



University Heights
Photo courtesy of Richard

State of California
California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Natural Resources Agency

Wildlife Conservation Board

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

BOARD MEMBERS

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Director, Department of Finance

Eric Sklar, Member

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Assemblymember Richard Bloom - Alternate

ABOUT WCB

Originally created within the California Department of Natural Resources in 1947 and later placed with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) is a separate and independent Board with authority and funding to carry out programs for wildlife conservation (Fish and Game Code 1300, et seq.).

WCB MISSION

The Wildlife Conservation Board protects, restores and enhances California's spectacular natural resources for wildlife and for the public's use and enjoyment in partnership with conservation groups, government agencies and the people of California.

WCB VISION

WCB envisions a future in which California's wildlife, biodiversity and wild places are effectively conserved for the benefit of present and future generations. WCB projects and programs maximize return on taxpayer investment in conservation and wildlife-oriented recreation, and empower and inspire current and future generations to protect California's precious habitat and wildlife resources.



WCB IN 2016

The WCB works with willing landowners and provides notice to local communities on all proposed projects. The WCB contributed to more than 100 projects in the 2016 calendar year, allocating approximately \$93 million in funding as follows:

- * **\$25.3 MILLION** was allocated for CDFW and other conservation partners to purchase more than 8,000 acres of wildlife habitat.
- * **\$10.6 MILLION** was allocated for our conservation partners to protect more than 33,000 acres of wildlife habitat via acquisition of conservation easements.
- * **\$37.8 MILLION** was allocated for habitat restoration and enhancement of more than 17,000 acres.
- * **\$19.5 MILLION** was allocated for public access, stream flow enhancement studies and planning, infrastructure improvements to educational and research facilities on University of California Natural Reserve System properties, and to assist in the development of Natural Community Conservation Plans (NCCP).

A YEAR IN REVIEW

Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. signed new legislation affecting the Wildlife Conservation Board into law in 2016.

Senate Bill 1089 expands the composition of the WCB to include four public members, one to be appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly, one by the Senate Rules Committee, and two by the Governor. These public members will be voting members and will serve four-year terms. This bill requires the public members appointed to the WCB to have demonstrated interest and expertise in land acquisition for conservation purposes.

Assembly Bill 1716 creates a Lower American River Conservancy Program to be implemented and administered by the WCB in consultation with an advisory committee. This legislation authorizes WCB to receive and expend monies for the benefit of the Lower American River and related lands by providing grants to local public agencies and nonprofit organizations. Establishment of this program provides WCB the opportunity to work cooperatively with local agencies, particularly the County of Sacramento in its role as American River Parkway Manager, to provide grants to improve public access and to restore, enhance, interpret, and protect the American River Parkway's natural, recreational, educational, and cultural resources.

California Stream Flow Enhancement Program Update

In November 2014, California voters approved Proposition 1, known as the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014. Proposition 1 addresses a variety of challenges facing California's water resources, and authorizes the Legislature to appropriate \$200 million to the WCB for projects that enhance stream flows. The WCB was authorized \$38.4 million for expenditure in its first year of implementation (Fiscal Year 2015/2016) under the California Stream Flow Enhancement Program (CSFEP), through a competitive grant process. A technical committee ranked all proposals and a selection panel recommended a list of projects in January 2016. Recommendations were based on numerous factors including: scoring, feasibility, durability, and how well projects supported the specific goals of the CSFEP solicitation package. Projects recommended for funding by the selection panel were presented to the WCB on February 18, 2016. A total of \$20,156,278 was allocated for 24 projects. In the second year of the program, \$18,243,722 will be carried over from the first year and combined with \$38,400,000 in Fiscal Year 2016/2017 funding, making a total of \$56,643,722 available to the WCB for project allocation.

Strategic Plan Implementation

The WCB Strategic Plan (Plan) provides a high-level blueprint for WCB decision making and establishes the primary framework for implementing the WCB vision over five years (Fiscal Years 2014-2019). Implementing Action 1 of the Plan calls for WCB staff to seek input from its conservation partners on priority conservation issues. In the spring and summer of 2016, WCB staff surveyed 93 individuals from 80 partner organizations that have lengthy experience with WCB's funding programs. Key issues and findings from these surveys were discussed at the WCB's first-ever Conservation Summit, held on September 26, 2016. Summit participants helped WCB staff identify viable ways to streamline the Land Acquisition Evaluation/Conceptual Area Protection Plan process and transform the WCB Public Access Program into a competitive grant program. Staff then provided the WCB solid recommendations, developed with stakeholder consensus. At the November 2016 WCB Meeting, the board approved the recommendations and established a work plan and timeline for completing Implementing Actions in 2017.

The WCB looks forward to accomplishing the implementing actions of our Strategic Plan in 2017 to ensure the continued success and effectiveness of WCB stewardship of California's conservation dollars.

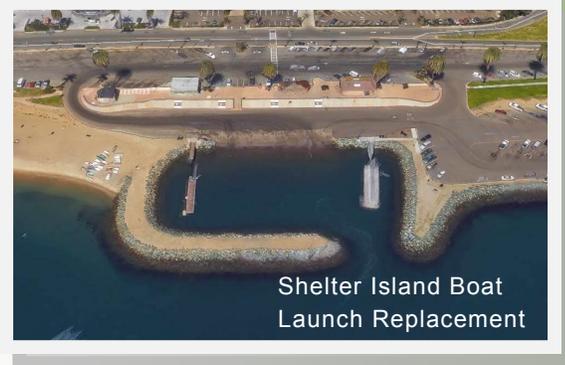
2016 PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Anderson Ranch A \$1.2 million grant to the Feather River Land Trust for a cooperative project with the California Natural Resources Agency to acquire a conservation easement over approximately 5,530 acres of land to provide protection for deer, mountain lions and oak woodlands near the town of Doyle in Lassen County .



Rim Fire Forest Restoration A \$3.5 million grant to Tuolumne River Preservation Trust for a cooperative project with the U.S. Forest Service to restore or enhance habitat and to install infrastructure to benefit wildlife on areas decimated by the Rim Fire, within the Stanislaus National Forest, east of Sonora in Tuolumne County.

Shelter Island Boat Launch Replacement A \$3.3 million grant to the San Diego Unified Port District (District) toward a \$9.3 million cooperative project with the California Department of Parks and Recreation, Division of Boating and Waterways, to replace the Shelter Island Boat Ramp, located on land held in public trust and maintained by the District within the City of San Diego.



Chesebro Meadow A \$3.4 million grant to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for a \$7 million cooperative project with the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and the County of Los Angeles, to purchase approximately 71 acres of land. This will protect chaparral, coastal sage scrub, native grasslands and oak woodland-savannah habitat, enhance wildlife linkages, protect watersheds and provide future wildlife-oriented public use opportunities near the City of Agoura in Ventura County.

Southern California Coastal Wetland and Riparian Restoration, Phase II A \$450,000 grant to the State Coastal Conservancy to help implement the Southern California Wetland Recovery Project's Community Wetland Restoration Grant Program, which provides funding for community-based restoration projects in coastal wetlands.



FINANCIAL DATA

The WCB's funding in recent years has derived primarily from several large bond initiatives. With authorized funds from these bond initiatives diminishing, participation from our project partners is crucial. This year WCB focused on maximizing the expenditure of remaining bond funds as well as implementing our strategic plan by seeking projects with matching funding, reduced overhead, and long-term partner commitment.

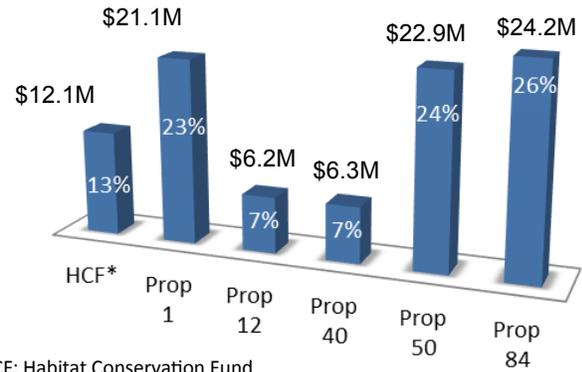
PROJECT PARTNERS & MATCHING FUNDING

The WCB works closely with CDFW which provides invaluable input and assistance on virtually all WCB projects. In addition to helping identify potential projects and willing landowners, CDFW provides assessments and opinions based on the biological merits of each project and helps the WCB set priorities on a regional and statewide basis.

The WCB also maintains essential partnerships with many other organizations, including federal and local resource agencies, conservancies, joint ventures and non-profit conservation organizations. These partners provide additional resources and expertise, sustain local community support, and assist with project operations and maintenance costs. These creative partnerships have greatly expanded the WCB's capacity by helping leverage state funds with other sources of matching funds.

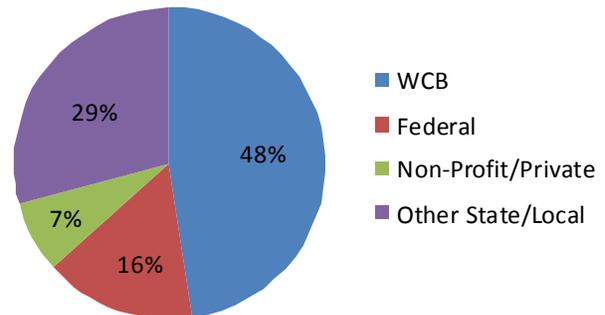
In 2016, approximately **\$93 million** of WCB grant expenditures were matched by nearly **\$102 million** in partner contributions.

WCB Allocations by Fund Source



*HCF: Habitat Conservation Fund

2016 Project Funding Distribution



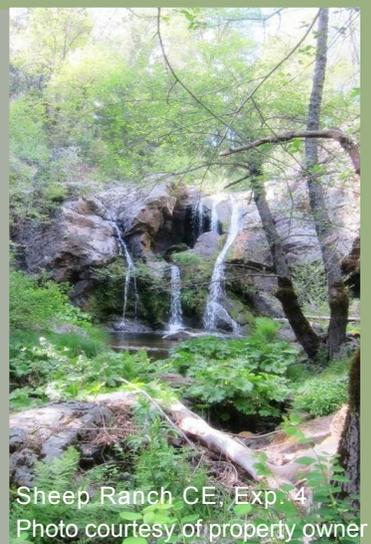
Shumway Ranch



Sacramento River Valley
Safe Harbor Agreements



Salton Sea Species



Sheep Ranch CE, Exp. 4
Photo courtesy of property owner

2016: Total Acreage Protected or Restored and WCB Allocation by County

County	Fee Title		Conservation Easement		Restoration & Enhancement		Other*
	Acres	\$ Allocation	Acres	\$ Allocation	Acres	\$ Allocation	Allocation
Alameda					20	\$85,800	
Alpine							\$2,209,000
Butte							825,897
Calaveras			155	\$270,000			
Colusa	24	\$430,000	4,054	739,500			
Contra Costa	275	474,239					
Del Norte							399,589
Fresno					272	959,934	875,045
Humboldt	155	0			47	2,986,570.	565,048
Imperial					1,240	15,850,000	
Kern			270	214,000	412	2,172,000	
Lake	1,314	575,000					
Lassen			5,530	1,195,000			
Los Angeles	71	3,355,000					
Madera	311	4,454,500					104,549
Mendocino			15,620	3,530,000			375,284
Merced					956	993,000	
Mono	20	435,000					
Monterey	2	70,073			350	3,389,560	3,038,270
Napa	310	0	7,266	3,760,000			584,100
Placer			77	495,000			
Plumas	1,066	1,755,000					
Riverside	1,217	2,379,872					323,100
San Bernardino	272	2,068,600					
San Diego	1,737	2,791,290			65	850,000	5,215,000
San Luis Obispo	154	505,000	1	1,100	46	405,000	180,701
San Mateo							828,357
Santa Barbara					136	3,820,000	
Santa Cruz	10	10,000	133	415,000	10	340,000	211,372
Sierra	169	187,000					
Siskiyou							395,576
Sonoma	871	3,020,000					1,327,981
Stanislaus	285	2,760,000					197,448
Tulare							94,635
Tuolumne					14,000	3,510,000	
Ventura					258	2,046,221	
Yolo							150,000
Various Counties						450,000	1,138,889
<i>Totals</i>	<i>8,263</i>	<i>\$25,270,574</i>	<i>33,106</i>	<i>\$10,619,600</i>	<i>17,812</i>	<i>\$37,858,085</i>	<i>\$19,531,090</i>

* Streamflow Planning, Public Access, Infrastructure, Water Storage, Rights, &NCCP Development

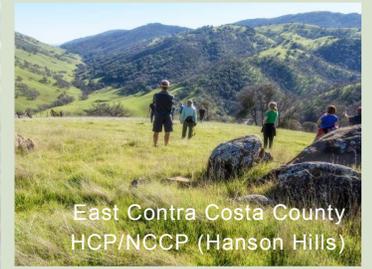
THANK YOU

We would like to thank our project partners and organizations who contributed vision, effort, funds, creativity, passion and commitment to the success of projects funded by the WCB in 2016.

We look forward to future successful partnerships.

Alameda County Resource Conservation District
American Rivers
American Tanks, LLC
Anadromous Fund
Back Country Land Trust
Bella Vista Foundation
Cachuma Resource Conservation District
California Conservation Corps
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
California Department of Parks and Recreation
California Department of Water Resources
California Highway Administration
California Invasive Plant Council
California Land Stewardship Institute
California Natural Resources Agency
California Rangeland Trust
California State Coastal Conservancy
California State Parks
California State University Chico
California Trout, Inc.
California Waterfowl Association
California Wildlife Foundation
Center For Ecosystem Management and Restoration
Central Coast Salmon Enhancement
City of Redlands
City of San Luis Obispo
City of Vallejo
Coachella Valley Conservation Commission
Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy
County of Fresno
County of Los Angeles
County of Placer
Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
Earth Island Institute
East Bay Regional Park District
East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy
Endangered Habitats Conservancy
Escondido Creek Conservancy
Feather River Land Trust
Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission
Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District
Goleta Valley Land Trust
Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation
Grace Us Foundation
Grenada Irrigation District
Humboldt County Resource Conservation District
Imperial Irrigation District
Inland Empire Resource Conservation District
Lake County Land Trust
Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County
Land Trust of Napa County
Land Trust of Santa Cruz County
Loma Mar Mutual Water Company
Mendocino County Resource Conservation District
Monterey County Water Resources Agency
Monterey County Agricultural Commissioners Office
Moore Foundaton
Morro Bay National Estuary Program
Moss Landing Marine Laboratory
Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority
Napa Valley Unified School District
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
North Coast Resource Partnership
Ojai Valley Land Conservancy
Patagonia Foundation
Placer Land Trust
Plumas Corporation
Point Blue Conservation Science
Regents of the University of California, Santa Barbara
Resource Conservation District of Monterey County

Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County
River Center Community
River Partners
Riverside Land Conservancy
Russian River National Fish and Wildlife Coho Partnership
Sacramento River Forum
Salinas River landowners and River Management Unit Associations
San Bernardino Mountains Land Trust
San Diego County Association of Governments
San Diego State University Foundation
San Diego Unified Port District
San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy
San Joaquin River Conservancy
San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust
San Luis Obispo County Agriculture
San Mateo County Parks
San Mateo County Resource Conservation District
Sanctuary Forest, Inc.
Santa Clara River Trustee Council
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
Sierra County
Sierra Watershed Progressive
Siskiyou Resource Conservation District
Smith River Rancheria
Sonny Bono Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge
Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District
Sonoma County Water Agency
Sonoma Ecology Center
Sonoma Land Trust
Sonoma Resource Conservation District
Southwest Wetlands Interpretive Association
Sunshine Fund
Thacher School
The Nature Conservancy
The Regents of the University of California, Santa Cruz
Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve
TKF Foundation
Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation
Transition Habitat Conservancy
Trout Unlimited
Trust for Public Land
Tuleyome
Tuolumne River Trust
U.S. Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Department of the Navy
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Forest Service
U.S. Geological Survey
U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service
University of California Natural Reserve System
Upper Salinas - Las Tablas Resource Conservation District
Urban Corps of San Diego County
Ventura County
Watsonville Wetlands Watch
Weeden Foundation
Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority
Wildlands Conservancy
Yolo Habitat Conservancy



East Contra Costa County
HCP/NCCP (Hanson Hills)



Chollas Creek Riparian
Restoration. Photo courtesy of
Urban Corps of San Diego



Heenan Lake
Water and Storage Rights



Puma Canyon, Exp. 7
Photo courtesy of
Transition Habitat



California Tiger
Salamander

Alameda County Stock
Pond Enhancement, Phase

Eel River Preserve, Phase II