



Meeting Notice WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

August 24, 2017
10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 112
Sacramento, California 95814

Final Agenda

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<u>*6. Recovery of Funds</u>	10

*Proposed Consent Calendar

- *7. [Hope Valley Wildlife Area Encroachment](#) 12
Alpine County
\$0
To consider a lot line adjustment transferring 0.4± acres to an adjacent landowner to resolve two encroachments on the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Hope Valley Wildlife Area in Alpine County.
- *8. [East Contra Costa County NCCP/HCP \(Roddy Home Ranch\)](#) 14
Contra Costa County
\$317,200
To consider the allocation for a grant to the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy (ECCCHC) and the acceptance of a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition grant, and the approval to sub-grant these federal funds to the ECCCHC, for a cooperative project with the East Bay Regional Park District to acquire 40± acres of land for the protection and preservation of existing regional wildlife linkages and grassland habitats that support listed species identified in the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan, located south of the city of Antioch in Contra Costa County. The purposes of this project are consistent with the proposed funding source that allows for the acquisition and protection of habitats that are critical to the sustainability of threatened or endangered species. [Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75055(c)(SSJD-NCCP)]
- *9. [San Joaquin River Parkway](#) 18
Riverbottom Park and Schneider Property Habitat Restoration, Augmentation
Madera/Fresno County
\$193,155
To consider the allocation for an augmentation to an existing grant to River Partners for a cooperative project with the San Joaquin River Conservancy (SJRC) and the City of Fresno (City) to restore 147± acres of riparian habitat at the City's Riverbottom Park property in Fresno County and the SJRC Schneider Property in Madera County, both of which are within the floodplain of the San Joaquin River in the vicinity of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad river crossing. The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, which allows for the acquisition, development, rehabilitation, restoration and protection of land and water resources located within the boundaries of the San Joaquin River Conservancy. [California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Fund (Proposition 40), Public Resources Code Section 5096.650(b)(5)]
- *10. [State Lands Lease-PRC 7629.9 Renewal - Morro Bay](#) 24
San Luis Obispo County
\$0
This Item has been withdrawn from consideration at this time.

- *11. [Desert Tortoise Research Natural Area Habitat Restoration](#) 25
Kern County
\$58,000
To consider the allocation for a grant to Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee, Inc., for a cooperative project with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to install protective boundary fencing and neutralize unauthorized off-road vehicle routes by installing vertical and horizontal mulch, decompacting soil, and otherwise naturalizing appearances, located on BLM land within the Desert Tortoise Research Natural Area, located three miles north of California City in Kern County. The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, which allows for the acquisition, development, rehabilitation, restoration and protection of habitat to promote the recovery of threatened and endangered species, to provide corridors linking separate habitat areas to prevent habitat fragmentation, and to protect significant natural landscapes and ecosystems and other significant habitat areas. [California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Fund (Proposition 40), Public Resources Code Section 5096.650(a)]
- *12. [Carpinteria Salt Marsh Infrastructure Improvement Project](#) 28
Santa Barbara County
\$91,700
To consider the allocation for a grant to the Regents of the University of California to restore and repair the Estero access road, replace collapsed culverts, enhance perimeter fencing, install interpretive signs, and replant native vegetation at the Carpinteria Salt Marsh Reserve located immediately west of the City of Carpinteria in Santa Barbara County. The purposes of this project are consistent with the proposed funding source that allows for the construction and development of facilities that will be used for research and training to improve the management of natural lands and the preservation of California's wildlife resources. [Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Section 75055(b)(3)]
- *13. [Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel and Delta Conservation Area,](#) 31
Mecca Land Development Property
Riverside County
\$75,000
To consider the allocation for a grant to the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission (CVCC), and the acceptance of a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition grant, and the approval to subgrant these federal funds to CVCC acquire 39± acres of land for the protection of natural communities within the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel and Delta Conservation area that support listed species identified by the Coachella Valley Multi-Species Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan. The property is located southeast of the city of Indio, in the unincorporated community of Mecca in Riverside County. The purposes of this project are consistent with the proposed funding source that allows for the acquisition of habitat to protect rare, endangered, threatened or fully protected species. [Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Section 2786(b/c)]

- *14. [Rancho Jamul Ecological Reserve, Expansion 3](#) **35**
San Diego County
\$25,000**
- To consider the acquisition in fee of 40± acres of land by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) for the protection of threatened and endangered species, to preserve biological communities supporting sensitive species, to enhance wildlife linkages, and provide future wildlife oriented public use opportunities. The property is an expansion of CDFW's Rancho Jamul Ecological Reserve and supports the San Diego County Multiple Species Conservation Program, a joint Habitat Conservation Plan and Natural Community Conservation Plan located near the community of Jamul in San Diego County. The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, which allows for the acquisition of habitat to protect rare, endangered threatened or fully protected species. [Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c)]
- *15. [San Vicente Highlands \(Briles\) and Expansion 1 \(Pitman\)](#) **38**
San Diego County
\$265,000**
- To consider the acquisition in fee to acquire a total of 12± acres of land from two separate landowners by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for the protection of deer and mountain lion habitat, to maintain a wildlife corridor and linkages, and provide future wildlife oriented public use opportunities located near the city of Poway in San Diego County. The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, which allows for the acquisition of habitat to protect deer and mountain lions. [Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(a)]
- 16. [East Contra Costa County HCP/NCCP \(Casey\)](#) **42**
Contra Costa County
\$1,065,800**
- To consider the allocation for a grant to the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy (ECCCHC) and the acceptance of a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition grant, and the approval to sub-grant these federal funds to the ECCCHC, for a cooperative project with the East Bay Regional Park District to acquire 320± acres of land for the protection and preservation of existing regional wildlife linkages and grassland habitats that support listed species identified in the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan, located in unincorporated Byron in Contra Costa County. The purposes of this project are consistent with the proposed funding source that allows for the acquisition and protection of habitats that are critical to the sustainability of threatened or endangered species. [Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75055(c)(SSJD-NCCP)]

17. [Wheeler Ridge, Expansion 8 \(Dodson\)](#) 46
Mono County
\$295,000
To consider the acquisition in fee of 6± acres of land by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for the protection of deer and mountain lion habitat, to maintain a migration corridor for the Round Valley mule deer herd, and provide future wildlife oriented public use opportunities, located in the community of Swall Meadows near Mammoth Lakes in Mono County. The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, which allows for the acquisition of habitat to protect deer and mountain lions. [Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(a)]
18. [San Joaquin River Parkway, Sycamore Island Fishing Pond, Enhancement Project](#) 50
Madera County
\$1,606,627
To consider the allocation for a grant to the California Department of Water Resources for a cooperative project with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the San Joaquin River Conservancy (SJRC) to construct public access and habitat enhancements to a gravel pit pond adjacent to the San Joaquin River at the SJRC Sycamore Island property located approximately three miles downstream of the State Route 41 bridge in Madera County. The purposes of this project are consistent with the proposed funding sources, which allows for the acquisition, restoration, and protection of land and water resources located within the boundaries of the San Joaquin River Parkway. [Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Proposition 1), California Water Code Section 79731(g)]
19. [San Joaquin River Parkway, Sycamore Island Habitat Enhancement Project](#) 55
Madera/Fresno County
\$218,660
To consider the allocation for a grant to the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust for a cooperative project with the San Joaquin River Conservancy (SJRC) to enhance 5± acres of floodplain and riverbank habitat on SJRC property, located approximately 2 miles downstream of State Route 41 in Fresno and Madera Counties. The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, which allows for River Parkway projects identified by the San Joaquin River Conservancy Board. [Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75050(f)].
20. [Sedgwick Reserve Infrastructure and Facilities Project, Phase 2](#) 60
Santa Barbara County
\$1,380,000
To consider the allocation for a grant to the Regents of the University of California for a cooperative project with University of California, Santa Barbara to construct an administrative and meeting hall, to renovate research quarters, construct an outdoor kitchen, and repair roads and other infrastructure and facilities needed to serve the Reserve's current and projected needs within the Sedgwick Reserve 35 miles north of

Santa Barbara near the town of Santa Ynez in Santa Barbara County. The purposes of this project are consistent with the proposed funding source that allows for the construction and development of facilities that will be used for research and training to improve the management of natural lands and the preservation of California's wildlife resources. [Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Section 75055(b)(3)]

21. **[Los Angeles River- Taylor Yard G2](#)** **63**
Los Angeles County
\$20,050,000
To consider the allocation of a grant to assist in a cooperative project with the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority to acquire a multipurpose easement over 9± acres of land for habitat restoration, open space preservation, and to provide potential future wildlife-oriented public use opportunities located four miles north of downtown Los Angeles in Los Angeles County.
Pursuant to WCB policy, an Independent Appraisal Review has been performed and is available at www.wcb.ca.gov. The purposes of this project are consistent with the proposed funding source that allows for the acquisition, protection and restoration of coastal wetlands and watersheds located in Southern California. [Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 (Proposition 50), Water Code Section 79572(a) and Water Code Section 79572(a)(LAR)]
22. **[Red Hill Bay Shallow Water Habitat, Augmentation](#)** **68**
Imperial County
\$1,493,000
This Item has been withdrawn from consideration at this time.
23. **[Otay Mesa Habitat Restoration Project](#)** **69**
San Diego County
\$384,600
To consider the allocation for a grant to The Chaparral Lands Conservancy for a cooperative project with California Department of Parks and Recreation to restore 5± acres of sensitive vernal pool and sensitive maritime succulent scrub habitats on City of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation property adjacent to Ocean Hills Parkway and Otay Mesa Road in the community of Otay Mesa. The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, which allows for projects that are critical to the sustainability of federal or state listed threatened or endangered species or species of special concern. [California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Fund (Proposition 40), Public Resource Code Section 50 96.650(a)]
24. **[Wildlife Conservation Board Strategic Plan](#)** **73**
Informational/Action
Staff will present next steps in the implementation of the WCB Strategic Plan through a presentation of the outcome of a workshop initiated to identify measurable goals for WCB's acquisition efforts, and will describe how WCB staff expect to measure the conservation effectiveness of the Board's programs

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Persons with disabilities needing reasonable accommodation to participate in public meetings or other CDFW activities are invited to contact the Department's EEO Officer at (916) 653-9089 or EEO@wildlife.ca.gov. If a request for an accommodation has been submitted but is no longer needed, please contact the EEO Officer immediately.



WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

August 24, 2017

10:00 a.m.

California State Capitol, Room 112
Sacramento, California 95814

1. Roll Call

Wildlife Conservation Board Members

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

Michael Cohen, Member
Director, Department of Finance

Eric Sklar, Member
President Fish and Game Commission

Diane Colburn, Public Member

Mary Creasman, Public Member

Joint Legislative Advisory Committee

Senator Jean Fuller

Senator Nancy Skinner

Senator *(vacant)*

Assemblymember Laura Friedman)
Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi -Alternate

Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia
Assemblymember Miguel Santiago -Alternate

Assemblymember Monique Limon
Assemblymember Marc Levine -Alternate

Executive Director

John P. Donnelly

**2. 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.

(a)	2017-18 Wildlife Restoration Fund, (0447)	
	Budget Act	\$1,000,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-0.00</u>
	<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	\$1,000,000.00
	August 2017 Board Meeting Allocation	-0.00
	Total Project Development	<u>-0.00</u>
	<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	\$1,000,000.00
(b)	2017-18 Habitat Conservation Fund, (0262)	
	Non-budget Act	\$20,663,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-0.00</u>
	<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	\$20,663,000.00
	August 2017 Board Meeting Allocation	-0.00
	Total Project Development	<u>-0.00</u>
	<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	\$20,663,000.00
(c)	2016-17 Habitat Conservation Fund, (0262)	
	Non-budget Act	\$20,663,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-1,379,328.00</u>
	<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	\$19,283,672.00
	August 2017 Board Meeting Allocation	-0.00
	Total Project Development	<u>-14,662,760.00</u>
	<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	\$4,620,912.00
(d)	2015-16 Habitat Conservation Fund, (0262)	
	Non-budget Act	\$20,663,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-9,913,066.00</u>
	<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	\$10,749,934.00
	August 2017 Board Meeting Allocation	-395,000.00
	Total Project Development	<u>-9,653,890.00</u>
	<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	\$701,044.00
(e)	2014-15 Habitat Conservation Fund, (0262)	
	Non-budget Act	\$20,663,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-17,690,284.00</u>
	<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	\$2,972,716.00
	August 2017 Board Meeting Allocation	-265,000.00
	Total Project Development	<u>-2,030,000.00</u>
	<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	\$677,716.00

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(f)	2013-14 Habitat Conservation Fund, (0262)	
	Non-budget Act	\$20,663,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-19,879,042.00</u>
	<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	\$783,958.00
	August 2017 Board Meeting Allocation	-0.00
	Total Project Development	<u>-780,828.00</u>
	<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	\$3,130.00
(g)	2012-13 Habitat Conservation Fund, (0262)	
	Budget Act	\$20,663,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-5,667,463.00</u>
	<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	\$14,995,537.00
	August 2017 Board Meeting Allocation	-0.00
	Total Project Development	<u>-0.00</u>
	<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	\$14,995,537.00
(h)	2011-12 Habitat Conservation Fund, (0262)	
	Budget Act	\$20,663,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-15,971,552.00</u>
	<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	\$4,691,448.00
	August 2017 Board Meeting Allocation	-0.00
	Total Project Development	<u>-1,681,308.00</u>
	<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	\$3,010,140.00
(i)	2010-11 Habitat Conservation Fund, (0262)	
	Budget Act	\$20,668,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-19,331,865.00</u>
	<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	\$1,336,135.00
	August 2017 Board Meeting Allocation	-0.00
	Total Project Development	<u>-1,333,162.00</u>
	<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	\$2,973.00
(j)	2009-10 Habitat Conservation Fund, (0262) (2013-14 Reappropriation)	
	Budget Act	\$20,668,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-20,537,752.00</u>
	<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	\$130,248.00
	August 2017 Board Meeting Allocation	-0.00
	Total Project Development	<u>-0.00</u>
	<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	\$130,248.00
(k)	2008-09 Habitat Conservation Fund, (0262) (2012-13 Reappropriation)	
	Budget Act	\$20,668,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-20,646,836.00</u>
	<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	\$21,164.00
	August 2017 Board Meeting Allocation	-0.00
	Total Project Development	<u>-8,632.00</u>
	<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	\$12,532.00

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(l)	2007-08 Habitat Conservation Fund, (0262) (2011-12 Reappropriation)	
	Budget Act	\$20,674,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-20,307,040.00</u>
	<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	\$366,960.00
	August 2017 Board Meeting Allocation	-0.00
	Total Project Development	<u>-0.00</u>
	<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	\$366,960.00
(m)	2006-07 Habitat Conservation Fund, (0262) (2013-14 Reappropriation)	
	Budget Act	\$20,699,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-19,839,667.00</u>
	<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	\$859,333.00
	August 2017 Board Meeting Allocation	-0.00
	Total Project Development	<u>-0.00</u>
	<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	\$859,333.00
(n)	2017-18 Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Fund, (0005) Budget Act 2017-18	\$3,690,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-0.00</u>
	<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	\$3,690,000.00
	August 2017 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
	Total Project Development	<u>0.00</u>
	<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	\$3,690,000.00
(o)	2017-18 Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Fund, (0005) Budget Act 2017-18]	\$141,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-0.00</u>
	<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	\$141,000.00
	August 2017 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
	Total Project Development	<u>0.00</u>
	<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	\$141,000.00
(p)	2006-07 Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Fund, (0005) (2015-16 Reappropriation)	
	Capital Outlay Budget [Sections a3, a5 & a6]	\$15,224,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-15,170,125.00</u>
	<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	\$53,875.00
	August 2017 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
	Total Project Development	<u>0.00</u>
	<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	\$53,875.00
(q)	1999-00 Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Fund, (0005)	
	Continuously Appropriated [Sec. 5096.350 (a)(1), (2), (4) & (7)]	\$36,100,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-36,012,120.00</u>
	<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	\$87,880.00
	August 2017 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
	Total Project Development	<u>-87,880.00</u>
	<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	\$0.00

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(r)	2003-04 California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Fund, (6029)	
	Budget Act 2016 (New Appropriation of Reverted Fund EY 2006) (San Joaquin River Conservancy Projects)	\$1,500,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-25,000.00</u>
	<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$1,475,000.00</i>
	August 2017 Board Meeting Allocation	-193,155.00
	Total Project Development	<u>-0.00</u>
	<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$1,281,845.00</i>
(s)	2001-02 California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Fund, (6029)	
	Continuously Appropriated (Section 5096.650)	\$273,000,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-259,573,251.00</u>
	<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$13,426,749.00</i>
	August 2017 Board Meeting Allocation	-442,600.00
	Total Project Development	<u>-6,536,000.00</u>
	<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$6,448,149.00</i>
(t)	2002-03 Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002, (6031)	
	Continuously Appropriated (Sections 79565 and 79572), including Chapter 81, Statutes of 2005	\$814,350,000.00
	2003-04 Budget Act Transfer to HCF from Section 79565	-21,000,000.00
	2004-05 Budget Act Transfer to HCF from Section 79565	-21,000,000.00
	2005-06 Budget Act Transfer to HCF from Section 79565	-4,000,000.00
	2005-06 Budget Act Transfer to HCF from Section 79572	-3,100,000.00
	2006-07 Budget Act Transfer to HCF from Section 79572	-17,688,000.00
	2007-08 Budget Act Transfer to HCF from Section 79572	-5,150,000.00
	2008-09 Budget Act Transfer to HCF from Section 79572	-1,000,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-693,391,315.00</u>
	<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$48,020,685.00</i>
	August 2017 Board Meeting Allocation	-21,543,000.00
	Total Project Development	<u>-1,600,000.00</u>
	<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$24,877,685.00</i>
(u)	2009-10 Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006, (6051) (2013-14 Partial Reappropriation) Budget Act (San Joaquin River Conservancy Projects)	\$4,800,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-3,639,660.00</u>
	<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$1,160,340.00</i>
	August 2017 Board Meeting Allocation	-0.00
	Total Project Development	<u>-0.00</u>
	<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$1,160,340.00</i>

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(v)	2015-16 Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006, (6051), (New Appn in 15/16 of reverted funds; 2008-09 natural reversion)	
	Budget Act (SJRC Projects)	\$10,000,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-25,000.00</u>
	<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	\$9,795,000.00
	August 2017 Board Meeting Allocation	-218,660.00
	Total Project Development	<u>-0.00</u>
	<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	\$9,756,340.00
(w)	2017-18 Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006, (6051) Chapter 14, Statutes of 2017 (NCCP)	\$11,000,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-0.00</u>
	<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	\$11,000,000.00
	August 2017 Board Meeting Allocation	-0.00
	Total Project Development	<u>-11,000,000.00</u>
	<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	\$0.00
(x)	2017-18 Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006, (6051) Chapter 14, Statutes of 2017 (SB 8 SSJD-NCCP)	\$5,700,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-0.00</u>
	<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	\$5,700,000.00
	August 2017 Board Meeting Allocation	-1,383,000.00
	Total Project Development	<u>-899,750.00</u>
	<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	\$3,417,250.00
(y)	2006-07 Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 CO Budget (6051) Continuously Appropriated (Section 75055a) Forest Conservation	\$164,700,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-147,833,563.00</u>
	<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	\$16,866,437.00
	August 2017 Board Meeting Allocation	-0.00
	Total Project Development	<u>-16,760,000.00</u>
	<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	\$106,437.00
(z)	2006-07 Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 CO Budget (6051) Continuously Appropriated (Section 75055b) & 75055b3 UC Natural Reserve & 75055b LA Rivers	\$123,525,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-109,017,711.00</u>
	<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	\$14,507,289.00
	August 2017 Board Meeting Allocation	-1,471,700.00
	Total Project Development	<u>-6,690,000.00</u>
	<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	\$6,345,589.00

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(aa)	2017-18 Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Fund of 2014, (6083)	
	Budget Act (Section 79735(b)(2))- WCB Only	\$38,400,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-0.00</u>
	<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	\$38,400,000.00
	August 2017 Board Meeting Allocation	-0.00
	Total Project Development	<u>-0.00</u>
	<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	\$38,400,000.00
(ab)	2016-17 Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Fund of 2014, (6083)	
	Budget Act (Section 79735(b)(2))- WCB Only	\$38,400,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-15,000.00</u>
	<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	\$38,385,000.00
	August 2017 Board Meeting Allocation	-0.00
	Total Project Development	<u>-0.00</u>
	<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	\$38,385,000.00
(ac)	2015-16 Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Fund of 2014, (6083)	
	Budget Act (Section 79735(b)(2))- WCB Only	\$38,400,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-16,354,569.00</u>
	<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	\$22,045,431.00
	August 2017 Board Meeting Allocation	-0.00
	Total Project Development	<u>-0.00</u>
	<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	\$22,045,431.00
(ad)	2017-18 Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Fund of 2014, (6083)	
	Budget Act 2017 (Section 79731(g))- SJRC only	\$3,000,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-0.00</u>
	<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	\$3,000,000.00
	August 2017 Board Meeting Allocation	-0.00
	Total Project Development	<u>-0.00</u>
	<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	\$3,000,000.00
(ae)	2016-17 Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Fund of 2014, (6083)	
	Budget Act 2016 (Section 79731(g))- SJRC only	\$3,500,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-281,800.00</u>
	<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	\$3,218,200.00
	August 2017 Board Meeting Allocation	-1,606,627.00
	Total Project Development	<u>-0.00</u>
	<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	\$1,611,573.00
(af)	2015-16 Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Fund of 2014, (6083)	
	Budget Act 2015 (Section 79731(g)) – SJRC Only	\$2,800,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-1,435,979.00</u>
	<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	\$1,364,021.00
	August 2017 Board Meeting Allocation	-0.00

Wildlife Conservation Board Meeting, August 24, 2017

	Total Project Development	-0.00
	<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	\$1,364,021.00
(ag)	General Fund (0001)	
	Budget Act 2017 (Lower American River) \$1,000,000.00	
	Previous Board Allocations	-0.00
	<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	\$1,000,000.00
	August 2017 Board Meeting Allocation	-0.00
	Total Project Development	-0.00
	<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	\$1,000,000.00

RECAP OF FUND BALANCES

Wildlife Restoration Fund (0447)	\$1,000,000.00
August 2017 Board Meeting Allocation	-0.00
Total Project Development	-0.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	\$1,000,000.00
Habitat Conservation Fund (0262)	\$76,854,105.00
August 2017 Board Meeting Allocation	-660,000.00
Total Project Development	-30,150,580.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	\$46,043,525.00
Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Fund (Proposition 12)(0005)	\$3,972,755.00
August 2017 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
Total Project Development	-87,880.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	\$3,884,875.00
California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Bond Fund (Proposition 40)(6029)	\$14,901,749.00
August 2017 Board Meeting Allocation	-635,755.00
Total Project Development	-6,536,000.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	\$7,729,994.00
Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 (Proposition 50)(6031)	\$48,020,685.00
August 2017 Board Meeting Allocation	-21,543,000.00
Total Project Development	-1,600,000.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	\$24,877,685.00
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84)(6051)	\$59,209,066.00
August 2017 Board Meeting Allocation	-3,073,360.00
Total Project Development	-35,349,750.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	\$20,785,956.00
Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Fund of 2014 (Proposition 1-6083)	\$102,603,603.00
August 2017 Board Meeting Allocation	-1,606,627.00
Total Project Development	-0.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	\$100,996,976.00

General Fund (0001)	\$1,000,000.00
August 2017 Board Meeting Allocation	-0.00
Total Project Development	-0.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$1,000,000.00</i>
TOTAL – ALL FUNDS	\$307,561,963.00
August 2017 Board Meeting Allocation	-27,518,742.00
Total Project Development	-73,724,210.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$206,319,011.00</i>

RECAP OF NATURAL HERITAGE PRESERVATION TAX CREDIT ACT OF 2000

Chapter 113, Statutes of 2000 and Chapter 715, Statutes of 2004	
Tax credits awarded through June 30, 2008	\$48,598,734.00
Chapter 220, Statutes of 2009 (effective January 1, 2010)	
Tax credits awarded	\$8,662,500.00
Tax credits awarded	\$8,662,500.00

3. Special Project Planning Account Informational

The Board has historically used a special project account to provide working funds for staff evaluation (appraisals, engineering, preliminary title reports, etc.) of proposed projects. Upon the Board's approval of a project, all expenditures incurred and recorded in the Special Project Planning Account are transferred to the Board approved project account which then reduces the Special Project Planning Account expenditures. This procedure provides a revolving account for the pre-project expenses.

Some appropriations now made to the Board do not include a specific budgeted planning line item appropriation necessary to begin a project without prior Board authorization. Pre-project costs are a necessary expenditure in most all capital outlay projects. The Special Project Planning Account is available to be used for these costs.

The Board, at the May 6, 1986 meeting, authorized the Executive Director to use up to 1% of a budgeted appropriation to set up and maintain an appropriate planning account with the provision it would be reported to the Board as an informational item.

Accordingly, a planning account has been set up as follows:

General Fund	\$25,000.00
Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal Protection Bond Fund	\$25,000.00
Habitat Conservation Fund	\$50,000.00
Wildlife Restoration Fund	\$10,000.00
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006	\$75,000.00
Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Fund of 2014	\$25,000.00

4. Proposed Consent Calendar (Items 5 – 15)

***5. Approval of Minutes**

***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	28,673.05
California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Fund	6,100.00
Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002	2,137.83
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006	40,889.50
Total Recoveries for All Funds	\$77,800.38

Habitat Conservation Fund	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Battle Creek Salmon and Steelhead Restoration Project, Tehama & Shasta Counties	9,980,000.00	9,980,000.00	0
East Contra Costa County HCP/NCCP (Campos), Contra Costa County	236,200.00	229,868.00	6,332.00
Hollenbeck Canyon Wildlife Area, Expansions 7 & 8, San Diego County	369,240.00	360,478.00	8,762.00
North Carrizo Water Well Easement, San Luis Obispo County	1,100.00	100.00	1,000.00
Sheep Ranch Conservation Easement, Expansion 4, Calaveras County	270,000.00	268,737.00	1,263.00
Sycuan Peak Ecological Reserve, Expansion 7, San Diego County	26,210.00	21,337.95	4,872.05
Sycuan Peak Ecological Reserve, Expansion 8, San Diego County	120,000.00	113,556.00	6,444.00
Total Recoveries to Habitat Conservation Fund			\$28,673.05

California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Fund	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Sawmill Pebble Plain Ecological Preserve Expansion 1, San Bernardino County	1,874,600.00	1,868,500.00	6,100.00
Total Recoveries to California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Fund			\$6,100.00

Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Heenan Lake Water and Storage Rights, Expansion 4, Alpine County	2,209,000.00	2,206,862.17	2,137.83
<i>Total Recoveries to Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002</i>			<i>\$2,137.83</i>

Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Antelope Valley Wildlife Area, Expansion 6, Sierra County	180,000.00	180,000.00	0.00
County of San Diego Multiple Species Conservation Program 2015 (Capralis), San Diego County	108,015.00	93,473.50	14,541.50
Marywood - Hwy 17 Wildlife Crossing, Santa Cruz County	415,000.00	404,810.00	10,190.00
Valley Vista, Los Angeles County	1,010,000.00	1,010,000.00	0.00
Wheeler Ridge, Expansion 5, Mono County	435,000.00	418,842.00	16,158.00
<i>Total Recoveries to Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006</i>			<i>\$40,889.50</i>

***7. Hope Valley Wildlife Area Encroachment
Alpine County
\$0**

This proposal is to consider a lot line adjustment that will transfer 0.4± acres of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) Hope Valley Wildlife Area (HVWA) to an adjacent landowner to resolve two encroachments from the neighboring private property.

LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES

The two encroachments (Encroachments) are located in the vicinity of Sorensen's Resort in Hope Valley in Alpine County. Hope Valley lies on the east side of the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range approximately 15 miles south of South Lake Tahoe. The topography within the HVWA consists of a grassland meadow complex on the level valley floor and Jeffrey pine forest on the surrounding slopes that includes small scattered meadows, riparian fingers along drainages, and aspen thickets, all at elevations varying between 7,000 and 8,300 feet. State Routes 88 and 89 wind through the valley. It is considered to be one of the most scenic valleys in the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed transaction reflects an effort by the owners of Sorensen's Resort to clear boundary issues with respect to the Encroachments from Sorensen's Resort onto CDFW's HVWA. When the current owners of the Sorensen's Resort purchased the resort, they relied on a 1976 federal land survey provided to them by the previous owner of the resort. In 2012, approximately 30 years after their purchase, the United States Forest Service resurveyed federal lands in Hope Valley. The boundaries established by this new survey differ materially from the boundaries on the earlier survey. It was at that time that the Encroachments were discovered. One encroachment consists of a historic cabin built in the 1940s, the second encroachment is the corner of a home built in 1988. The two encroachments consist of 1,266 square feet and 15,625 square feet respectively, for a total of 16,891 square feet or 0.4± acres. The owners of Sorensen's Resort notified CDFW and WCB of the Encroachments once they were discovered, and requested a lot line adjustment to resolve the Encroachments.

WCB PROGRAM

The proposed lot line adjustment is being considered under the WCB's Land Acquisition Program. The 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 the WCB to acquire real property or rights in real property on behalf of CDFW. Under the program, WCB may authorize CDFW to sell or otherwise transfer any real property held under the jurisdiction of CDFW. These activities are carried out in conjunction with and at the request of CDFW, which requested WCB complete this transaction.

TERMS

The Encroachments have been appraised as having a combined fair market value of \$20,000. The appraisals have been reviewed by WCB staff and reviewed and approved by the Department of General Services (DGS). The Property owner has agreed to pay the appraised fair market value of \$20,000 and pay for all transactional costs, including DGS review, to complete the lot line adjustment.

PROJECT FUNDING

The \$20,000 that will be received for this lot line adjustment will be deposited into the Wildlife Restoration Fund (WRF) account pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 1348(c)(2).

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND STATE RECOMMENDATION

CDFW has reviewed this transaction and requested WCB complete it on CDFW's behalf. The project has been reviewed pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and is proposed as exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15305, Class 5, minor alterations in land use limitations including minor lot line adjustments not resulting in the creation of any new parcel. Subject to authorization by the WCB, a Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the WCB approve this project as proposed; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project, authorize WCB to accept the funds and deposit them into the WRF account; and authorize staff and the CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

***8. East Contra Costa County HCP/NCCP (Roddy Home Ranch)
Contra Costa County
\$317,200**

This proposal is to consider the allocation for a grant to the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy (ECCCHC), as well as the acceptance of two grants, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition grant and the subgrant of these federal funds to the ECCCHC. The ECCCHC would use the grant and subgrant funds for a cooperative project with the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) to acquire 40± acres of land for the protection and preservation of existing regional wildlife linkages, including annual grassland habitat, within the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan (ECCC HCP/NCCP) plan area.

LOCATION and SURROUNDING USES

The property (Property), known as Roddy Home Ranch, is located along Chadbourne Road south of the City of Antioch in unincorporated Contra Costa County. It is an inholding within the larger 1,885± acre Roddy Ranch. ECCCHC and EBRPD purchased the Roddy Ranch property in 2014 with partial funding from the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB). The proposed Property acquisition represents an important opportunity to expand the ECCC HCP/NCCP Preserve System and link with existing and proposed ECCC HCP/NCCP preserve properties.

The ECCC HCP/NCCP designates the Property as a high priority for acquisition and protection because it supports high quality habitat for several key species the ECCC HCP/NCCP covers. Specifically, the Property supports movement habitat for San Joaquin kit fox, and serves a critical connectivity function. Previously conserved areas within the ECCC HCP/NCCP plan area surround the Property. Over the past several years the WCB, USFWS, ECCCHC, and EBRPD have partnered to acquire over 13,400± acres of habitat within the ECCC HCP/NCCP plan area, helping protect essential habitat and connectivity for multiple wildlife species. In addition to its designation in the ECCC HCP/NCCP, the project is also consistent with action proposed under the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) California Wildlife Action Plan (Plan). The Property is located within the Plan's Central Valley and Bay Delta region. Two of the recommended conservation actions called out for this region are protection of upland linkages and reduction of habitat isolation in the eastern San Francisco Bay Area. The proposed acquisition would meet both of these recommended actions.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property is 40± acres in size and is comprised of two 20-acre parcels. The topography is slightly sloping from the southwest to the northeast. Annual grassland is the primary habitat type found on the Property. Improvements cover approximately a quarter of the Property. These include a 2,735± square foot residence constructed in 1980 and in good condition, a 2,200± square foot metal frame horse barn, and a 13,000± square foot steel truss arena shelter, along with smaller structures, a driveway and parking areas. Activities on the Property following acquisition will need to be compatible with the surrounding lands and ECCC HCP/NCCP goals and objectives. Potential future recreation uses of the Property may include a museum, staging area for equestrians and others, and ranch

educational center. Acquisition of the Property will, in addition to conserving the acreage, secure past investments in acquisition and preservation of ECCC HCP/NCCP preserve land in the region. These preserved lands include a movement corridor for the state threatened and federally endangered San Joaquin kit fox. This acquisition will also protect suitable habitat for the state-listed threatened California red-legged frog and a variety of other important and federally and/or state-listed wildlife species including California tiger salamander, golden eagle, western burrowing owl and Swainson's hawk.

WCB PROGRAM

The proposed grant and subgrant for this project are being considered under the WCB's Land Acquisition Program (Program). The Program is administered pursuant to the Board's original enabling legislation, "The Wildlife Conservation Law of 1947" (Fish and Game Section 1300, *et seq.*). It enables the WCB to pursue acquisitions and accept federal grant funds to facilitate acquisitions or subgrant these federal funds to assist with acquisitions of properties. CDFW has reviewed and approved the project under its Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP) program, substantiating the biological values of the Property and recommending it for funding. CDFW, as a participant in the USFWS Land Acquisition grant selection and review process, has also reviewed and approved the USFWS grant proposed for acceptance for this project.

This project 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.

The project enhances habitat connections by expanding a network of protected linkages. The project will expand the protection of wildlife linkages and provide ecosystem responses to climate change by incorporating elevation gradients that allow species and vegetation communities to shift upward in elevation.

Goal A.3 – Fund projects that support the implementation of Natural Community Conservation Plans, Habitat Conservation Plans and recovery of listed species.

The ECCC HCP/NCCP identifies the Property as a high priority for acquisition and protection. The Property supports the recovery of listed species.

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 was instrumental in the creation and support of the ECCC HCP/NCCP through its NCCP program. Under the NCCP program, CDFW works with numerous private and public partners to develop a regional protection plan identifying properties to acquire for long-term protection of habitat for plants and animals.

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

The Property is proposed to be acquired with WCB funds, funds from the USFWS Section 6 subgrant, and EBRPD funds.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

EBRPD has agreed to manage the property once it is acquired. ECCCHC and EBRPD will fund future management activities for this Property, in part through wind turbine and communication tower lease revenue from prior acquisitions within the ECCC HCP/NCCP plan area. It is anticipated that the Property will offer the potential for future passive recreational uses, an allowed use under the ECCC HCP/NCCP. EBRPD will maintain the habitat in conjunction with other properties owned by EBRPD.

TERMS

The Property has been appraised as having a fair market value of \$1,536,000.00. The appraisal has been reviewed by WCB staff and reviewed and approved by the Department of General Services (DGS) and the USFWS. The owner has agreed to sell the Property for the approved appraised fair market value. The USFWS funds require a non-federal match that is being provided by EBRPD bond funds and the proposed WCB grant to ECCCHC. The terms and conditions of the proposed WCB grant and subgrant to the ECCCHC provide that staff of the WCB 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. In the event of a breach of the grant terms, the WCB can require the grantee to encumber the Property with a conservation easement in favor of WCB and seek reimbursement of funds.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Wildlife Conservation Board	307,200
USFWS subgrant funds	691,200
East Bay Regional Park District	537,600
<i>Total Purchase Price</i>	<i>1,536,000</i>
Other Project Related Admin Costs	10,000
<i>Total WCB Allocation</i>	<i>\$317,200</i>

It is estimated that an additional \$10,000.00 will be needed to cover project-related expenses, including DGS appraisal review costs.

FUNDING SOURCE

The purposes of this project are consistent with the proposed funding source, the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75055c (SSJD-NCCP) that allows for the acquisition and protection of habitat for areas in and around the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta that implement or assist in the establishment of Natural Community Conservation Plans.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND STATE RECOMMENDATION

The acquisition has been reviewed for compliance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) 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. The CDFW has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for approval.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the WCB approve the project as proposed; approve the acceptance of the Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition grant funds from the USFWS in the amount of \$691,200.00 and the subgrant of these federal funds to the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy; allocate \$317,200.00 from the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75055c (SSJD-NCCP) for the grant to ECCCHC and to cover the project-related costs; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

***9. San Joaquin River Parkway
Riverbottom Park and Schneider Property Habitat Restoration, Augmentation
Madera/Fresno County
\$193,155**

This proposal is to consider the allocation for an augmentation to an existing grant to River Partners for a cooperative project with the San Joaquin River Conservancy (SJRC) and the City of Fresno (City) to restore 147± acres of riparian habitat at the City's Riverbottom Park property in Fresno County and the SJRC Schneider property in Madera County. Both properties are within the floodplain of the San Joaquin River near the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad river crossing.

LOCATION

The San Joaquin River Parkway (Parkway) is defined by state law as approximately 5,900 acres on both sides of a 22 mile long reach of the San Joaquin River between Friant Dam to the east and State Route (SR) 99 to the west, in Fresno and Madera Counties (Public Resources Code Section 32510). The SJRC was created in 1992 to preserve and enhance the San Joaquin River's extraordinary biological diversity, protect its valued cultural and natural resources, and provide educational and recreational opportunities to local communities. The SJRC mission is to implement the Parkway Master Plan, including providing public access and restoring habitat within the planned Parkway.

The Riverbottom and Schneider Property Habitat Restoration Project (Project) was approved by the SJRC Board at its October 10, 2012 meeting and by the Wildlife Conservation Board at its March 11, 2013 meeting. The Project includes enhancement and restoration of native riparian, wetland, and woodland habitat at Riverbottom Park and the Schneider property, two properties in close proximity to one another across the San Joaquin River. While both Project sites lie within the floodplain of the river, they exhibit some different characteristics. Riverbottom Park is characterized by a gradual, north-facing aspect, while the Schneider property rises more steeply from the river and has a south-facing aspect making it a warmer and drier site. Prior to Project initiation in 2013, both Project sites were infested with non-native invasive plants such as red sesbania, annual grasses, and eucalyptus, which reduced native habitat connectivity, acreage, and quality.

The Project is within the Pacific Flyway (Flyway), which extends the length of North and South America, and west of the Rocky Mountains and Andes Mountains. Millions of waterfowl, shorebirds, and songbirds use the Flyway for migration to and from wintering and breeding grounds. As the native plants installed as part of the Project grow, they increase native habitat for Neotropical migrant songbirds during their migration stopovers. Additionally, the native plants will provide vital breeding, roosting, and foraging habitat for nesting songbirds, woodpeckers, raptors, and waterbirds.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project tasks consist of planning, site preparation, irrigation installation, planting, maintenance, monitoring, management, and administration. Due to unexpected challenges related to environmental permitting, equipment, and 2016-2017 winter flooding, River Partners has expended most of the Project funding for maintenance, monitoring, and management. The unforeseen challenges have resulted in River Partners' inability to complete the restoration project according to the timeline and budget identified in the original WCB grant agreement. River Partners has requested a funding augmentation and time extension to satisfactorily complete the Project.

The purpose of the proposed funding augmentation is for maintenance, including plant replacement at the Schneider property, and ongoing irrigation and weed management, monitoring, and management through December 31, 2018. The augmentation will ensure that River Partners establishes a self-sustained riparian habitat, improving habitat quality at the two Project sites, as well as improving habitat connectivity and wildlife use along the river corridor.

Planning

River Partners completed planning in September 2015, a full year past the anticipated completion date. Planning included a site assessment of biological, soil, and hydrological characteristics used to develop an ecologically based habitat Restoration Plan, and environmental permitting. River Partners hosted on-site stakeholder meetings to elicit detailed comments on the Restoration Plan and a public workshop where community members voiced support for how the Project will improve aesthetics, wildlife habitat and use, and recreational opportunities. The completed Restoration Plan describes target wildlife species and their habitat needs; a detailed plan for site preparation, planting, and maintenance; and performance standards and monitoring protocols.

The environmental permitting process took more time than expected, and River Partners experienced delays while obtaining an encroachment permit from the Central Valley Flood Protection Board. Due to drought conditions at the time, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) also notified River Partners that a Streambed Alteration Agreement (1600 Permit) would be required to exercise riparian water rights to pump water from the river for irrigation purposes. River Partners and the CDFW entered into extensive negotiations to determine the *conditions for* use of adequate amounts of river water for irrigation before CDFW issued the 1600 Permit.

Site Preparation

River Partners completed site preparation, consisting of non-native plant and debris removal, mowing, and light discing to prepare the soil for planting, in 2015. It conducted those activities a second time after environmental permitting took longer than expected.

Irrigation Installation

River Partners purchased and installed the drip irrigation system, mainlines, and a portable water pump with filter by January 2016. The irrigation system required re-design with a larger portable water pump, a filtration system, and longer mainlines to decrease the distance between the water surface in the river and the pump on the riverbank. Because the water level in the river is variable, depending on the amount of water releases from Friant Dam, the original pump-water intake design could not lift water from the river during the low flows experienced during the drought. The California Conservation Corps (CCC) assisted on the Project primarily with irrigation installation. The irrigation equipment remains in use and is maintained at the two Project sites.

Planting

With the assistance of approximately 200 volunteers at three separate planting events, River Partners completed the initial planting of over 19,000 trees, shrubs, and grasses in February 2016. Monitoring, discussed below, showed 73% survival of these plants after one year. Additionally, River Partners has broadcast seed of native perennial herbaceous species such as mugwort and Great Valley gumplant.

Maintenance

Maintenance is ongoing with River Partners regularly checking and repairing irrigation system components from normal wear and tear and rodent damage, conducting weed management, and replacing dead and dying plants. Additionally, the drip system and a main water line sustained damage from vandalism, also requiring repair.

High river flows during spring and summer 2017 required River Partners to relocate the portable water pump at the Schneider property to higher ground on a steep bank, increasing the elevation and slope between the river water source and the pump. The distance from the river surface up to the pump was too far for the pump to lift the water, requiring River Partners to rent a more powerful pump.

In 2016 and 2017, River Partners replaced plants that died as a result of a small fire and plants that died from lack of water when the portable water pump broke down at Riverbottom Park. In autumn 2016 and spring 2017, River Partners also discovered that at the Schneider property, woody species intolerant of extended dry conditions, such as willows and western sycamores, were dead or dying, despite having received significant rainfall over the winter and seasonal irrigation. River Partners has identified species such as quailbush, coyote brush, and valley oaks that are better adapted to handle the drier, south-facing site and has proposed replacement of dead and dying plants upon WCB approval of this Project funding augmentation.

Monitoring

River Partners staff monitor the survival of plants and complete annual reports that document survivorship and site performance. At the end of the Project, River Partners will also complete a final report for the City, SJRC, and WCB. Due to the challenges faced and subsequent delays in Project completion, River Partners is requesting additional funds for monitoring through December 31, 2018.

Management

River Partners has managed staff, contractors, volunteers, stakeholder meetings, environmental permit requirements, and all other activities at the site. Management costs have been greater than expected due to the need to resolve unexpected challenges related to the environmental permitting, establishing adequate irrigation, and additional site preparation and maintenance issues explained above.

Administration

River Partners' administrative costs consist of tracking and reporting project expenses, vehicle mileage, and hours of staff work on the project. Administration of the grant will continue through December 31, 2018, therefore requiring additional funds.

WCB PROGRAM

WCB assists with the administration of project funding for the SJRC. The WCB, represented by its Executive Director, holds a position on the 15-member SJRC Board along with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), represented by the Central Region Manager. The SJRC Board reviews and approves projects to ensure they are viable and consistent with the goals of the current SJRC Parkway Master Plan (2000) (Parkway Master Plan), prior to consideration by the WCB. The SJRC Board approved this Project augmentation and submittal to WCB on June 7, 2017.

The proposed Project augmentation 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.

The California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Fund (Proposition 40), Public Resources Code Section 5096.650(b)(5), allocates funds to WCB for the acquisition, development, rehabilitation, restoration, and protection of land and water resources located within the boundaries of the Parkway and is consistent with the objectives of the Project.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The Project is included among the highest priority projects recommended by the Interagency Project Development Committee (IPDC), whose role is to evaluate projects to be considered by the SJRC Board. The Project met IPDC criteria such as its ability to provide habitat connectivity, environmental benefits, achievement of long-term benefits, and meeting of partner agency and SJRC needs.

The Project with the proposed funding augmentation is consistent with the Parkway Master Plan and will not conflict with county zoning or jurisdictions. The objectives of the Project, to improve habitat connectivity and to restore and enhance natural habitat for wildlife within the Parkway, are consistent with the policies, goals, and objectives in the Parkway Master Plan, which summarized include:

Fundamental Goals

Preserve and restore a riparian corridor of regional significance on the San Joaquin River from Friant Dam to the Highway 99 crossing.

Natural Resources Goals (NRG)

NRG1. Promote the long-term preservation, enhancement, and public enjoyment of the aquatic, plant, and wildlife resources of the San Joaquin River and the riverbottom.

NRG2. Preserve existing habitat and maintain, enhance, or restore native vegetation to provide essentially continuous riparian and upland habitat for wildlife along the river between Friant Dam and Highway 99.

Natural Resources Objectives (NRO) and Natural Resources Policies (NP)

NRO5. Revegetate with native species to close gaps in the wildlife corridor or enhance the effectiveness of buffer zones.

NP8.2. Preserve and incorporate natural features (e.g., wetlands, grasslands, woodlands, and other native vegetation) into the development's site design such that those features can enhance the ecological values of the river, the wildlife corridor, a natural reserve, or the multiple purpose trail.

Natural Resources Programs (NRP)

NRPV1. The Master Plan proposes to restore and enhance areas of riparian and wetland habitats along the San Joaquin River. Many of these areas have undergone biological, physical, and hydrological changes which are primarily the result of human interference. Restoration and enhancement of this portion of the river is intended to increase habitat value and recreate a continuous wildlife corridor by creation of riparian habitat, enhancement of degraded riparian habitat, enhancement of pond edges with freshwater marsh species.

Natural Resources Design Policies (NRD)

NRD1.3. Areas suitable for habitat restoration shall be restored by replanting or habitat management to encourage the establishment and growth of natural vegetation.

Selection of restoration species shall be made primarily based on the hydrological climatic, and soil conditions, and secondarily on the objectives for recreational uses.

Native indigenous riparian species shall be used to the greatest extent possible.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Item Description	WCB Grant	River Partners (In Kind)	Grant Augmentation	Total Cost Per Task
Planning	62,155.53			62,155.53
Monitoring	63,568.00		11,000.00.00	74,568.00
Management	42,299.12		3,000.00.00	48,299.12
Habitat Restoration Activities				
Site Preparation	39,487.10			39,487.10
Irrigation Install	81,575.25			81,575.25
Planting	163,578.00			163,578.00
Maintenance	190,694.00		155,807.00	346,501.00
Administration	58,093.00	15,203.00	23,348.00	96,644.00
Contingency				\$0.00
<i>Totals</i>	<i>\$704,450</i>	<i>\$15,203</i>	<i>\$193,155</i>	<i>\$912,808</i>

The purpose of the proposed funding augmentation is for maintenance, monitoring, management, and administration of the Project through December 31, 2018.

FUNDING SOURCE

The purposes of this Project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002 (Proposition 40), Public Resources Code Section 5096.650(b)(5), which provides for the acquisition, development, rehabilitation, restoration and protection of land and water resources located within the boundaries of the SJRC and is consistent with the objectives of this Project.

CEQA REVIEW

The San Joaquin River Parkway, Riverbottom and Schneider Property Habitat Restoration Project ranked among the highest SJRC priorities recommended by the Interagency Project Development Committee (IPDC).

The proposed Project augmentation 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 recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this Project augmentation as proposed; allocate \$193,155 from the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Fund (Proposition 40), Public Resources Code Section 5096.650(b)(5), authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this Project; and authorize staff to proceed substantially as planned.

- *10. State Lands Lease-PRC 7629.9 Renewal - Morro Bay
San Luis Obispo County
\$0**

This item has been withdrawn from consideration at this time.

***11. Desert Tortoise Research Natural Area Habitat Restoration
Kern County
\$58,000**

This proposal is to consider the allocation for a grant to the Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee (DTPC), for a cooperative project with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to install protective boundary fencing and camouflage unauthorized vehicular routes and smaller incursions into protected habitat located on BLM land within the Desert Tortoise Research Natural Area (DTRNA), three miles north of California City in Kern County.

LOCATION

The DTRNA was established as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) by the BLM and designated by an act of Congress to provide protected habitat for Agassiz's desert tortoise (hereinafter "desert tortoise"), a federally and California listed threatened species. ACEC's were created under a BLM conservation ecology program which exists in the western United States, originating in 1976. The program directs the BLM to protect important habitats, species, and landscapes.

The DTRNA is located in eastern Kern County, California. The ACEC, which includes the DTRNA and DTPC-owned lands within adjacent expansion areas to the west, south, and east, is generally bounded on the north by the BLM-managed Rand Mountain-Fremont Valley Management Area, Neuralia Road to the west, the City of California City to the south, and Randsburg-Mojave Road and Twenty-Mule Team Road to the southeast and east. The project site is an undeveloped area bounded by dirt roads, Ninetieth Street to the west, Dodson Street to the south, 1 Hundredth Street to the east, and an unnamed road to the north. This area is comprised of creosote bush scrub and salt bush scrub with the Cache Creek wash running northwest to southeast across the project site.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Ninetieth Street running along the DTRNA's western boundary of these parcels is heavily used by off-highway vehicles (OHV) which threatens habitat that is not protected from illegal trespassing and poses a major threat to the tortoises and other sensitive species living in that area. Decades of heavy unauthorized OHV use and sheep grazing resulted in areas of partially denuded land within the project site. By expanding the area to be fenced and restored, DTPC will increase the amount of protected habitat available to the desert tortoise and other desert species.

The DTPC proposes the following actions:

Protective barriers

Working with surveying and fencing contractors, the DTPC will install protective fencing along the boundaries of the largest section of contiguous conservation lands adjacent to the western boundary of the DTRNA. Using funds from its own operational budget, the DTPC installed boundary signs along these borders from 2011 to 2013, but routine monitoring revealed that trespass (likely both intentional and unintentional) continues. Protective fencing, with informational boundary signs, provides both a physical barrier to trespass and an unmistakable designation of an area closed to riding and grazing. Fencing has been installed around the boundary of the DTRNA, and has remained intact for over thirty years. Past monitoring regarding the effectiveness of fencing demonstrated its benefits to native vegetation, desert tortoises, and a range of other vertebrate species. The DTPC will install approximately 8,000 linear feet (1.5 miles) of this same fencing, to provide the highest degree of protection for these disturbed conservation lands.

Camouflage restoration

Working with contracted restoration crews and volunteers, the DTPC will camouflage unauthorized OHV routes and smaller incursions by installing vertical and horizontal mulch, decompacting soil, and otherwise naturalizing appearances. Not only will vertical and horizontal mulching camouflage the area so OHV riders are unable to identify trails, but it will also increase water capture and present sites for seeds and seedlings. This work will occur primarily in areas where protective fencing is not feasible at this time, but may also occur within newly fenced areas if monitoring indicates fence breaks and continued incursions occur.

These actions will help the area return to a more natural state and allow populations of desert tortoises, Mojave ground squirrels, desert kit foxes, and many other species to inhabit protected land.

WCB PROGRAM

The proposed project will be funded through the Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Program and meets the program's goal of providing for threatened and endangered species habitats.

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

Goal B.5 – Provide opportunities for greater public involvement in restoration projects:

Promotes participation in restoration activities as volunteers will assist in the restoration activities.

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

Provide or enhance habitat connectivity and corridors and improve habitat for threatened or endangered species by increasing the protected area for desert tortoise.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEED

The DTPC and its partners will monitor the effectiveness of the fencing, and other physical and visual barriers to unauthorized OHVs on conservation lands. Within the first three months of fence installation, the sites will be monitored weekly by the biological monitor to look for evidence of incursions, vandalism, and collisions. The preserve manager will monitor the fence lines at least once a month throughout the following year. Continued monitoring of the fence line and restoration area will occur at least once per year. DTPC will repair fence breaks and install additional reflective signs, as needed. DTPC will conduct similar monitoring of the restoration areas, to evaluate the effectiveness of vertical mulch and signs to reduce trespass. If it is observed that native plants are not successfully emerging as a result of the vertical mulching, additional efforts will be taken to assist native plant growth with either seeding, planting, additional vertical mulching, or any combination of the three. DTPC will photograph degraded sites pre-restoration work, and at least once annually after the installation of protective fencing and other barriers. Fencing, signage, and restoration will continue in adjacent areas, which will likely have a positive effect on this restoration site.

In addition to the above, following the initial restoration and fencing installation, the land will be managed in accordance with the Desert Tortoise Research Natural Habitat Management Plan, which outlines long-term goals for protecting and managing the DTRNA and its expansion areas

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Project Task	Total Cost Per Task	WCB Funding Request	Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee
Project Management	2,500	2,125	375
Site Prep/Fencing	39,815	33,843	5,972
Biological Monitoring	10,500	8,925	1,575
Restoration	11,250	9,563	1,687
Contingency	3,544	3,544	0
<i>Totals</i>	<i>\$67,609</i>	<i>\$58,000</i>	<i>\$9,609</i>

Project costs will be for survey and installation of a boundary fence, habitat restoration, construction monitoring and project management.

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 provide funding for the acquisition, development, rehabilitation, restoration and protection of habitat to promote the recovery of threatened and endangered species, to provide corridors linking separate habitat areas to prevent habitat fragmentation, and to protect significant natural landscapes and ecosystems and other significant habitat areas.

CEQA AND CDFW REVIEW/ RECOMMENDATION

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife 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 15303, Class 3, as the construction or conversion of new, small facilities or structures; and Section 15304, Class 4, as a minor alteration to land and 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 recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$58,000 from the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Fund (Proposition 40), Public Resources Code Section 5096.650(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.

***12. Carpinteria Salt Marsh Infrastructure Improvement Project
Santa Barbara County
\$91,700**

This proposal is to consider the allocation for a grant to The Regents of the University of California for a cooperative project with University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) for infrastructure improvement at UCSB'S Carpinteria Salt Marsh Reserve (Reserve), located immediately west of the City of Carpinteria in Santa Barbara County.

LOCATION

The University of California Natural Reserve System's (UCNRS) Carpinteria Salt Marsh Reserve comprises the central 120-acre portion of the 230-acre Carpinteria Salt Marsh. Representing one of the more pristine coastal salt marshes remaining in southern California, the Reserve includes intertidal estuarine wetlands, adjacent palustrine wetlands, and sub-tidal deep water habitat.

The Reserve provides significant habitat for a rich assemblage of native plants and animals including several species of special concern. The Reserve serves as a valuable nursery and feeding ground for many species of commercial and recreationally important finfish, and provides an important refuge and feeding ground for many species of migratory birds traversing the Pacific flyway.

The Reserve supports research programs funded by state and federal agencies ranging from the National Park Service to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. It also supports numerous important graduate student dissertations and thesis projects. The outstanding habitat at the Reserve includes extensive wetland, sub-tidal channel and emergent upland habitats, and provides a critical outdoor classroom in a world-class wetland. Up to 10 university level courses, supporting eight university and community college campuses located throughout southern California, are held at the Reserve annually. Public use of the Reserve also includes docent-led tours for local K-12 classes, and visits by birdwatching groups, painters, and members of the California Native Plant Society.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The sole avenue of access into the Reserve for all users is the unpaved extension of Estero Road. As such, this roadway is a vital portion of the Reserve's infrastructure and supports the Reserve's mission of research, education, and stewardship. Built in 1945 and extending southward from the Union Pacific Railroad tracks, the Estero Road extension effectively bisects the Reserve and creates two separate intertidal basins: Basin II and Basin III. Unlike Basin III which maintains a natural connection to the Pacific Ocean, Basin II is isolated from natural tidal flows by the presence of several large earthen berms constructed in the early 1970s for increased flood control. Movement of ocean water into Basin II occurs from Basin III via six large culverts that run under the Estero Road extension. These culverts are heavily degraded and have begun to collapse under the roadway. Additionally, the sub-tidal channels located on either side of the Estero Road extension have deepened significantly over time and the existing culverts no longer lie on the bottoms of these channels.

The proposed project will replace the existing culverts running beneath the Estero Road extension with new 30" High Density Polyethylene culverts and lower the elevation of these new culverts to the same elevation as the channel beds. Additional renovations and improvements will be made to the Estero Road extension and to the Reserve fence. The

project also includes the restoration and resurfacing of the Estero Road extension, using a heavier grade granite to provide a more durable, yet still permeable road surface. The final component of the project will be the retrofitting of the main Reserve fence along the northern border. This will serve to help exclude trespassers and larger animals that threaten native birds and small mammals.

Once the Estero Road work is complete, replanting of native vegetation along the road will restore plants in disturbed areas. A series of informational and interpretive signs will also be installed along the Estero Road. The completed project will provide key repairs to vital Reserve infrastructure, support programs at Carpinteria Salt Marsh Reserve, and promote continued use of the Reserve for research, teaching, and public outreach.

WCB PROGRAM

The mission of the UCNRS is to contribute to the understanding and wise management of the earth and its natural systems by supporting university-level teaching, research, and public service at protected areas throughout California. Under Proposition 84, WCB received funding to provide matching grant dollars to the UCNRS for land acquisitions and the construction or development of facilities that will be used for research and training to improve the management of natural lands and the preservation of California's wildlife resources. To implement this funding, the WCB and the UCNRS developed guidelines for identifying eligible projects and the UCNRS established an Ad Hoc Advisory Subcommittee to review and set priorities for project proposals to be submitted to the WCB for funding.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The Grant Agreement requires that the UCNRS will maintain the Reserve improvements for the purposes of providing access for research and educational activities for twenty-five years.

PROJECT FUNDING

Project Task	Total Cost	WCB	UCSB Matching funds
Culvert replacement	116,200	84,700	31,500
Fence retrofit	9,025	7,000	2,025
Native plantings & signs	39,835	0	39,835
Administration	18,340	0	18,340
<i>Totals</i>	<i>\$183,400</i>	<i>\$ 91,700</i>	<i>\$ 91,700</i>

Project costs will cover materials and construction costs needed to replace culverts, retrofit fencing, plant native vegetation, and administration of the project.

FUNDING SOURCE

The proposed funding source for this project is 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)(3), which allows for grants to the University of California for the Natural Reserve System for the construction and development of facilities that will be used for research and training to improve the management of natural lands and the preservation of California's wildlife resources and are consistent with the objectives of this project.

CEQA AND CDFW REVIEW / RECOMMENDATION

The project was vetted through the University of California Natural Reserve System's Ad Hoc Subcommittee and recommended for funding.

Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, as lead agency, prepared an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Project pursuant to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Staff considered the EIR 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.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$91,700.00 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)(3); 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.

***13. Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel and Delta Conservation Area,
Mecca Land Development Property
Riverside County
\$75,000**

This proposal is to consider the acceptance of a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition grant; the subgrant of these federal funds to the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission (CVCC); and the allocation of a Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) grant to CVCC. CVCC would use the proceeds of the subgrant and grant to acquire fee title to 39± acres of land for the protection of natural communities within the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel and Delta Conservation Area. The land proposed for acquisition supports several listed species identified within the Coachella Valley Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan (CV MSHCP/NCCP).

LOCATION and SURROUNDING USES

The property (Property) is located in the unincorporated community of Mecca, in Riverside County. Access to the Property is from the west side of Lincoln Street and the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel dirt levee road that borders the western Property boundary. The Property is approximately 13 miles south of Interstate 10 near the city of Indio, 25 miles southwest of Joshua Tree National Park, 25 miles northeast of Anza-Borrego State Park, and just 2 miles from the north shore of the Salton Sea. The surrounding area consists of agricultural land and open space desert land. Adjacent to the Property to the west, the Whitewater River flows south into the Salton Sea. The Salton Sea is a shallow, saline lake with a closed drainage basin encompassing approximately 378 square miles and is the largest lake in California. The Salton Sea has been termed a “crown jewel of avian biodiversity” due to the 400 bird species that have been documented there.

The Property is in a region known as the Coachella Valley (Valley) which extends for approximately 45 miles in Riverside County southeast from the San Bernardino Mountains to the northern shore of the Salton Sea. The Valley is bounded by the outlying mountain ranges of the San Jacinto Mountains on the west, the Santa Rosa Mountains on the south, and the Little San Bernardino Mountains on the north and east. Approximately 100 miles east of Los Angeles, with a population of nearly 500,000, the Valley is one of the fastest growing areas in Riverside County. It is part of the Inland Empire, the 13th largest metropolitan area in the United States.

The Property is identified for protection within the Coachella Valley Stormwater and Delta Conservation Area, a designated conservation area within the CV MSHCP/NCCP approved for the Valley portion of Riverside County. The purpose of the CV MSHCP/NCCP is to provide a regional vision for balanced growth to meet the requirements of federal and state endangered species laws, while promoting enhanced opportunities for recreation, tourism, and job creation. The CV MSHCP/NCCP aims to conserve an additional 240,000 acres of open space to support the 500,000 acres of pre-existing conservation land for the protection of 27 plant and animal species. With the support of other conservation partners, the State and the federal government have helped conserve approximately 89,000 acres within the CV MSHCP/NCCP to date.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The 39± acre undeveloped Property is irregular in shape with level topography. It is currently zoned for controlled development. Allowable uses for this designation include, but are not limited to, single-family dwellings, various agricultural practices, hunting clubs, and trail bike parks. The Property contains the natural habitat communities of cismontane alkali marsh, arrowweed scrub, mesquite bosque, desert sink scrub, desert dry wash woodland, and desert fan palm oasis woodland.

This acquisition would permanently protect the Property, preventing future development and ensuring preservation of habitat that supports several state and federally listed endangered species, including the Yuma Ridgway's rail and the desert tortoise. Numerous unlisted species would also benefit from the protection of this Property. These include the California black rail, Orocopia sage, flat-tailed horned lizard, Le Conte's thrasher, Palm Springs round-tailed ground squirrel, Palm Springs pocket mouse, southern yellow bat, and crissal thrasher.

WCB PROGRAM

The proposed grant and subgrant are being considered under the WCB's Land Acquisition Program (Program). The Program is administered pursuant to the Board's original enabling legislation, "The Wildlife Conservation Law of 1947" (Fish and Game Section 1300, *et seq.*). It authorizes 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 subgrant these federal funds to assist with acquisitions of properties. Under the Program, the 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. The project has been reviewed and approved by the CDFW under its Natural Community Conservation Plan program, substantiating the biological values of the Property and recommending it for funding. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) grant proposed for acceptance for this project has also been reviewed and approved by CDFW as a participant in the USFWS Land Acquisition Grant selection and review process.

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

A.3 – Fund projects that support the implementation of Natural Community Conservation Plans, Habitat Conservation Plans and recovery of listed species.

The Property is identified in the CV MSHCP/NCCP as a priority acquisition that supports the recovery of listed species.

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

CDFW was instrumental in the creation and support of the CV MSHCP/NCCP. Under the NCCP program, CDFW worked with numerous private and public partners to develop a regional protection plan for plants, animals and their habitats. The Property lies within the CV MSHCP/NCCP plan area and, as noted above, the plan identifies it as a priority for acquisition.

E.1 - Maximize expenditures of remaining bond funds and identify opportunities to leverage existing funds as effectively as possible.

The Property is proposed to be acquired with funds from the USFWS Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition grant and subgrant along with matching funds from the WCB grant.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

Following the close of escrow, CVCC will own, manage and monitor the Property. CVCC has established an endowment that will support the monitoring and management of the Property in perpetuity. The Property will be maintained in conjunction with other properties within the CV MSHCP/NCCP. The Property may be considered for future appropriate passive recreational uses.

TERMS

The Property has been appraised as having a fair market value of \$200,000. The appraisal has been reviewed by WCB staff and reviewed and approved by the Department of General Services (DGS) and USFWS. The owner has agreed to sell the Property for the approved appraised fair market value. The USFWS funds require a non-federal match that is being provided by the WCB grant. The terms and conditions of the proposed WCB grant to CVCC and the subgrant of USFWS grant funds to the CVCC provide that staff of the WCB 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. In the event of a breach of the grant terms, the 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	70,000
WCB – subgrant of USFWS funds	130,000
<i>Total Purchase Price</i>	<i>200,000</i>
Other Project Related Admin Costs	5,000
<i>Total WCB Allocation</i>	<i>\$75,000</i>

It is estimated that an additional \$5,000.00 will be needed to cover project-related administrative costs, including DGS appraisal review.

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(b/c). This fund source allows for the acquisition and protection of habitat to protect rare, endangered, threatened or fully protected species and to further implement habitat conservation plans.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND State Recommendation

The project has been reviewed pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and is proposed as exempt under CEQA Guidelines 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 WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$75,000 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c) for the grant and to cover internal project-related expenses; authorize acceptance of the USFWS Habitat Conservation Plan grant in the amount of \$130,000 and the subgrant of these funds to CVCC; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

***14. Rancho Jamul Ecological Reserve, Expansion 3
San Diego County
\$25,000**

This proposal is to consider the acquisition in fee of 40± acres of land by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) for the protection of threatened and endangered species, to preserve biological communities supporting sensitive species, to enhance wildlife linkages, and provide potential future wildlife oriented public use opportunities. The proposed acquisition would be an expansion of CDFW's Rancho Jamul Ecological Reserve and is within the San Diego County Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP), a joint Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP).

LOCATION and SURROUNDING USES

The property (Property) is located south of the community of Jamul, in the southern part of San Diego County. It is situated approximately one third of a mile south of Proctor Valley Road, one and one half miles west of Campo Road, and four miles north of the Otay Lakes.

CDFW's Rancho Jamul Ecological Reserve (Reserve) borders the northern, eastern, and southern sides of the Property. Located roughly 15 miles from downtown San Diego, the Reserve is a core area within the MSCP and preserves linkages between CDFW's Hollenbeck Canyon Wildlife Area, Otay Mountain Ecological Reserve, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's San Diego National Wildlife Refuge, and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management's Otay Mountain Wilderness Area. Other protected lands in the Property's vicinity are CDFW's Crestridge Ecological Reserve, Sycuan Peak Ecological Reserve, and McGinty Mountain Ecological Reserve.

Multiple residential subdivisions exist within one mile of the Property and the potential of additional development in the immediate area remains high. Last year, a casino opened for business about a mile northeast of the Property.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property is rectangular in shape and unimproved lying on the north-facing slope of the Jamul Mountains. The landscape is level in some areas, with rolling terrain elsewhere. Vegetation communities on and adjacent to the Property include coastal sage scrub, chaparral, native and non-native forb and grasslands. Special status MSCP-covered species targeted to benefit from this acquisition include Quino checkerspot butterfly (Federally Endangered), California gnatcatcher (Federally Threatened, California State Species of Concern), golden eagle, mountain lion, orange-throated whiptail, San Diego horned lizard, Northern harrier, Cooper's hawk, and burrowing owl.

The proposed acquisition will augment the MSCP, a comprehensive long-term HCP/NCCP addressing the needs of multiple species and the preservation of natural vegetation communities in San Diego County. The MSCP addresses the potential impacts of urban growth and loss of native species and habitats by preserving a network of habitat and open space. It provides a framework in which to mitigate for the potential loss of covered species and their habitat due to the direct impacts of future development of both public and private lands within the MSCP plan area.

Acquisition of the Property will help preserve key regional wildlife linkages between existing preserved core resource areas. Core resource areas are areas of high concentration of sensitive biological resources, which, if lost, could not be replaced or mitigated elsewhere. This acquisition will contribute to the MSCP's ability to address the effects of climate change by enhancing species' opportunities to utilize suitable habitat and/or expand their ranges as necessitated by changing environmental conditions.

WCB PROGRAM

The proposed acquisition is being considered under the Wildlife Conservation Board's (WCB) Land Acquisition Program (Program). The Program is administered pursuant to WCB'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 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 CDFW, which evaluates the biological values of property through development of a Land Acquisition Evaluation/Conceptual Area Protection Plan (LAE/CAPP). The LAE/CAPP is then submitted to CDFW's Regional Operations Committee for review and, if approved, later transmitted to 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.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 wildlife corridors and habitat linkages for threatened and endangered species. By protecting and maintaining these corridors and linkages between major core habitat areas, range shifts and migration of species will be able to utilize suitable habitat as necessitated by climate change or temporary loss of habitat due to catastrophic fires or drought.

Goal A.3 – Fund projects that support the implementation of Natural Community Conservation Plans, Habitat Conservation Plans and recovery of listed species.

The Property is within the MSCP area and will help meet the goals of the MSCP. CDFW, under its NCCP program, approved the project.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

Following the acquisition, CDFW will own and manage the Property as an addition to CDFW's approximately 5,600-acre Rancho Jamul Ecological Reserve. CDFW will absorb any costs associated with managing the Property into its existing Reserve budget. Any additional costs will be minimal since the main purpose of the acquisition is to retain the site in its natural state. Site visits will be required from time to time to monitor the Property. CDFW will include these site visits with other surrounding parcels in State ownership and management.

The Property has the potential for future public use opportunities such as wildlife viewing, day hiking, bird watching, and photography.

TERMS

The Property has been appraised as having a fair market value of \$150,000. 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 \$10,000. The terms and conditions of the proposed acquisition provide that 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.

PROJECT FUNDING

The Proposed funding breakdown for this project is as follows:

Wildlife Conservation Board	10,000
Total Purchase Price	10,000
Other Project Related Admin. Costs	15,000
<i>Total WCB Allocation</i>	<i>\$25,000</i>

It is estimated that an additional \$15,000 will be needed to cover project related administrative costs including the environmental assessment, appraisal, DGS appraisal reviews, and escrow and title insurance costs.

WCB FUNDING SOURCE

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

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 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 WCB, a Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse. CDFW has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for funding by WCB.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$25,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c), for the acquisition and to cover internal project-related expenses; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

***15. San Vicente Highlands (Briles) and Expansion 1 (Pitman)
San Diego County
\$265,000**

This proposal is to consider the acquisition in fee 12± acres of land from two separate landowners by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) for the protection of deer and mountain lion habitat, to maintain wildlife corridors and linkages, and provide future wildlife oriented public use opportunities.

LOCATION and SURROUNDING USES

The properties (Properties) are two adjacent parcels, located southwest of the city of Poway, in San Diego County. The Properties are situated approximately 3 miles southwest of the community of Fernbrook, one mile north of the San Vicente Reservoir, and four miles southeast of Poway. More specifically, the Properties are located at the intersection of Foster Truck Trail and State Route 67.

The Properties are in the Iron Mountain Ridge-Cañada de San Vicente Preserve Conceptual Area Protection Plan (CAPP). To the west is the County of San Diego, Department of Parks and Recreation's (DPR) Goodan Ranch/Sycamore Canyon County Preserve. To the north is the City of Poway's Iron Mountain Preserve. To the east are CDFW's San Vicente Highlands Reserve and its proposed Cañada de San Vicente Ecological Reserve. The Goodan Ranch/Sycamore Canyon Preserve, Iron Mountain Preserve, San Vicente Highlands Reserve, and Cañada de San Vicente Reserve are located within the San Diego County Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP), a joint Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP). Other protected lands in the Properties' vicinity are CDFW's Blue Sky Ecological Reserve, DPR's Boulder Oaks Preserve and Berkeley Hering Preserve.

The location of the Properties within the CAPP are important not only because of the wildlife species and habitat found on the Properties, but because they provide easy access to the public from adjacent State Route 67 and Foster Truck Trail. While ease of public access may be a benefit for future public use opportunities, currently there are trespassers that are passing through the Properties and onto CDFW protected lands with off-highway vehicles and causing damage to sensitive habitat. Acquiring the Properties will enable CDFW to better prevent trespassing and add important habitat acreage to the Reserve system.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Properties are irregularly shaped and are adjacent to State Route 67 and contain no permanent improvements. Both Properties contain level to rolling terrain. Vegetation communities on and adjacent to the Property include coastal sage scrub, chaparral, and grasslands. Special status MSCP covered species targeted to benefit from this acquisition include Quino checkerspot butterfly (Federally Endangered), California gnatcatcher (Federally Threatened, California State Species of Concern), mountain lion, Southern mule deer, Hermes copper, and the San Diego goldenstar.

The proposed acquisition focuses on land that will augment the MSCP, a comprehensive long-term HCP addressing the needs of multiple species and the preservation of natural vegetation communities in San Diego County. The MSCP addresses the potential impacts of urban growth and loss of native species and habitats by preserving a network of habitat

and open space. It provides a framework in which to mitigate for the potential loss of covered species and their habitat due to the direct impacts of future development of both public and private lands within the MSCP area. This acquisition would prevent development on two parcels within a sensitive wildlife area located immediately adjacent to existing Reserve lands.

Acquisition of the Properties will help preserve key regional wildlife linkages between existing preserved core resource areas. Core resource areas are defined as areas having a high concentration of sensitive biological resources, which, if lost, could not be replaced or mitigated elsewhere. This acquisition will contribute to the MSCP's ability to address the effects of climate change by enhancing species' opportunities to utilize suitable habitat and/or expand their ranges as necessitated by changing environmental conditions. This acquisition also allows for wildlife movement to continue on routes parallel to State Route 67, a high traffic volume highway with vehicles traveling at high speeds.

WCB PROGRAM

The proposed acquisitions are being considered under the Wildlife Conservation Board's (WCB) Land Acquisition Program (Program). The Program is administered pursuant to WCB'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 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 CDFW, which evaluates the biological values of property through development of a Land Acquisition Evaluation/Conceptual Area Protection Plan (LAE/CAPP). The LAE/CAPP is then submitted to CDFW's Regional Operations Committee for review and, if approved, later transmitted to 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.1 – Fund projects and landscapes that provide resilience for native wildlife and plant species in the face of climate change.

Acquisition of the Properties will preserve wildlife corridors and habitat linkages for native species. By protecting and maintaining these corridors and linkages between major core habitat areas, range shifts and migration of species will be able to utilize suitable habitat as necessitated by climate change or temporary loss of habitat due to catastrophic fires or drought.

Goal A.3 – Fund projects that support the implementation of Natural Community Conservation Plans, Habitat Conservation Plans and recovery of listed species.

The Properties are within the MSCP area and will help meet the goals of the MSCP. CDFW, under its NCCP program, approved the project.

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 Properties are identified as parcels for protection in the Iron Mountain Ridge-Cañada de San Vicente Preserve CAPP.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

Following the acquisition, CDFW will own and manage the Properties as additions to CDFW’s San Vicente Highlands Open Space Preserve. Costs associated with managing the Property will be minimal as the main purpose of the acquisition is to retain the site in its natural state. Site visits will be required from time to time to monitor the Property. These site visits will be included with other surrounding parcels in CDFW ownership and management.

TERMS

Briles: The Briles property has been appraised as having a fair market value of \$115,000. The property owner has agreed to sell the property for the fair market value of \$115,000.

Pitman: The Pitman property has been appraised as having a fair market value of \$110,000. The property owner has agreed to sell the property for the fair market value of \$110,000.

The appraisal for both properties has been reviewed by WCB staff and reviewed and approved by the Department of General Services (DGS). The terms and conditions of the proposed acquisitions provide that 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 acquisitions.

PROJECT FUNDING

The Proposed funding breakdown for these projects are as follows:

Wildlife Conservation Board (Briles)	115,000
Wildlife Conservation Board (Pitman)	110,000
Total Purchase Price (Briles & Pitman)	225,000
Other Project Related Admin. Costs	40,000
<i>Total WCB Allocation</i>	<i>\$265,000</i>

It is estimated that an additional \$40,000 will be needed to cover project related administrative costs including the environmental assessment, appraisal, DGS appraisal reviews, and escrow and title insurance costs

WCB FUNDING SOURCE

The purposes of these projects are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, which allows for the acquisition of habitat to protect deer and mountain lions. [Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(a)]

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND STATE RECOMMENDATION

The acquisitions have been reviewed for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements and are proposed as exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15313, Class 13, as 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 WCB, a Notice of Exemption for each property will be filed with the State Clearinghouse. CDFW has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for funding by WCB.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$265,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(a), for the acquisition and to cover internal project-related expenses; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

**16. East Contra Costa County HCP/NCCP (Casey)
Contra Costa County
\$1,065,800**

This proposal is to consider the allocation for a grant to the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy (ECCCHC), as well as the acceptance of a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition grant and the sub-grant of these federal funds to the ECCCHC. The ECCCHC would use these funds for a cooperative project with the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) to acquire 320± acres of land for the protection and preservation of existing regional wildlife linkages, including annual grassland habitat, within the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan (ECCC HCP/NCCP) plan area.

LOCATION and SURROUNDING USES

The property (Property), known as Casey, is located along Byron Hot Springs Road in the southeast corner of the ECCC HCP/NCCP plan area, near unincorporated Byron, in Contra Costa County. It represents an important opportunity to expand the ECCC HCP/NCCP Preserve System and link with existing and proposed ECCC HCP/NCCP preserve properties. Surrounding land uses include the Byron Airport as well as Byron Airport Habitat Management Lands managed by Contra Costa County, rural home sites, agricultural properties and open space. The Property is adjacent to existing ECCC HCP/NCCP preserve lands.

The ECCC HCP/NCCP designates the Property as a high priority for acquisition and protection because it supports high quality habitat for several key species the ECCC HCP/NCCP covers. Specifically, the Property supports breeding and movement habitat for San Joaquin kit fox, and serves a critical connectivity function. The Property is near previously conserved areas within the ECCC HCP/NCCP plan area. Over the past several years the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB), USFWS, ECCCHC, and EBRPD have partnered to acquire over 13,400 acres of habitat within the ECCC HCP/NCCP plan area, helping protect essential habitat and connectivity for multiple wildlife species. In addition to its designation in the ECCC HCP/NCCP, the project is also consistent with action proposed under the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) California Wildlife Action Plan (Plan). The Property is located within the Plan's Central Valley and Bay Delta region. Two of the recommended conservation actions called out for this region are protection of upland linkages and reduction of habitat isolation in the eastern San Francisco Bay Area. The proposed acquisition would meet both of these recommended actions.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property is 320± acres in size and currently used for cattle grazing. The topography is rolling with several areas that are level. Elevations range from approximately 100 feet in the northeast corner to approximately 600 feet at the top of the highest hill located on the western portion of the Property. Annual grassland is the primary habitat type found on the Property. The Property is adjacent to several previous acquisitions within the ECCC HCP/NCCP plan area. These linkages include a movement corridor for the state threatened and federally endangered San Joaquin kit fox. Acquisition of the Property will protect suitable habitat for the state-listed threatened California red-legged frog and a variety of other important and federally and/or state-listed wildlife species including vernal pool fairy shrimp, California tiger salamander, golden eagle, western burrowing owl and Swainson's hawk.

WCB PROGRAM

The proposed grant and subgrant for this project are being considered under the WCB's Land Acquisition Program (Program). The Program is administered pursuant to the Board's original enabling legislation, "The Wildlife Conservation Law of 1947" (Fish and Game Section 1300, *et seq.*). It enables the WCB to pursue acquisitions and accept federal grant funds to facilitate acquisitions or subgrant these federal funds to assist with acquisitions of properties. CDFW has reviewed and approved the project under its Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP) program, substantiating the biological values of the Property and recommending it for funding. CDFW, as a participant in the USFWS Land Acquisition grant selection and review process, has also reviewed and approved the USFWS grant proposed for acceptance for this project has been reviewed and approved by the.

This project 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.

The project enhances habitat connections by expanding a network of protected linkages. The project will expand the protection of wildlife linkages and provide ecosystem responses to climate change by incorporating elevation gradients that allow species and vegetation communities to shift upward in elevation.

Goal A.3 – Fund projects that support the implementation of Natural Community Conservation Plans, Habitat Conservation Plans and recovery of listed species.

The ECCC HCP/NCCP identifies the Property as a high priority for acquisition and protection. The Property supports the recovery of listed species.

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 was instrumental in the creation and support of the ECCC HCP/NCCP through its NCCP program. Under the NCCP program, CDFW works with numerous private and public partners to develop a regional protection plan identifying properties to acquire for long-term protection of habitat for plants and animals.

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

The Property is proposed to be acquired with WCB funds and funds from the USFWS Section 6 subgrant, EBRPD funds and Contra Costa Avian Fund funds.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

EBRPD has agreed to manage the property once it is acquired. ECCCHC and EBRPD will fund future management activities for this Property, in part through wind turbine and communication tower lease revenue from prior acquisitions within the ECCC HCP/NCCP plan area. It is anticipated that the Property will offer the potential for future passive recreational uses, an allowed use under the ECCC HCP/NCCP. EBRPD will maintain the habitat in conjunction with other properties owned by EBRPD.

TERMS

The Property has been appraised as having a fair market value of \$2,480,000.00. The appraisal has been reviewed by WCB staff and reviewed and approved by the Department of General Services (DGS) and the USFWS. The owner has agreed to sell the Property for \$2,400,000.00. The USFWS funds require a non-federal match that is being provided by the proposed WCB grant to ECCCHC, due diligence and closing costs, and habitat management and enhancement. The terms and conditions of the proposed WCB grant and subgrant to the ECCCHC provide that staff of the WCB 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. In the event of a breach of the grant terms, the WCB can require the grantee to encumber the Property with a conservation easement in favor of WCB and seek reimbursement of funds.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Wildlife Conservation Board	1,055,800
USFWS subgrant funds	1,077,600
East Bay Regional Park District	240,000
CC Avian Fund	26,600
Total Purchase Price	2,400,000
Other Project Related Admin Costs	10,000
<i>Total WCB Allocation</i>	<i>\$1,065,800</i>

It is estimated that an additional \$10,000.00 will be needed to cover project-related expenses, including DGS appraisal review costs.

FUNDING SOURCE

The purposes of this project are consistent with the proposed funding source, the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75055c (SSJD-NCCP) that allows for the acquisition and protection of habitat for areas in and around the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta that implement or assist in the establishment of Natural Community Conservation Plans.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND STATE RECOMMENDATION

The acquisition has been reviewed for compliance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) 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. The CDFW has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for approval.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the WCB approve the project as proposed; approve the acceptance of the Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition grant funds from the USFWS in the amount of \$1,077,600.00 and the subgrant of these federal funds to the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy; allocate \$1,065,800.00 from the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Section 75055(c) (SSJD-NCCP) for the grant to ECCCHC and to cover the project-related costs; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

17. Wheeler Ridge, Expansion 8 (Dodson)
Mono County
\$295,000

This proposal is to consider the acquisition in fee of 6± acres of land by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) for the protection of deer and mountain lion habitat, to maintain a migration corridor for the Round Valley mule deer herd, and provide future wildlife oriented public use opportunities.

LOCATION and SURROUNDING USES

The property (Property) is located in the community of Swall Meadows, in the southern part of Mono County. Swall Meadows is west of State Route 395 and is approximately 20 miles north of the city of Bishop and 25 miles south of the city of Mammoth Lakes. More specifically, the Property is located on Willow Road, south of Wilson Road.

The Property is in CDFW's Wheeler Ridge Conceptual Area Protection Plan (CAPP). To the west of the Property is private land protected by conservation easements held by the Eastern Sierra Land Trust (ESLT). Located less than 500 feet to the east of the Property are 197± acres of CDFW property. To the north and east are the Swall Meadows and Rimrock Ranch residential developments.

The community of Swall Meadows is comprised primarily of one to two acre single-family residential lots. Larger parcels in the area are primarily encumbered by conservation easements held by ESLT. The outlying areas are in close proximity to federal public lands administered by Bureau of Land Management or the United States Forest Service. Both federal agencies recognize the importance of maintaining the viability of the Round Valley deer herd migration corridor in their management plans.

The Property is part of a known migration and holding area for mule deer of the Round Valley herd. The Wheeler Ridge area once supported over 6,000 deer. Currently, mule deer numbers reflect a significant decrease, down to approximately 2,000 animals. The primary purpose of the Wheeler Ridge CAPP area is to acquire property to preserve, maintain, and enhance critical Round Valley mule deer winter range holding areas, and migration habitat. The secondary purposes of the Wheeler Ridge CAPP are to maintain and enhance opportunities for deer hunting and wildlife viewing and preserve habitat for the numerous other species that utilize this region.

The General Plans for both Inyo and Mono Counties urge the preservation of wildlife migration corridors. Inyo County designated Round Valley as an "Environmental Resource Area" due to the diversity of plant and wildlife species, wetlands, and riparian areas in the valley.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property is a rectangular shaped parcel and is vacant and unimproved. Access to the site is via Willow Road, a non-maintained dirt road that forms the western boundary of the Property. The land use designation of the Property is ER2, which has the legally permissible potential for a single home site.

The Property is bisected by two small drainages supporting wet meadow and willow riparian vegetation. The surrounding upland vegetation is sagebrush-bitterbrush scrub. The migration corridor running near and through the Property serves as a temporary holding area important to deer during the spring and fall migrations. Having these open spaces

allows the herd the necessary flexibility to survive annual variability in weather. With a very small winter range available to the herd, the lower elevations of the holding area and migration corridor become even more critical. Furthermore, the threat of development within this narrow migration corridor is considered a significant threat to the long-term stability of the herd.

The project will protect and preserve not only the mule deer of the Round Valley herd, but will also provide essential habitat to resident wildlife. Additional wildlife species potentially present on the Property and benefited by the acquisition include; federally endangered Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep, and other wildlife species such as Sierra Nevada red fox, mountain lion, long-tailed weasel, and black bear. Studies completed by CDFW have also documented the existence of 137 bird species, 16 bat species, neo-tropical migrants and riparian birds such as the yellow warbler and yellow-breasted chat, raptors such as the bald and golden eagles, and a considerable number of reptiles and amphibians present in the area.

WCB PROGRAM

The proposed acquisition is being considered under the Wildlife Conservation Board's (WCB) Land Acquisition Program (Program). The Program is administered pursuant to WCB'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 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 CDFW, which evaluates the biological values of property through development of a Land Acquisition Evaluation/Conceptual Area Protection Plan (LAE/CAPP). The LAE/CAPP is then submitted to CDFW's Regional Operations Committee for review and, if approved, later transmitted to 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.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 corridors for the migration and movement of wildlife species and provide for habitat connectivity between habitat areas with varying elevations.

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 identified as a parcel for protection in CDFW's Wheeler Ridge CAPP.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

Following the acquisition, CDFW will own and manage the Property as an addition to existing CDFW property in Swall Meadows. Currently CDFW owns 197± acres of undesignated lands located in Swall Meadows and within the boundaries of the Wheeler Ridge CAPP. Costs associated with managing the Property will be minimal as the main purpose of the acquisition is to retain the site in its natural state for continued deer use. Site visits will be required from time to time to monitor the Property. These site visits will be included with other surrounding parcels in State ownership and management. The Property has the potential for wildlife viewing and day hiking. This site is situated within a no-shooting zone around Swall Meadows, no hunting will be allowed at this time.

TERMS

The property has been appraised as having a fair market value of \$265,000. 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 its approved appraised fair market value of \$265,000. The terms and conditions of the proposed acquisition provide that 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 WCB, the transaction must also be reviewed and approved by the DGS.

PROJECT FUNDING

The Proposed funding breakdown for this project is as follows:

Wildlife Conservation Board	265,000
Total Purchase Price	265,000
Other Project Related Admin. Costs	30,000
<i>Total WCB Allocation</i>	<i>\$295,000</i>

It is estimated that an additional \$30,000 will be needed to cover project related administrative costs including the environmental assessment, appraisal, DGS appraisal and transaction reviews, and escrow and title insurance costs.

WCB FUNDING SOURCE

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

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 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 WCB, a Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse. CDFW has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for funding by WCB.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$295,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(a), for the acquisition and to cover internal project-related expenses; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

**18. San Joaquin River Parkway, Sycamore Island Fishing Pond, Enhancement Project
Madera County
\$1,606,627**

This proposal is to consider the allocation for a grant to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) for a cooperative project with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and the San Joaquin River Conservancy (SJRC) to construct public access and habitat enhancements to a gravel pit pond adjacent to the San Joaquin River at the SJRC Sycamore Island property located approximately three miles downstream of the State Route 41 bridge in Madera County.

LOCATION

The San Joaquin River Parkway (Parkway) is defined by state law as approximately 5,900 acres on both sides of a 22 mile long reach of the San Joaquin River between Friant Dam to the east and State Route (SR) 99 to the west, in Fresno and Madera Counties (Public Resources Code Section 32510). The SJRC was created in 1992 to preserve and enhance the San Joaquin River's extraordinary biological diversity, protect its valued cultural and natural resources, and provide educational and recreational opportunities to local communities. The SJRC mission is to implement the Parkway Master Plan, including providing public access and restoring habitat within the planned Parkway.

The proposed Sycamore Island Fishing Pond Enhancement Project (Project) includes work at the berms and upland adjacent to a gravel pit pond on SJRC property within the Parkway. The Project is located at approximately River Mile 252 and about three miles downstream of the SR 41 bridge over the San Joaquin River. The project is on the north side of the river in a rural, unincorporated area of Madera County.

In terms of historic and current land use, portions of Sycamore Island functioned as a working ranch in the 1950's. An aggregate mining company established operation at Sycamore Island in the early 1960s, excavating large pits from which the company procured gravel. As gravel mining was discontinued, the former gravel pits filled in with water seepage from the San Joaquin River and became ponds. Since the 1960's, some of the gravel pit ponds were operated privately as fishing sites. Anglers were charged a fee to fish for bass and other warm water fish. In 2005, the SJRC acquired Sycamore Island and continues to manage the site for recreational access, including fishing. Sycamore Island is a popular area along the Parkway with 9,069 visitors in 2016.

The site of the proposed project is disturbed with little remaining natural topography. The gravel pit pond is formed by an intact set of berms that separate it from four other abandoned gravel pit ponds on its north, west, and east sides, and from the San Joaquin River on its south side. An unpaved road on the berms encircles the gravel pit pond where the Project will occur, and provides contiguous access throughout Sycamore Island. Both native and non-native trees and shrubs, as well as annual grasses and forbs, dominate the berms, upland areas, and an island in the middle of the pond. Typical of off-stream water bodies adjacent to riverine systems, the pond harbors warm water fish species, such as catfish, largemouth bass, and crappie, some of which, when given direct access to the river, prey on native cold-water salmonids being re-introduced to the river system under the San Joaquin River Restoration Plan (SJRRP). For recreational fishing, CDFW also stocks the pond with trout during the winter months.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

An ungraded and unevenly sloped parking lot and two areas used as boat ramps are located in the northeast corner of the gravel pit pond. Remnants of what appears to be an abandoned concrete boat launch are also located in this area. Because water seeps through the pond berms slowly, evaporation in the pond during summer months keeps the pond water level low and pond water quality is poor.

The purpose of the proposed Project is for DWR to construct public access and habitat enhancements to the pond. DWR will construct public access improvements to an upland area and the pond bank at the northeast corner of the pond to increase fishing access at the pond. Providing off-stream fishing is an objective of the SJRRP to reduce fishing pressure on reintroduced native salmonids and assist in restoring them to the river. Additionally, DWR will install up to two French drains through the berm that encircles the pond to improve water flow and quality, enhancing the off-stream fishery habitat in the pond. By contributing to restoration of salmon in the San Joaquin River and improving water quality in the pond, the Project meets the intents and purposes of Proposition 1.

DWR will coordinate with CDFW, the Lead Agency for the Project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), which will ensure environmental approvals for the Project are obtained. DWR also will obtain architectural and construction permits and approvals, finalize Project plans and specifications, and hire a construction contractor to complete the public access and habitat enhancements. During construction, DWR will provide construction oversight, supervision, and inspection for the contractor and close out the contract; CDFW will oversee environmental compliance. As-built drawings and a final report of the new facilities will be prepared by DWR.

DWR is responsible for overseeing the completion of the following Project tasks. The Fresno Economic Opportunity Commission Local Conservation Corp will assist DWR with brush clearing.

Grading - The proposed Project will improve the current condition of the parking area and demolish and remove the abandoned concrete boat launch. The Project will grade and slope the uneven parking area, creating a surface that improves drainage and disperses runoff.

Boat Ramp - The two existing, steeply sloped boat launch areas will be replaced with one reinforced concrete slab boat launch.

Vault Restroom – To improve drainage, the base of the new restroom will be raised using soil obtained from grading the parking area and, if necessary, off-site local sources. The restroom will be a single vault precast concrete toilet building that is ADA-compliant.

Pedestrian Ramp, Gangway, and Fishing Pier – A contiguous ramp, gangway, and pier will be installed in the northwest corner of the pond. They are designed to be ADA-compliant with adjustments for slope, and appropriately located landings, handrails, and other necessary ADA-compliant features.

Parking and Pedestrian Pathways – A total of 14 new designated parking spaces will be constructed of which three will be ADA-compliant spaces. ADA-compliant pedestrian paths

will connect ADA parking to the restroom and pedestrian ramp. Additionally, a vehicle staging area will be constructed.

Cobble Rip-Rap Border - A cobble rip-rap border will be installed along the edge of the parking lot and pedestrian ramp and abutments to reduce the potential for erosion by wind, waves, and fluctuating pond levels.

Water Circulation – To increase the amount of summer water in the pond and improve poor water circulation, DWR will install up to two French drains in the berms containing the pond, one in the berm on the west side (up river) and one in the berm on the east side (down river) of the pond.

WCB PROGRAM

WCB assists with the administration of project funding for the SJRC. The WCB, represented by its Executive Director, holds a position on the 15-member SJRC Board along with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), represented by the Central Region Manager. The SJRC Board reviews and approves projects to ensure they are viable and consistent with the goals of the current SJRC Parkway Master Plan (2000) (Parkway Master Plan), prior to consideration by the WCB. The SJRC Board approved this project and submittal to WCB on June 7, 2017.

The proposed Project will be funded through the WCB Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Program and meets the program's goal of providing native fisheries restoration.

The Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Proposition 1), California Water Code Section 79731(g), allocates funds for projects that provide multi-benefit water quality, water supply, and watershed protection and restoration projects located within the boundaries of the Parkway and is consistent with the objectives of this project.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The San Joaquin River Restoration Program (SJRRP) has the stated goal of maintaining fish populations, including re-introduced salmon, in good condition in the main stem of the San Joaquin River below Friant Dam. The enhancement of off-stream fisheries adjacent to the the San Joaquin River is an important component of restoring the river and reintroducing native salmonids to the river reach just downstream of Friant Dam.

The proposed Project is consistent with the Parkway Master Plan and will not conflict with county zoning or jurisdictions. The objectives of the Project, to enhance the off-stream fishery for the public and to reduce fishing pressure on reintroduced native salmonids in the river are consistent with the policies, goals, and objectives in the Parkway Master Plan, which summarized include:

Fundamental Goals

- Protect wildlife species that depend on or prefer the river environment.
- Protect irreplaceable natural resources in a way that will also meet recreational and educational needs.

Natural Resources Goals (NRG)

NRG1. Promote the long-term preservation, enhancement, and public enjoyment of the aquatic, plant, and wildlife resources of the San Joaquin River and the river bottom.

Natural Resources Programs

NRPV1. The Master Plan proposes to restore and enhance areas of riparian and wetland habitats along the San Joaquin River. Many of these areas have undergone biological, physical, and hydrological changes that are primarily the result of human interference. Restoration and enhancement of this portion of the river is intended to increase habitat value and recreate a continuous wildlife corridor by creation of riparian habitat, enhancement of degraded riparian habitat, and enhancement of pond edges with freshwater marsh species.

Natural Resources Objectives (NRO)

NRO1. Protect the San Joaquin River as aquatic habitat and a water resource. Enhance and protect fisheries in the river and in the lakes in the Parkway.

Natural Resources Design Policies (NRD)

NRD1.1. New facilities shall be sited in restored or previously developed areas. Visitor overlooks and viewing areas shall be located so as to avoid intrusion into sensitive habitat areas and to avoid habitat fragmentation.

Recreation Area Policies (RP)

Rehabilitate and improve existing recreation area and facilities, particularly Lost Lake, on a priority basis.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Item Description	DWR Cost	CDFW Cost	WCB Cost	Total Cost
Preliminary Design	112,000.00	108,431.79		220,431.79
CEQA and Environmental Compliance		115,000.00		115,000.00
Construction	65,000		1,460,570.00	1,525,570.00
Contingency	10,000.00		146,057.00	156,057.00
<i>Totals</i>	<i>\$187,000.00</i>	<i>\$223,431.79</i>	<i>\$1,606,627.00</i>	<i>\$2,017,058.79</i>

The \$1,606,627 Proposition 1 grant will cover DWR contracting, construction management, and construction costs.

The total Project cost of \$2,017,058.79 consists of DWR and CDFW contributions, and the requested Proposition 1 grant funds. DWR will provide \$187,000 of its SJRRP Proposition 84 funds, and CDFW is providing \$223,431.79 from two sources, including funding for a contract to DWR for preliminary design and CDFW staff time from a 10-year reimbursable funding agreement with the Natural Resources Agency under California Water Code Section 79736(d).

FUNDING SOURCE

The purposes of the proposed project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Proposition 1), California Water Code Section 79731(g), which provides for multi-benefit water quality, water supply, and watershed protection and restoration projects located within the boundaries of the San Joaquin River Parkway.

CEQA AND SJRC REVIEW/ RECOMMENDATION (IF NEEDED)

The proposed project is included among the projects recommended by the SJRC Proposition 1 Evaluation Panel and considered by the SJRC Board. The project was approved for submittal to WCB by the SJRC Board on June 7, 2017.

CDFW, as lead agency, prepared an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and two subsequent addenda for the Project pursuant to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Staff considered the EIR and addenda 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.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board adopt the written findings and approve this project as proposed; allocate \$1,606,627 from the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Proposition 1), California Water Code Section 79731(g), authorize staff and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff to proceed substantially as planned.

**19. San Joaquin River Parkway, Sycamore Island Habitat Enhancement Project
Madera/Fresno County
\$218,660**

This proposal is to consider the allocation for a grant to the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust (Trust) for a cooperative project with the San Joaquin River Conservancy (SJRC) to enhance 5± acres of floodplain and riverbank habitat on SJRC property and State Sovereign Lands, located approximately two miles downstream of State Route (SR) 41 in Fresno and Madera Counties.

LOCATION

The San Joaquin River Parkway (Parkway) is defined by state law as approximately 5,900 acres on both sides of a 22 mile-long reach of the San Joaquin River between Friant Dam to the east and State Route (SR) 99 to the west, in Fresno and Madera Counties (Public Resources Code Section 32510). The SJRC was created in 1992 to preserve and enhance the San Joaquin River's extraordinary biological diversity, protect its valued cultural and natural resources, and provide educational and recreational opportunities to local communities. The SJRC mission is to implement the Parkway Master Plan, including providing public access and restoring habitat within the planned Parkway.

The proposed Sycamore Island Habitat Enhancement Project (Project) is located at approximately River Mile 254 and about two miles downstream of the SR 41 bridge in Madera and Fresno counties. The Project includes work at two sites. One site is adjacent to reclaimed Gravel Pit 46e, on the river side of a berm between the SJRC Sycamore Island and the SJRC Van Buren Unit in Madera County. The second site is located directly across the river on the SJRC River West property in Fresno County. Portions of the Project are within State Sovereign Lands under the jurisdiction of the State Lands Commission.

Portions of Sycamore Island functioned as a working ranch in the 1950's. An aggregate mining company established operations at Sycamore Island in the early 1960s, excavating large pits from which the company procured gravel. As gravel mining was discontinued, the former gravel pits filled in with water seepage from the San Joaquin River and became ponds. Since the 1960's, some of these gravel pit ponds were operated privately as fishing sites. Anglers paid a fee to fish for bass and other warm water fish in the ponds. In 2005, the SJRC acquired Sycamore Island, including Gravel Pit 46e, one of the ponds that supported fishing access. The SJRC continues to manage the site for recreational access, including fishing.

In 2005, a berm separating the ponded water in Gravel Pit 46e from the San Joaquin River failed. The breach destroyed the gravel access road on the berm crown at that location and caused a direct, unimpeded connection between the gravel pit and river. Without the access road, the SJRC Sycamore Island Fishing Access site lacked secondary emergency egress from the site for the recreating public, and Parkway management, law enforcement, and emergency responders lack efficient access. The planned Parkway recreational trail between the SJRC Sycamore Island and the neighboring SJRC Van Buren unit could not be completed without replacing the failed berm. Furthermore, warm water fish living in Gravel Pit 46e were preying on reintroduced salmon.

Typical of off-stream water bodies adjacent to riverine systems, Gravel Pit 46e harbors warm water fish species. These fish are predators of native cold water fish species, such as salmon, that are being re-introduced to the river system. In 2012 and 2014 respectively, WCB and the SJRC approved a grant to fund a planning and design project by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) to isolate Gravel Pit 46e from the San Joaquin River. In 2015, WCB and the SJRC approved a grant to improve an access road and berm to isolate Gravel Pit 46e and to construct floodplains on the river side of the berm in Madera County and directly across the river in Fresno County. DWR is currently in the final stages of completing this grant-funded, approximately 23-acre construction project.

Prior to the DWR construction project to isolate Gravel Pit 46e and install two floodplains along the river, the site of the proposed Sycamore Island Habitat Enhancement Project was disturbed with little remaining natural topography, and with fragmented riparian vegetation bordering the site. With the DWR construction project nearing completion, the berm has been widened and improved, two floodplains have been created along the river, and the substrate borrow site for the floodplain and equalization saddle has been re-contoured. While DWR applied hydro-seed to areas made bare by construction activities, non-woody, herbaceous vegetation has begun to colonize parts of the 23-acre site.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Trust will plant approximately five of the 23 acres adjacent to the river with native woody riparian vegetation to benefit reintroduced salmon and other wildlife. The Trust's planting plan includes about 300 Fremont cottonwood, several willow species, buttonwillow, Western sycamore, white alder, California ash, and valley oak.

The proposed Project consists of three major elements including:

- Planting activities including plant harvesting and procurement.
- Maintenance including weed suppression, seasonal irrigation, and plant replacement when needed.
- Project Management and Monitoring including plant monitoring, and keeping and managing records, habitat improvement metrics, and related documentation.

The Trust will obtain planting material by collecting and preparing oak acorns, and depending on the other species' availability and growing requirements, by harvesting and preparing pole cuttings or purchasing container stock from a local nursery. Additionally, the Trust will utilize techniques such as mulching, herbicide use, and mechanical weed removal to manage weeds. Most of the plants installed in the floodplain will grow roots that quickly reach the water table. Using a portable water tank, the Trust will seasonally irrigate the small number of plants installed higher on the riverbank.

With the use of weed management methods and seasonal irrigation, plant mortality will be minimized and the Trust will replace dead and dying plants as needed. To ensure it succeeds in meeting Project goals, the Trust will monitor the Project site and maintain documentation about site condition, tasks, and plant establishment. By ensuring survival with weed management, seasonal irrigation, and plant replacement, the Project will assist in stabilizing the improved riverbank and new floodplains and in creating long-lived riverine riparian and salmon rearing habitats.

WCB PROGRAM

WCB assists with the administration of project funding for the SJRC. The WCB, represented by its Executive Director, holds a position on the 15-member SJRC Board. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), represented by the Central Region Manager, also sits on the SJRC Board. The SJRC Board reviews and approves projects to ensure they are viable and consistent with the goals of the current SJRC Parkway Master Plan (2000) (Parkway Master Plan), prior to funding consideration by the WCB. The SJRC Board approved this Project on May 3, 2017.

The proposed Project will be funded through the WCB's Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Program. It meets the program's goal of providing native fisheries restoration and restoration of wetlands that fall outside the jurisdiction of the Inland Wetland Conservation Program such as in-stream restoration projects including removal of fish passage barriers and other obstructions.

The California Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75050(f), allocates funds to WCB for the acquisition, development, rehabilitation, restoration and protection of land and water resources located within the boundaries of the Parkway and is consistent with the objectives of this Project.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The San Joaquin River Restoration Program (SJRRP) has the stated goal of maintaining fish populations, including re-introduced salmon, in good condition in the main stem of the San Joaquin River below Friant Dam. The establishment of riparian habitat along the San Joaquin River is a critical component of restoring the river and reintroducing native salmonids to the river reach just downstream of Friant Dam.

The Trust has the expertise in habitat restoration to meet Parkway Master Plan and SJRRP objectives for the proposed Project, including planting, maintenance, monitoring, and plant replacement when necessary. The SJRC will provide for the long-term operation and maintenance of the two Project sites.

The proposed Project is consistent with the Parkway Master Plan and the River West Madera Plan, and will not conflict with county zoning or jurisdictions. The objectives of the Project, to restore and enhance natural habitat for fish and wildlife within the Parkway, are consistent with the policies, goals, and objectives in the Parkway Master Plan, which summarized include:

Fundamental Goals

- Preserve and restore a riparian corridor of regional significance on the San Joaquin River from Friant Dam to the Highway 99 crossing.
- Protect wildlife species that depend on or prefer the river environment.
- Provide for conservation, education, and recreation, particularly a continuous trail.
- Protect irreplaceable natural resources in a way that will also meet recreational and educational needs.

Natural Resources Goals (NRG)

NRG1. Promote the long-term preservation, enhancement, and public enjoyment of the aquatic, plant, and wildlife resources of the San Joaquin River and the riverbottom.

Natural Resources Objectives (NRO) and Natural Resources Policies (NP)

NRO1. Protect the San Joaquin River as aquatic habitat and a water resource. Enhance and protect fisheries in the river and lakes in the Parkway.

Natural Resources Programs

NRPE1. Wildlife habitat creation, restoration, and enhancement is a major goal of the Parkway plan. In areas of past sand and gravel mining activities, recontouring of the riverbottom could enhance the value to wildlife by creating upland areas adjacent to riparian zones as well as increasing the total area available for replanting riparian vegetation.

NRPV1. The Master Plan proposes to restore and enhance areas of riparian and wetland habitats along the San Joaquin River. Many of these areas have undergone biological, physical, and hydrological changes that are primarily the result of human interference. Restoration and enhancement of this portion of the river is intended to increase habitat value and recreate a continuous wildlife corridor by creation of riparian habitat, enhancement of degraded riparian habitat, enhancement of pond edges with freshwater marsh species.

Mitigation Measures

5.6-1(b)(c) Areas suitable for habitat restoration shall be restored by replanting or habitat management to encourage the establishment and growth of natural vegetation.

The proposed Project is included among the highest priority projects recommended by the Interagency Project Development Committee (IPDC), whose role is to evaluate projects to be considered by the SJRC Board. The prioritization criteria relevant to the Project include trail connectivity for habitat; environmental benefits; project readiness; independent function; achieves long-term benefits; and meets partner agency and SJRC needs.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Description	Grant Costs
Planting Activities	53,350
Maintenance includes labor and supplies for mulching, weeding, and plant replacement	110,250
Project Management and Monitoring	16,360
Indirect Costs –Applied to project costs less subcontractors/equipment. Based on Trust’s Federal Indirect Rate for 2017 (15.16%)	16,360
Contingency	22,340
<i>Totals</i>	\$218,660

Project costs will be for the Trust to harvest and procure plant material; conduct planting; mulch, irrigate, and manage weeds; monitor plant survival; and replace plants if necessary.

FUNDING SOURCE

The purposes of this Project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, the California Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75050(f), which provides for the acquisition, development, rehabilitation, restoration and protection of land and water resources located within the boundaries of the Parkway.

CEQA AND SJRC REVIEW/ RECOMMENDATION

The San Joaquin River Parkway, Sycamore Island Pond Isolation Project, of which the Habitat Enhancement Project is a part, ranked among the highest SJRC priorities during the most recent IPDC meeting, in addition, the project was approved and recommended for funding by the SJRC Board.

The SJRC, as lead agency, prepared a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Sycamore Island Pond Isolation Project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA. Staff considered the MND and has prepared proposed, written findings documenting WCB's compliance with CEQA. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate Notice of Determination will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board adopt the written findings and approve this Project as proposed; allocate \$218,660.00 from the California Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75050(f) for the Project; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this Project; and authorize staff to proceed substantially as planned.

20. Sedgwick Reserve Infrastructure and Facilities Project, Phase 2
Santa Barbara County
\$1,380,000

This proposal is to consider the allocation for a grant to The Regents of the University of California for a cooperative project with University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) for infrastructure and facilities improvement at the Sedgwick Reserve (Reserve) in Santa Barbara County.

LOCATION

The Reserve is part of the University Of California Natural Reserve System (UCNRS), and is located in Santa Ynez. The Reserve comprises 5,896+ acres of varied natural resources that make it a prime site for research and teaching in numerous fields including ecology, evolution, environmental sciences, geology, geography, archaeology, and the arts.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Reserve was a working ranch before it was acquired by the UCNRS in 1996 and most of the utilities were in very poor condition at that time. The Reserve spans about 1,600 feet in elevation and is noted for its remarkable environmental heterogeneity. The site has a major geologic fault system, two distinctive geologic formations - relatively young Paso Robles alluvium and much older Franciscan metamorphosed seafloor - and large areas of serpentine. Diverse vegetation types include coast live oak forest, blue oak woodland, valley oak savannah, chaparral, coastal sage scrub, native grassland, willow riparian forest, and serpentine outcroppings with a diverse set of native flowering plants. The site contains major portions of two watersheds and a variety of localized wetland habitats, notably vernal pools. The region has a rich Native American heritage, and at least one Middle Chumash habitation site (1,500 to 2,000 years old). In addition, about 200 acres of land is in agriculture, either grazed or farmed organically.

The La Kretz Research Center was recently established at the Reserve. The Center promotes research in conservation science that will study, identify, and develop solutions for today's pressing environmental problems that impact California's critical habitats. The Center fosters opportunities for research collaborations at UCSB, with researchers at other UCs, as well as with other universities, agencies, and relevant organizations.

The Reserve has the potential to become a world-class research and educational center because of its size, diversity of natural resources, and proximity to major universities. It is at a crucial juncture where, with appropriate support, it can fulfill this potential. The crucial needs that will be met by this Phase 2 implementation include the renovation and construction of housing and office space for researchers, the development of outdoor meeting space, and construction of kitchen and dining facilities to support day users, researchers, and students who camp overnight on the Reserve. In addition, a large lecture hall will be built for classes, meetings, conferences, and events. Administrative office space for Reserve staff will also be constructed. Access roads will be repaired as part of this project.

WCB previously funded an earlier phase of the project at the August 26, 2010 Board meeting for \$960,000. This grant provided upgrades for existing infrastructure. The upgrades included the development of critical infrastructure systems including a new water delivery system, waste water treatment, upgraded electrical systems, upgraded photovoltaic and gas utility systems, road repair, and fencing.

WCB PROGRAM

The mission of the UCNRS is to contribute to the understanding and wise management of the earth and its natural systems by supporting university-level teaching, research, and public service at protected areas throughout California. Under Proposition 84, WCB received funding to provide matching grant dollars to the UCNRS for land acquisitions and the construction or development of facilities that will be used for research and training to improve the management of natural lands and the preservation of California’s wildlife resources. To implement this funding, the WCB and the UCNRS developed guidelines for identifying eligible projects and the UCNRS established an Ad Hoc Advisory Subcommittee to review and set priorities for project proposals to be submitted to the WCB for funding.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The Grant Agreement requires that the UCNRS will maintain the Reserve improvements for the purposes of providing access for research and educational activities for twenty-five years.

PROJECT FUNDING

Project Task	Total Cost	WCB	UCSB Matching funds
Outdoor Meeting Space/Kitchen	260,000	366,000	0
Researcher Offices and Housing	920,000	920,000	0
Road Resurfacing	160,000	94,000	0
Tipton House - Administration Center/Meeting Hall	3,209,687	0	3,209,687
<i>Totals</i>	<i>\$4,589,687</i>	<i>\$1,380,000</i>	<i>\$3,209,687</i>

Project costs will cover project administration, materials, and construction costs needed to renovate buildings and repair roads.

FUNDING SOURCE

The proposed funding source for this project is 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)(3), which allows for grants to the University of California for the Natural Reserve System for the construction and development of facilities that will be used for research and training to improve the management of natural lands and the preservation of California’s wildlife resources and is consistent with the objectives of this project.

CEQA AND CDFW REVIEW / RECOMMENDATION

The project was vetted through the UCNRS Ad Hoc Subcommittee and recommended for funding.

UCSB, as lead agency, prepared an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Project pursuant to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Staff considered the EIR 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.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$1,380,000.00 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)(3), authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff to proceed substantially as planned.

21. Los Angeles River- Taylor Yard G2

Los Angeles County

\$20,050,000

This proposal is to consider the allocation for a grant to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) to assist with the acquisition of a Multipurpose Easement (Easement) over 9+ acres (Easement Area) of a 41± acre property, commonly known as the Taylor Yard G2 parcel (Property), for habitat restoration, open space preservation, and to provide potential future wildlife oriented public use opportunities.

LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES

The Property is located in the City of Los Angeles (City) approximately four miles north of downtown. Specifically, the Property is located west of San Fernando Road and the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) track and east of the Los Angeles River (River) in the former Taylor Yard railyard. The Easement Area is located in the northern portion of the Property adjacent to the River.

North of the Property is the G1 parcel which is owned by California State Parks. South of the Property are UPRR rail tracks and the River. Immediately east is Rio De Los Angeles State Park (State Park) and Sotomayor Learning Academies. Beyond the River is a mix of older industrial and residential uses. Some new multifamily residential development is taking place in the area immediately west of the River. The Property is located within the Glassell Park neighborhood, which is generally located north and south of State Route 2 and includes several miles of River frontage. Glassell Park is an older neighborhood that is primarily residential in nature but is beginning to show signs of revitalization.

The 870 square-mile-watershed of the River is within the nation's second largest urban region. The River flows 51 miles from the San Fernando Valley to the Pacific Ocean in Long Beach. The Property's location within the 11-mile soft-bottom section of the River, referred to as the Glendale Narrows, directly adjacent to the River provides a unique opportunity for restoration of the River and includes a reliable source of perennial water for habitat restoration.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property is irregular in shape and generally level and at street grade. Elevations range from 335 feet above sea level at the south end to 380 feet above sea level at the north end, where the Easement Area is located. The Property was last operated as part of the 247± acre UPRR Complex (Complex) site, which was used for railroad-related operations beginning in the 1920s, including maintenance of locomotives and refrigeration cars, rail car storage, rail car switching, and equipment storage. The former facilities on the Property included a diesel shop, machine shop, roundhouse, two turntables, fuel storage tanks, service track area, and wastewater detention basin. In 1996, UPRR purchased the Complex from the Southern Pacific Transportation Company. In 2006, UPRR operations were permanently closed, and in 2009, all aboveground structures remaining on the Property, except for certain existing concrete slabs, footings, and foundations, were demolished. On March 1, 2017, the City purchased the Property from UPRR.

For over a decade, the City and various partners have considered plans to restore the River. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) considered four restoration plans under

the Los Angeles River Ecosystem Restoration Project (Restoration Project). On June 29, 2016, the City Council unanimously approved one of the four plans considered by USACE under the Restoration Project to restore the portion of the River stretching from Griffith Park to downtown Los Angeles. The plan, called Alternative 20, focuses on an 11-mile stretch of the River and includes restoring habitat and vegetation to the riverbanks, diverting river flow into channels, widening tributaries, and removing concrete from the River channel and bank. While certain reaches where concrete is expected to be removed will have step-like, terraced banks other areas of the River will be transformed to allow for more natural riparian habitat and open spaces.

The acquisition of the Property by the City was a major part of the long-range Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan (Master Plan) and the Restoration Project. The Property is one of the remaining ten sites along the entire River that has the potential for near-term restoration. The Restoration Project recommends widening the soft bottom riverbed and including riparian habitat along a gradual slope to the overbank elevation. Freshwater marsh will dominate the new riverbed. The banks of the River downstream of the Property and on the west bank would be restructured to support riparian vegetation. Existing in-channel riparian and wetland areas would be maintained and restored through management of invasive vegetation.

Since 1985, a number of soil and groundwater investigations have been conducted on the Property that have identified chemicals in the soil, including petroleum hydrocarbon, arsenic and lead. The Property was evaluated for site remediation under the guidance of the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and a Remedial Action Plan (RAP) was approved on March 14, 2014. The City assumed responsibility for implementing the DTSC approved RAP or an amended version as may be approved by DTSC at a future date. The RAP contemplates environmental remediation of the Property to industrial use standards. Within one year after the close of escrow, MRCA, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC), and the City intend to enter into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) which will outline the process for planning the Parties' respective remediation, monitoring, and development of the Easement Area. Prior to MRCA's approval of the MOU, MRCA will provide the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) with a copy of the MOU for review and comment.

The Easement conveys the rights to MRCA to carry out habitat restoration, environmental remediation beyond industrial use standards, improvements for public access and recreational purposes, and to prevent inconsistent uses by the fee title owner on the Easement Area. As an owner of an interest in the Property, MRCA intends to work cooperatively with the City to develop a comprehensive plan for the restoration of the entirety of the Property pursuant to the Master Plan and the Restoration Project. However, in the event that federal funding is not available and the City determines that the Restoration Project is no longer feasible, the existence of this Easement will guarantee that the 9+ acre portion of the Property will be used only for the purposes outlined herein in a manner consistent with the grant agreement and the provisions of Proposition 50. For the Easement Area to be safe for public access, it needs to be environmentally remediated to a standard greater than industrial use. MRCA agreed to pay for additional remediation costs incurred by it to clean the Easement Area to a standard greater than industrial use. Further, the USACE requires environmental remediation of the Property, and the Easement Area, be conducted prior to its funding and implementation of the Restoration Project. MRCA and SMMC are pursuing funding to conduct such cleanup of the Property in conjunction with the City.

The Property acquisition combined with the potential future restoration of the Property under the Restoration Project would facilitate wildlife connection to the Verdugo Wash and Arroyo Seco tributaries that can eventually link to significant habitat areas including Elysian Park to Griffith Park (the eastern terminus of the Santa Monica Mountains), Mount Washington, San Rafael Hills, Verdugo Mountains, and eventually the San Gabriel Mountains.

The WCB has made several investments in the River watershed to date. Some of those investments include funding acquisition projects such as Monrovia Wilderness Preserve (2002), Ahmanson Ranch (2003), Joughin Ranch (2003), Cahuenga Peak (2010), Rubio Canyon (2011), Millard Canyon (2012), and Gateway Ranch (2014). The WCB also funded restoration of the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Area (1985) and the Big Tujunga Canyon Restoration Project (2014). The adjacent State Park also received WCB funding in 2005 to construct a loop trail and interpretive signage around a restored wetland and riparian habitat area. The State Coastal Conservancy, at its April 27 meeting, awarded a grant to the City to develop an implementation plan for the Property and to install fencing.

WCB PROGRAM

The proposed grant for this project 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/Conceptual Area Protection Plan (LAE/CAPP). The LAE/CAPP is then submitted to CDFW's Regional Operations Committee (ROC) for review and approval and later transmitted to the WCB with a recommendation to fund.

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.

This acquisition is part of a river habitat corridor that allows for the migration and movement of species in response to climate change.

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

The project protects water resources by protecting riparian property adjacent to one of the few natural bottom portions of the Los Angeles River corridor. Potential future restoration pursuant to the terms of the Easement may also result in enhancement of water resources in the River and riparian areas.

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 identified for protection in CDFW's G2 Parcel (Taylor Yard) Land Acquisition Evaluation.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

MRCA and the City will be responsible for management of the Easement Area. The City will retain residual rights as the fee title holder to the extent exercise of those rights does not conflict with MRCA's Easement rights. Funding of future management activities for the Easement Area will be provided by the MRCA. The MRCA, in conjunction with SMMC, manages and provides ranger services for almost 69,000± acres of land within the southern California region. The addition of this Easement is not anticipated to significantly impact existing operations. The MRCA and the SMMC operate several nearby facilities, including Marsh Park, Steelhead Park, and the Los Angeles River Center and Gardens. Maintenance personnel and sworn rangers are assigned to work these nearby areas every day of the year.

After cleanup to appropriate environmental standards, it is expected that recreational activities such as hiking, biking, and bird watching will be offered to the public as acquisition of this Property would facilitate restoration and construction of recreational facilities in this key section of the River.

TERMS

The Easement has been appraised as having a fair market value of \$20,000,000.00. The appraisal has been reviewed by WCB staff, reviewed and approved by an independent appraiser hired by WCB staff, and reviewed and approved by the Department of General Services (DGS). The independent appraisal review was posted on the WCB's website on July 24, 2017. The City has agreed to sell the Easement for \$20,000,000.00. The terms and conditions of the proposed WCB grant to MRCA provide that staff of WCB 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. In the event of a breach of the grant terms, WCB can require specific performance of the grant agreement or require MRCA to convey its interest in the Easement to WCB or, at the election of WCB, another entity or organization authorized by California law to acquire and hold easements and that is willing and financially able to assume all of the obligations and responsibilities of MRCA. If the Easement is terminated for any reason, MRCA shall be required to repay the grant amount to WCB.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for this project is as follows:

Wildlife Conservation Board	20,000,000
Other Project Related Admin Costs	50,000.00
<i>Total WCB Allocation</i>	<i>\$20,050,000</i>

It is estimated that an additional \$50,000.00 will be needed to cover project related administrative costs, including DGS appraisal review.

FUNDING SOURCE

The purposes of this project are consistent with the proposed funding source that allows for the acquisition, protection and restoration of coastal wetlands and watersheds located in Southern California. (Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002 (Proposition 50), Water Code Section 79572(a)(LAR).) Further, the purposes of this project are consistent with the Legislative appropriation from Prop. 50 which can be found in the Budget Act of 2015, Section 28, Item 3640-402 which appropriated \$20,000,000.00 from Water Code section 79572(a) to be used for restoration of riparian habitat and wetlands projects along the Los Angeles River. The funding of the Easement obtains rights to conduct riparian and wetland habitat restoration of the Easement Area.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

CDFW has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for funding by the WCB. The City of Los Angeles, as lead agency, prepared an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the project pursuant to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Staff considered the EIR 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.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the WCB adopt the written findings and approve this project as proposed; allocate \$20,050,000.00 from the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002 (Proposition 50), Water Code Section 79572(a)(LAR), for the grant and to cover internal project-related expenses, authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project, and authorize staff and the CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

**22. Red Hill Bay Shallow Water Habitat, Augmentation
Imperial County
\$1,493,000**

This Item has been withdrawn from consideration at this time.

23. Otay Mesa Habitat Restoration Project
San Diego County
\$384,600

This proposal is to consider the allocation for a grant to The Chaparral Lands Conservancy for a cooperative project with the California Department of Parks and Recreation to restore approximately five acres of sensitive vernal pool and maritime succulent scrub habitats on City of San Diego property adjacent to Ocean Hills Parkway and Otay Mesa Road in the community of Otay Mesa.

LOCATION

The project is located in Otay Mesa, a suburban and industrial community of the City of San Diego near the U.S. border with Mexico. The project site is informally known as the Clayton property. The City of San Diego (City) purchased the Clayton property in 2011 with financial assistance from the Wildlife Conservation Board.

In the 1980s and 1990s, then-undeveloped Otay Mesa was a popular destination for unauthorized off-road vehicle (ORV) recreation. Hundreds of riders would gather on weekends and holidays to ride out on nearby trails. The Clayton property received some of the heaviest use because of its location near Otay Mesa Road and the presence of attractive “mud puddles” in the wet season. The “mud puddles” were actually then-high quality vernal pools; small ephemeral wetlands that support animals and plants highly specialized to the extremes of variable wet and dry pool environments. ORV use caused enormous damage to these delicate wetlands and upland vegetation.

Prior to urbanization and damage from ORVs, the Otay Mesa supported thousands of vernal pools. Most of Otay Mesa has now been developed, contributing to a statewide and local estimated 95% loss of vernal pool habitat. The surrounding habitat, dominated by maritime succulent scrub is also rare, and has seen enormous losses in the United States and Mexico. The City manages the habitat according to the San Diego Multiple Species Conservation Plan (MSCP).

The project site is important not only for vernal pool resources located there, but also because it is an integral element of an extensive tapestry of protected habitat in South County San Diego. The project site and adjacent Denney Canyon and Otay River Valley form a Biological Core Resource Area under the MSCP, and support several sensitive habitats, including maritime succulent scrub, native grasslands, riparian scrub, and vernal pools. In addition, these sites support several vernal pool-dependent threatened and endangered species as well as upland species. Some of these include cactus wren, burrowing owls, and Following years of concerted efforts to acquire sensitive properties, much of this area is now protected by multiple resource agencies. The City owns and manages the project site, as well as the adjacent Denney Canyon maritime succulent scrub mitigation site.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project would restore five acres of sensitive habitats and provide seeds and inoculum, soil taken from vernal pools that contains fairy shrimp cysts, from neighboring vernal pools to restore sensitive species on the Clayton property. Project elements include: restoration of sensitive vernal pool wetlands and surrounding maritime succulent scrub uplands habitat; restoration of populations of common and sensitive animal and plant species; monitoring of restoration progress; and public outreach and education.

Project activities and goals include:

- Restoring and enhancing five acres of vernal pools and maritime succulent scrub;
- Increasing populations of eight sensitive vernal pool animals and plants including Riverside fairy shrimp, San Diego fairy shrimp, little mousetail, Orcutt's grass, Otay Mesa mint, San Diego button-celery, spreading navarretia, and toothed calico-flower;
- Increasing populations of common vernal pool crustaceans and other invertebrate animals and plants via planting and transfer of fairy shrimp cysts;
- Increasing populations of thirteen sensitive upland plants;
- Improving habitat for burrowing owls California gnatcatcher
- Providing indirect benefits to two sensitive vernal pool animals (Two-striped garter snake and Western spadefoot toad) and nine sensitive uplands animals with habitat restoration;
- Installing perimeter fencing and closure signs; and
- Providing public outreach and education including a kiosk with project and natural history information, dedicated project web page and video, and social media.

Following years of focused efforts to acquire sensitive properties, much of the land adjacent to the project site has now been protected and restored by several resource agencies. The Chaparral Lands Conservancy will implement the project under an entry permit from the property owner, the City. The City will have the right to review and approve proposed restoration activities and will continue to provide long-term stewardship of the site according to the MSCP and the pending *City of San Diego Vernal Pool Habitat Conservation Plan*.

WCB PROGRAM

The proposed project will be funded through the Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Program and meets the program's goal of providing for restoration of wetlands that fall outside the jurisdiction of the Inland Wetland Conservation Program.

The project furthers the following goal 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 vernal pools will enhance water resources for several rare and endangered wildlife species.

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

Provide species strongholds or refugia,

In an area where there has been a 95% loss of vernal pool habitat, the project will increase populations of eight sensitive vernal pool animals and plants along with other common vernal pool crustaceans, invertebrates, and plants.

Improve habitat for threatened or endangered species,

Several threatened or endangered species will benefit from the project, including Riverside fairy shrimp, San Diego fairy shrimp, Orcutt's grass, Otay Mesa mint, San Diego button-celery and others.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The City has committed to providing long-term management and maintenance for the project through July 2047 consistent with the City's existing obligations under the MSCP and City of San Diego MSCP Subarea Plan (Subarea Plan). The San Diego MSCP is a regional Natural Community Conservation Plan addressing the location and manner of development and habitat and species conservation over several government jurisdictions in southwestern San Diego County.

The approved Subarea Plan implements the San Diego MSCP within the incorporated boundaries of the City. If adopted by the City Council, the pending City of San Diego Vernal Pool Habitat Conservation Plan will also provide conservation measures specific to the needs of vernal pool habitats and species, in addition to the protections already included in the MSCP. The City has incorporated the project property into its system of MSCP preserve lands and committed to long-term management of the property and project consistent with the City's existing obligations and using funding available under the MSCP and a local Maintenance Assessment District.

If at any time during the 25-year life of the project, The Chaparral Lands Conservancy 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.

Task	WCB	DPR ¹	Totals
Project Management and Administration	41,198	0	41,198
Planning, Design, and Permitting	0	30,599	30,599
Vernal Pools and Upland Habitat Restoration	276,315	255,546	530,811
Public Outreach and Education	32,123	1,720	33,843
Contingency	34,964	0	34,964
Indirect Costs		43,180	43,180
<i>Totals</i>	\$384,600	\$331,045	\$715,645

¹ California Department of Parks and Recreation Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division

Project costs will be for project management and administration; planning; design; permitting; habitat restoration; and public outreach and education.

FUNDING SOURCE

The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, which provides funding for the acquisition, development, rehabilitation, restoration and protection of habitat to promote the recovery of threatened and endangered species, and to provide wildlife corridors linking separate habitat areas to prevent habitat fragmentation and to protect significant natural landscapes, ecosystems and habitat areas. [California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Fund (Proposition 40), Public Resources Code Section 5096.650(a)]

CEQA AND CDFW REVIEW

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife 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 in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which does not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees and section 15333, Class 33, as a project that does not exceed five acres to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement or protection of habitat. 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 \$384,600.00 from the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Fund (Proposition 40), Public Resources Code Section 5096.650(a) for the project; 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.

24. Wildlife Conservation Board Strategic Plan Informational/Action

Comprehensive Program Review

At the May 2017 Board meeting, WCB staff provided an evaluation of WCB programs to identify their current relevance, any overlap with other WCB programs, and their compatibility with other State programs. The Board requested that staff provide a more detailed description and evaluation of each of the Programs, and present that to the Board in August, with staff's recommendations.

Staff identified the Purpose, Implementation Methods, Eligible Applicants, and History and Authority for each and evaluated the relevance of each of the existing programs. Each of the programs were found to provide a specific function to allow the necessary flexibility within the scope of WCB's mission.

We then looked at how these programs overlap. Two programs, Land Acquisition and Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Program, are broad categories that overlap with many of the other WCB programs. More specifically, we found that the Inland Wetland Conservation Program, the California Riparian Habitat Conservation Program and the Ecological Restoration on Agricultural Lands Program (ERAL) overlap significantly in California's Central Valley.

We also found that WCB's programs mesh with other State programs in ways too numerous to cover. WCB has partnered with every State and federal agency that provides funding for natural lands. In addition, in the last year alone, WCB has worked with 130 different public and non-governmental organizations to protect and restore habitats. WCB's flexibility and State-wide scope allow for unmatched ability to work with many, many partners to restore and conserve wildlife habitat well into the future.

We recommend that most programs can and should continue as they have in the past. However, we believe that the Rangelands program and the ERAL program could be made more flexible if they allowed for both restoration and protection.

[Exhibit 1 - Wildlife Conservation Board Program Review \(pdf\)](#), provides a full evaluation of each of WCB's Programs.

MEASURABLE GOALS

At the May 2017 Board meeting, WCB staff provided an overview of its plan for developing measurable goals for acquisitions. Given the interest from many of WCB's partners, the Board asked staff to offer a workshop to allow input from interested parties. That workshop was held on July 26. Twenty-one people attended either in person or by phone, and ten organizations sent in letters. In general, our partners were pleased that WCB is attempting to prioritize its acquisitions in a more transparent fashion, and to develop goals that can be measured. They were also pleased that WCB staff were interested in hearing their comments, and that staff were open to suggestions.

For ease of understanding, the goals as presented in May are included below:

Goal 1, Biodiversity: at least 50% of all acquisitions will accomplish one or more of the following:

- ✓ Protects three or more habitats identified at the macrogroup level.
- ✓ Directly benefits Species of Greatest Conservation Need, as identified in the SWAP, that are known to occur on the property.

- ✓ Contains at least one viable rare vegetation habitat type at the alliance level, as identified in the most current Natural Communities List in CDFW's VegCAMP.

Goal 2, Climate Change Resiliency and Connectivity: at least 50% of all acquisitions will protect one or more of the following (mapping is currently available for all of the items below except land facets, which is under development):

- ✓ Connections between ecological areas with moderate to high natural resource values that are protected in-perpetuity and that total 25,000 acres or more.
- ✓ New protected areas of 10,000 acres or more.
- ✓ Species identified as vulnerable to climate change.
- ✓ Habitats identified as highly vulnerable to climate change.
- ✓ Possible climate change refugia.
- ✓ Land facets that support biodiversity.

Goal 3, SWAP: at least 75% of all acquisitions will protect a priority macrogroup as defined by the SWAP for the ecoregion in which the project is located.

Goal 4, Working Landscapes: at least 25% of all acquisitions will protect ecologically important habitats on working landscapes (farms, ranches or working forests).

Goal 5, Water related projects: at least 50% of all acquisitions will contain wetlands or riparian habitats, or provide water for fish and wildlife.

Goal 6, Public Access on land acquisitions: at least 50% of all acquisitions will provide some level of public access, and 50% of those projects that do provide public access (i.e., 25% of all projects) will benefit disadvantaged communities, which is identified from five-year data of the US Census American Community Survey as communities having less than 80% of the State's median household income. Public access can range from giving regular guided tours on conservation easements, to providing full access for all visitors every day with a variety of activities (hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, etc.).

For a complete description of the comments and our individual responses, please refer to [Exhibit 2: Measurable Goals Workshop Results \(pdf\)](#).

A summary of the comments received as a result of the workshop include the following:

- ✓ Too much emphasis placed on protecting large blocks of habitat
- ✓ Use a different measurement rather than number of projects (dollars or acreage, e.g.)
- ✓ Clarify how WCB will discriminate between competing projects and habitats
- ✓ Make maps, LAE/CAPP forms and evaluation criteria public
- ✓ Suggestions on how to use SWAP and macrogroups for prioritization
- ✓ Questions on how to evaluate benefits to disadvantaged communities

- ✓ Detailed questions on ecosystem services; streamflow program reviews; applicant suitability; scoring for multiple goals; use of CDFW's BIOS, VegCAMP, and CNDDDB; phasing of projects; and what percentage of projects should support working landscapes or public access.

Staff will go through the comments received and will provide suggested changes and/or additions to the goals above to reflect recommendations based on public participation.

MEASURING CONSERVATION EFFECTIVENESS

The Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) is responsible for implementing a variety of legislative and voter-approved conservation programs statewide. WCB's three main functions are land acquisition, habitat restoration, and development of wildlife oriented public access facilities. Monitoring and adaptive management are critical components of ensuring that State investments are resulting in sustainable conservation benefits. WCB project monitoring aids in determining the status and trend of the condition of protected and restored lands in which it has a proprietary interest.

One of the first steps in developing a long-term monitoring program is clearly identifying goals and objectives pursuant to WCB's Strategic Plan and WCB program and funding requirements. Added to this, WCB project documents, which are individualized for each project and have changed dramatically over the decades, also factor into formulating a monitoring program.

WCB has identified three separate tiers of monitoring: compliance monitoring, achievement monitoring, and scientific monitoring. The tiers, as described below, require different levels of preparation, expertise, data collection, and analysis.

- Compliance monitoring identifies whether a project has operated within the legal framework of the grant and associated project documents. Compliance site visits monitor for allowable and prohibited uses, encroachment of structures or roads, trespassing in prohibited areas, following management plans, etc.
- Achievement monitoring is an evaluation of function: is the project providing values consistent with its intended purpose. Site visits would evaluate changes in site characteristics, changes in nearby land uses, impacts caused by climate change, or other factors that directly or indirectly affect its function or habitat value.
- Lastly, scientific monitoring quantifies habitats or species use of a given project site. Factors that may be scientifically monitored are species presence, population stability, overall species abundance, biodiversity, and factors that contribute to those population dynamics.

For now, WCB staff are focusing on compliance. We must be assured, primarily, that the State's investments are realized; that the projects are performing consistent with the grants. Achievement and scientific monitoring would assist WCB and CDFW in determining the effectiveness its programs, but require significantly more effort. We expect to put energy and funding toward those efforts in the future, however.

We also focus only on projects where WCB is the final authority. WCB does not monitor projects completed on CDFW's behalf, where CDFW is the beneficiary in fee title, holds a conservation easement, or when restoration or public access projects are on CDFW lands. In these instances, CDFW takes responsibility for its stewardship and monitoring. For all other WCB projects, where grants are issued to non-profit organizations or other

government agencies, WCB must ensure that the grantees are maintaining the projects appropriately. WCB takes an active role in overseeing our grantees and we work closely with each one to ensure project success.

The task is not a simple one. With over 2,500 approved projects and the addition of more than 100 new projects a year, it is not feasible to see every project annually, or even every three to five years. WCB has developed several strategies for ensuring that the projects are being maintained appropriately.

First, rely on our grantees. Grantees are responsible for project implementation and ensuring long-term project sustainability. WCB considers its grantees, most of whom are professional land managers with long-term and well-deserved excellent reputations for managing and maintaining wildlife habitats, to be an important tool in assuring that the State's investments are managed appropriately. These organizations have missions and goals similar to the WCB's. All WCB conservation easements approved in 2010 or later require grantees to submit an annual report to WCB describing the condition of the easement lands and affirming that the property complies with the terms of the easement. To more effectively and efficiently utilize limited WCB staff and funding, the WCB relies on these annual monitoring reports, along with the Baseline Conditions Report, to determine if a site visit is warranted.

Second, rely on our partners. Many of our partners are monitoring projects as well, and we coordinate with them to share any information that is collected. If permits require monitoring reports, we add ourselves to the distribution list so that we receive them at the same time. CDFW Regional staff monitor many projects, and are very interested in all the projects we fund, so we reach out to Regions to share data.

Third, strive for efficiency. WCB staff must visit every project site before Board approval, and often make repeat visits during implementation or immediately after completion. We are developing methods to provide staff with the information and training they need to visit other completed project sites while they are in the area. We are developing methods to streamline the compilation and storage of data and photos upon their return to the office. We are identifying ways to use existing mapping software to more readily identify potential problems. We are evaluating methods to gather data on tablets or cell phones that can be downloaded directly to the WCB database, and we are investigating software that can be shared with grantees to allow us to receive their data directly.

Finally, sample projects through regular contact with grantees that have multiple projects. While it may be impossible to visit every site regularly, WCB staff plans to meet with a different group of grantees every year and see a subset of their projects. The goal of WCB is to meet with all of our grantees on a rotational schedule every three to five years. Recurrent contact with grantees allows our grantees a chance to ask questions and update WCB on any issues or concerns they may have, and conversely, gives WCB an opportunity to strengthen working relationships and reinforce terms of projects.

To implement these strategies, WCB is developing a Monitoring Plan. That plan will identify the goals and objectives of the monitoring program, and outline the procedures to achieve those goals. For compliance monitoring, the plan will identify the most strategic method for visiting a sample of projects and grantees each year, provide guidance to WCB staff on monitoring priorities and methodologies, provide a centralized location for all documentation and forms for every project, identify partners resources that WCB can use to assist WCB's monitoring efforts, develop processes for non-compliance, and make recommendations to identify the staffing or contracting needs to accomplish these goals. The plan will also make

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recommendations on how achievement and scientific monitoring can be incorporated into WCB's work.

A draft of the Monitoring Plan will be presented to the WCB board members at the regularly scheduled November Board meeting.

PERSONS WITH DISABILITES

Persons with disabilities needing reasonable accommodation to participate in public meetings or other CDFW activities are invited to contact the Department's EEO Officer at (916) 653-9089 or EEO@wildlife.ca.gov. If a request for an accommodation has been submitted but is no longer needed, please contact the EEO Officer immediately.