



EDMUND G. BROWN Jr., Governor  
NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
**WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD**  
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## Notice of Meeting WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

May 24, 2018  
10:00 a.m.

Natural Resources Building, First Floor Auditorium  
Sacramento, California 95814

*Final Agenda*

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\*Proposed Consent Calendar

**\*8. Sanhedrin Ranch Restoration**

**13**

**Mendocino County**

**\$180,000**

To consider the allocation for a grant to the Trust for Public Land to restore failing stream crossings, remove culverts, and prevent sedimentation to aquatic habitat from decommissioned forest logging road improvements, located within TPL's privately owned Sanhedrin Ranch property approximately 20 miles northeast of Willits in Mendocino County. The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, which allows for the development, rehabilitation, restoration, acquisition and protection of habitat that accomplishes one or more of the following objectives: promotes recovery of threatened and endangered species, protects habitat corridors, protects significant natural landscapes and ecosystems such as old growth redwoods, mixed conifer forests and oak woodlands, riparian and wetland areas), or implements the recommendations of the California Comprehensive Wildlife Strategy. [Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75055(b)]

**\*9. Sinnott Parcel - OSPR Oil Mitigation Fund Project**

**17**

**San Mateo**

**\$75,000**

This item has been withdrawn from consideration at this time.

**\*10. Allensworth Ecological Reserve, Expansion 58-68**

**18**

**Tulare and Kern Counties**

**\$60,964**

To consider the acquisition in fee of 10 separate ownerships of land totaling 36± acres by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) for a cooperative project with the California Department of Corrections Statewide Electric Fence Project mitigation fund, which has been assigned to CDFW, for the protection of habitat supporting the San Joaquin kit fox and other rare species found within the Allensworth Ecological Reserve and to enhance habitat linkages and connectivity, located near the community of Allensworth in Kern and Tulare Counties. 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), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c)]

**\*11. Morongo Basin and Expansion 1**

**22**

**San Bernardino County**

**\$186,250**

To consider the allocation for two grants to the Mojave Desert Land Trust to acquire 367± acres of land from two separate owners for the protection of desert habitat corridors in the Morongo Basin, located near the community of Joshua Tree, in San Bernardino 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), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c)]

**\*12. Water for Wildlife in Inland Deserts**

26

**Riverside County**

**\$190,000**

To consider the allocation for a grant to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for a cooperative project with the Bureau of Land Management to install and enhance approximately 18 water features to improve and support habitat for bighorn sheep, deer, bobcats, rabbits, bats, and upland game bird species, located at various sites in eastern Riverside 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)]

**13. Central Valley Nutria Eradication**

30

**Various Counties**

**\$600,000**

This proposal is to consider the allocation for a grant to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for a cooperative project with the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Food and Agriculture to implement a large scale nutria eradication project in riparian corridors and associated wetland habitats of the San Joaquin Valley and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, located in various Central Valley counties. 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)]

**14. McCloud Soda Springs Working Forest**

35

**Siskiyou County**

**\$610,000**

To consider the allocation for a grant to the Pacific Forest Trust for a cooperative project with the California Department of Transportation and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to acquire a forest conservation easement over 1,346± acres of land for protection of working forestlands, forest reserve areas, watersheds, fisheries and habitat linkages, located near the town of McCloud in Siskiyou County. The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, which allows for the acquisition 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)(3)]

**15. Shasta Big Springs Fee Acquisition**

40

**Siskiyou County**

**\$2,440,000**

To consider the acquisition in fee of 5,849± acres of land by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for the protection of critical cold water aquatic habitat for a variety of anadromous fish species, including the state and federally listed coho salmon, the protection of migration corridors vital to many plant, bird, and mammal species, and to provide future wildlife oriented public use opportunities, located near Montague in Siskiyou County. The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, which allows for the development, rehabilitation, restoration, acquisition, and protection of habitat that accomplishes one or more of the following objectives: promotes recovery of threatened and endangered species, protects habitat corridors, protects significant natural landscapes and ecosystems, or implements the recommendations of the California Comprehensive Wildlife Strategy. [Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75055(b)]

**16. Reef to Ridge Coastal Forest Protection Project**

44

**Mendocino County**

**\$4,480,000**

To consider the allocation for a grant to The Nature Conservancy for a cooperative project with CalFire, The State Coastal Conservancy, and the California Natural Resources Agency to acquire a conservation easement on 23,681± acres of native forest habitats, including redwood, Douglas fir and Grand fir in the upland zones, and mature red alder forests within the riparian zone along the Ten Mile River to preserve wildlife area linkages, provide habitat to numerous wildlife species and reduce soil erosion and sustain water quality, located near Fort Bragg in Mendocino County. The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, which allows for forest conservation and protection projects in order to promote the ecological integrity and economic stability of California's diverse native forests through forest conservation, preservation and restoration of productive managed forestlands, forest reserve areas, redwood forests and other forest types, including the conservation of water resources and natural habitats for native fish, wildlife and plants found on these lands. [Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75055(a)]

**17. West Shore Wildland Urban Interface Forest Restoration**

49

**Placer County**

**\$950,000**

To consider the allocation for a grant to the National Forest Foundation for a cooperative project with United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management to thin 230± acres of forest, located five miles southwest of Tahoe City in Placer County. The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, which allows for forest conservation and protection projects in order to promote the ecological integrity and economic stability of California's diverse native forests through forest conservation, preservation and restoration of productive managed forestlands, forest reserve areas, redwood forests and other forest types, including the conservation of water resources and natural habitats for native fish, wildlife and plants found on these lands. [Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75055(a)]

- 18. Woodland Regional Park Habitat Enhancement** **53**  
**Yolo County**  
**\$511,000**  
To consider the allocation of a grant to the California Waterfowl Association for a cooperative project with the City of Woodland and Explorit to enhance and restore approximately 20 acres of wetlands at the Woodland Regional Park, approximately five miles southeast of the City of Woodland. The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, which allows for the acquisition, enhancement or restoration of wetlands in the Central Valley. [Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(d), Inland Wetlands Conservation Program]
- 19. Fay Canyon Wildlife Area Expansion 1 - Jobs Peak Ranch/Barber Creek** **57**  
**Alpine County**  
**\$1,430,000**  
To consider the acquisition in fee of 359± acres of land by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for the protection of deer and mountain lion habitat, and to maintain a migration corridor for the Carson River mule deer herd, located near South Lake Tahoe in Alpine 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)]
- 20. Robin's Nest** **61**  
**Los Angeles**  
**\$1,610,000**  
To consider the allocation for a grant to the Trust for Public Land for a cooperative project with the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy to acquire 51± acres of land for the protection of threatened and endangered species, riparian and floodplain habitat along the Santa Clara River and to provide the potential for wildlife oriented public use opportunities, located near Acton in Los Angeles County. The purposes of this funding are consistent with the proposed funding source, which allows for the acquisition and protection of habitats that are critical to the sustainability of threatened and endangered species and to protect or enhance a flood protection corridor or bypass. [Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c) (Proposition 1E)]
- 21. Public Access Program** **66**  
**Informational/Action**  
The 2018/19 final Proposal Solicitation Notice for the Public Access Program will be presented to the Board for discussion and approval.
- 22. Wildlife Conservation Board Strategic Plan** **67**  
**Informational/Action**  
Staff will present a draft of the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) monitoring plan, and actions taken to date in evaluating the effectiveness of the WCB's programs.
- 23. Lower American River Program Update** **68**  
**Informational**

An update on the activities of the Lower American River Conservancy Program Advisory Committee will be provided to the Board.

**24. Discuss and Act on Board Administrative Items**

-New Business

-Next Meeting- August 30, 2018

**Adjourn**

**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](mailto:EEO@wildlife.ca.gov). Accommodation requests for facility and/or meeting accessibility should be received by May 3, 2018. Requests for American Sign Language Interpreters should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event, and requests for Real-Time Captioners at least four weeks prior to the event. These timeframes are to help ensure that the requested accommodation is met. If a request for an accommodation has been submitted but is no longer needed, please contact the EEO Officer immediately.

## WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

May 24, 2018

10:00 a.m.

Natural Resources Building  
First Floor Auditorium  
1416 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Sacramento, California 95814

### 1. Roll Call

#### Wildlife Conservation Board Members

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

Alina Bokde, Public Member

Michael Cohen, Member  
Director, Department of Finance

Diane Colburn, Public Member

Mary Creasman, Public Member

Fran Pavley, Public Member

Eric Sklar, Member  
President Fish and Game Commission

#### 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. Public Forum for Items not on this Agenda

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

3. Funding Status

Informational

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

(a) 2017-18 WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND, (0447)	
Budget Act	\$1,000,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	-972,000.00
<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$28,000.00</i>
May 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
Total Project Development	0.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$28,000.00</i>
(b) 2017-18 HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND, (0262)	
Non-budget Act	\$20,663,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	-50,000.00
<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$20,613,000.00</i>
May 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	-1,941,000.00
Total Project Development	-4,955,000.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$13,717,000.00</i>
(c) 2016-17 HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND, (0262)	
Non-budget Act	\$20,663,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	-1,689,328.00
<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$18,973,672.00</i>
May 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	-90,000.00
Total Project Development	-13,898,250.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$4,985,422.00</i>
(d) 2015-16 HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND, (0262)	
Non-budget Act	\$20,663,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	-12,592,826.00
<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$8,070,174.00</i>
May 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	-224,214.00
Total Project Development	-6,146,890.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$1,699,070.00</i>
(e) 2014-15 HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND, (0262)	
Non-budget Act	\$20,663,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	-18,611,303.00
<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$2,051,697.00</i>
May 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
Total Project Development	-2,030,000.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$21,697.00</i>



(f)	2013-14 HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND, (0262)	
	Non-budget Act	\$20,663,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	-20,401,962.00
	<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$261,038.00</i>
	May 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	-303.00
	Total Project Development	0.00
	<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$260,735.00</i>
(g)	2012-13 HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND, (0262)	
	Budget Act	\$20,663,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	-7,167,463.00
	<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$13,495,537.00</i>
	May 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
	Total Project Development	0.00
	<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$13,495,537.00</i>
(h)	2011-12 HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND, (0262)	
	Budget Act	\$20,663,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	-16,133,643.00
	<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$4,529,357.00</i>
	May 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	-1,610,000.00
	Total Project Development	0.00
	<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$2,919,357.00</i>
(i)	2010-11 HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND, (0262)	
	Budget Act	\$20,668,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	-20,439,772.00
	<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$228,228.00</i>
	May 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
	Total Project Development	0.00
	<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$228,228.00</i>
(j)	2009-10 HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND, (0262)	
	(2013-14 Reappropriation)	
	Budget Act	\$20,668,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	-20,537,753.00
	<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$130,247.00</i>
	May 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
	Total Project Development	0.00
	<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$130,247.00</i>
(k)	2008-09 HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND, (0262)	
	(2012-13 Reappropriation)	
	Budget Act	\$20,668,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	-20,638,546.00
	<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$29,454.00</i>
	May 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
	Total Project Development	0.00
	<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$29,454.00</i>

(l) 2007-08 HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND, (0262) (2011-12 Reappropriation)	
Budget Act	\$20,674,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	-20,299,046.00
<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$374,954.00</i>
May 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	-7,697.00
Total Project Development	0.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$367,257.00</i>
(m) 2006-07 HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND, (0262) (2013-14 Reappropriation)	
Budget Act	\$20,699,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	-19,839,667.00
<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$859,333.00</i>
May 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
Total Project Development	-859,333.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>
(n) 2017-18 SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS, CLEAN WATER, CLEAN AIR, AND COASTAL PROTECTION BOND FUND, (0005)	
Budget Act 2017-18 [Sec. 5096.350 (a)(3), (5), & (6)]	\$3,690,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	-25,000.00
<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$3,665,000.00</i>
May 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
Total Project Development	-110,000.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$3,555,000.00</i>
(o) 2017-18 SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS, CLEAN WATER, CLEAN AIR, AND COASTAL PROTECTION BOND FUND, (0005)	
Budget Act 2017-18 (SJRC Projects, 5096.355)	\$141,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	0.00
<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$141,000.00</i>
May 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
Total Project Development	0.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$141,000.00</i>
(p) 2006-07 SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS, CLEAN WATER, CLEAN AIR, AND COASTAL PROTECTION BOND FUND, (0005) (2015-16 Reappropriation)	
Capital Outlay Budget [Sec. 5096.350 (a)(3), (5), & (6)]	\$15,224,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	-15,170,125.00
<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$53,875.00</i>
May 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
Total Project Development	0.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$53,875.00</i>
(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	-36,012,120.00
<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$87,880.00</i>
May 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
Total Project Development	-87,880.00

	<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>
(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) (SJRC Projects Sec. 5096.650b5)	\$1,500,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	-218,155.00
	<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$1,281,845.00</i>
	May 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
	Total Project Development	0.00
	<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	-260,191,997.00
	<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$12,808,003.00</i>
	May 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	-1,400,000.00
	Total Project Development	-7,785,000.00
	<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$3,623,003.00</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	-714,539,279.00
	<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$26,872,721.00</i>
	May 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
	Total Project Development	-18,103,188.00
	<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$8,769,533.00</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 (SJRC Projects)	\$4,800,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	-3,639,660.00
	<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$1,160,340.00</i>
	May 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
	Total Project Development	-1,160,340.00
	<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>

(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	-858,660.00
	<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$9,141,340.00</i>
	May 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
	Total Project Development	-9,141,340.00
	<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>
(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	-133,850.00
	<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$10,866,150.00</i>
	May 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
	Total Project Development	-8,914,000.00
	<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$1,952,150.00</i>
(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	-2,456,750.00
	<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$3,243,250.00</i>
	May 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
	Total Project Development	0.00
	<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$3,243,250.00</i>
(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	-151,572,693.00
	<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$13,127,307.00</i>
	May 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	-5,430,000.00
	Total Project Development	-7,647,306.00
	<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$50,001.00</i>
(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	-116,186,802.00
	<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$7,338,198.00</i>
	May 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	-2,620,000.00
	Total Project Development	-4,150,000.00
	<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$568,198.00</i>

Wildlife Conservation Board Meeting, May 24, 2018

(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	-30,226,438.00
<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$8,173,562.00</i>
May 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
Total Project Development	0.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$8,173,562.00</i>
(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	-20,165,924.00
<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$18,234,076.00</i>
May 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
Total Project Development	0.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$18,234,076.00</i>
(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	-18,122,078.00
<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$20,277,922.00</i>
May 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
Total Project Development	0.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$20,277,922.00</i>
(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	-10,000.00
<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$2,990,000.00</i>
May 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
Total Project Development	0.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$2,990,000.00</i>
(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	-1,888,427.00
<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$1,611,573.00</i>
May 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
Total Project Development	0.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$1,611,573.00</i>
(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	-1,433,207.00
<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$1,366,793.00</i>
May 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
Total Project Development	0.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$1,366,793.00</i>

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(ag) GENERAL FUND (0001)	
Budget Act 2017 (Lower American River)	\$1,000,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	-25,000.00
<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$975,000.00</i>
May 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
Total Project Development	0.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$975,000.00</i>
(ah) GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION FUND (3228)	
Budget Act 2017 (Chapter 249, Statutes 2017)	\$20,000,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	0.00
<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$20,000,000.00</i>
May 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
Total Project Development	0.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$20,000,000.00</i>

RECAP OF FUND BALANCES

WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND (0447)	\$28,000.00
May 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
Total Project Development	0.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$28,000.00</i>
HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (0262)	\$69,616,691.00
May 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	-3,873,214.00
Total Project Development	-27,889,473.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$37,854,004.00</i>
SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS, CLEAN WATER, CLEAN AIR, AND COASTAL PROTECTION BOND FUND (Proposition 12) (0005)	\$3,947,755.00
May 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
Total Project Development	-197,880.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$3,749,875.00</i>
CALIFORNIA CLEAN WATER, CLEAN AIR, SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS AND COASTAL PROTECTION BOND FUND (Proposition 40) (6029)	\$14,089,848.00
May 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	-1,400,000.00
Total Project Development	-7,785,000.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$4,904,848.00</i>
WATER SECURITY, CLEAN DRINKING WATER, COASTAL AND BEACH PROTECTION FUND OF 2002 (Proposition 50) (6031)	\$26,872,721.00
May 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
Total Project Development	-18,103,188.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$8,769,533.00</i>
SAFE DRINKING WATER, WATER QUALITY AND SUPPLY, FLOOD CONTROL, RIVER AND COASTAL PROTECTION FUND OF 2006 (Proposition 84) (6051)	\$44,876,585.00
May 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	-8,050,000.00
Total Project Development	-31,012,986.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$5,813,599.00</i>

WATER QUALITY, SUPPLY, AND INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT FUND (Proposition 1-6083)	\$52,653,926.00
May 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
Total Project Development	0.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$52,653,926.00</i>
 GENERAL FUND (0001)	 \$975,000.00
May 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
Total Project Development	0.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$975,000.00</i>
 GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION FUND (3228)	 \$20,000,000.00
May 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
Total Project Development	0.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$20,000,000.00</i>
 TOTAL – ALL FUNDS	 \$233,060,526.00
May 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	-13,323,214.00
Total Project Development	-84,988,527.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$134,748,785.00</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

#### **4. Delegation of Authority**

At the February 24, 2016, Wildlife Conservation Board (Board) meeting, the Board delegated authority to the Executive Director to execute non-controversial contracts with private and public entities if the contracts supported the mission and goals of the WCB. This delegation was limited to routine service and interagency contracts and amendments of no more than \$150,000 in value per year and no more than three years in length per contract.

Staff request inclusion of routine service contracts for due diligence costs, for proposed and approved projects, under the previously approved delegation of authority. Due diligence costs typically include real estate appraisals, property assessments, appraisal reviews, and title company costs and occur during the proposed and approved project phases. If the requested delegation is approved, staff will present the purchase price for acquisition projects to the board for approval and report total costs for completed projects, including due diligence costs, through the Recovery of Funds agenda item.

If approved, the expanded delegation of authority will streamline internal processes by eliminating the need to create internal project planning accounts for tracking proposed project expenditures.

Staff recommend the Board approve expansion of the existing delegation of authority to include routine service contracts for due diligence costs for proposed and approved projects.

#### **5. Proposed Consent Calendar (Items 6 – 12)**

#### **\*6. Approval of Minutes**



**\*7. 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.

<b>RECOVERIES BY FUND</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Habitat Conservation Fund	41,154.56
California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Fund	29,810.43
Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002	116,058.28
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006	85,280.26
Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Fund of 2014	137,940.00
<i>Total Recoveries for All Funds</i>	<b>\$410,243.53</b>

Habitat Conservation Fund	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Garibaldi Land Exchange	440,000.00	429,391.00	10,609.00
Hughes Ranch Wetland Enhancement	315,000.00	291,454.44	23,545.56
Smithneck Creek Wildlife Area Land Exchange	7,000.00	0.00	7,000.00
<i>Total Recoveries to Habitat Conservation Fund</i>			<b>\$41,154.56</b>

California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Fund	Allocated	Expended	Balance
San Joaquin River Parkway, Jensen River Ranch Phase II Habitat Restoration	563,970.00	534,159.57	29,810.43
<i>Total Recoveries to California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Fund</i>			<b>\$29,810.43</b>

Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Eden Landing Ecological Reserve Wetland Restoration Construction	8,000,000.00	7,883,941.72	116,058.28
<i>Total Recoveries to Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002</i>			<b>\$116,058.28</b>

Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Big Creek Reserve CEQA and Planning	450,000.00	450,000.00	0.00
County of San Diego Multiple Species Conservation Plan 2015 (Brown)	83,850.00	81,051.00	2,799.00
East Mill Creek Riparian Enhancement	249,000.00	248,998.99	\$1.01
Mad River Hatchery Lot Line Adjustment	40,000.00	33,684.50	6,315.50
Mailliard Middle Ranch	2,389,179.00	2,384,178.50	5,000.50
Mailliard West Ranch	2,380,822.00	2,376,199.50	4,622.50
San Joaquin River Parkway, Ledger Island Bridge Access Improvement, Design and Review	130,000.00	\$73,215.72	56,784.28
Santa Cruz Island Argentine Ant Elimination	568,000.00	568,000.00	0.00
Clos du Bois Vineyard Habitat Restoration	500,000.00	490,242.53	9,757.47
<i>Total Recoveries to Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006</i>			<i>\$85,280.26</i>

Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Fund of 2014	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Deer Creek Streamflow Enhancement and Restoration	137,940.00	0.00	137,940.00
<i>Total Recoveries to Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Fund of 2014</i>			<i>\$137,940.00</i>

**\*8. Sanhedrin Ranch Restoration**  
**Mendocino County**  
**\$180,000**

This proposal is to consider the allocation for a grant to the Trust for Public Land (TPL) to restore failing stream crossings, remove culverts, and prevent sedimentation and detriments to aquatic habitat from decommissioned forest logging road improvements, located within TPL's privately owned Sanhedrin Ranch property approximately 20 miles northeast of Willits in Mendocino County.

**LOCATION**

The Sanhedrin Ranch is an 11,884-acre inholding surrounded almost entirely by two U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Wilderness Areas (Yuki and Sanhedrin) in the Mendocino National Forest in Northern California. The ranch is the largest inholding in the Mendocino National Forest and among the highest-priority conservation goals for the National Forest and the California Wilderness Coalition.

This highly biodiverse area is adjacent to hundreds of miles of contiguous public lands. Multiple special status species exist in the Elk Creek watershed, including chinook and chum salmon, coastal cutthroat trout, and steelhead.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

TPL purchased 3,000 acres of Sanhedrin Ranch using private philanthropic funding. This tract has been determined to be of wilderness quality and is proposed for donation to the USFS as an addition to the Yuki Wilderness Area. Acquisition of the ranch is the single highest priority of the USFS for the Mendocino National Forest, and is strongly supported by local and state legislators. USFS has documented its willingness to accept the tract after necessary restoration is completed.

The Project's restoration study and action plan was completed and approved by the USFS. The plan includes a variety of restoration activities over approximately 2,350 acres, including:

- Removal of approximately 53 culverts in Class II creeks (perennial streams that do not contain fish but do contain other aquatic life or are within 1,000 feet of a Class 1 stream) and Class III streams (watercourses that do not support aquatic life but have the potential to deliver sediment to a Class I or II stream), varying in size from 18 to 72 inches, with accompanying crossing and soil stabilization
- Recontouring and slope stabilization of approximately 18 fords in Class II and III streams
- Removal of two bridges crossing Class I (perennial streams that contain or are domestic water supplies) watercourses
- Recontouring of road prism and installation of water bars

Stream crossing removals will consist of excavating the channel 1.5 times wider than the natural channel, as close as feasible to the grade and orientation of the natural channel. Spoils will be placed and compacted along a stable portion of the inboard edge of the road. The additional material will recontour the road and provide soil for the installation of water bars. Instream grade control will consist of large wood or rocks intended to prevent stream down cutting.

## WCB PROGRAM

The proposed project will be funded through the Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Program and meets the program's goal of providing for native fisheries restoration, restoration of wetlands that fall outside the jurisdiction of the Inland Wetland Conservation Program such as coastal, tidal, or fresh water habitats, coastal scrub, grasslands, threatened and endangered species habitats, and in-stream restoration projects, including removal of fish passage barriers and other obstructions.

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

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

- ✓ The project will enhance water resources for fish and wildlife by restoring failing stream crossings, removing culverts, and preventing sedimentation and detriments to aquatic habitat caused by former logging roads.
- ✓ Enhance habitats on forestlands by restoring former logging roads to their natural condition.

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

- ✓ Provide species strongholds or refugia
- ✓ Provide or enhance habitat connectivity and corridors
- ✓ Improve habitat for threatened or endangered species

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

Provide a diversity of recreation types with no degradation of ecosystems. At project completion, the property will satisfy the USFS requirements to be included in the adjacent Yuki Wilderness.

## MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

After the completion of the project, the property will be conveyed to the USFS to be added to the Yuki Wilderness. Management of the property will be consistent with the Federal Wilderness Act of 1964, as noted in the Mendocino National Forest Land Management Plan, IX. Wilderness:

*“Manage designated Wildernesses in accordance with the Wilderness Act of 1964 and associated regulations. Activities and permitted uses will be regulated to ensure that unnecessary impacts on the wilderness characteristics of the area do not occur”.*

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

#### PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB	TPL	Total Cost
Mobilization	21,000	-	21,000
Site Preparation/Construction	93,000	-	93,000
Project Management	48,000	5,000	53,000
Project Administration	-	22,500	22,500
Contingency	18,000	-	18,000
<i>Totals</i>	<i>\$180,000</i>	<i>\$27,500</i>	<i>\$207,500</i>

Project costs will be for mobilization, construction, construction supervision, and administration.

#### FUNDING SOURCE

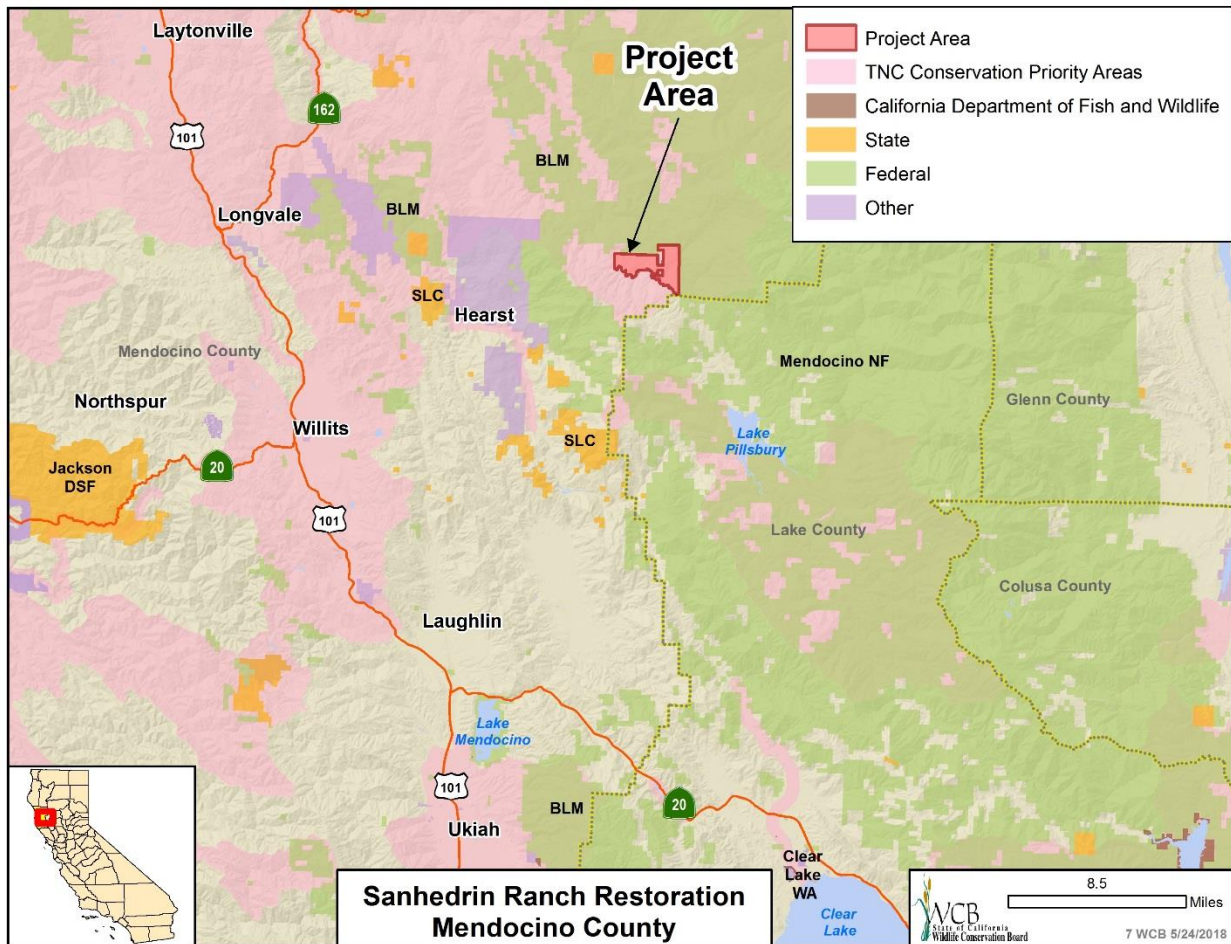
The proposed funding source for this project is the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75055(b), which provides funding for the development, rehabilitation, restoration, acquisition and protection of habitat that accomplishes one or more of the following objectives: promotes recovery of threatened and endangered species, protects habitat corridors, protects significant natural landscapes and ecosystems such as old growth redwoods, mixed conifer forests and oak woodlands, riparian and wetland areas, or implements the recommendations of the California Comprehensive Wildlife Strategy.

#### 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) under the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3) Section 15333, Class 33, as the restoration, enhancement, or protection of small habitat restoration projects of less than five acres in size. 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 \$180,000.00 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); 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.



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- \*9. Sinnott Parcel – Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR)  
Oil Mitigation Fund Project  
San Mateo County  
\$75,000**

This item has been withdrawn from consideration at this time.

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**\*10. Allensworth Ecological Reserve, Expansion 58-68**

**Tulare and Kern Counties**

**\$60,964**

This proposal is to consider the acquisition, by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), of twelve separate parcels of land in ten ownerships groups totaling 36± acres as an expansion to the Allensworth Ecological Reserve (Reserve). The acquisition is located in Tulare and Kern Counties and will protect habitat supporting the San Joaquin kit fox and other species found within the area of the Reserve and will enhance habitat linkages and connectivity.

**LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES**

The properties (Properties) are located in the southeast region of the San Joaquin Valley, near the City of Earlimart, in Tulare and Kern Counties. The Properties lie in an area comprised mostly of small parcels typified as open land, sparsely vegetated, and dominated by grassland and valley sink areas. Much of the area outside the Reserve has been, or is currently being, converted to extensive agricultural uses including alfalfa, grapes, or nut orchard use. If acquired, the Properties would be managed as part of the Reserve. Other protected lands in the vicinity include the Colonel Allensworth State Park located to the west, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Pixley National Wildlife Refuge to the north, and the USFWS Kern National Wildlife Refuge to the southwest.

Since the Reserve's creation in 1983, CDFW and WCB have approved projects to help acquire and protect 5,100 acres of land that makes up the Reserve. The valley sink and saltbush scrub plant communities found at the Reserve represent some of the highest quality examples of these plant communities in the San Joaquin Valley. There are also a number of vernal pools found within the Reserve, supporting vernal pool fairy shrimp.

The Reserve is important to the survival and recovery of several endangered or sensitive species including the State and federally endangered blunt-nosed leopard lizard, the Tipton kangaroo rat, and San Joaquin pocket mouse, the State threatened and federally endangered San Joaquin kit fox, the State threatened San Joaquin antelope squirrel, and the federally threatened Hoppings blister beetle. Other rare and important species that either reside at or frequent the Reserve include the American badger, greater sandhill crane, merlin, Swainson's hawk, and western pond turtle.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The Tulare County Properties are located north of Avenue 24 and west of County Road 112, in Tulare County, while the Kern County Properties are located West of Highway 43 and South of Avenue 8. The Properties total 36.25 ± acres, and are being proposed for acquisition as Expansions 58-68 of the Reserve. The Properties are currently zoned for agricultural use in Tulare County, while in Kern they are zoned for rural residential use. The Properties are currently being utilized as pastureland. The topography ranges from fairly level to slightly undulating, and the dominant habitat is native grasses. If acquired, the Properties will be managed as part of the Reserve, expanding open space, habitat connections, grasslands and habitat areas for wildlife species. The acquisition will also help improve habitat connectivity between the Reserve and the Pixley National Wildlife Refuge located to the north and the Kern National Wildlife Refuge to the South.



#### WCB PROGRAM

This project is being proposed under 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.*), which authorizes WCB to acquire real property or rights in real property on behalf of CDFW, grant funds to other government 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 acquires and grants funds to facilitate 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 the WCB with a recommendation to fund.

#### STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

Consistent with Goals A-1 and A-4 (environmental protection and conservation) of the Strategic Plan, the Properties provide habitat for threatened and endangered species. Additionally, the Properties will help provide resilience to the impacts of climate change for native species by providing habitat linkages and corridors for increased movement. This project has been requested and is supported by CDFW as it increases the size of the Reserve, protecting additional habitat for threatened and endangered species, and provides connectivity to the Pixley National Wildlife Refuge in an effort to build a wildlife corridor between the two conservation areas.

#### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The Properties proposed for acquisition represent a nominal addition to the Reserve and, according to CDFW, can be readily absorbed into existing CDFW operations.

#### FUNDING SOURCE

California Department of Corrections Statewide Electric Fence Project (Fence Fund) mitigation funds assigned to CDFW is paying for much of the purchase price, while WCB is paying for some of the purchase price and all the indirect costs. These mitigation funds were made available to CDFW to offset the impacts to valley floor habitat associated with electric fences constructed around correctional facilities in the San Joaquin Valley. CDFW and WCB have each analyzed and determined that the purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source. The total available from the Fence Fund is \$60,786 and will be matched by \$60,964 from WCB.

#### TERMS

The owners agreed to sell the Properties for the appraised fair market value as shown below. The total purchase price is \$75,750. The appraised value has been reviewed by WCB staff and reviewed and approved by the Department of General Services (DGS). The terms and conditions of the proposed acquisition provides that staff of the WCB must review and approve all title documents, preliminary title reports, agreements for purchase and sale, escrow instructions, and instruments of conveyance prior to disbursement of funds directly into the escrow account established for each separate acquisition.

## PROJECT FUNDING

The Properties have been appraised as having a combined fair market value of \$75,750 and are broken out in the following chart:

Owner Last Name	APN/ County	Acres	Appraised Value (\$)
Fredrickson	322-010-012	10	15,000
Kendall	322-030-002 322-200-005	10	20,000
Welsh	322-130-001	2.5	5,750
Bridges	322-050-006	2.5	5,750
Dangers	047-070-23	2	5,000
Heredia	314-182-011	3.75	9,500
Eby	047-080-34	0.5	1,750
Kataoka	322-170-002	1.25	3,250
First Baptist Church	322-050-013, 322-170-002	2.5	6,500
Schaeffer	322-020-010	1.25	3,250
<i>Totals</i>		36.25	\$75,750

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Wildlife Conservation Board	14,964
CDFW Fence Fund	60,786
Total Purchase Price	75,750
Other Project Related Admin Costs	46,000
<i>Total WCB Allocation</i>	<i>\$60,964</i>

It is estimated that an additional \$46,000 will be needed to cover internal project-related expenses, including appraisals, Phase 1 environmental assessments, title and closing costs, and DGS appraisal review costs.

## FUNDING SOURCE

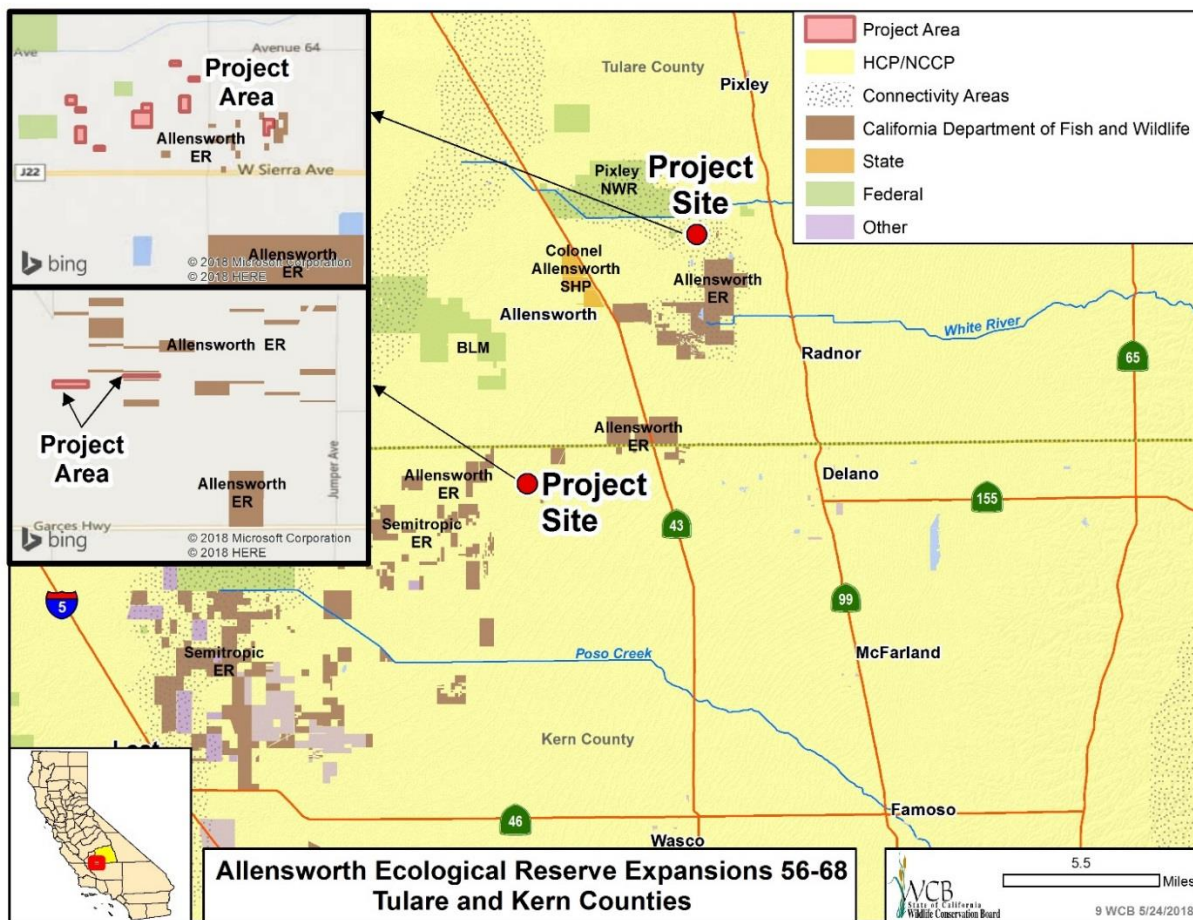
The purposes of this project are consistent with the proposed funding source, the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c) that allows for the acquisition of habitat to protect rare, endangered, threatened or fully protected species.

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND STATE RECOMMENDATION

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

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve the project as proposed; allocate \$60,964.00 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 staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the California Department Fish and Wildlife to proceed substantially as planned.



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**\*11. Morongo Basin and Expansion 1**  
**San Bernardino County**  
**\$186,250**

This proposal is to consider the allocation for a grant to the Mojave Desert Land Trust (MDLT) to acquire 367± acres of land for the protection of desert habitat corridors leading north and east to the Joshua Tree National Park.

**LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES**

The subject properties (Properties), known as the Trummel (47± acres) and the Chadbourne (320± acres) and are located within the Morongo basin near the towns of Yucca Valley, and Joshua Tree, respectively. The Trummel property, near Yucca Valley, fronts the south side of State Route 62 just west of the city limits; and the Chadbourne property, located north of the Joshua Tree city limits, on the north side of Winters Road. Commercial development is common along State Route 62 with a number of rural residential subdivisions radiating out from the communities of Yucca Valley and Joshua Tree. These developed areas give way to large open desert habitat parcels heading south and north of the Highway and the two communities.

The Properties are located in the Morongo Basin Linkages Conceptual Area Protection Plan (CAPP). The CAPP, which was spearheaded by MDLT, has identified an urgent need to protect 10,000± acres of habitat corridors between federal, state, and locally owned Morongo Basin open spaces.

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

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The Properties are vacant and both contain a gently to steep sloping drainage throughout and are zoned for residential uses. Acquisition of these Properties will add 2.3 miles (extending north/south and east/west) to the preservation of the Joshua Tree North and East Linkages and the view-sheds to Joshua Tree National Park, which is the primary economic driver of the Morongo Basin's communities. It will also provide public access and educational opportunities through outreach to the Morongo Basin's 68,000 residents and to the Morongo Basin Unified School District's 9,500 students. With a growing human population in the Morongo Basin, the projects are uniquely equipped to offer open space and outdoor activities to the area's youth and adults alike.

The Properties will preserve habitat and potential habitat for listed and special status species including the state and federally listed desert tortoise; fully protected golden eagle; Species of Special Concern American badger, northern harrier hawk, loggerhead shrike, and Le Conte's thrasher; and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Watch List prairie falcon. The Properties also contain rare and protected native plant species that include Joshua Trees and Mojave Yucca.

## WCB PROGRAM

The proposed grant for this project is being made under the Wildlife Conservation Board's (WCB) Land Acquisition Program. The Land Acquisition Program is administered pursuant to the Board's original enabling legislation, "The Wildlife Conservation Law of 1947" (Fish and Game Section 1300, et seq.) authorizing the WCB to acquire real property or rights in real property on behalf of the CDFW, grant funds to other governmental entities or nonprofit organizations to acquire real property or rights in real property, and accept federal grant funds to facilitate acquisitions or subgrant these federal funds to assist with the 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. These activities are carried out in conjunction with CDFW, which evaluates the biological values of property through development of a Land Acquisition Evaluation (LAE)/Conceptual Area Protection Plan (CAPP). The LAE/CAPP is then submitted to CDFW's Regional Operations Committee for review and, if approved, later transmitted to the WCB with a recommendation to fund.

## STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The Properties will be managed and owned by the Mojave Desert Land Trust. MDLT has partnered with the Department of Defense (DOD), Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program (REPI), administered by local Navy personnel at Twentynine Palms Marine Corps Ground Combat Center. DOD will fund the purchase of conservation easements on the properties after MDLT acquires the Property. All of these lands are being managed, and/or conveyed in accordance with the Land Trust Alliance Standards and Practices, CDFW WCB standards, and the Department of the Navy's conservation easement requirements. In addition, MDLT plans to develop an educational program with the Morongo Unified School District for students, for MDLT's 1,300 members and the local communities to utilize the land for learning about desert ecosystems, wildlife, watersheds and species.

#### TERMS

The Properties have been appraised as having a combined fair market value of \$365,000.00. The appraisals have been reviewed by WCB staff and reviewed and approved by the Department of General Services (DGS). The Trummel Family has agreed to sell their property for \$115,000 and Chadbourne Family has agreed to sell their property for \$160,000. The terms and conditions of the grant between the WCB and the Mojave Desert Land Trust provide that WCB staff will review and approve all title documents, appraisals, preliminary title reports, documents for purchase and sale, escrow instructions and instruments of conveyance prior to disbursement of funds directly into the escrow account established for the acquisition. In the event of a breach of the grant terms the WCB can require the grantee to encumber the Properties 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	166,250
Mojave Desert Land Trust	108,750
Total Purchase Price	275,000
Other Project Related Admin. Costs	20,000
<i>Total WCB Allocation</i>	<i>\$186,250</i>

Included in the total are \$20,000 in administrative costs, including DGS appraisal review.

#### FUNDING SOURCE

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

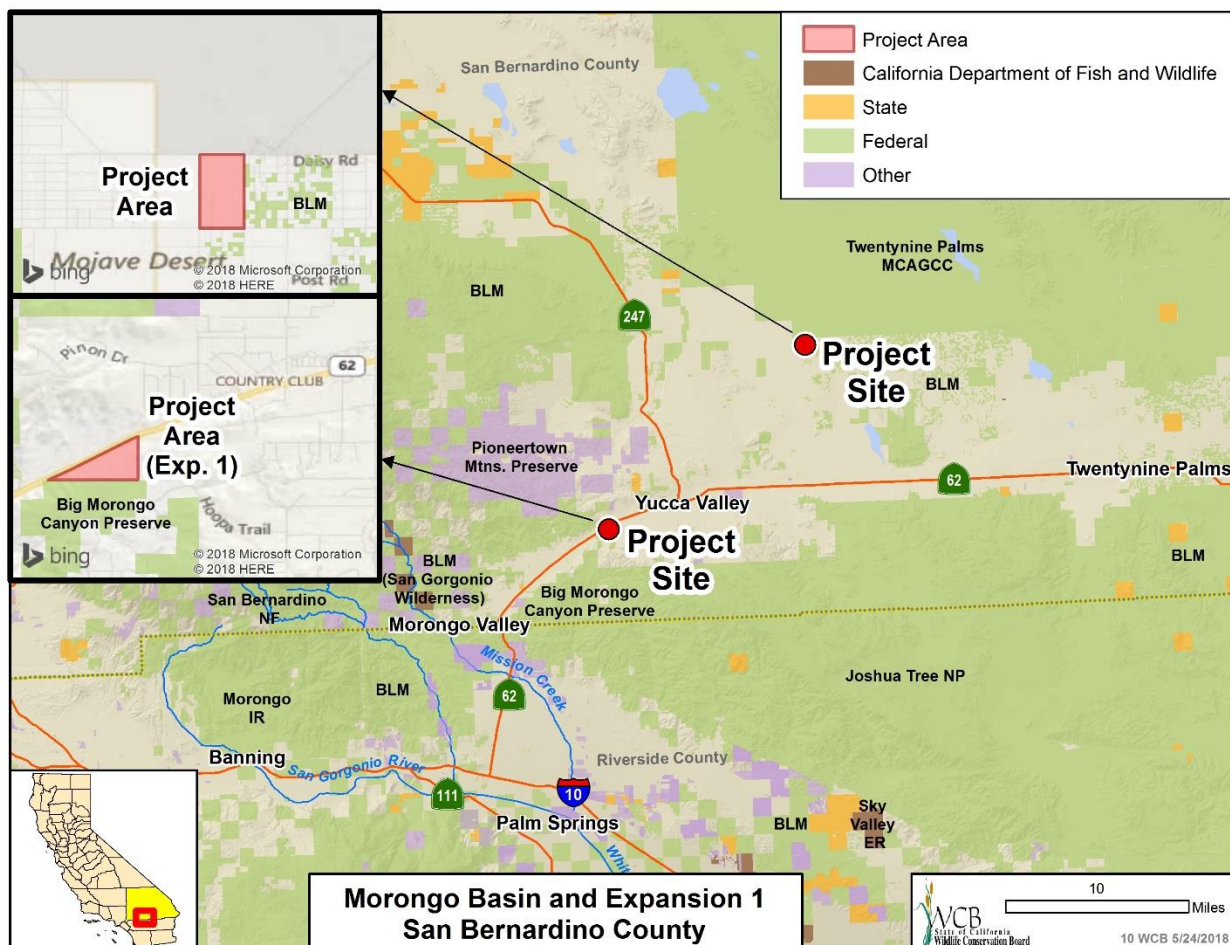
#### ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

The acquisition has been reviewed for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements and is proposed as exempt under CEQA Guidelines 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 habitat. Subject to authorization by the WCB, a Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse. CDFW has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for approval.



### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$186,250.00 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 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.



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**\*12. Water for Wildlife in Inland Deserts**

**Riverside County**

**\$190,000**

This proposal is to consider the allocation for a grant to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for a cooperative project with the Bureau of Land Management to install and enhance approximately 18 water features to improve and support habitat for bighorn sheep, deer, bobcats, rabbits, bats, and upland game bird species, located at various sites in eastern Riverside County.

**LOCATION**

The proposed project is located in eastern Riverside County among various mountain ranges and washes within an approximate 75-mile radius west of the city of Blythe. The wildlife guzzlers will be located on Bureau of Land Management property.

A significant amount of wildlife habitat has been impacted by years of drought in the Southern Desert, making man made water sources more critical for the animals that depend on them. One vital element to any wildlife habitat is a dependable source of clean water. This project will provide a dependable source of water in the form of guzzlers, underground water storage tanks that help sustain wildlife. Providing year-round reliable water sources to wildlife increases habitat suitability and use across a broader landscape. Guzzlers are installed underground and catch and store water from snow and rain. The tank, where the snow and rain accumulates, then feeds water to a drinker that can be accessed by wildlife. When installed properly, the water stored in guzzlers is available for animals throughout the year. This is especially important during the hot months of late spring through early fall. By having less water exposed, water evaporation is reduced, and the underground water storage discourages algae growth. The new design will include larger mammals including deer and bighorn sheep, and avian species that cannot access smaller tanks.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The objective of this specific project in the Southern Desert is to increase existing water storage at upland game guzzler sites built in the early 1950s. At various locations, 2300-gallon guzzler tanks will be installed to increase supply. This will increase the entire system's reliability, as well as increase the amount of water available. Upland game species and many other wildlife species will benefit from the new system design and volume. Frequently, the older water systems dry up during the period of highest ambient temperatures of the summer months when water is most crucial to wildlife. This has had a significant impact over an extended period of low rainfall.

The specific benefits of this project will be to support and expand wildlife populations in the project area. Generally, the guzzlers will support the entire suite of desert fauna including; desert bighorn sheep, deer, bobcats, rabbits, bats, and upland game bird species. As an example, Gambel's Quail will benefit from a more reliable permanent water source. During years of drought, existing guzzlers may go dry and succulent vegetation is not readily available. Providing a sustainable water source during drought years and during extreme temperatures will decrease stress and potential wildlife mortalities. Mourning dove are another species that utilize these existing systems and are very dependent on water, as their diet does not contain much moisture. They often drink multiple times a day with an increased water demand during high temperatures and breeding. Doves also inhabit and nest in areas that are within a few miles of a water source. By supplying doves with a dependable water source, it may decrease stress, increase reproduction, and expand suitable habitat, all of which will support a larger and healthier population.



CDFW personnel will monitor these improved guzzlers utilizing trail cameras to observe the predicted increase in wildlife utilization and species diversity. CDFW will prepare an anecdotal report annually listing species utilization and numbers.

#### 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 and enhancement of a variety of habitat types including enhancement of desert habitat for wildlife and sensitive species.

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

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

The project will enhance water resources for wildlife by providing year-round water supply.

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

- Provide or enhance habitat connectivity and corridors
- Provide species strongholds or refugia

#### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEED

After the project is complete, CDFW expects to have reliable water supplies year-round in each guzzler. Increased wildlife utilization with the improved design is also expected. The guzzlers will be checked quarterly to ensure they are holding water as expected. CDFW personnel will monitor and maintain the improved guzzlers over the 25-year life of the grant utilizing trail cameras to observe the predicted increase in wildlife utilization and species diversity.

#### PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB
Tanks installed (18)	165,450
Monitoring and Trail Cameras	13,500
Contingency	11,050
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$190,000</b>

Project costs will be for purchase and installation of water features, staff time, and wildlife and habitat monitoring. CDFW will also provide additional in-kind staff time for maintenance.

#### 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). This funding allows for the acquisition, development, rehabilitation, restoration and protection of habitat to promote the recovery of rare and endangered species, and to provide wildlife corridors, significant natural landscapes and ecosystems, and habitat areas and is consistent with the objectives of this project.

#### CEQA 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) under the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3) Section 15303, new construction or conversion of small structures; and Section 15304, minor alterations 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 as proposed; allocate \$190,000.00 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.



### 13. Central Valley Nutria Eradication

#### Various Counties

**\$600,000**

This proposal is to consider the allocation for a grant to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) for a cooperative project with the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the California Department of Food and Agriculture to implement a large scale invasive nutria eradication project in riparian corridors and associated wetland habitats of the San Joaquin Valley and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta), located in various Central Valley counties.

#### LOCATION

The Project area consists of aquatic and riparian areas of the San Joaquin Valley, located in Merced, Stanislaus, San Joaquin, Madera, Fresno, and Tuolumne Counties. The area includes the Merced and San Joaquin Rivers, and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta). The primary project footprint is a 50-mile buffer around known captures adjacent to the Merced and San Joaquin Rivers, as well as the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta). Project work will continue downstream in the Merced River to the confluence with the San Joaquin, from the San Luis National Wildlife Refuge, both up- and downstream in the San Joaquin, and in irrigational canals near Los Banos. Surveys will also be conducted near Stockton.

The project will occur on private, state, and federal lands, and riparian and agricultural lands adjacent to aquatic habitats. Land uses consist of agriculture, managed and unmanaged wetlands, and state and federal wildlife conservation lands. These areas serve as important habitats for diverse fish and wildlife resources, including anadromous fishes and migratory birds.

CDFW has determined that the animals are an established population that, given the inevitability of its spread and potentially significant environmental and economic impacts, requires immediate eradication. CDFW proposes the implementation of a comprehensive, multi-agency eradication effort. A rapid response, before the population becomes exceedingly large and reaches further into the Delta, is the most cost-efficient and effective option for fully eradicating this population and limiting future impacts.

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Nutria (*Myocastor coypus*) are large, semi-aquatic rodents native to South America and invasive in the United States. Nutria are capable of rapidly expanding populations, both in size and distribution. Female nutria are reproductive by six months of age and can produce three litters in 13 months. Within approximately one year of reaching reproductive maturity, one female nutria can produce over 200 offspring, which may disperse as far as 50 miles. In other states such as Oregon, Louisiana, and Texas, nutria populations have reached the millions. In some locations nutria persist in the hundreds of thousands; Oregon densities reach 56 nutria per acre, and Louisiana harvests 450,000 nutria annually at a cost of \$2 million/year.

Nutria are known for their enormous ecological and economic impacts. They cause extensive damage to wetlands, riparian areas, restoration sites, levees and other infrastructure, agricultural crops, and water supplies. Nutria may consume up to 25% of their body weight in above- and below-ground vegetation each day, while destroying up to ten times the amount they consume. In Texas, nutria feeding exacerbated the spread of invasive plants such as *Arundo donax*, an invasive plant which is also the focus of major control and restoration efforts in California's riparian habitats. The loss of plant cover and soil organic matter results in severe erosion and increased sedimentation, as well as conversion of emergent wetlands

to open water. In Louisiana and the Chesapeake Bay, nutria converted thousands of acres of emergent wetlands to open water and mudflats, and damaged over 100,000 additional acres. Nutria are also vectors of pathogens and parasites that are transmissible to humans, livestock, and pets, such as leptospirosis and tuberculosis, as well as tapeworms, giardia, and nematodes.

The objectives of this project are to protect and restore ecosystem function, prevent the loss of wetlands and reduced carbon sequestration of wetland soils, and protect riparian and wetland habitats from the vegetation destruction and soil erosion caused by nutria. Project objectives will be achieved by surveying for and exterminating invasive nutria. Project teams will create a surveillance network for nutria presence/dispersal, delineate the geographic extent of the known infestation, prevent nutria establishment near restoration sites and *Arundo* infestation, eradicate nutria from California and prevent expansion, and prevent negative impacts to native species, habitats, agriculture, infrastructure, water supplies, and the economy.

A five-phase adaptive management strategy will be implemented and applied to 640-acre management units within buffers around all nutria detections. This strategy is modeled on the successful Chesapeake Bay Nutria Eradication Project, which removed over 14,000 nutria between 2000-2018, and has had no nutria detection since spring 2015. The project management phases will include the following:

- Survey – utilization of various detection methods to delimit the distribution of nutria within a watershed or collection of watersheds. Extensive surveys methods will include: visual, camera, platform, scent-detection dogs, and analysis of aerial imagery.
- Eradication – systematic trapping, followed by extermination to reduce populations to zero density. Following survey and trapping in the respective units, trappers will immediately dispatch captured nutria.
- Mop-up –early detection and rapid removal of any remnant or immigrating nutria.
- Verification – repeated and ongoing survey and monitoring. Monitoring will continue until absence of nutria or their sign indicate that site eradication has been accomplished.
- Surveillance – continual monitoring at a reduced intensity to ensure eradication is achieved and maintained.

Intensive management zones consisting of trapping, high-frequency monitoring, and long-term surveillance will be implemented in a five-mile buffer around all detections. Less intensive surveys will be conducted within a 5- to 20-mile buffer around detections. Contracted specialist trappers, CDFW staff, and Interagency Team partners will work to implement widespread surveys and trapping, as well as a 15-year long-term surveillance plan. In addition, an extensive network of local agencies and partners including County Agricultural Commissioners, Resource Conservation Districts, gun clubs, conservation organizations, and private landowners will participate in surveys and monitoring.

This comprehensive effort is necessary to eradicate the nutria, before extensive range expansion, and before the Central Valley population becomes too large to eradicate. This project will result in the protection of numerous miles of levee and infrastructure, restoration sites, wetland and riparian habitats, and conservation lands, and will prevent increased soil erosion and sedimentation likely to impact anadromous fishes in Delta tributaries.

Eradicating nutria from wetland habitats will eliminate a significant stressor on local wetlands. Nutria removal will avoid further stream- and riverbank erosion, high levels of sedimentation and subsequent impacts to fishes, loss of native riparian vegetation, and ultimately further loss of soil structure. A 20-pound nutria may consume up to five pounds of vegetation each day, and at the same time may destroy up to 50 pounds, including roots and rhizomes. Removing nutria from these critical wetland and riparian habitats will minimize the risk of extensive loss of wetland vegetation and carbon-sequestering soils. Removal of nutria colonies, particularly before they reach large sizes, will avoid bank erosion and sedimentation typically caused by nutria colonies and burrowing.

Removal of nutria will contribute to wetland and riparian habitat enhancement in occupied areas. Nutria removal will prevent further loss and facilitate recovery of vegetation structure, nesting habitat, cover, and important food plants for waterfowl, shorebirds, migratory and resident birds, and other wetland- and riparian-dependent species. Studies have found that nutria negatively affect waterfowl reproduction by using nests as feeding and grooming beds, both disrupting nest development and incidentally removing nest eggs. Given these nest impacts, eradication of nutria is expected to benefit bird populations dependent on wetland habitats for reproduction.

#### WCB PROGRAM

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

The project furthers the following goals outlined in the Wildlife Conservation Board (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.*

- ✓ Protect wetland habitat, providing habitat for migratory waterfowl, shorebirds and other wildlife.
- ✓ Protect levees and agricultural lands.
- ✓ Provide species strongholds or refugia.

The Central Valley Nutria Eradication Project is consistent with objectives for conservation, water reliability, protection of ecosystems, providing safe water sources, restoring and protecting ecological functions, and managing invasive species outlined in the following conservation plans:

- California Water Action Plan
- Delta Conservancy's Strategic Plan
- Delta Plan
- State Wildlife Action Plan

## MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

Successful eradication projects are inherently long-term, requiring extended periods of monitoring long after positive detections have ceased. CDFW's Invasive Species Program (ISP) is charged with eradicating invasive species populations where feasible. The ISP will lead efforts to manage and coordinate the on-going surveillance and verification necessary to ensure the nutria population is truly eradicated, and has multiple partners and grant funds to support this effort.

CDFW and project partners are committed to a long-term adaptive management strategy, including verification and surveillance phases. The multi-phase adaptive management strategy is designed to abate future risks by integrating detailed long-term follow-up monitoring and surveillance. CDFW will use internal funds or pursue additional grants as needed for long-term maintenance.

## PROJECT FUNDING

Activity	CDFW-ISP	USFWS	Human Wildlife Conflict Fund	Pittman-Robertson Grant	SSJ-Delta Conservancy Prop. 1	WCB	Total
Trapping and Removal	211,000	20,995	60,000	0	300,000	263,750	855,745
Monitoring and Surveillance	211,000	20,995	0	120,000	300,000	290,150	942,145
Project Management	500,000	4,000	70,000	0	366,000	13,100	953,100
Support and Travel	19,000	0	30,000	0	80,000	33,000	162,000
<i>Totals</i>	<i>\$941,000</i>	<i>\$45,990</i>	<i>\$160,000</i>	<i>\$120,000</i>	<i>\$1,046,000</i>	<i>\$600,000</i>	<i>\$2,912,990</i>

Project costs will be for trapping and monitoring, project management, and project support. Additional funders include the USFWS Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force grant and in-kind funds. Project support task includes equipment, scat-detection dogs, and project travel expenses. CDFW expects to bring in additional grants to fund future project phases as needed.

## 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). This funding allows for the acquisition, development, rehabilitation, restoration and protection of habitat to promote the recovery of rare and endangered species, and to provide wildlife corridors, significant natural landscapes and ecosystems, and habitat areas and is consistent with the objectives of this project.

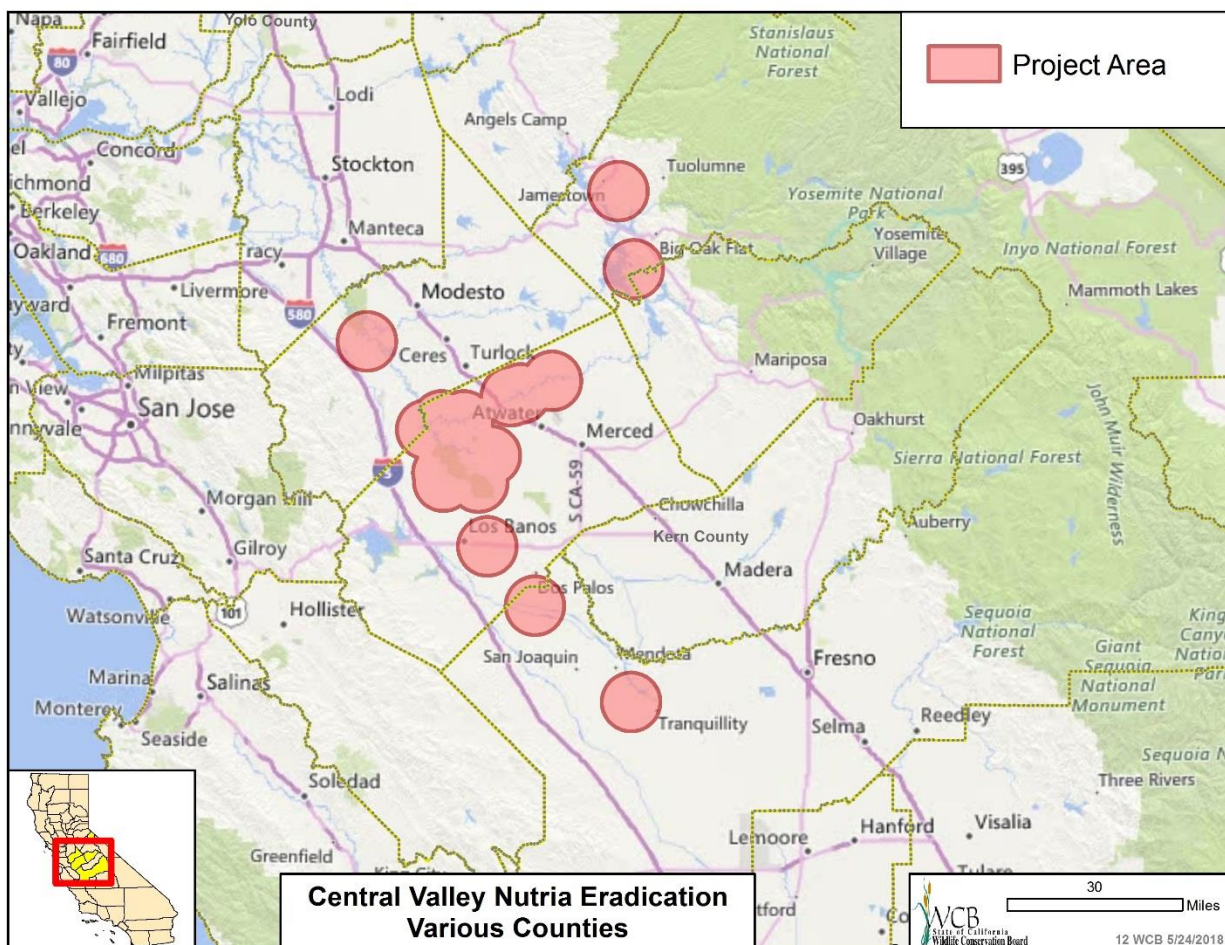
## CEQA AND CDFW REVIEW/RECOMMENDATION

This project is statutorily exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15269(c), as specific actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency. Subject to approval of this proposal by the WCB, the appropriate Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse. The CDFW has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for funding by the WCB.



### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$600,000.00 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.



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**14. McCloud Soda Springs Working Forest**  
**Siskiyou County**  
**\$610,000**

This proposal is to consider the allocation for a grant to the Pacific Forest Trust (PFT) for a cooperative project with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to acquire a forest conservation easement (Easement) over 1,346± acres of mixed conifer forest for the protection of working forestlands, forest reserve areas, watersheds, fisheries, and habitat linkages.

**LOCATION and SURROUNDING USES**

The property (Property) is located near the town of McCloud at the southern extent of the Cascade Range in Siskiyou County. The Property straddles Squaw Valley Road and is adjacent to residential subdivisions, commercial timberland, and a golf course. The Property is bounded on the north by the National Volcanic Scenic Byway (Byway) and to the west by the 12,464± acre McCloud Dogwood Butte Forest owned by Hancock Timber Resource Group, which was conserved with Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) funding in 2016.

The Property is located at the urban edge of a vast complex of mostly contiguous habitat. Nearby land owners include the United States Forest Service, Roseburg Resources Company, Hearst Corporation, The Campbell Group, and smaller private landowners.

The Property is within 15 miles of several other working forests protected with WCB funding including the 9,200+/- acre McCloud River conservation easement (2006), the 8,230± acre Bear Creek conservation easement (2012), and the 3,587± Butte Creek Meadows conservation easement (2015). This Easement will further expand the conservation of the McCloud River watershed, which is a major tributary to the upper Sacramento River providing cold water for downstream fisheries, drinking water, and agriculture.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The Property consists predominantly of a highly productive conifer forest on the largest non-industrial ownership left in the vicinity of McCloud. The Property is relatively flat with slopes ranging from zero to 30%, and elevations ranging from approximately 3,000 to about 3,440 feet above sea level. Each side of the Property slopes gently toward Squaw Valley Creek, which flows generally through the middle of the Property.

The cover types include approximately 880± acres (65%) of ponderosa pine forest, 380± acres (28%) of Sierran mixed conifer forest, and 80± acres hardwood-dominated forests (6%) including 6.5 acres of oak woodland. The forests are both natural and plantations, with stands and trees varying in age from seedlings to over 100 years old. The Easement will ensure this well-managed forest is protected forever through management intended to reduce fuel loads while restoring and maintaining a diverse, resilient forest with heterogeneous structure and more older large trees as well as snags and down-woody debris for habitat value. Forest management will be guided by habitat related goals using uneven-aged silviculture; and timber harvest cannot exceed 25% of inventory per decade. Approximately 163± acres, or 12% of the Property, will be managed as Special Habitat Management Zones (SHMZ) for the conservation of sensitive and rare habitat types, including wet meadows, major springs and their wetland complexes, aspen groves, and oak woodlands. The spring complex SHMZs will include areas for restoration of mature forest habitat.

In total, the Easement will strengthen protection of more than 9,033 feet of Class I, 4,098 feet of Class II, and 1,931 feet of Class III watercourses. Originating high on the slopes of Mt. Shasta, Squaw Valley Creek forms the center of the Property. The creek is a perennial Class I stream with a well-developed riparian corridor. A reach of Panther Creek flows across a corner of the Property where it spreads across a meadow shared with an adjacent landowner forming a seasonally important wetland before flows return to a defined channel to the south.

Two important volcanic, cold-water spring complexes are present on the Property: Soda Springs and Boy Scout Springs. Soda Springs emerges near the center of the Property. The springs consist of a number of seeps and two ponds partially maintained by resident beavers. Soda Springs and its creek form a significant tributary to Squaw Valley Creek. Boy Scout Springs is located under a dense forested canopy with associated seeps in the southeast corner of the Property. These flows contribute to a major wetland system to the south.

Conservation and restoration of habitats will benefit 20 rare or listed species nearby, including the northern spotted owl, Pacific fisher, American pine marten, and willow flycatcher as well as the Sacramento River winter-run Chinook, one of 9 Chinook salmon species considered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to be most at risk of extinction, and is under consideration for reintroduction to the McCloud River. In addition, many other species associated with the Property's habitat types will be protected, including the McCloud Flats deer herd, mountain lion, black bear, and beavers.

One 2-acre residential development site is permitted as well as limited grazing as a vegetation management tool. The Easement will allow the landowner to continue to operate the Property as an economically sustainable forest, providing additional benefits to the regional economy and local wage earners in this Disadvantaged Community. The Easement will allow non-motorized, non-consumptive public access for educational, cultural, and recreational activities subject to a public access management plan. The project will also create scenic buffers along the Byway.

Together with the adjacent McCloud Dogwood Butte Forest, the Property helps bridge a key north-south gap between Late Successional Reserves within the Shasta-Trinity National Forest and enhances the existing 32,000+/- acre network of working forest conservation easements in the McCloud River watershed. This watershed has statewide significance as a critical source of cold, clear water to the Shasta Lake reservoir needed for endangered winter run Chinook salmon, as well as farms and communities downstream. This project is the result of a 15-year partnership with private owners, the WCB, other state and federal agencies, and local communities to permanently knit together and restore source watersheds for the state across ownership boundaries in the resilient Cascades headwaters region for multiple public benefits.

The Easement will allow continued forest harvesting, prevent subdivision, and generally prohibit conversion to non-forest land uses. The Property is zoned Residential and, absent the Easement, could be subdivided into up to 50 small lots. The Easement will accomplish priority goals outlined in several state plans including the WCB's Strategic Plan, CDFW's Mount Shasta Headwaters Forest CAPP, the California Water Action Plan, the California Wildlife Action Plan, the CDFW's Essential Habitat Connectivity Project and Safeguarding California.

#### WCB PROGRAM

The proposed acquisition is being considered under the WCB's Land Acquisition Program. The Land Acquisition Program is administered pursuant to the Board's original enabling legislation, "The Wildlife Conservation Law of 1947" (Fish and Game Section 1300, et

seq.) authorizing the WCB to acquire real property or rights in real property on behalf of CDFW, grant funds to other governmental entities or nonprofit organizations to acquire real property or rights in real property and accept federal grant funds to facilitate acquisitions or subgrant these federal funds to assist with acquisitions of properties. Under the program, the WCB acquires lands and interests in land that can successfully sustain or be restored to support wildlife and, when practicable, provide suitable wildlife-oriented recreation opportunities. These activities are carried out in conjunction with the CFW, which evaluates the biological values of property through development of a Land Acquisition Evaluation (LAE)/Conceptual Area Protection Plan (CAPP). The LAE/CAPP is then submitted to CDFW's Regional Operations Committee (ROC) for review and, if approved, later transmitted to the WCB with a recommendation to fund.

## STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

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

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

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

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

The acquisition of this Easement is at the request of CDFW and the surrounding area contains resources for sensitive habitat.

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

The proposed WCB grant to the PFT to assist with the acquisition of the Easement would be used as a match to the Caltrans and CDFW grants as well as the private donation.

## MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

If this proposal is approved, the Property will be protected according to the terms and conditions of the Easement. The Property will continue to be owned and managed by the landowner for sustainable timber harvesting and enhancement of watershed, wildlife, fishery and plant resources, subject to the provisions of the Easement. The PFT will be responsible for the long-term monitoring and enforcement of the Easement according to the terms and conditions of the WCB grant agreement. Prior to closing, the PFT will be required to provide the WCB with a baseline conditions report documenting the current conditions of the Property. At closing, the landowner will make a donation to PFT's stewardship fund to cover the perpetual monitoring and enforcement costs.

## TERMS

The Property owner has agreed to sell the Easement to PFT for \$1,670,000.00, significantly less than the \$2,312,134.00 appraised fair market value as approved by the Department of General Services (DGS). DGS reviewed the appraisal as well as the review provided by a registered professional forester of the timber valuation. Under terms of the grant, WCB staff is responsible for review of all acquisition-related documents prior to

disbursement of grant funds. In the event of a breach of the grant terms, the WCB can seek specific performance of the grant or require the grantee to transfer the Easement to WCB or another qualified holder.

#### PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Approved Fair Market Value                      \$2,312,134

Wildlife Conservation Board	590,000
Caltrans/Resources EEMP grant funds	500,000
JV Long Foundation grant	80,000
Total Purchase Price	\$1,670,000
Other Project Related Admin. Costs	20,000
<i>Total WCB Allocation</i>	<i>\$610,000</i>

It is estimated that an additional \$20,000.00 will be needed to cover project related administrative costs, including DGS appraisal review and timber harvest appraisal review.

#### WCB FUNDING SOURCE

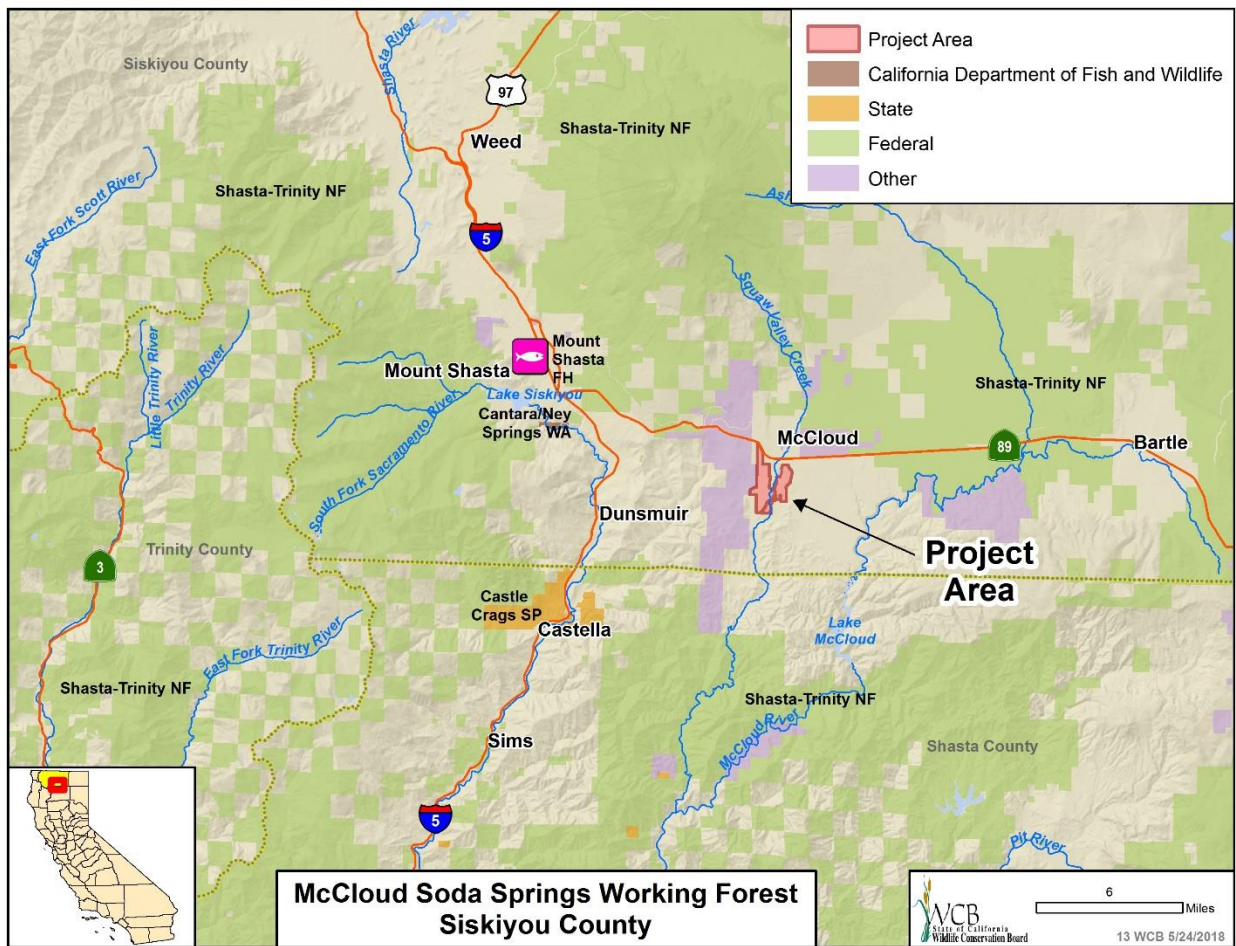
The purposes of this project are consistent with the proposed funding source, the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Fund (Proposition 40), Public Resources Code Section 5096.650(3), which allows for the acquisition of habitat to protect and promote recovery of rare, endangered, threatened or fully protected species, and that protects significant natural landscapes and ecosystems.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

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

#### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$610,000.00 from the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Fund (Proposition 40), Public Resources Code Section 5096.650(3) 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 California Department of Fish and Wildlife to proceed substantially as planned.



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**15. Shasta Big Springs Fee Acquisition**

**Siskiyou County**

**\$2,440,000**

This proposal is to consider the acquisition in fee of 5,849± acres of land by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) for the protection of critical cold water aquatic habitat for a variety of anadromous fish species, including the state and federally listed coho salmon, the protection of migration corridors vital to many plant, bird, and mammal species, and to provide potential future wildlife oriented public use opportunities.

**LOCATION and SURROUNDING USES**

The property (Property) is located approximately seven miles south of the Montague, in the middle of Siskiyou County. It is approximately one mile east of Interstate 5, ten miles north of Weed, and ten miles southeast of Yreka. Portions of the Property are bordered by County Highway A-12 and East Louie Road.

The Property is primarily surrounded by private land. CDFW's Shasta Valley Wildlife Area lies approximately three miles north of the Property. Other Wildlife Conservation Board projects nearby are the Little Shasta Conservation Easement and the Upper Shasta River Flow Enhancement Planning Project.

The Property is in CDFW's Shasta-Butte Valley Conceptual Area Protection Plan (CAPP). The primary purpose of the Shasta-Butte Valley CAPP is to protect cold water aquatic, riparian habitats and the species within them, preserve winter and migratory ranges for deer, elk, and pronghorn, and protect corridors for many plant, bird, and mammal species. The Property is located within the Shasta watershed and portions of Big Springs Creek, Little Springs Creek, and the Shasta River all flow on the Property. The Shasta River is classified as a spring creek and meanders through the valley. Along the way, it is fed by numerous springs and small tributaries before dropping into the Shasta River Canyon and entering the Klamath River.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The Property is irregularly shaped and is dry pasture/farmland for livestock grazing. It is accessed from the north by County Highway A-12 and from the south by East Louie Road, which bisects the southern portion of the Property. The land use designation of the Property is AG-1, which are prime areas suitable for intensive agricultural production, and AG2B40, which are agricultural areas that have a 40-acre minimum and may include farm labor housing and single-family dwellings or mobile homes in lieu thereof.

The Property is comprised of two former ranches, the northern portion is the former Nelson Ranch (approximately 1,704 acres) and the southern portion is the former Big Springs Ranch (approximately 4,145 acres). Historically these ranches were used as combined irrigated, meadow, and dry land grazing properties, but both are now operated as one ranch with primarily dry pasture grazing. The terrain features gentle sloping dry farmland, ponds, riparian habitat, and moderate to steep rangeland. Multiple homes in various condition and farm structures are located on the Property.

In 2010, WCB approved the purchase of a Conservation Easement on the Property by CDFW. The Conservation Easement granted CDFW full control over water usage, restricted activities within riparian zones, prohibited subdivision and development, granted CDFW unlimited access for scientific research and restoration, and required that the landowner maintain riparian fencing in perpetuity on the Property. Included in the acquisition was a 35-year right of first refusal, which entitled CDFW to acquire the fee title of the Property at fair market value should the landowner decide to sell. Since the

landowner notified CDFW of its intent to sell the underlying property, CDFW is exercising its right of first refusal for this proposed acquisition. CDFW's exercise of the right of first refusal is important because CDFW's ownership will streamline management and maintenance of the Property through unified ownership. This management and maintenance will benefit miles of spring-fed waterways vital for salmon and steelhead production, as well as other sensitive species.

The proposed Project will not only help protect and preserve key aquatic habitat for various anadromous fish species including chinook and the state and federally listed coho salmon, but will also provide essential habitat to resident and migratory wildlife. Additional wildlife species potentially present on the Property and benefited by the acquisition include mule deer, sandhill cranes, Swainson's hawks, and willow flycatcher. The Project will also provide public use activities.

#### 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 Code 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 or subgrant federal grant funds to facilitate 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 river habitat corridor that allows for the migration and movement of wildlife 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.*

Acquisition of the Property will protect water resources for fish, since it includes portions of Big Springs Creek, Little Springs Creek, and the Shasta River.

*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 Shasta-Butte Valley CAPP.

#### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

Following the acquisition, CDFW will own and manage the Property as an addition to existing CDFW property in the Shasta Valley. Costs associated with managing the Property will be for maintaining the site in its natural state for continued wildlife use and providing for public use activities. Site visits will be required from time to time to monitor the Property. Site visits and property maintenance will be conducted by CDFW staff and included with other surrounding parcels in State ownership and management. The Property has the potential for wildlife viewing, hunting, fishing, and day hiking.

#### TERMS

The Property has been appraised as having a fair market value of \$2,400,000. 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 \$2,400,000. 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 DGS.

#### PROJECT FUNDING

The Proposed funding breakdown for this project is as follows:

Wildlife Conservation Board	2,400,000
Total Purchase Price	2,400,000
Other Project Related Admin. Costs	40,000
<i>Total WCB Allocation</i>	<i>\$2,440,000</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 and transaction 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 development, rehabilitation, restoration, acquisition, and protection of habitat that accomplishes one or more of the following objectives: promotes recovery of threatened and endangered species, protects habitat corridors, protects significant natural landscapes and ecosystems, or implements the recommendations of the California Comprehensive Wildlife Strategy. (Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75055(b).)

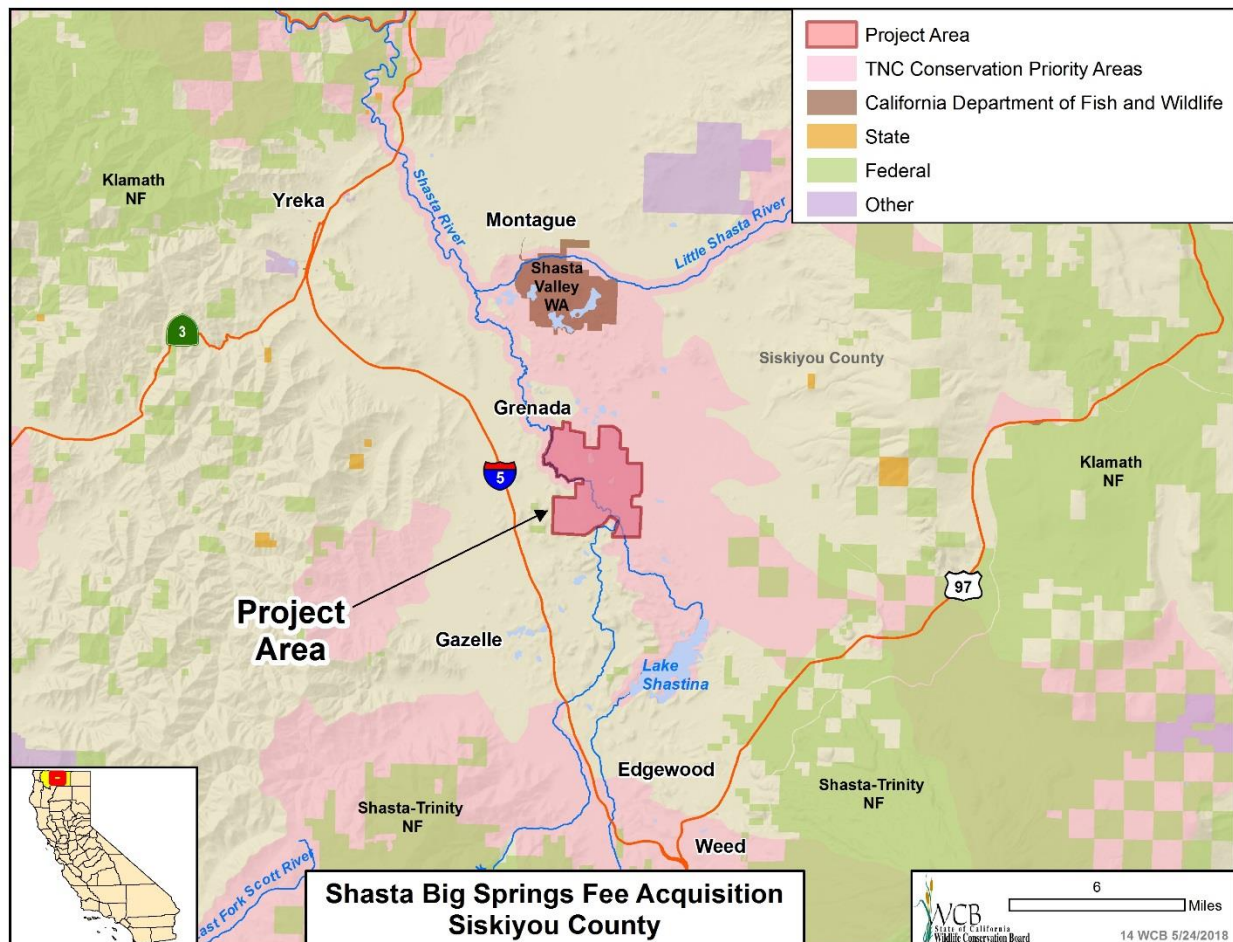
#### ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND STATE RECOMMENDATION

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 \$2,440,000.00 from the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75055(b), for the 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.



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**16. Reef to Ridge Coastal Forest Protection Project**  
**Mendocino County**  
**\$4,480,000**

This proposal is to consider the allocation for a grant to The Nature Conservancy for a cooperative project with CalFire, State Coastal Conservancy (SCC), and the California Natural Resources Agency to acquire a conservation easement (Easement) over 23,681± acres of native forest habitats, including redwood, Douglas fir and grand fir in the upland zones, and mature red alder forests within the riparian zone, within the Ten Mile River watershed.

**LOCATION and SURROUNDING USES**

The property (Property), commonly known as the Hawthorne Ranch, is located along the Ten Mile River in northern Mendocino County. The Property encompasses the South, Middle, and North forks of the Ten Mile River, approximately seven and one-half miles north of the town of Fort Bragg and directly north-east of MacKerricher State Park. Elevations of the Property range from sea level to around 3,000 feet.

Conservation of the Ten Mile River watershed has been the subject of significant inter-organizational coordination, planning, and protection as one of the most important fisheries watersheds along the northern coast of California. The watershed and its estuarine wetlands have been prioritized for protection in planning efforts led by the Mendocino Land Trust, The Conservation Fund, and the United States Environmental Protection Agency. The Conservation Fund has recently purchased the adjacent Smith-Vest Ranch with assistance from the SCC, and plans to protect it long-term via a conservation easement. Additionally, the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) and SCC funded the conservation easements of the Perry-Smith Ranch, an 872± acre property and the 2,540± Parker Ranch, both of which are adjacent to the Property.

TNC plans to hold and monitor the Easement and coordinate any future science and planning activity related to the management of the Property. TNC also intends to collaborate with Lyme Redwood, the property owner, to coordinate watershed-wide monitoring activities and to pursue joint restoration projects when appropriate. Taken together, these projects will permanently protect the coastal portion of the Ten Mile River watershed that is the most threatened by development. This zone serves as the critical linkage and transition zone between the Pacific Ocean and MacKerricher State Park to the west, and the upper watershed and salmonid spawning grounds and expansive forests to the east.

The Ten Mile River and its associated estuary have been specifically mentioned as high priorities in several recovery plans for threatened and endangered species, including the State and Federal Central California Coast Coho Salmon, Evolutionary Significant Unit, Recovery Plan (Draft, 2008) and the Recovery Plan for the Tidewater Goby (USFWS, 2005). Just offshore, under the jurisdiction of California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) Marine Region, are the Marine Protected Areas known as the Ten Mile Beach State Marine Conservation Area and the Ten Mile Estuary Marine Conservation Area. The watershed contains one of the healthiest remaining populations of Central California Coast Coho salmon in Mendocino County and the estuary harbors one of the largest populations of tidewater goby in northern California. In addition, Chinook salmon and steelhead trout also spawn and rear in the watershed. One important factor of the Ten Mile River watershed is that the entire watershed is essentially intact with no significant fish barriers. Protecting the Ten Mile River watershed represents one of the best remaining opportunities to preserve and maintain an entire intact fisheries habitat and watershed along the northern California coast.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property is irregularly shaped and consists of 77 parcels totaling 23,681 ± acres. The Property, Ten Mile River and other smaller streams on the property are threatened by degradation through intensive logging, or possible conversion to other non-forest or habitat supporting uses. The proposed Easement acquisition will address these threats through permanent protection and stewardship by TNC. The Property consists of coastal forest including low-elevation riparian forests dominated by red alder and upland forests comprised of grand fir, redwood, and Douglas fir. The Property also includes grassland and scrub zones that contain rare coastal prairie and northern coastal scrub habitats, as well as coastal wetlands, most of which are of regionally declining wetland types.

The Easement will help conserve a number of protected forest habitat types that are found on the Property and the species they support such as the state and federally listed threatened Northern spotted owl. Protection of this Property will contribute to the region's economic stability by ensuring that the area remains a working forest into the future. These objectives are aligned with the principles of WCB's Forest Conservation Program as the project will maintain the structural and ecological integrity of a portion of native California forest habitat as well as ensure that the forest will remain working into the future and contribute to the landowners' and region's economic viability. If this project is not completed, the likely consequence will be future development and possible conversion of the area's valuable forest habitat. The Easement will also help conserve the ecological integrity of the low elevation forest and riverine habitat in the Ten Mile River watershed, providing habitat for a number of important and rare fish species including the Central California Coast Coho salmon, Chinook salmon, steelhead trout and tidewater goby. Forest zones on the Property provide nesting habitat for northern spotted owls and marbled murrelets. Other conservation targets to be protected via the project include North Coast riparian forest and scrub, pacific fisher, southern torrent salamanders, tailed frogs, red tree vole, mountain lions and wet/montane meadows. There is also a possibility Roosevelt elk may occasionally utilize the watershed and would benefit from the protection of the Property.

Ten special status plant species and one special status lichen species occur on the Property or in the immediate vicinity. Of these, the leafy-stemmed miterwort and Lyngbye's sedge are most likely to be associated with wetland habitats and benefit from wetland protection on the Property.

## WCB PROGRAMS

The proposed grant for this project is being considered under the WCB's Forest Conservation Program (Program). Grant proposals are evaluated and selected for funding by WCB staff based on established criteria approved by the Board, utilizing a peer review process involving biological and forestry expertise from CDFW and CalFire. The Program seeks to promote the ecological integrity and economic stability of California's diverse native forests through conserving, preserving and restoring productive managed forestlands, forest reserve areas, redwood forests and other forest types, including the conservation of water resources and natural habitats for native fish and wildlife and plants found on these lands. One of the primary objectives of the Program is the protection and conservation of working forests and productive managed forestlands. Selected projects promote the restoration and/or maintenance of the ecological integrity and economic stability of the property in the context of the surrounding landscape and regional economy.

## STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

The project meets the following Strategic Plan Goals:

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

The project conserves natural forest and riparian habitat that support healthy fish, wildlife and plant populations and ecosystem functions in a changing climate. Furthermore, the project protects connectivity areas between critical habitats to allow the 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.*

This project will protect sources of water for the Ten Mile River coming from numerous springs and tributaries on the Property. Protection of the Property's natural floodplain and riparian vegetation will allow for improved water quality and reduction of downstream flooding on the lower portions of the Ten Mile River.

*Goal A.5 – Improve transparency and efficiency of WCB and CDFW project evaluation and recommendations to approve or deny applications.*

The project was submitted under WCB's Forest Conservation Program. To qualify and be approved under the Program, the application must be reviewed and assessed by a review panel comprised of qualified biologists and foresters. The review panel consists of members representing CalFire, CDFW, and WCB. All aspects of the project are evaluated by the panel to determine whether the project meets all Program requirements. This project has met all requirements under the Program. Any concerns uncovered during the evaluation have been addressed by the landowner and/or have been incorporated in the terms of the Easement.

## MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

TNC will be responsible for monitoring and managing the Easement according to the terms of the Easement. Allowable uses include harvesting, removal of timber, and other forest management activities in accordance with the Timber Management Plan developed for the Property. Prior to disbursement of funds a baseline conditions report of the Property's resource values will have been completed by TNC and approved by the WCB. The baseline report will be the basis from which TNC will conduct future monitoring for compliance with the terms of the Easement. The Easement does not convey a general right of access to the public but allows docent led visits as well as access to both TNC and WCB for monitoring purposes.

## TERMS

The Property owner agreed to sell the Easement to TNC for \$17,100,000.00, which is \$1,845,000 below the appraised fair market value of \$18,945,000. as approved by the Department of General Services (DGS). DGS reviewed the appraisal as well as the appraisal review provided by an independent reviewer and timber valuation provided by a registered professional forester (RPF). Under terms of the grant, WCB staff is responsible for review of all acquisition-related documents prior to disbursement of grant funds. In the event of a breach of the grant terms, the WCB can seek specific performance of the grant or require the grantee to transfer the Easement to WCB or another qualified holder.

#### PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Wildlife Conservation Board	4,450,000
CalFire	5,000,000
State Coastal Conservancy	1,150,000
Caltrans EEM (CNRA)	1,000,000
The Nature Conservancy	5,500,000
Total Purchase Price	17,100,000
Other Project Related Admin. Costs	30,000
<i>Total WCB Allocation</i>	<i>\$4,480,000</i>

It is estimated that an additional \$30,000.00 will be needed to cover project-related administrative costs, including DGS appraisal review and independent timber appraisal review. The grantee will fund all other appraisal, escrow and title insurance costs.

#### WCB FUNDING SOURCE

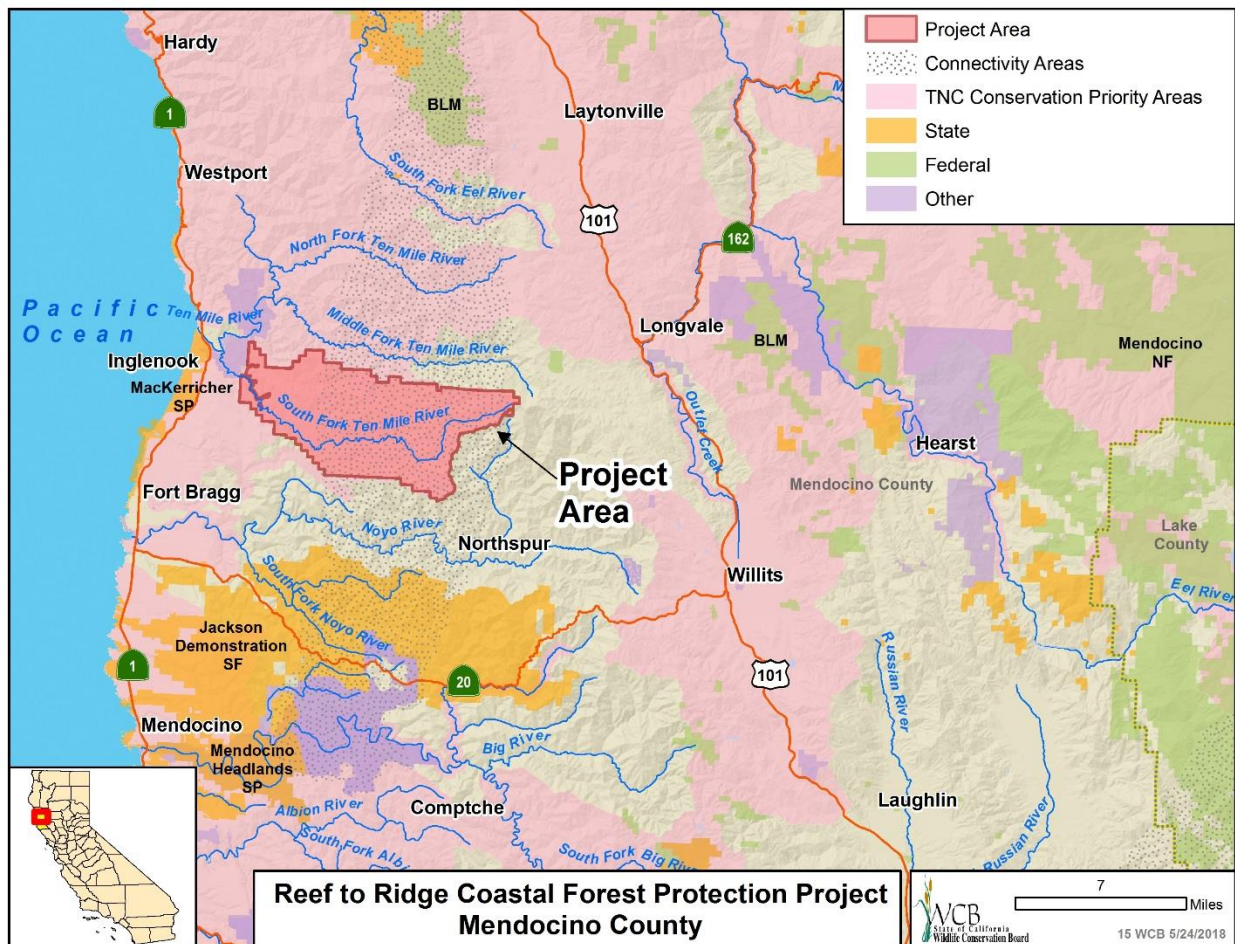
The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, which allows for forest conservation and protection projects in order to promote the ecological integrity and economic stability of California's diverse native forests, through forest conservation, preservation and restoration of productive managed forestlands, forest reserve areas, redwood forests and other forest types, including the conservation of water resources and natural habitats for native fish, wildlife and plants found on these lands. [Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75055(a)]

#### ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE.

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

#### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommended that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$4,480,000.00 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(a) 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 California Department of Fish and Wildlife to proceed substantially as planned.



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**17. West Shore Wildland Urban Interface Forest Restoration**

**Placer County**

**\$950,000**

This proposal is to consider the allocation for a grant to the National Forest Foundation (NFF) for a cooperative project with United States Forest Service (USFS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to thin 230 acres of forest, located 5 miles southwest of Tahoe City in Placer County.

**LOCATION**

The Project is located in the central Sierra Nevada mountain range, on National forestlands in the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, and within the proposed expanded boundaries of the Tahoe Headwaters Treasured Landscapes - Unforgettable Experiences Site. This special NFF designation provides multiple benefits to the ecosystem and the region by prioritizing projects that improve water supply sources, reduce wildfire risk, increase carbon storage, and promote wildlife and aquatic habitat by focusing on the critically-important headwaters of the region.

The Project area is located five miles southwest of Tahoe City in the northwest portion of the Lake Tahoe Basin. The project runs along the northern edge of Ward Creek, the fourth largest stream (by area and discharge) of the 63 Tahoe Basin watersheds, contributing 6% of the stream runoff flowing into Lake Tahoe. The Ward Creek watershed drains an area of 6,200 acres. The watershed is just north of the Blackwood Creek watershed and just south of Alpine Meadows Ski Resort.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The Project is located within a larger landscape-level effort known as the Lake Tahoe West Shore Wildland Urban Interface Project (West Shore WUI). The entire West Shore WUI aims to improve resilience and habitat quality of forest ecosystems within treatment boundaries and beyond.

Forest vegetation conditions in the project area have been altered by fire suppression, urban development, and past forest management practice. Forest stand structure and tree species composition has shifted over the past 100 years from stands with fewer larger diameter pines and firs to stands with a greater number of smaller diameter pine and competing (shade-tolerant) fir trees, along with an increase in both live and dead surface fuel loading. The current fuel conditions and potential fire behavior in the project area pose an increased risk of a catastrophic wildland fire as compared to historic conditions. The accumulation of surface and ladder fuels, especially the growth of dense, small-diameter suppressed trees, contributes to increased potential for crown fires.

The full West Shore WUI includes 110 treatment units, and approximately 118 urban forest stands, totaling approximately 4,875 acres of forest. The proposed WCB-funded subset of the West Shore WUI (Project) will implement vegetation and fuels treatments on 230 acres (Units 36 and 136), including roughly three miles of riparian habitat. Treatment will be conducted mechanically to improve efficiency. Thinning and fuel reductions will be conducted to encourage the growth of native vegetation in both riparian and mixed conifer communities, while preserving existing habitat to the highest degree possible.

Work will be undertaken by contractors with knowledge and skills to complete the modified treatment approaches and efficiently achieve the multiple goals and objectives of the project.

## WCB PROGRAM

The proposed project will be funded through the Forest Conservation Program and meets the program's goal of promoting the ecological integrity and economic stability of California's diverse native forests for all their public benefits through forest conservation, preservation and restoration of productive managed forestlands, forest reserve areas, redwood forests and other forest types, including the conservation of water resources and natural habitat for native fish and wildlife and plants found on these lands.

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

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

- ✓ The project will provide resilience in the face of climate change by sequestering carbon through increased tree growth and reducing the risk of wildfire. This project will promote forest conditions to allow second growth forest to mature into an older forest, with improved tree vigor and carbon sequestration benefits. Improved tree health and fuels reduction will also reduce mortality and loss to fire and other disturbances, decreasing the rate of carbon releases and improving climate benefits. Carbon sequestration is essential in stabilizing current, and reducing future, atmospheric levels of CO<sub>2</sub> and mitigating impacts of climate change.
- ✓ The project will enhance water resources for fish and wildlife by lowering stand densities translating to increased water availability, which is expected to improve riparian habitat and increase resilience to drought.
- ✓ The project will enhance habitats on working lands by improving downstream water quality and availability to the benefit of meadow and riparian ecosystems, which are important habitats for numerous aquatic species and migratory birds. In general, healthier forests facilitate species movement and provide habitat linkages of both higher quantity and quality.

## MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The project occurs on public lands that will be managed consistent with the 2017 Lake Tahoe Basin Multi-Jurisdictional Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Strategy, USFS 2016 Land and Resource Management Plan (updated every 10 years), and 2014 Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board Timber Waiver requirements.

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



#### PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB	USFS	Total Cost
Forest Thinning	800,000	200,000	1,000,000
Project Management	84,000	16,000	100,000
Incidental Costs	16,000	0	16,000
Contingency	50,000	0	50,000
<i>Totals</i>	<i>\$950,000</i>	<i>\$216,000</i>	<i>\$1,116,000</i>

WCB's costs for this project are limited to thinning of forestlands, administrative, and project management costs. BLM has contributed a planning grant of \$750,000 to complete planning and environmental review for the West Shore WUI project including the Project area.

#### FUNDING SOURCE

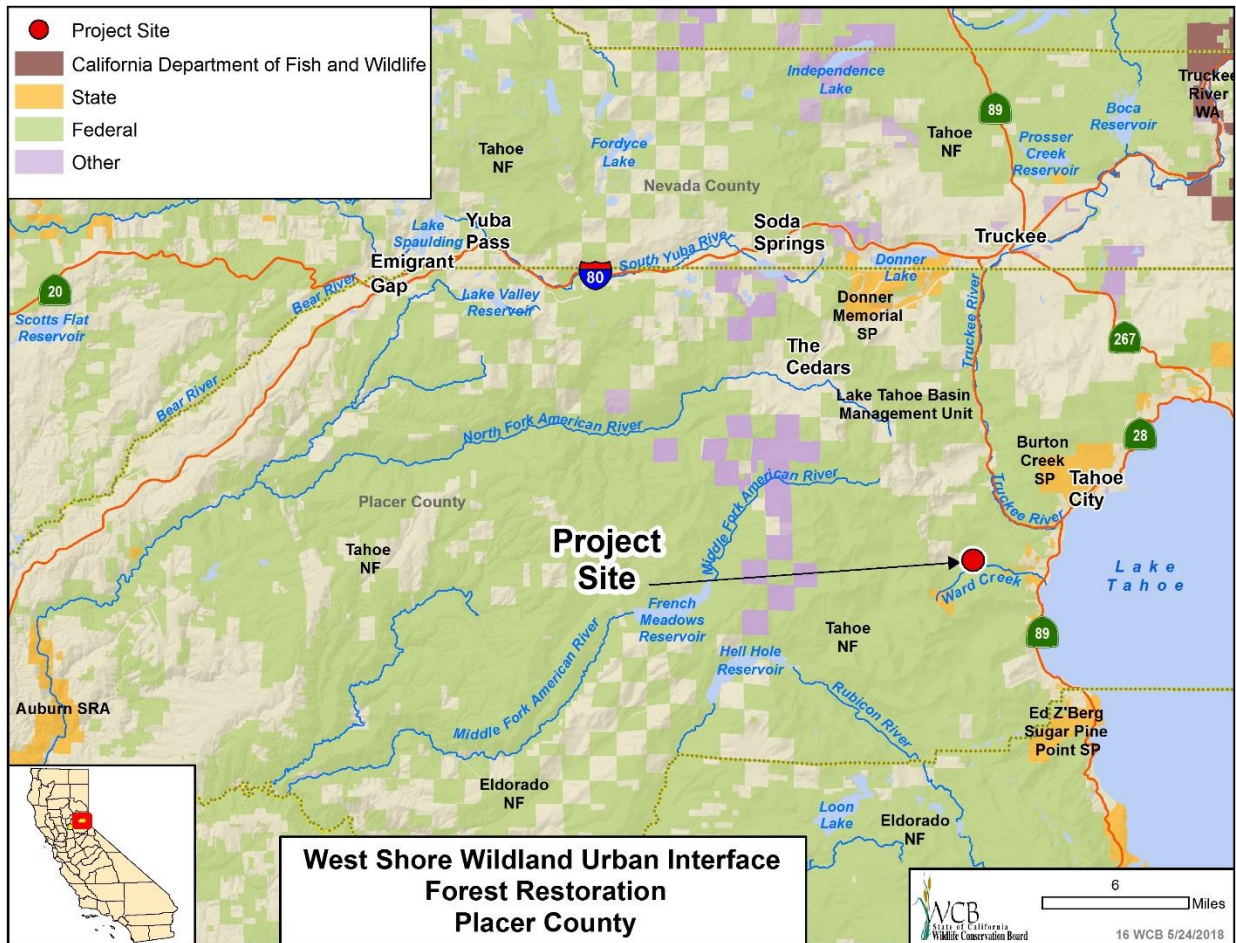
The proposed funding source for this project is the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75055(a) which allows for forest conservation and protection projects in order to promote the ecological integrity and economic stability of California's diverse native forests through forest conservation, preservation and restoration of productive managed forestlands, forest reserve areas, redwood forests and other forest types, including the conservation of water resources and natural habitats for native fish, wildlife and plants found on these lands and is consistent with the objectives of this project.

#### CEQA AND CDFW REVIEW/ RECOMMENDATION

As Lead Agency, the LRWQCB prepared a Mitigated Negative Declaration pursuant to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Staff considered the Mitigated Negative Declaration and prepared proposed, written findings documenting WCB's compliance with CEQA. Subject to Board approval of the project, staff will file a Notice of Determination with the State Clearinghouse. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife and CalFire have reviewed this proposal and recommends it for funding by the WCB.

#### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board adopt the written findings and approve this project as proposed, allocate \$950,000.00 from the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006, Public Resources Code Section 75055(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.



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## **18. Woodland Regional Park Habitat Enhancement**

### **Yolo County**

**\$511,000**

This proposal is to consider the allocation for a grant to California Waterfowl Association for a cooperative project with the City of Woodland (City) and Explorit to enhance and restore approximately 20 acres of wetlands and improve water conveyance infrastructure at the Woodland Regional Park, approximately five miles southeast of the City of Woodland.

#### **LOCATION**

The proposed project is located within the 160-acre Woodland Regional Park (WRP) on the southeastern boundary of Woodland. The WRP is on the corner of Yolo County Road 102 and Road 25, which is ideally located for public access from Woodland and nearby cities. The WRP is a former landfill site that was closed in 1981. Since that time, the site has been leased for a variety of recreational uses. The City has an active groundwater well on the northern end of the site that supplies water to the City's domestic drinking water system. There is currently a grazing lease on the site for vegetation management purposes.

The WRP is the only park site owned by the City of Woodland with diverse natural habitat. The site has unique habitat components, adjacent to the urban/city interface. In addition to the naturally occurring alkali sink, claypan vernal pool and grasslands found on the property, the historical landfill activities created rolling grassland hills with associated seasonal drainages and a 17-acre seasonally-flooded borrow pit with mature riparian trees. Although artificial to the site, the added habitat types are typical of the region and provide a unique juxtaposition of diverse habitat types and urban development. Even though the site is within the city limits and is relatively small, the WRP supports wildlife species typical and representative of each of the habitat types.

The City and the Yolo Habitat Conservancy are finalizing a conservation easement over the entire park to protect sensitive alkali sink plant communities (primarily bracted bird's-beak) and wildlife habitat (particularly for Swainson's hawk) found near the proposed project site. The WRP is adjacent to other lands with conservation easements, forming a contiguous protected landscape.

One of the beneficial attributes of the WRP is the presence of diverse outdoor resources in such close proximity to diverse educational partners. Woodland's Pioneer High School, Woodland Community College and the planned Spring Lake elementary school are all within 1.5 miles of the Woodland Regional Park site. The proximity of the site to these schools provides opportunities for high-quality outdoor education, with minimal transportation costs. In addition, the site will provide a venue for college-level students and faculty from Woodland Community College and UC Davis to provide mentorship and enrichment activities for students.

#### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The proposed project will convert the former landfill borrow pit to productive wetland, surrounded by native grasses and riparian areas. The site will be contoured to provide diverse habitat types throughout the year. Water availability has been unreliable and insufficient to sustain wetland features; new infrastructure will improve the capacity to maintain appropriate water levels. Following site grading, several native plant communities will be established at appropriate locations and elevations around the site.

Project tasks include earthmoving, revegetation, and water infrastructure development. The borrow pit will be graded to create features representative of naturally occurring riparian

floodplain wetlands. Once the earthwork is complete, native grasses, shrubs and trees will be planted within and along the outer edge of the wetland. The site will be flooded at varying levels throughout the year, following the natural hydrology of a riparian floodplain that includes both perennial wetland channels and seasonal wetland flats.

The site currently lacks sufficient water supply to provide year round habitat. A new well will be developed onsite that will be dedicated to supplying the wetland and adjacent riparian areas. In addition to a new water supply, a new drainage system will be installed. The bottom of the borrow pit is currently several feet below the large drainage canal that runs along the south and eastern boundary of the Woodland Regional Park. This will require a small lift pump and pipeline to be installed in order to drain the wetland during normal management operations.

The proposed habitat enhancement will be the first step towards realizing a larger vision of a multi-phase science and nature park that will allow the public to experience nature in a way that many simply do not have the opportunity to realize. Once the habitat work has been completed, additional public access facilities will be developed with additional partners to allow visitors to enjoy the sights and sounds unique to such a diverse complex of wildlife habitat.

#### WCB PROGRAM

The proposed project will be funded through the Inland Wetland Conservation Program and meets the program's goal of assisting the Central Valley Joint Venture's (CVJV) mission to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands and associated habitats, as identified in the CVJV Implementation Plan, within California's Central Valley.

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

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

- ✓ The project provides permanent wetland habitat in a region with limited wetlands in critical times for migratory waterfowl, shorebirds and other wildlife.
- ✓ Provide species strongholds or refugia. The project will enhance wetland and associated upland habitats and provide sustained beneficial management in the long term.

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

The project will involve volunteers and nonprofit scientific organizations throughout the implementation and monitoring of the project.

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

The proposed habitat enhancement will be the first step towards implementing a multi-phase science and nature park that will allow the school children and the general public to experience nature.

#### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The WRP project will create a wetland unit that will be managed to provide biologically diverse habitat types and resources for wildlife throughout the year. The western portion of the unit is will be semi-permanent wetland, while the eastern portion will be managed as a seasonal wetland. The habitat adjoining the wetland unit will be planted with a variety of native trees, shrubs and grasses. Both management of water levels and vegetation will contribute to maintaining high-quality wetland resource values at the WRP.

The City is currently responsible for maintenance and upkeep of the property. Project specifications provide that the site management practices will be maintained for the 25-year life of the project. The improved water management capabilities associated with this wetland enhancement will allow the City of Woodland to provide improved wetland habitat through more efficient water delivery and drainage.

If at any time during the 25-year life of the project, California Waterfowl Association and the City do not manage the project improvements, the Grant Agreement requires that the Grantee refund to the State of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the project life.

#### PROJECT FUNDING

##### Woodland Regional Park Wetland Enhancement Project

Task	WCB	CWA	Explorit	City of Woodland	Tuleyome	Total
Earthwork	50,000	-	-	-	-	50,000
Lift Pump	80,000	-	-	-	-	80,000
New Well	250,000	30,000	-	-	-	280,000
Planting	40,000	-	-	-	-	40,000
Project Management	57,400	10,000	14,160	\$11,200	\$2,400	95,160
Administration	33,600	-	-	-	-	33,600
<i>Totals</i>	<i>\$511,000</i>	<i>\$40,000</i>	<i>\$14,160</i>	<i>\$11,200</i>	<i>\$2,400</i>	<i>\$578,760</i>

Project costs will be for earthwork, planting, maintenance and construction of new water conveyance infrastructure.

#### FUNDING SOURCE

The proposed funding source for this project is the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(d), Inland Wetlands Conservation Program, which allows for the acquisition, enhancement or restoration of wetlands in the Central Valley and is consistent with the objectives of this project.

### CEQA AND CDFW REVIEW/RECOMMENDATION

The project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Section 15304, Class 4, as a minor alteration to land and vegetation that does not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees. Subject to approval by the WCB, the appropriate Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for funding by the WCB.

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed, allocate \$511,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(d), Inland Wetland Conservation Program, 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.



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**19. Fay Canyon Wildlife Area Expansion 1 - Jobs Peak Ranch/Barber Creek  
Alpine County  
\$1,430,000**

This proposal is to consider the acquisition of 359± acres of land by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) for the protection of critical mule deer winter range habitat, including mature conifer forest and high desert shrub habitat.

**LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES**

The property (Property) is located on the California and Nevada state line, approximately six miles southeast of South Lake Tahoe, in the community of Fountain Place. The subject area is bounded on the north by Luther Pass, and the towns of Minden and Gardnerville, on the east by US Highway 395, on the south by Pleasant Valley and Monitor Pass, and on the west by Carson Pass and Blue Lakes.

The 359-acre Property is bordered on the north, west and southern boundaries by the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest. The Property includes a number of canyons and drainages with three perennial streams with riparian vegetation and wildlife habitat. Barber, Jobs, and Sheridan Creeks can be limited in dry years and intermittent flows occur in extreme drought situations but the creeks hold water after normal rains and snow melts. There is also riparian vegetation associated with Stutler Canyon and another unnamed ephemeral drainage located on the southern parcel.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The Property includes two non-contiguous triangular parcels with access provided via Foothill Road to one of the parcels. Elevations range from 5,000 to 7,400 feet. The topography ranges from gently sloping to steep and rugged, and includes mature conifer forest and high desert shrub which provides critical habitat for mule deer during the winter.

The mule deer herd occupying the Property originates from the Carson River herd numbering roughly 450. The deer summer in Hope Valley and Jobs Peak on the California side, and winter in a narrow band of habitat between the steep slopes of the Sierra and Carson Valley in Nevada. This narrow winter habitat band is favored for residential development. Land development is a major reason for decreasing mule deer habitat and this Property is an important step in halting that decline. The Property is located within an area designated for residential expansion and there are several new subdivisions directly to the east.

There are several other species of special concern that can be found on the Property such as the Sierra Nevada red fox, wolverine, Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, northern goshawk (whose nest sites are located on the northwest edge of the property), the California spotted owl, mountain quail, mountain lion, and both bald and golden eagles.

The Property is of great interest to the local community due to its proximity to Fay-Luther and Jobs Peak trail systems and potentially can be used to connect a large portion of the Carson Valley Legacy Trail loop in the future. There are a series of peaks in the area, Jobs Peak, Jobs Sister, and Freel Peak, which range in elevation from 10,633 to 10,866 feet, and are the highest peaks in the Carson Range. These peaks are within about three miles southwest of the Property and are very popular hiking destinations from Hope Valley to the Tahoe Basin. The Carson Valley Trails Association would like to expand the trails across the Property in cooperation with local residents, CDFW, and the US Forest Service.

## WCB PROGRAM

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

## STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

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

*Goal A.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 that provide for transitional habitat to climate change by allowing for movement between the Property and the higher elevation peaks in the surrounding area and will assist with the wildlife migration by providing a non-impacted migration corridor to allow for movement.

*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 went through the Land Acquisition Evaluation process and was requested as a priority property for acquisition.

## MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

CDFW will own and manage the Property. The management objectives will be similar to that in the Fay Canyon Land Management Plan which will include: maintaining the property as critical deer winter range, conduct wildlife surveys, and continue coordination of population surveys.

## TERMS

The Property has been appraised as having a fair market value of \$1,400,000. The appraisal has been reviewed by WCB staff and reviewed and approved by the Department of General Services. The property owner has agreed to sell the Property for \$1,400,000. WCB staff must review and approve all title documents, preliminary title reports, documents for purchase and sale, escrow instructions, and instruments of conveyance prior to disbursement of funds directly into the escrow account established for the acquisition. Once approved by the Board, the transaction will also be subject to review and approval by DGS.



#### PROJECT FUNDING

Wildlife Conservation Board	1,400,000
Total Purchase Price	1,400,000
Other Project Related Admin. Costs	30,000
<i>Total WCB Allocation</i>	<i>\$1,430,000</i>

It is estimated an additional \$30,000 will be needed to cover project-related expenses, including appraisals, environmental review, mineral assessment, DGS appraisal review costs, DGS transaction review costs, as well as title, escrow, and closing costs.

#### WCB FUNDING SOURCE

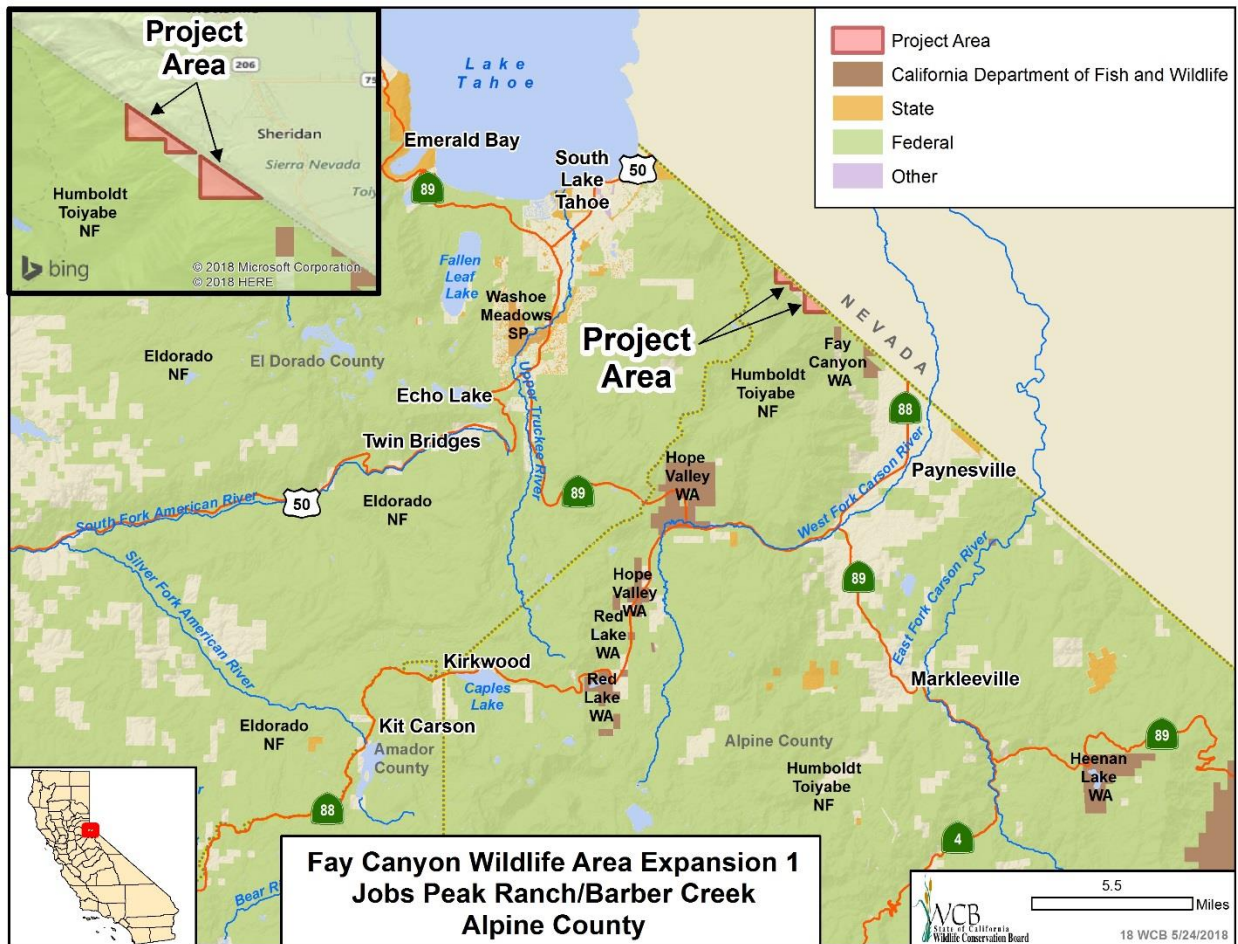
The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(a), which allows for the acquisition and protection of deer and mountain lion habitat.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND STATE RECOMMENDATION

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

#### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$1,430,000 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(a); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to proceed substantially as planned.



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**20. Robin's Nest**  
**Los Angeles**  
**\$1,610,000**

This proposal is to consider the allocation for a grant to the Trust for Public Land (TPL) for a cooperative project with the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC), and the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) to acquire 51± acres of land for the protection of threatened and endangered species, riparian, and floodplain habitat along the Santa Clara River.

**LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES**

The property (Property), known as Robin's Nest, is located along the Santa Clara River (River) near the town of Acton in northern Los Angeles County. Roughly rectangular in shape, the Property is adjacent to Soledad Canyon Road on the southern boundary, with a Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority fee-owned railroad right-of-way bisecting the center of the land. It is adjacent to the Angeles National Forest on both its northern and southern boundaries, as well as MRCA lands to the north. The Pacific Crest Trail runs through the eastern end of the Property, and a former recreational vehicle park, no longer in operation, lies in the center of the land.

Protection of the Property has been recognized as a priority by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) in its Angeles Connector Conceptual Area Protection Plan (CAPP). The CAPP stresses the importance of providing habitat linkages between the two units of the Angeles National Forest. Protection of the Property will fill a significant gap between two parcels of the Angeles National Forest, within this larger gap. In addition, the CAPP focuses on the aquatic habitat and listed species in the area and identifies the importance of properties with wetlands and critical habits – the Property has both. The South Coast Missing Linkage Project also identifies the Property in an area of critical importance for wildlife movement between the San Gabriel and Sierra Madre Mountains. The Property is highlighted as a priority in the SMMC Work Program 2015, a list of priority acquisitions in their area of interest, and as such they are a funding partner of this project. Identified as a Significant Ecological Area, the County of Los Angeles considers this stretch of the River a critically important refugia for various species. The State Coastal Conservancy has long invested in acquisition and restoration projects along the Santa Clara River due to its support of Southern California steelhead, and while the Property does not host the fish, protection of the half-mile of the river onsite will have water quality and quantity benefits downstream. Finally, the Pacific Crest Trail Association and United States Forest Service have long identified the Property as a priority acquisition for the portion of the Pacific Crest Trail that runs through the eastern side of the land.

If not acquired for conservation, the Property will undoubtedly be returned to a high volume recreational vehicle facility, as a Conditional Use Permit is in place that provides for a full restaurant facility and liquor license. While impacts to habitats in the riparian corridor could be limited, the site's contributions to one of the state's most critical wildlife corridors would be severely impacted by vehicle traffic and general commotion by visitors.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The Property is 51± acres in size and was formerly used as the fully-functional Robin's Nest RV Park. The Property has not been in commercial use for almost ten years. While in a state of minor disrepair, all of the built infrastructure including host residence, dining hall, swimming pool, changing room and showers, and guardhouse can easily be put into operation with power, sewer and water intact. The Property suffered minor damage in the 2016 Sand Fire, but the damage was largely limited to RV stalls, which need minor

landscaping and fence repair to be brought back into operation. Consisting of three legal lots, the RV park spans the southern half of these lots, the fee-owned railroad right-of-way bisects the center of the three parcels, with the more remote natural lands in the northern half. The parcels are zoned A-2-2, which allows agricultural uses, while the Conditional Use Permit from May 5, 1982, approved by the Los Angeles County Planning Department, allows for the operation of the RV park indefinitely.

The Property holds significant natural resource value. With over a half mile of the River, its cottonwood riparian habitat is critical bird and amphibian habitat, and while it is unlikely Southern California steelhead would reach this far up the river, conservation of the land will have downstream benefits. Unlike other sections of the River, the portion on the Property flows year round with pools that support a variety of wildlife, many of which are special status species. Over six acres of jurisdictional wetlands provide significant habitat in this arid region, particularly for amphibians. United States Fish and Wildlife Service designated critical habitat for the arroyo toad occupies the entirety of the riparian corridor, and the unarmored threespine stickleback is also known to occupy the site. Both species are listed as endangered by the USFWS. Other special status species likely to use the site include western spadefoot toad, California red legged frog, coast horned lizard, and Southwestern willow flycatcher. Habitat value on the Property is magnified by the relative intactness after the 2016 Sand Fire, as many surrounding properties lost significant stands of riparian habitat. Of further note is the relative absence of invasive species that dominate other stretches of the Santa Clara River like tamarisk and arundo donax, which certainly contributes to higher volumes of water on site. Beyond the Property's ability to directly support special status species on site, it serves as a critical connection between existing public lands, as well as a bridge in a much larger wildlife corridor between the two units of the Angeles National Forest. With Forest Service land on both the northern and southern boundaries, and additional MRCA lands to the northwest. This linkage is critical for the genetic diversity and overall viability of numerous large mammal species including mountain lion, black bear, deer, and American badger. A wildlife undercrossing on Soledad Canyon Road, connecting USFS land to the Property, is of particular benefit.

A successful acquisition will allow the Property to be transferred to MRCA for ongoing management and restoration. MRCA recently purchased the 31.9-acre Stickleback Ranch, just 1.3 miles downstream from the Property, and the Property can serve as a base of operations for restoration on both sites, including the housing of rangers. While the riparian habitat on the Property is largely intact, removal of some of the former RV park infrastructure will reduce ancillary impacts and allow the River to adopt an even more natural course over certain sections of the land. Additionally, removal of debris and infrastructure (such as lighting and fencing) could also increase the attractiveness of the site for larger wildlife movement, perhaps even shifting migration routes away from dangerous road crossings and towards use of the culvert under Soledad Canyon Road.

Acquisition of the Property will result in improved management of the Property's vegetation, decreasing the risk of wildfires and invasive species on the property and on the neighboring protected lands. Furthermore, by retiring the use of the Property for RV camping, the acquisition will eliminate threats associated with traffic increases, and prevent the increase of pollutants and consumption of natural resources and energy resulting from vehicle miles travelled. Finally, by preserving the subject property's rich riparian resources, the Property will further mitigate for climate change by sequestering carbon, and maintaining water on the landscape through buffering of the property's aquatic resources.

## WCB PROGRAM

The proposed grant is being considered under the Wildlife Conservation Board's (WCB) 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 Code Section 1300, *et seq.*), which 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 acquisition has been reviewed and approved by CDFW which has substantiated the biological values of the Property and recommended it for funding.

## 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.*

The Property contains riparian habitat and wildlife corridors for threatened and endangered species.

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

With over a half mile of the River flowing through the Property, its cottonwood riparian habitat is critical bird and amphibian habitat.

*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 has been recognized as a priority by the CDFW in the Angeles Connector CAPP.

## MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The Property will be owned, operated, and maintained by MRCA and will be incorporated into the assemblage of previously protected lands, including MRCA land to the northwest and their recently acquired Stickleback Ranch, just down river. MRCA will own and operate the Property as part of their extensive land holdings in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. MRCA is a joint powers authority and owns thousands of acres of open space across the region and has many years of experience in managing similar properties. Once the Property has been acquired, MRCA will create a stewardship plan for the Property. The primary management objectives will be to protect and enhance existing natural communities, water resources, and the multiple species of plants and animals these habitats support. With deputized rangers on staff, the Property may be used to house staff that will oversee their various holdings in the area, as Robin's Nest has existing facilities for such operations.

## TERMS

The Property has been appraised as having a fair market value of \$2,600,000.00. The appraisal has been reviewed by WCB staff and reviewed and approved by the Department of General Services (DGS). The Property owner has agreed to sell the property for its approved appraised fair market value. The terms and conditions of the proposed WCB

grant to TPL 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 each acquisition. In the event of a breach of the grant terms, the WCB can require MRCA to encumber the Property with a conservation easement and seek reimbursement of funds.

#### PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Wildlife Conservation Board	1,600,000
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Proposition 1 Grant	1,000,000
Total Purchase Price	2,600,000
Other Project Related Admin Costs	10,000
<i>Total WCB Allocation</i>	<i>\$1,610,000</i>

It is estimated that an additional \$10,000 will be needed to cover project-related expenses, including appraisals and DGS appraisal review costs.

#### WCB FUNDING SOURCE

The purposes of this project are consistent with the proposed funding source, the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c)(Proposition 1E) which allows for the acquisition and protection of habitats that are critical to the sustainability of threatened and endangered species and to protect or enhance a flood protection corridor or bypass.

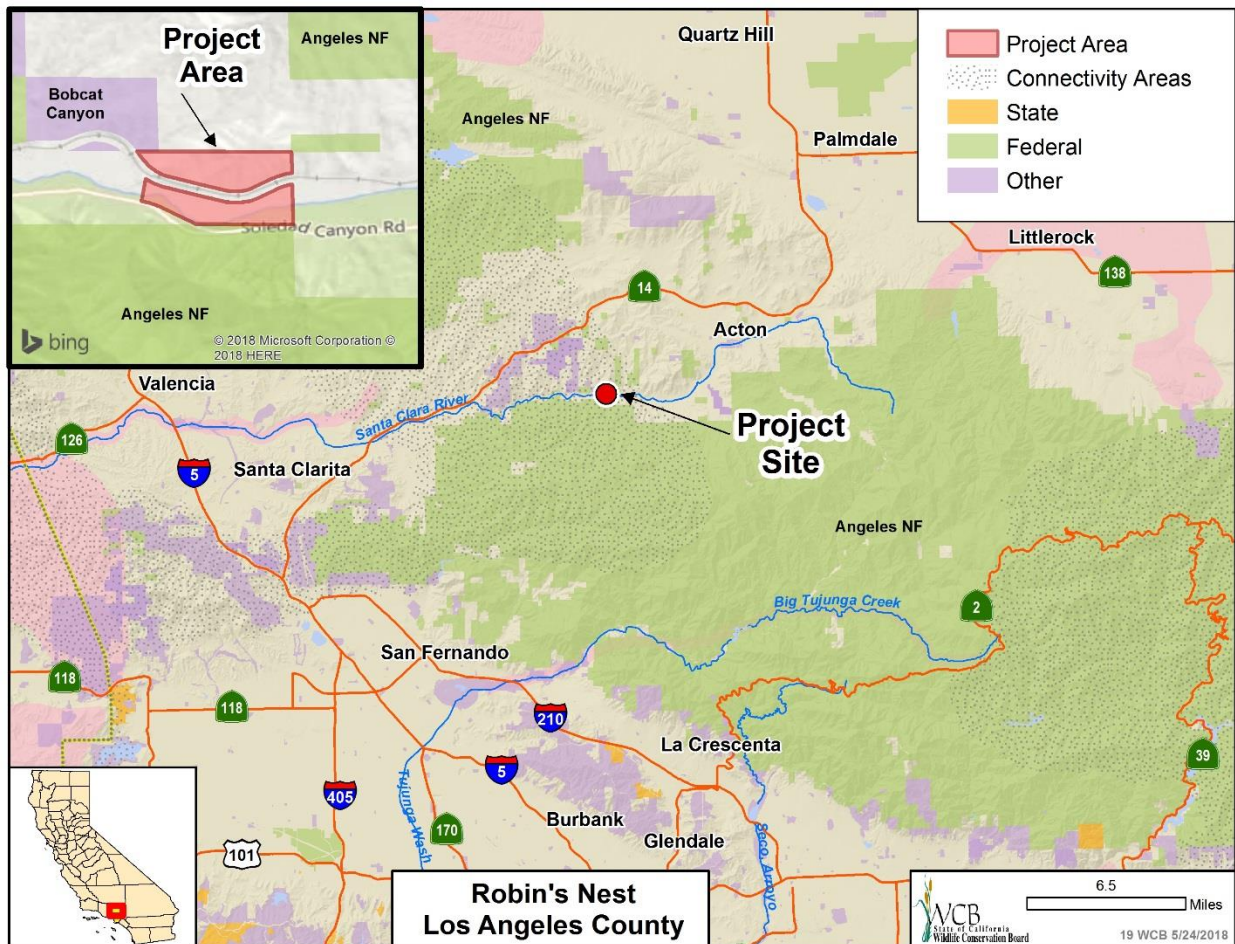
#### ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND STATE RECOMMENDATION

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

#### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$1,610,00.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c)(Proposition 1E) 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 California Department of Fish and Wildlife to proceed substantially as planned.





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## 21. Public Access Program Informational/Action

The Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) is entering into the second year of a fully competitive grant program to provide public access facilities throughout California. For the Public Access Program's (Program) first year (FY 2017/18), \$1,000,000 was made available for expenditure and WCB allocated \$962,000 to implement three projects. The available funds for fiscal year 2018/19 total \$1,000,000. Supplemental federal funding will be pursued, including the National Park Service's Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Sport Fish Restoration (SFRA) - Boating Access Program.

The Program Guidelines, approved by the Board in May 2017, established the process, procedures, and general requirements through which WCB administers the Program. This year's draft [Proposal Solicitation Notice \(Solicitation\) \(PDF\)](#) provides general eligibility information as well as priorities, pertinent dates, scoring criteria, and important documents specific to the 2018/19 grant cycle. Changes to the 2017/18 solicitation include new application and review criteria to clarify WCB's definition of public access and clearer description of types of projects we are soliciting. In addition, potential applicants must submit a two-page pre-application to allow WCB staff the opportunity to work with applicants to identify strengths or weaknesses of their proposals.

Grant funding will be awarded on a competitive basis to projects adhering to the mission of the WCB with a focus on developing facilities to benefit recreational anglers and/or hunters. The emphasis on youth/next generation and disadvantaged communities will continue to be emphasized.

The WCB Program FY 2018/19 projected timeline and list of deliverables:

Schedule	Milestone / Activity
May 24, 2018	Public Board Meeting, Board reviews Solicitation
June 4, 2018	Release Proposal Solicitation Notice
June 29, 2018	Pre-application period closed
July 20, 2018	WCB invitation for submittal of full proposals from successful pre-applicants
Aug 10, 2018	Full proposal application period close
Aug 13, 2018 to Aug 24, 2018	Administrative Review Period (pass/fail)
Aug 27, 2018 to Sept 21, 2018	Technical Review and Selection Panel Period
Nov, 2018	Public Board Meeting to authorize funding
Dec 1, 2018 to May 31, 2019	WCB staff develops and executes grant agreements
Jan 1, 2019 to March 31, 2021	Funds available for construction

Staff recommends that the Board authorize staff to finalize and release the proposed Public Access Competitive Grant Program 2018/19 Proposal Solicitation Notice substantially as proposed.

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## **22. Wildlife Conservation Board Strategic Plan Informational/Action**

Staff will present a draft of the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) monitoring plan, and actions taken to date in evaluating the effectiveness of the WCB's programs.

WCB staff has been finalizing its [Monitoring Plan \(PDF\)](#), which will be a guiding document to accompany the WCB Strategic Plan. The current draft outlines the general monitoring principals for WCB, the scientific approach we are using to assess overall compliance, how we manage non-compliance issues, and the steps we are taking to ensure long-term project success.

WCB staff began implementing its strategy to monitor projects statewide to gain an improved understanding of overall past project success. The implementation process began by selecting 89 randomly selected closed projects (samples) to monitor and training twenty WCB staff members in details of conducting monitoring site visits. These 89 samples will provide a high degree of scientific confidence in determining overall compliance of the more than 1,200 completed projects. To date, WCB staff have visited 13 sample sites and, while in the area, added 15 visits to nearby completed projects. These additional site visits will add to the calculations of overall project compliance.

Of the 28 sites visited to date, WCB has identified four projects with some level of non-compliance. Two of the four are vandalism issues, one is lack of proper maintenance, and one is a reinfestation of salt cedar. In all of these cases, our grantees are aware of the non-compliance status and are currently working to resolve the issues to WCB's satisfaction.

WCB staff also took the first steps in modernizing its approach to collecting data. The purchase of three tablets will enable data to be collected electronically while in the field, and extract and reference data from previous visits. Staff is currently testing various software programs that allow the data to be made available for viewing by our staff as well as our grantees. This approach will clarify a project's purpose, compliance status, and improve communication with grantees over the life of the project.

These innovative monitoring techniques will allow WCB staff to analyze long-term strengths and weaknesses of its projects. WCB staff will continue to use adaptive management techniques, which, over time, will improve our application evaluation, clarify grant terms, and result in more successful projects.

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### **23. Lower American River Program Update Informational**

The Lower American River Conservancy Program (Program) Act was created by law in 2016 (Public Resources Code section 5845), and became effective January 1, 2017. The Lower American River Parkway (Parkway) is defined by statute to include the area described in the American River Parkway Plan between the Nimbus Dam and the confluence of the American River with the Sacramento River.

The Program was created to provide a state partner to work cooperatively with local agencies, particularly the County of Sacramento in its role as the Parkway Manager, and with nonprofit organizations to help fund projects and provide grants to restore, enhance, interpret, protect, and improve public access to the Parkway's natural, recreational, educational, and cultural resources. The Legislature's intent was for the Program to continue the state's historic role in providing funding to advance the protection and restoration of the natural resources of the Lower American River, while continuing the County of Sacramento's historic role in managing the lands and public uses of the Parkway.

The Program is administered by the Wildlife Conservation Board. The WCB is authorized to receive and expend proceeds from bonds or other appropriations for the benefit of the Parkway and related lands. In administering the Program, the WCB will prioritize expenditures to develop and implement a natural resource management plan and to improve access to, and protect and restore the Parkway. The WCB may also provide grants to other local agencies and nonprofit organizations whose projects are approved by the County of Sacramento for implementation of the Resource Management Plan. The WCB, in implementing the program, will coordinate activities with the County of Sacramento and appropriate local and regional agencies.

The initial meeting of the Lower American River Conservancy Program Advisory Committee (Committee) was held on August 30, 2017. The Committee consists of 12 members:

- Three members of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sacramento
- Two representatives of the City of Sacramento; the Mayor and one member of the Sacramento City Council
- The Mayor, or a member of the City Council of the City of Rancho Cordova, selected by a majority vote of the city council, or their designee.
- The Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency (alternate from the Department of Fish and Wildlife)
- A representative from the Department of Finance
- A representative from the State Lands Commission
- Three members from the public are large who have demonstrated knowledge of and expertise in the parkway and the American River Parkway Plan. One member is appointed by the Governor, one member appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules, and one member appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly.

The Committee is expected to review all proposed projects, offer recommendations for project selection and funding, and to provide information to the WCB regarding the Parkway. The WCB's voting members will approve funding of all projects under the Program.

The WCB may award grants for the following project purposes for the Program:

- Acquisition, restoration, enhancement, and maintenance of fish and wildlife habitat and other natural resources, including resources impacted by wildfire, within and adjacent to the Parkway.
- Improvement and expansion of public access, recreational areas, and recreational facilities, including trails.
- Enhancement of interpretive and educational facilities related to the Parkway and its natural, cultural, and historic resources.
- Control and removal of invasive species and the propagation of native species.
- Capture and treatment of stormwater to improve the quality of water that flows within and into the Parkway and to increase habitat for fish and wildlife.

Meetings of the Advisory Committee will occur at least two times per year. To date, the Committee has met three times, on August 30, 2017, October 24, 2017 and on March 15, 2018. A fourth meeting is planned for July 31, 2018.

On August 30 2017, Executive Director Donnelly gave an overview of the history, mission, and structure of the WCB. Under AB 1716, the WCB is charged with administering and operating the Program. The 12 members of the Advisory Committee were introduced. Currently, \$1 million is designated in the Governor's budget for the Program, and additional funds are identified in Proposition 68. The funds are directed for Local Assistance and Capital Outlay. The legislation identifies a Natural Resources Management Plan as a priority for funding. The specified objective of funding through this Program is to enhance the natural resource values of the Parkway. Jeff Leatherman, Director of Regional Parks for Sacramento County, gave an overview of the plans for recruiting a Deputy Director, and for completing the Natural Resources Management Plan for the Parkway.

The Committee met again on October 24, 2017. WCB staff presented a [Charter \(PDF\)](#) for the Committee which documents the protocols and guidelines for the administration and parliamentary function of the Lower American River Conservancy Program Advisory Committee. In addition, The Committee discussed [Guidelines \(PDF\)](#) to establish the process, procedures, and general requirements through which the Wildlife Conservation Board will administer the Program, and to describe the role of the Committee. Also, Committee discussion included the County Parks staff mapping efforts on the Parkway which help to consider and identify new projects

The third meeting occurred on March 15, 2018. Sacramento County Regional Parks gave a summary of the Request for Qualifications for potential vendors for the Natural Resources Management Plan. The contractor selection is expected in June, and completion of the Plan is expected to take approximately two years. Regional Parks has \$600,000 identified for the Plan in their budget. Additionally, WCB gave a general overview of a Program Solicitation which may be approved and implemented after July 31, 2018. The WCB has also provided a webpage for the Program.

A future meeting has been scheduled for July 31, 2018. Agenda discussion will include proposed funds from Proposition 68, status of the Natural Resource Management Planning efforts by Sacramento County Regional Parks, and an initial Program Solicitation to be implemented by WCB staff.

The Parkway includes natural and recreational resources of statewide significance and is often referred to as “the jewel” of the Sacramento region. The Parkway is managed with the intent to fulfill the vision set forth through collaborative efforts of advocates and stakeholders, the County of Sacramento, state agencies, and the Legislature. The Parkway provides significant benefits to the state and the Sacramento region including flood control, water supply, water quality, habitat for anadromous fisheries, including salmon and steelhead, habitat for migratory waterfowl and sensitive species, including Swainson’s hawks, peregrine falcons, northern harriers, white-tailed kites, and western pond turtles, as well as habitat for other wildlife, including river otters.

The lower American River has been designated as a "Recreational River" under both the California Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (1972) and the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (1980). These designations provide state and national recognition and additional protection of the river's outstanding scenic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, and recreational values. The American River Parkway Plan acts as the management plan for the lower American River under the California Wild and Scenic Rivers Act providing management guidance and direction for state departments and agencies, as well as local governments, in carrying out their responsibilities under that act.

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**24. Discuss and Act on Board Administrative Items**

-New Business

-Next Meeting, August 30, 2018

**Adjourn**

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