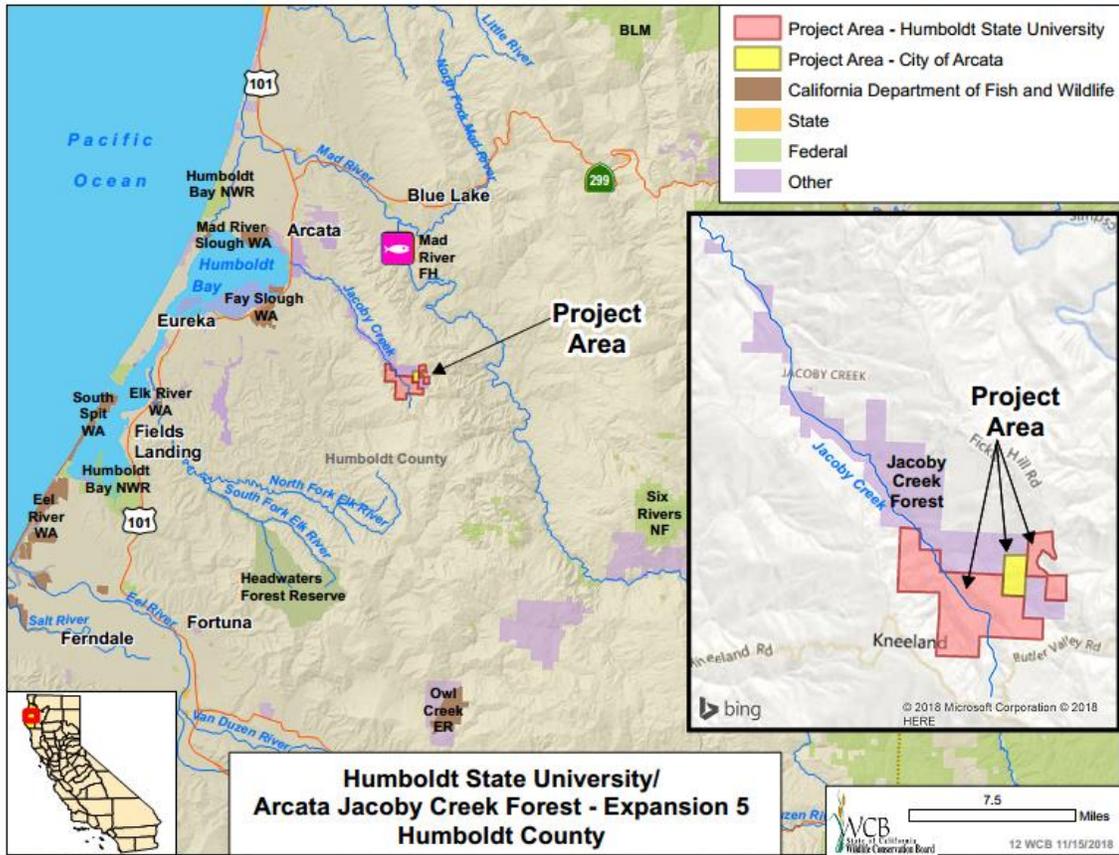
Bokde – Yes

Bonham – Yes

Colborn – Yes

Pavley – Yes

Sklar – Yes



**13. Lower American River Parkway Natural Resources Management Plan
Sacramento County
\$\$500,000.00**

Ms. Cara Allen presented this project.

This proposal is to consider the allocation for a grant to Sacramento County Regional Parks (Regional Parks) for the development of a Natural Resources Management Plan for the Lower American River in Sacramento County.

LOCATION

The American River Parkway (Parkway) is an open space greenbelt that extends approximately 29 miles from Folsom Dam at the northeast to the American River's confluence with the Sacramento River at the southwest. It lies immediately next to and within the City of Sacramento, City of Rancho Cordova, and the unincorporated area of Sacramento County. The Parkway is defined as the area from Hazel Avenue downstream to its confluence with the Sacramento River, and encompasses 5,000± acres on both sides of the river. It includes a complex modified landscape shaped by hydraulic and dredge gold mining in the 1800s, and by dam and levee construction in the 1900s.

Having a drainage area of 120± square miles, the lower American River (LAR) is characterized by managed river flow, associated riparian vegetation, side channels and ponds. The floodplain of the LAR is bordered by high bluffs in its upper reaches, and by levees in its lower reaches. The river provides habitat for anadromous fisheries, migratory birds, and other wildlife. Sensitive species found in the area include Swainson's hawk, peregrine falcon, northern harrier, white-tailed kite, and western pond turtles. Additional benefits of the area include flood control. The Parkway is considered a regional jewel and provides numerous recreating opportunities including cycling, hiking, fishing, swimming, rafting, horse riding, picnicking, and bird watching, and offers commercial, scientific and education uses and benefits.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Lower American River Conservancy Program (Program) was created in 2016 with passage of Assembly Bill (AB) 1716 to provide a state partner to work cooperatively with local agencies, particularly the County of Sacramento in its role as the Parkway Manager, and nonprofit organizations to help fund projects and provide grants to restore, enhance, interpret, protect and improve public access to the American River Parkway's natural, recreational, educational, and cultural resources. AB 1716 calls for the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB), in administering the Program, to prioritize expending funds to develop and implement a natural resources management plan as well as to improve access, protection, and restoration on the Parkway.

The purpose of this project is to develop a natural resources management plan for the LAR. The current guiding document for the LAR is the American River Parkway Plan (Parkway Plan) (County of Sacramento, 2008). This plan is a general policy document that identifies land use designations and area plans, and broadly describes the resources within the Parkway. WCB previously funded implementation of the 1997 American River Parkway Invasive Plant Management Plan, Phases I and II. The work of these previous projects will influence sections of the natural resources management plan that focus on existing conditions, desired future conditions, and management of invasive plants within the LAR.

The Lower American River Natural Resources Management Plan (NRMP) is a Sacramento County-initiated process which addresses the Regional Parks' jurisdictional resource management responsibilities on the Parkway and will be aligned with the goals and policies of the Parkway Plan. The purpose of the NRMP is to develop resource information and Parkway resource management objectives to be used by Regional Parks in its management of the Parkway. The NRMP's management factors will consider each of the following categories: fire prevention, habitats, trails and recreation, and public safety.

The NRMP actions, recommendations, and guidelines will be based on an assessment of desired conditions, which will set the framework for balancing resource management with recreation, optimizing resource conditions and values, and defining resource management objectives for individual management units.

Site-specific resource condition standards will be developed for each Land Use Designation in each sub-unit of the Parkway, based on:

- Sub-unit specific resources and activities,
- Results of Parkway-wide desired future conditions analysis,
- Wild and Scenic River protection guidelines, and
- Species of greatest conservation need.

An additional standard for establishing minimum resource conditions will be the non-degradation obligation under the Interagency Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordinating Council guidelines for the management of 2(a)(ii) state managed federally designated Wild and Scenic Rivers. This will require:

- Determining resource conditions as of the date (1981) of LAR inclusion into the federal system,
- Determining resource condition changes, since 1981, due to natural processes outside of management control,
- Estimating future change of resource conditions due to natural processes outside of management control,
- Developing desired resource condition management objectives,
- Establishing minimum standards that reflect either:
 - 1981 conditions, or
 - Expected conditions due to changes resulting from ongoing natural processes outside of management control.
- Recommending management actions to improve degraded areas, and
- Developing strategies to maintain or enhance resource conditions.

Because the NRMP will propose actions that Sacramento County and/or regulatory agencies will need to approve for implementation, a joint Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared. Subsequent activities in the Program will be examined in the light of the Programmatic EIR/EIS to determine whether an individual environmental document must be prepared.

WCB PROGRAM

WCB authorizes grants under the Program. AB1716 prioritizes the development and implementation of a natural resources management plan, and prioritizes improving public access, protection, and restoration of the Parkway.

The proposed project will be funded through the Program and meets the Program's goals of expending funds for the benefit of the LAR, prioritizing the development and implementation of a natural resources management plan, and to improve access to, and protection and restoration of, the Parkway.

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

The project furthers the following goals outlined in the WCB Strategic Plan:

Goal A.2 – Fund projects and landscape areas that conserve, protect, or enhance water resources for fish and wildlife.

- Develops goals, objectives and specific projects that will conserve, protect, or enhance resources for fish and wildlife.

Goal B.1 – Invest in projects and landscape areas that help provide resilience in the face of climate change, enhance water resources for fish and wildlife, and enhance habitat on working lands.

- Leads to an adopted plan and strategies that conserve water resources and aquatic, wetland, and riparian habitats; develops resource management objectives that provide resilience to climate change.
- Enhances water resources and riparian corridors for fish and wildlife by establishing resource goals and objectives, and by identifying appropriate individual projects for implementation
- Uses the best available science by compiling existing data and conducting field reconnaissance on existing datasets.

Goal C.1 – Support a wide range of recreation activities in conjunction with other land uses and without degrading environmental resources.

- Evaluate current uses within the Parkway and potential impacts to natural resources while still supporting a diversity of appropriate outdoor recreation activities in the Parkway.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

Regional Parks will continue its historical role as the Parkway manager. The NRMP will address Regional Parks' jurisdictional resource management responsibilities of the Parkway, be aligned with the goals and policies of the Parkway Plan, and guide management practices within the LAR. A programmatic EIR/EIS will also be developed for the NRMP, which is expected to simplify environmental review for individual implementation projects within the Parkway. Future projects developed will be consistent with the NRMP. Regional Parks will work with partners to implement resource management projects and public access projects within the Parkway, and will verify consistency of proposed projects with the Parkway Plan.

Long-term management of the LAR Parkway will follow an adaptive management process to fulfill the goals and objectives of the Parkway's resources.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Task #	Task	WCB	Regional Parks	Total Cost
1	Project Management	\$10,473	\$96,955	\$107,428
2	Data Collection, Data Management and GIS	\$26,439	\$17,473	\$43,912
3	Public Outreach	\$4,954	\$14,862	\$19,816
4	NRMP	\$179,938	\$175,876	\$355,814
5	PEIR/EIS	\$278,196	\$28,274	\$306,470
TOTAL		\$500,000	\$333,440	\$833,440

Project costs will be for project management, data management and the development of a Geographic Information System, public outreach, NRMP preparation, and a programmatic EIR/EIS.

FUNDING SOURCE

The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, which allows expenditures to be made available to the Program pursuant to the Lower American River Conservancy Program Act (Public Resources Code Section 5845 et seq.). [General Fund, Budget Act, Chapter 14, Statutes of 2017].

CEQA AND CDFW REVIEW/RECOMMENDATION

The CDFW has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for funding by the WCB. WCB staff will present this project to the Lower American River Conservancy Advisory Committee at its November meeting to request a vote of support for this expenditure.

The project has been reviewed for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements and is statutorily exempt from CEQA pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, Section 15262, as it involves only feasibility and planning studies for possible future actions. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed, allocate \$500,000.00 from the General Fund for the grant, authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project, and authorize staff and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to proceed substantially as planned.

Ms. Allen noted a letter of support from Assembly member Ken Cooley of the 8th District. She also noted that Liz Bellas, Deputy Director, Sacramento County Regional Parks was in the audience.

Chair Bonham asked for any questions or comments.

Board member Alina Bokde asked with regard to public outreach, if the County has any standards for language access in terms of providing flyers in Spanish and English for example, or providing interpretation and if any of our costs, the funding that WCB is providing, would support any of these kinds of activities?

Liz Bellas responded that they were working with their consultant to establish a public outreach process and will make sure to put the information out in multiple languages.

Chair Bonham asked if there were any other questions. There were none.

It was moved by Board Member Alina Bokde that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$500,000.00 from the General Fund for the grant, authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project, and authorize staff and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to proceed substantially as planned.

Passed Unanimously.

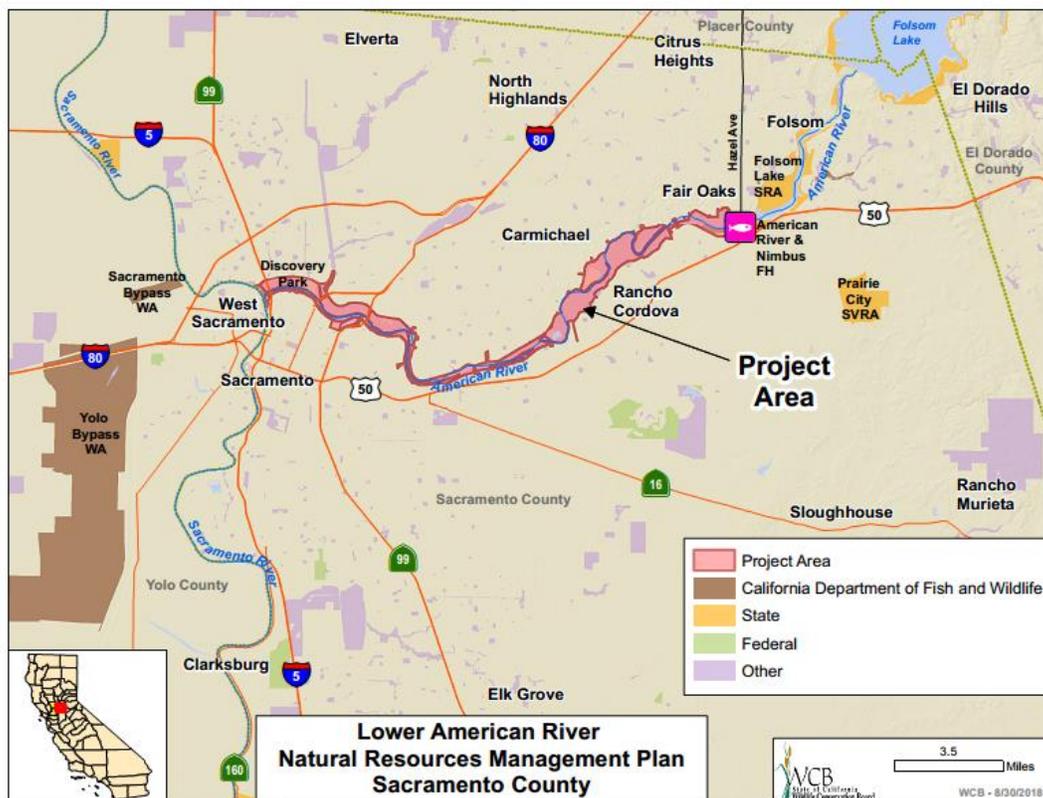
Bokde – Yes

Bonham – Yes

Colborn – Yes

Pavley – Yes

Sklar – Yes



**14. Contra Loma Regional Park Fishing Access
Contra Costa County
\$250,000.00**

Executive Director Donnelly noted there were letters of support recommending approval of the project from Congressman Jerry McNerney, Senator Steven Glazer, Assembly member Jim Frazier, and Diane Burgis, Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors. He then introduced Ms. Sadie Smith who presented the project.

This proposal is to consider the allocation for a grant to the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) for a cooperative project with the Bureau of Reclamation to replace the fishing dock, upgrade restrooms, and provide ADA access at the Channel Point area of Contra Loma Regional Park, located in the City of Antioch in Contra Costa County.

LOCATION

The Contra Loma Reservoir is located in Contra Loma Regional Park, a 780-acre multi use facility in Antioch that supports year-round fishing, boating, hiking, biking, and nature study. The Bureau of Reclamation owns the property, but EBRPD manages and operates the project site under a long-term lease. Over 13,000 anglers use the park annually to fish for catfish, black and striped bass, bluegill, trout, and red-eared sunfish. The Channel Point dock is one of three docks at the Contra Loma Reservoir.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The existing 800-square foot wooden dock at Channel Point needs to be replaced. The chemical toilets near the dock are old, unpleasant, and difficult to clean and maintain. Three of the four toilets are deteriorated wood structures. The fourth fiberglass restroom is intended to serve as the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible unit but is not in compliance with current ADA standards. The objectives of this project are to replace the dilapidated wooden fishing dock, upgrade the restrooms, and provide ADA access at the Channel Point area of Contra Loma Regional Park.

Contra Loma Park is a regional facility that serves the open space needs of the surrounding communities of Antioch, Pittsburg, and Bay Point, all of which have areas that are identified as disadvantaged and severely disadvantaged communities. Two free fishing derbies, a low-cost weeklong day camp (with financial assistance) that includes fishing, and low-cost bus transportation are just a few of the benefits to the community. EBRPD's Park'n It Day Camp offers a Leaders in Training program at Contra Loma Regional Park for middle school age children where they receive outdoor skills training to allow them to assist younger campers with fishing and other activities. In addition to fishing, the 3-mile loop trail that rings the lake offers the community of Antioch a place for healthy recreation, and is well loved by walkers, joggers and bikers. In addition to the loop trail, trails connect to many miles of multi-use hiking trails within Contra Loma and the adjacent 6,000+ acre Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve. Contra Loma Reservoir offers a tranquil location for bird watching, fishing, boating and enjoying nature close-to-home. In the spring, wildflowers abound.

WCB PROGRAM

The proposed project will be funded through the Public Access Program and meets the program's goal of providing public access for hunting, fishing, or other wildlife-oriented recreation statewide.

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

The project furthers the following goals outlined in the WCB Strategic Plan:

Goal C.1 – Support a wide range of recreational activities (e.g., hunting, fishing, birding, hiking, camping, photography, etc.) in conjunction with other land uses and without degrading environmental resources.

Contra Loma Reservoir offers a tranquil location for bird watching, fishing, boating and enjoying nature close-to-home, and every year is enjoyed by thousands of people of all ages and from all walks of life.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The EBRPD provides monitoring, operations, and maintenance to a system of parklands and trails in Alameda and Contra Costa counties east of San Francisco. The system comprises 120,000 acres in 72 parks, including over 1,250 miles of trails. EBRPD acquires, manages, and preserves natural and cultural resources for all to enjoy now and into the future. Long-term management of Contra Loma by the Bureau of Reclamation and the EBRPD is detailed in the Contra Loma Reservoir and Recreation Area 25-year Resource Management Plan. The fishing dock is encompassed in the boat launch facility and will follow the boat launch facility maintenance schedule.

TERMS

If at any time during the 25-year life of the project, the EBRPD does not manage and maintain the project improvements, the Grant Agreement requires that it refund to the State of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the project life.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Project Task	Total Cost	WCB Request Cost	Non-WCB Funds
Mobilization/Demobilization/ Traffic Control	\$ 70,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 50,000
Construction	\$ 450,000	\$ 225,000	\$ 225,000
Project Management	\$ 130,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 125,000
TOTAL	\$ 650,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 400,000

Project costs will be for mobilization/demobilization, reconstruction of the fishing dock, ADA parking and path-of-travel upgrades, upgrades to the existing restroom facilities, and project management. Funding partners include the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and EBRPD.

FUNDING SOURCE

The proposed funding source for this project is the Wildlife Restoration Fund, which allows for the development of public access facilities for hunting, fishing and other wildlife compatible recreational activities and is consistent with the objectives of this project.

CEQA AND CDFW REVIEW/ RECOMMENDATION

The CDFW has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for funding by the WCB. The project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3) Section 15301 as the

maintenance or minor alteration of existing public structures and facilities, and Section 15303, construction of new small structures. Subject to Board approval of the project, staff will file the appropriate Notice of Exemption with the State Clearinghouse.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

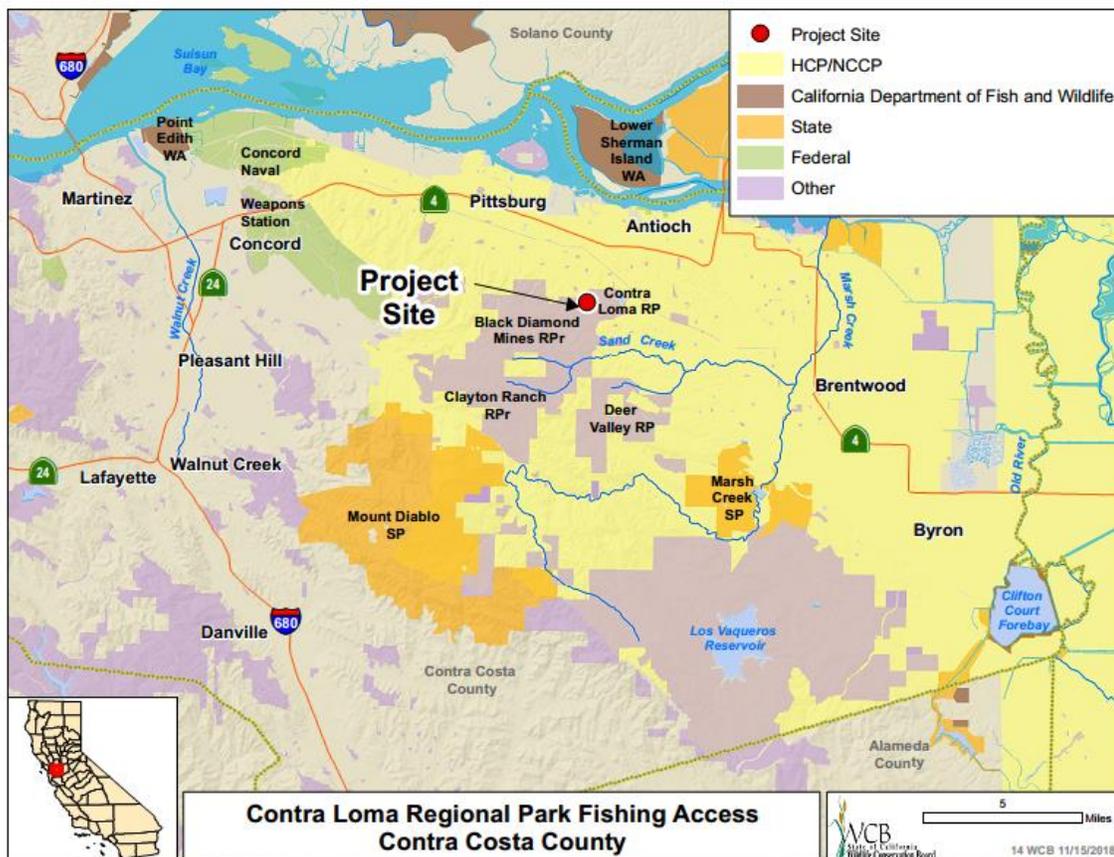
Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed, allocate \$250,000 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund, authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project, and authorize staff and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to proceed substantially as planned.

Chair Bonham asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none.

It was moved by Board Member Eric Sklar that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$250,000.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund, authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project, and authorize staff and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to proceed substantially as planned.

Passed Unanimously.

- Bokde – Yes**
- Bonham – Yes**
- Colborn – Yes**
- Pavley – Yes**
- Sklar – Yes**



15. Shasta Big Springs Acquisition Update Information/Action

Staff will provide update regarding project status.

Executive Director Donnelly noted that this was required when the Shasta Big Springs Ranch Acquisition proposal was considered and approved by the Board back in May. The Board asked that staff bring a short presentation back and give a status update. There were a couple conditions of that project that the Board placed on completion of the project:

- 1. The Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) engage Siskiyou County (County) in the management planning process that they were going through for management plan of the site,*
- 2. Consider the security of the buildings and improvements there, to place a fence, and*
- 3. CDFW issue a letter to the Executive Director of the Wildlife Conservation Board stating that those items that the Board placed on the project are being completed.*

In addition to working with the County, CDFW meets monthly with the County to consider the management plan of the site. The management plan basically covers a couple items of importance to the County; 1) the grazing of the property, and 2) the water infrastructure and water use of the property. CDFW continues to work with the County. They met as recently as last week. In addition, CDFW also committed that they would work to secure additional staff to support the activities at Shasta Big Springs and would complete and issue a request for proposal concerning the grazing as soon as possible after the completion of the acquisition and close of escrow. CDFW will strive to complete and close of escrow and complete the fencing no later than February 2019. As of this morning, I received a letter from the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors, signed by the Chair of the Board of Supervisors, basically reiterating and restating all of their concerns they brought forward at the May meeting when this project was proposed. To sum up those issues again, first the unpaid in-lieu taxes on the property. If you will recall, the Nature Conservancy has committed and will provide a one-time, lump-sum payment to the County at the close of escrow of \$350,000.00 to mitigate the in-lieu fee issue. The second was the water and particularly as it relates to the removal of culverts at Little Springs on the property and CDFW's desire to remove those culverts and the County's opposition to removal will be worked out through the management plan process that currently the County as well as CDFW is working through. The last issue is the County's concerns whether or not CDFW can manage the site. As I've stated, CDFW has committed and acted upon working with the County to complete the management plan for that site. Those are the issues I wanted to address with you all this morning and give you an update. Staff at the WCB has completed all due diligence necessary to complete this project; we have received and obtained the Department of General Services final approval on this transaction; we have requested funds and funds have been placed in escrow to complete the transaction. We plan to move forward on the project and close escrow once the fencing is complete and we estimate the fencing will be complete probably by December 15 of this year. Mr. Donnelly asked if there were any questions.

Board member Pavley asked if staff could speak to what the scope of the management plan would be, what issues are being addressed through that plan.

Mr. Donnelly stated he could do that, unfortunately regional staff that was scheduled to be here for that purpose, came down with laryngitis and couldn't be here. Mr. Donnelly did talk to the Regional Manager, Curt Babcock, this morning and they are discussing that right now what will be addressed in the management plan. They have asked the County

for a list of items that will be discussed and worked through. They also provided the County with a list of items that they would like their opinion on. They are working through that process right now.

Chair Bonham provided a prediction: I think you would see in that plan what restoration might be done on that property; second whether that would include removal of existing infrastructures, like some culverts or not, if so, how; third access, the property now produces a benefit for the County, CDFW, UC Davis doing ongoing monitoring and science, and my view is that should continue. I also think there's is a potential that the plan could include access for schools, it's pretty proximate to Yreka so maybe it's an education opportunity. I think there is probably a part of the plan which would describe projected water management relative to the coho and land use. The last piece is to confirm and put in the plan that grazing is compatible and then figure out how to go to execute the leases and get grazing on the property consistent with all those other components. On the last piece, I have confirmed with at least one of the supervisors that CDFW is headed in that direction. We want to get a lease done and grazing back on the property.

Mr. Donnelly stated there was no official action requested today, it was informational, and WCB will move forward and close escrow as soon as reasonably as possible.

16. Strategic Plan Update

Informational item regarding the update of WCB's Strategic Plan, as required by Proposition 68.

In September, WCB convened a meeting with a sub-committee of three WCB Board members: Alina Bokde, Mary Creasman, and Diane Colborn. As a result of that meeting, WCB staff will research the possibility of hiring a retired annuitant (RA) and a consultant to help with outreach and the development of the updated plan. It was clear that we need to reach out to other organizations that do not typically interact with WCB staff, and to use different methods (e.g., social media or short videos) to increase engagement. We need to make a better case as to how WCB's work is relevant to a wider audience.

As of this writing, a scope of work has been developed for the RA, and staff is close to getting a person on board. The RA will assist with developing the scope of work for a consultant to help with outreach and public input. Staff will try to meet the original timeline, which called for Board approval of the update in May 2019. That, however, may be optimistic given the extra effort it will take to expand outreach to a wider audience.

Executive Director Donnelly briefly updated the Board on this item and then asked if there were any questions.

Chair Bonham stated he had a question for the sub-committee members. First, he wanted to thank them, noting they are the right three individuals to figure out the future for the Board. He went on to ask if there was anything the Board could do to help them, any first impressions they think the Board should hear about or think about?

Board member Diane Colborn said she felt they'd have a better sense of that once they have their next meeting and get the RA and consultant on board. She felt it was a good observation at the sub-committee meeting that we aren't having to start from scratch and create a whole brand new Strategic Plan, we are going to build upon the one we already have. We all agree that the public outreach part of it is really important.

Board member Alina Bokde stated she completely agreed. The first meeting was a real preliminary discussion and a lot was based on just being able to staff up to support the process. She is looking forward to the next meeting and thinks they will be better able to answer the question then. She then asked when Mr. Donnelly felt the next meeting would occur. Even if it was just a couple of hold dates in December, she would like to see that. Mr. Donnelly said he would do that.

17. Proposition 68 Guidelines

Board will be asked to approve these guidelines.

Executive Director Donnelly introduced John Walsh to speak on this item. Mr. Donnelly noted WCB expects to use these guidelines for all their Prop 68 programs and support moving forward recognizing that staff will be putting forward different solicitations at different times which will more focus the support and information they are going to be looking for in the particular funding associated with Prop 68. This is a general overall proposal for your consideration.

Staff requests the approval of the WCB [Proposition 68 Guidelines \(PDF\)](#). In developing these Guidelines, WCB staff coordinated with CDFW staff to solicit input at three separate workshops. The workshops, held in Redding, Sacramento and Los Alamitos, were attended by 200 individuals. In addition, we received comments on-line from 14 separate organizations. The Guidelines have been modified and improved as a result of this input.

Chair Bonham asked if there were any questions.

Board member Alina Bokde asked if the 200 participants were online or in-person. Mr. Walsh responded it included both online and in-person.

Ms. Bokde asked if he knew the rough numbers on turn out for Los Alamitos meeting. Mr. Walsh stated roughly 15 people. Ms. Bokde stated she wanted to raise the issue of public access or the 5 percent. In reading the proposed Guidelines, the language was very general and it seemed like the strategy was to partner with CBOs or non-profits to do the public access component. She asked if there had been any discussions about trying to establish some basic threshold criteria for what the public access could look like in terms of thinking about access issues for outreach depending on demographics of the community going beyond just a community meeting. She asked if there is any consideration to developing a little bit more detail or guidelines on some of the public access. She thought this would be a good funding support for project applicants to be able to utilize these funds to help with some of their public outreach activities. She asked if there had been any feedback of this sort during the process and what were some thoughts about developing some criteria. Mr. Walsh stated they didn't receive much feedback regarding that but he felt WCB would go into more depth on community access in the solicitations.

Mr. Donnelly added that WCB is working with other natural resource agencies, CDFW, and conservancies on the community access piece of Prop 68. WCB has received guidance from The Natural Resource Agency that WCB can allow and include in all of the allocations and proposals received up to 5 percent of the project for community access.. WCB would allow it as a part of each project and that's the way WCB anticipates rolling it out going forward. WCB is also working with CDFW and conservancies on where we combine forces. Mr. Donnelly said WCB will encourage the community access piece to be part of and be brought forward in each solicitation that is put out. To reach those organizations and folks that traditionally have not been reached or have not participated in the work WCB does, WCB has begun the conversations requested with State Parks and they have agreed to help WCB get the word out and start vocalizing that WCB is working in those areas that traditionally they have not had the opportunity to work or be engaged with. Mr. Donnelly also noted that WCB participated in the funding workshop down in Los Angeles in October and they are trying to find those areas where they can highlight WCB's work and also provide information on the opportunities that are available to those groups

they would not normally reach, particularly focusing on the public access/community access piece of it.

Ms. Bokde said that was good to hear given that 20 percent of the funds for one of the chapters is required to go to the disadvantaged communities. There are a lot of great models already out there by agencies so you don't have to reinvent the wheel. Thinking through some parameters and basic criteria that will ensure that whatever projects this Board supports for that 20 percent will in fact serve the underserved and disadvantaged communities. The Board will only achieve that or get there if we develop some more basic criteria than an overall philosophy. Mr. Donnelly noted another avenue for WCB to be able to do that too would be in the development of the Strategic Plan. It shouldn't go away if Prop 68 funds go away. This is the kind of stuff WCB should continue to do and it should be highlighted and represented and be a priority in our strategic planning process as well.

Chair Bonham took that a step further and stated, 'if our Strategic Plan included our perspective on this component, I would guess future proponents of bonds will look to source documents like that and you might actually shape what emerges in the next bond by doing so.'

Ms. Catherine Freeman added that her chair, Assembly member Eduardo Garcia, is interested in this and if the legislature can help by writing legislation, clarifying law, whether there are hurdles or hiccups to having access or any of those things, we'd like to follow up with you.

Board member Diane Colborn commented that it was stated the solicitation would go out in early 2019. She noted that the earlier it could be released the better and asked whether there are plans to have technical workshops to assist people in applying/responding to these solicitations? That would be another way to get more access to folks that could use a little more help in preparing their proposals. Mr. Walsh stated WCB planned on having workshops.

Board member Fran Pavley had two questions for point of clarification. Was there direct appropriations to conservancies out of Prop 68? Mr. Donnelly replied, yes, and they came through the Chapter 7 portion of Prop 68 and WCB also received \$10 million in the Chapter 7 piece for the Lower American River Conservancy Program. Ms. Pavley then asked what the timeline was for that money going out related to direct appropriation in the conservancies and the overall timeline on the solicitation. Mr. Donnelly said he thought we were all in the same timeframe and some of the conservancies' guidelines are out now and some are being considered right now. We are all under similar timeframes in rolling those funds out. WCB received \$2 million of Chapter 7 money of the total of \$10 million. Prop 68 is also subject to the budget process so we will be working with the Department of Finance and Resources Agency on next year's allocations to the budget and he didn't know what that would be yet. Ms. Pavley then asked, "Was there some conservancy money in the current budget year?" Mr. Donnelly stated yes. Ms. Pavley then asked about the timeline in general, will the solicitation be up on the website towards the end of December, or are we waiting to the first of the year, so monies that could potentially be expended during this fiscal year wouldn't be until May? Mr. Donnelly agreed, probably May. He stated the other hill that we're climbing to in all of this, Prop 68 guidelines and projects, is that other departments also receive Prop 68, so we're all sharing resources to get this money out the door so we need people to help us review applications. CDFW and Coastal Conservancies also need help, and everybody is using the same resources so it creates a challenge on getting the money out the door. WCB is trying to figure that out.

Chair Bonham asked Mr. Donnelly what date he predicts WCB will put the guidelines out, and what date he expects submissions would be due, and what date Board approvals would be made. Mr. Donnelly stated guidelines would be out the first week of January, submissions would be due around April 1, and approvals potentially in May depending on the type of project, but more realistically in August.

Chair Bonham asked if there were any further comments or questions. There were none.

It was moved by Board Member Eric Sklar that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve the Prop 68 Guidelines.

Passed Unanimously.

Bokde – Yes

Bonham – Yes

Colborn – Yes

Pavley – Yes

Sklar – Yes

18. 2019 Board Meeting Dates

The Wildlife Conservation Board approved the following meetings dates for 2019:

March 7, 2019

May 22, 2019

August 28, 2019

November 21, 2019

Stream Flow Enhancement Board Meeting

April 4, 2019

Executive Director Donnelly introduced new staff to the Wildlife Conservation Board:

Kurt Malchow – Restoration Program with a focus on climate change science

Adam Ballard – Stream Flow Program Manager

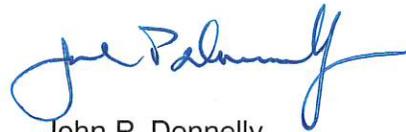
James Croft – Inland Wetlands Conservation Program Manager

Rebecca Fris – Assistant Executive Director

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15am

Respectfully Submitted



John P. Donnelly
Executive Director

PROGRAM STATEMENT

At the close of the meeting on **November 15, 2018**, the amount allocated to projects since the Wildlife Conservation Board's inception in 1947 totaled **\$2,807,110,989.41**. This total includes funds reimbursed by the Federal Government under the Accelerated Public Works Program completed in 1966, the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program, the Anadromous Fish Act Program, the Sport Fish Restoration Act Program, the Pittman-Robertson Program, and the Estuarine Sanctuary Program.

The statement includes projects completed under the 1964 State Beach, Park, Recreational and Historical Facilities Bond Act, the 1970 Recreation and Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Bond Fund, the Bagley Conservation Fund, the State Beach, Park, Recreational and Historical Facilities Bond Act of 1974, the General Fund, the Energy Resources Fund, the Environmental License Plate Fund, the State, Urban and Coastal Park Bond Act of 1976, the 1984 Parklands Fund, the 1984 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Bond Act, the California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Conservation Act of 1988, Cigarette and Tobacco Products Surtax Fund of 1988, California Wildlife Protection Act of 1990, the Safe, Clean, Reliable Water Supply Act of 1996, the Natural Resources Infrastructure Fund, the Harbors and Watercraft Revolving Fund, Forest Resources Improvement Fund, the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond, Safe Drinking Water, Clean Water, Watershed Protection, and Flood Protection Fund, California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Fund, Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002, Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006, Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Fund of 2014, and the Wildlife Restoration Fund. In addition to projects completed with the above funding sources, this statement includes tax credits awarded under the Natural Heritage Preservation Tax Credit Act. The tax credits are not reflected in the total amount allocated to projects.

A. Fish Hatchery and Stocking Projects	\$18,414,394.06
B. Fish Habitat Preservation, Development & Improvement	\$51,395,825.92
Reservoir Construction or Improvement	7,456,397.00
Stream Clearance and Improvement.....	31,095,354.78
Stream Flow Maintenance Dams.....	542,719.86
Marine Habitat	5,865,581.57
Fish Screens, Ladders and Weir Projects	6,435,772.71
C. Fishing Access Projects.....	\$73,297,148.32
Coastal and Bay	9,469,773.14
River and Aqueduct Access	27,726,644.90
Lake and Reservoir Access.....	15,097,877.24
Piers	21,002,853.04
D. Game Farm Projects.....	\$146,894.49
E. Wildlife Habitat Acquisition, Development and Improvement.....	\$2,560,625,226.61
Wildlife Areas (General)	500,155,721.49
Miscellaneous Wildlife Habitat Development	55,765,903.81
Wildlife Areas/Ecological Reserves, (Threatened, Endangered or Unique Habitat)	814,667,631.31
Land Conservation Area	15,130,464.18

Inland Wetlands Conser. Grants & Easements	47,592,016.31	
Riparian Habitat Conser. Grants & Easements ..	105,045,153.99	
Other Wildlife Habitat Grants	1,022,268,335.52	
F. Hunting Access Projects		\$1,365,195.57
G. Miscellaneous Projects (including leases)		\$54,207,977.98
H. Special Project Allocations.....		\$1,926,104.85
I. Miscellaneous Public Access Projects		\$42,330,886.59
State Owned	2,242,004.81	
Grants	40,088,881.78	
J. Sales and/or exchanges		\$3,401,335.02
K. Natural Heritage Preservation Tax Credit Act (tax credits awarded). (\$57,261,234.00)		
Statutory plans	(0.00)	
Corridors, wetlands, wildlife habitat, streams and riparian habitat	(6,289,658.00)	
Agricultural lands	(13,775,640.07)	
Water and water rights.....	(0.00)	
State and local parks, open space and archaeological resources	(37,195,935.93)	
Total Allocated to Projects		\$2,807,110,989.41