



Index of Meeting Minutes  
Meeting of the Wildlife Conservation Board  
February 22, 2018

Item Number

1.	Roll Call	2
2.	Funding Status — Informational	4
3.	Proposed Consent Calendar (Items 4 – 10)	11
*4.	Approval of Minutes	11
*5.	Recovery of Funds	12
*6.	Dry Creek Forest Restoration Project	14
*7.	East Contra Costa County HCP/NCCP (Roddy Ranch Golf Course)	18
*8.	Horse Valley Creek and Wetland Restoration Project	23
*9.	Glen Deven Native Habitat Restoration	27
*10.	State Lands Lease-PRC 7629.9 Renewal – Morro Bay	32
11.	Hunter Ranch	35
12.	Gray Lodge Wildlife Area, Water Recirculation and Wetland Restoration Project	40
13.	Palisades Ranch, Mojave River	46

Wildlife Conservation Board Meeting, February 22, 2018

14.	Big Tujunga Wash	50
15.	Los Angeles River-Taylor Yard G2 Expansion 1	54
16.	Palo Verde Ecological Reserve, Expansion 4 (Crescent Shores)	60
17.	Red Hill Bay Shallow Water Habitat, Augmentation	65

Proposals Recommended for Approval Under the Competitive Public Access Program

18.	Oroville Wildlife Area Public Access Improvements	72
19.	Point Isabel Water Access Improvements	76
20.	Elkhorn Slough Ecological Reserve Amphitheater Improvements	80
21.	Wildlife Conservation Board Strategic Plan	84
22.	Climate Adaptation and Resiliency	86



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

February 22, 2018  
10:00 a.m.

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

### Meeting Minutes

*The Wildlife Conservation Board met on Thursday, February 22, 2018, in the auditorium of the Natural Resources Building in Sacramento, California. Chuck Bonham, Director of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) called the meeting to order and invited John Donnelly, Executive Director of the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB), to perform roll call. Prior to conducting the traditional roll call, Director Donnelly welcomed governor appointees retired senator Fran Pavley and Alina Bokde to the Board, noting that in her capacity as senator and assemblymember, Senator Pavley has worked with the Board for years.*

*He reported that with the addition of the Board members Pavley and Bokde, all seven seats are filled and Board membership is complete. He recognized that the representative from the Department of Finance and member Alina Bokde were not present for this meeting. Director Donnelly introduced retired senator Fran Pavley noting that she has worked with the Board for years in her capacity as senator, and prior to that, as a member of the assembly.*

*Director Donnelly performed roll call. Present were Director Bonham, Board Member Eric Sklar, President of the Fish and Game Commission; Board Members Diane Colborn and Mary Creasman; Rachelle Caouette, representing Senator Jean Fuller, and Mark Russow, representing Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia. Director Donnelly observed that a quorum was established.*

*Chair Bonham suggested those following the WCB realize these recent appointees are an important piece of the arc of the organization. Starting with developing a strategic plan effort, the WCB is creating new programs that reflect current priorities. Using the Streamflow Enhancement program for example, he noted that the WCB and the community worked together to explore appraisals, what transparency metrics look like, and the value of independent appraisal confirmation for projects over a certain fiscal size.*

*He continued noting that with the new members, Board representation is now more than just three individuals, historically, the size of the Board. In addition to representing more of California, the Chair observed that a larger number on the Board would help prevent quorum and other "good government" problems. He finished by stating that he hopes people realize a lot has gone on at the Board over the last eight years, good government and good projects.*

*The Chair then explained that the consent calendar would be considered followed by staff presentation of the remaining 10 projects. He said there would be an opportunity to ask questions or voice concerns for each project. He then invited questions and explained that anyone wishing to speak could find a speaker card at the back of the room.*

Wildlife Conservation Board, February 22, 2018, Meeting Minutes

1. Roll Call

Wildlife Conservation Board Members

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

Michael Cohen, Member  
Director, Department of Finance

Eric Sklar, Member  
President Fish and Game Commission

Diane Colburn, Public Member

Mary Creasman, Public Member

Fran Pavley, Member

Joint Legislative Advisory Committee

Senator Jean Fuller

Senator Nancy Skinner

Senator (*vacant*)

Assemblymember Laura Friedman  
*Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi -Alternate*

Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia  
*Assemblymember Miguel Santiago -Alternate*

Assemblymember Monique Limon  
*Assemblymember Marc Levine -Alternate*

Executive Director

John P. Donnelly

Wildlife Conservation Board Staff Present:

Peter Perrine

Elizabeth Hubert

John Walsh

Ron Wooden

Colin Mills

Brian Cary

Don Crocker

Sadie Smith

Heidi West

Brian Cary

Brian Gibson

Jessica Schroeder

Kurt Weber

Shawn Fresz,

Chad Fein

Scott McFarlin

Candice Marg

Cara Allen

Celestial Reysner

Cynthia Alameda

Jasen Yee

Hardeep Kaur

Erin Velo

Lloyd Warble

Stephen Bouthillier

Chris Garbarini

Wildlife Conservation Board, February 22, 2018, Meeting Minutes

Joe Navari

Others Present:

Jeff Maloney, MRCA

Greg Blomstrom, NCRLT

Debby Harrison, NCRLT

Dan Ehresman, NRLT

Dave Feliz, California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Jeremy Heidrick, Hunter Ranch, LLC

Katherine Doherty, City of Los Angeles

Brian Shobe, CalCAN

Chris Fritz, PBI/SBFCA

Bill Gaines, Black Brant Group

Shayne Green, NRLT

Mark Rossow, Asm Eduardo Garcia

Alex Size, TPL

Chadd Santerre, California Waterfowl

Frazier Haney, Mojave Desert Land Trust

Andy Atkinson, CDFW

Kim Carr, National Forest Foundation

Katherine Moore, Senate Natural Resources and Water Cmte

Tiffany Margulici, East Bay Regional Park District

Alex Leumer, TNL

Kristen Murphy, CRCD

Melanie Gogol- Prokurat, CDFW

Vivian Ericson, EEC

Paul Mason, PFT

Rico Mastrodonato, TPL

Tim Mayriss, TPL

**2. Funding Status  
Informational**

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

(a)	2017-18 WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND, (0447)	
	Budget Act	\$1,000,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	-10,000.00
	<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$990,000.00</i>
	February 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	-962,000.00
	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>
	February 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
	Total Project Development	-4,955,000.00
	<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$15,658,000.00</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>
	February 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
	Total Project Development	-14,091,250.00
	<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$4,882,422.00</i>
(d)	2015-16 HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND, (0262)	
	Non-budget Act	\$20,663,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	-10,595,280.00
	<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$10,067,720.00</i>
	February 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	-2,685,000.00
	Total Project Development	-7,382,720.00
	<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>
(e)	2014-15 HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND, (0262)	
	Non-budget Act	\$20,663,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	-17,937,636.00
	<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$2,725,364.00</i>
	February 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
	Total Project Development	-2,030,000.00
	<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$695,364.00</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>
	February 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
	Total Project Development	0.00
	<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$261,038.00</i>

Wildlife Conservation Board, February 22, 2018, Meeting Minutes

(g)	2012-13 HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND, (0262)	
	Budget Act	\$20,663,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	-5,667,463.00
	<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$14,995,537.00</i>
	February 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	-1,500,000.00
	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	-15,971,551.00
	<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$4,691,449.00</i>
	February 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
	Total Project Development	-1,685,897.00
	<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$3,005,552.00</i>
(i)	2010-11 HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND, (0262)	
	Budget Act	\$20,668,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	-19,331,864.00
	<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$1,336,136.00</i>
	February 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	-1,270,000.00
	Total Project Development	-66,136.00
	<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>
(j)	2009-10 HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND, (0262) (2013-14 Reappropriation)	
	Budget Act	\$20,668,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	-20,537,752.00
	<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$130,248.00</i>
	February 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
	Total Project Development	0.00
	<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$130,248.00</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>
	February 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
	Total Project Development	-8,632.00
	<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$20,822.00</i>
(l)	2007-08 HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND, (0262) (2011-12 Reappropriation)	
	Budget Act	\$20,674,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	-20,299,045.00
	<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$374,955.00</i>
	February 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
	Total Project Development	0.00
	<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$374,955.00</i>

Wildlife Conservation Board, February 22, 2018, Meeting Minutes

(m)	2006-07 HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND, (0262) (2013-14 Reappropriation)	
	Budget Act	\$20,699,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	-19,839,666.00
	<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$859,334.00</i>
	February 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
	Total Project Development	-859,333.00
	<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$1.00</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>
	February 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
	Total Project Development	-595,000.00
	<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$3,070,000.00</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>
	February 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>
	February 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>
	February 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>
	February 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
	Total Project Development	0.00



Wildlife Conservation Board, February 22, 2018, Meeting Minutes

	<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	-260,195,514.00
	<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$12,804,486.00</i>
	February 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
	Total Project Development	-8,446,000.00
	<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$4,358,486.00</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	-713,046,279.00
	<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$28,365,721.00</i>
	February 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	-1,493,000.00
	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>
	February 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
	Total Project Development	0.00
	<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$1,160,340.00</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>
	February 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	-5,000,000.00
	Total Project Development	-4,141,340.00
	<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>

Wildlife Conservation Board, February 22, 2018, Meeting Minutes

(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>
	February 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	-1,408,000.00
	<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$4,292,000.00</i>
	February 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	-1,065,250.00
	Total Project Development	0.00
	<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$3,226,750.00</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	-148,192,693.00
	<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$16,507,307.00</i>
	February 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	-3,380,000.00
	Total Project Development	-13,127,307.00
	<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$0.00</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	-110,578,584.00
	<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$12,946,416.00</i>
	February 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	-620,000.00
	Total Project Development	-6,575,000.00
	<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$5,751,416.00</i>
(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	-15,000.00
	<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$38,385,000.00</i>
	February 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
	Total Project Development	0.00
	<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$38,385,000.00</i>

Wildlife Conservation Board, February 22, 2018, Meeting Minutes

(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	-17,341,151.00
	<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$21,058,849.00</i>
	February 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
	Total Project Development	0.00
	<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$21,058,849.00</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>
	February 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>
	February 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>
	February 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	-1,435,979.00
	<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$1,364,021.00</i>
	February 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
	Total Project Development	0.00
	<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$1,364,021.00</i>
(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>
	February 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
	Total Project Development	0.00
	<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$975,000.00</i>

Wildlife Conservation Board, February 22, 2018, Meeting Minutes

(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>	\$20,000,000.00
February 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
Total Project Development	0.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	\$20,000,000.00

RECAP OF FUND BALANCES

WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND (0447)	\$990,000.00
February 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	-962,000.00
Total Project Development	0.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	\$28,000.00

HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (0262)	\$75,057,906.00
February 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	-5,455,000.00
Total Project Development	-31,078,967.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	\$38,523,939.00

SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS, CLEAN WATER, CLEAN AIR, AND COASTAL PROTECTION BOND FUND (Proposition 12) (0005)	\$3,947,755.00
February 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
Total Project Development	-682,880.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	\$3,264,875.00

CALIFORNIA CLEAN WATER, CLEAN AIR, SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS AND COASTAL PROTECTION BOND FUND (Proposition 40) (6029)	\$14,086,331.00
February 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
Total Project Development	-8,446,000.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	\$5,640,331.00

WATER SECURITY, CLEAN DRINKING WATER, COASTAL AND BEACH PROTECTION FUND OF 2002 (Proposition 50) (6031)	\$28,365,721.00
February 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	-1,493,000.00
Total Project Development	-18,103,188.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	\$8,769,533.00

SAFE DRINKING WATER, WATER QUALITY AND SUPPLY, FLOOD CONTROL, RIVER AND COASTAL PROTECTION FUND OF 2006 (Proposition 84) (6051)	\$54,913,553.00
February 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	-10,065,250.00
Total Project Development	-32,757,647.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	\$12,090,656.00

WATER QUALITY, SUPPLY, AND INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT FUND (Proposition 1-6083)	\$85,687,365.00
February 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
Total Project Development	0.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	\$85,687,365.00

GENERAL FUND (0001)	\$975,000.00
February 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
Total Project Development	0.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	\$975,000.00

GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION FUND (3228)	\$20,000,000.00
February 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	\$284,023,631.00
February 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	-17,975,250.00
Total Project Development	-91,068,682.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$174,979,699.00</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

*Director Donnelly explained that the funding status is an information item that describes the funding available at this time. He asked if there were any questions or comments, there were none.*

### **3. Proposed Consent Calendar (Items 4 – 10)**

*Director Donnelly reported the receipt of a letter from of support for Item 9, from Cheryl Goetz, Fire Chief of the Mid-Coast Fire Brigade.*

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

**It was moved by Board Chair Bonham recommended that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve Consent Calendar Items 4 -10 as proposed in the individual agenda explanations.**

**Passed Unanimously.**

**Bonham – Yes**

**Coburn – Yes**

**Creasman – Yes**

**Pavley - Yes**

**Sklar – Yes**

### **\*4. Approval of Minutes**

**\*5. 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>			Amount (\$)
Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Fund			0.00
Habitat Conservation Fund			13,787.00
California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Fund			3,516.96
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006			63,653.35
Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Fund of 2014			2,772.08
<b>Total Recoveries for All Funds</b>			<b>\$83,729.39</b>
<b>Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Fund</b>	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Montesol Ranch, Napa/Lake County	\$1,439,801.00	\$1,439,801.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Recoveries to Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Fund</b>			<b>\$0.00</b>

<b>Habitat Conservation Fund</b>	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel and Delta Area - MRBL Property, Riverside County	\$410,225.00	\$400,487.00	\$9,738.00
RLA Peninsular Bighorn Sheep, Shumway Ranch, Riverside County	\$276,622.00	\$272,573.00	\$4,049.00
<b>Total Recoveries to Habitat Conservation Fund</b>			<b>\$13,787.00</b>

<b>California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Fund</b>	Allocated	Expended	Balance
San Joaquin River Parkway, Islewood Golf Course Drinking Water, Feasibility Study, Fresno County	\$20,000.00	\$16,483.04	\$3,516.96
<b>Total Recoveries to California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Fund</b>			<b>\$3,516.96</b>

<b>Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006</b>	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Avenales Ranch, San Luis Obispo County	\$2,299,600.00	\$2,293,687.00	\$5,913.00
Avenales Ranch, Butcher Property, San Luis Obispo County	\$95,400.00	\$95,400.00	\$0.00
County of San Diego Multiple Species Conservation Plan 2011 (PWRG), San Diego County	\$227,090.00	\$220,766.78	\$6,323.22
County of San Diego Multiple Species Conservation Program 2015 (Cheyenne), San Diego County	\$567,825.00	\$553,283.50	\$14,541.50
East Contra Costa County HCP/NCCP (Casey Property), Contra Costa County	\$1,065,800.00	\$1,058,480.00	\$7,320.00
East Contra Costa County HCP/NCCP (Roddy Home Ranch), Contra Costa County	\$317,200.00	\$308,020.00	\$9,180.00
East Contra Costa County HCP/NCCP (Viera North Peak), Contra Costa County	\$437,000.00	\$430,350.00	\$6,650.00
Montesol Ranch, Napa/Lake County	\$2,320,199.00	\$2,314,329.37	\$5,869.63
RLA Peninsular Bighorn Sheep, Shumway Ranch, Riverside County	\$2,210.00	\$2,210.00	\$0.00
University Heights, San Diego County	\$1,281,750.00	\$1,273,894.00	\$7,856.00
<b>Total Recoveries to Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006</b>			<b>\$63,653.35</b>

<b>Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Fund of 2014</b>	Allocated	Expended	Balance
San Joaquin River Parkway, Ball Ranch Habitat Restoration Planning Project, Fresno County	\$28,045.00	\$25,272.92	\$2,772.08
<b>Total Recoveries to Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Fund of 2014</b>			<b>\$2,772.08</b>

**\*6. Dry Creek Forest Restoration Project**  
**Nevada County**  
**\$350,000**

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), National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), and Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (LRWQCB) to thin 140 acres of forest, located within the Tahoe National Forest (TNF) 10 miles northeast of Truckee in Nevada County.

**LOCATION**

The proposed project is located in the Dry Creek Watershed, near the small rural residential development of Hobart Mills, in the Truckee Ranger District of the TNF. The project boundaries lie within the Tahoe Headwaters Treasured Landscapes -Unforgettable Experiences site, defining it as a region of priority for the USFS as well as the NFF to thin forests, prescribe fire, restore meadows, improve water flows, and repair trails.

The Dry Creek Watershed is a complex modified landscape caused by early era logging and railroad grades, pockets of high severity historic wildfire with post-fire salvage logging, terracing, and uniform plantings. The watershed is now a mosaic of developed and wildland interface areas, with roadways, residential development, utility corridors for gas, electricity and fiber optics, and reservoir construction and operation. It has also become a popular location for outdoor recreation enthusiasts including equestrians, off-highway vehicle users, mountain bikers, and hikers.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The USFS 2013 Dry Creek Watershed Assessment was conducted to provide an overview of the current condition of the watershed and to consider past activities and impacts. It identified opportunities for restoration actions that would reduce sediment production, improve hydrologic connectivity and function, and improve the overall health and resiliency of the natural resources in the watershed.

The Watershed Assessment identified more than 30 specific areas within a 2,772-acre area where improvements to roads, drainage networks, and stream channels would slow or stop erosion. Many of the identified improvements are associated with roads, such as elimination, conversion, relocation, and rehabilitation and have already been completed. Other recommended improvements, especially those for forest ecosystem (ecological) restoration and watershed improvement projects, have been completed.

This project aims to increase the overall forest resiliency to fire, disease, and climate change by increasing heterogeneity (i.e. forest stand diversity), and to identify areas that can be treated by a reintroduction of prescribed fire. The project will also promote wildlife diversity by incorporating untreated areas and snags essential for local populations of terrestrial, aquatic, and sensitive avian indicator species. The watershed enhancements will focus on actions to improve habitat condition, reduce sediment delivery to streams, improve hydrologic function of upland areas, and reduce erosion.



The Wildlife Conservation Board's (WCB) grant funding will assist with completing the last unfunded unit, 140 acres, within the Dry Creek project area's 2,772-acres. Specifically, WCB's funding will support the project by providing additional on-the-ground implementation through contracting to perform hand thinning within a specific 140-acre project unit. This project will restore native vegetation heterogeneity, improve wildlife habitat, reduce uncharacteristic severe wildfire risk, and improve recreational access via tree thinning and fuels reduction activities.

#### 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 forest lands, 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. In general, healthier forests facilitate species movement and provide habitat linkages of both higher quantity and quality.
- 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 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.

#### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The project will occur on public lands managed following the Tahoe National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (USFS 1990) as amended by the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment (2004) and the Sierra Nevada Forests Management Indicator Species Amendment (2007). In addition, the previous 2004 Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment (SNFPA) outlined adaptive management and monitoring of Forest Plan projects. Specifically, these projects are directed to use adaptive management coupled with management goals and objectives. In order to ensure monitoring is occurring and appropriate adaptive management is implemented, the SNFPA institutes specific reporting and monitoring requirements for all projects.

Depending on the site conditions, phased treatments are expected to be implemented over the entire site during the next 10-25 years. Re-entry treatments will include additional thinning and ladder fuel removal to assist in forest diversity. The project contributes to a long term goal of returning the region to a fire regime, where fire can be used safely and effectively as a management tool to improve ecological outcomes, reduce costs, and allow for management to occur with increased pace and scale.

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	NFWF and Lahontan RWQCB	Total Cost
Planning and Environmental	0	100,000	0	100,000
Vegetation Management	280,000	800,000	0	1,080,000
Meadow Restoration	0	0	250,000	250,000
Project Management	28,000	16,000	0	44,000
Administrative	42,000	0	0	42,000
<i>Totals</i>	<i>\$350,000</i>	<i>\$916,000</i>	<i>\$250,000</i>	<i>\$1,516,000</i>

WCB's costs for this project are limited to hand thinning of forest lands, administrative, and project management costs.

### 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 forest lands, 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 has prepared a Mitigated Negative Declaration pursuant to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Staff has 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 has 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 \$350,000.00 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.

**As one of the consent items heard at the beginning of the meeting, it was moved by Board Member Chuck Bonham that the Wildlife Conservation Board adopt the written findings and approve this project as proposed; allocate \$350,000.00 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.**

**Passed Unanimously.**

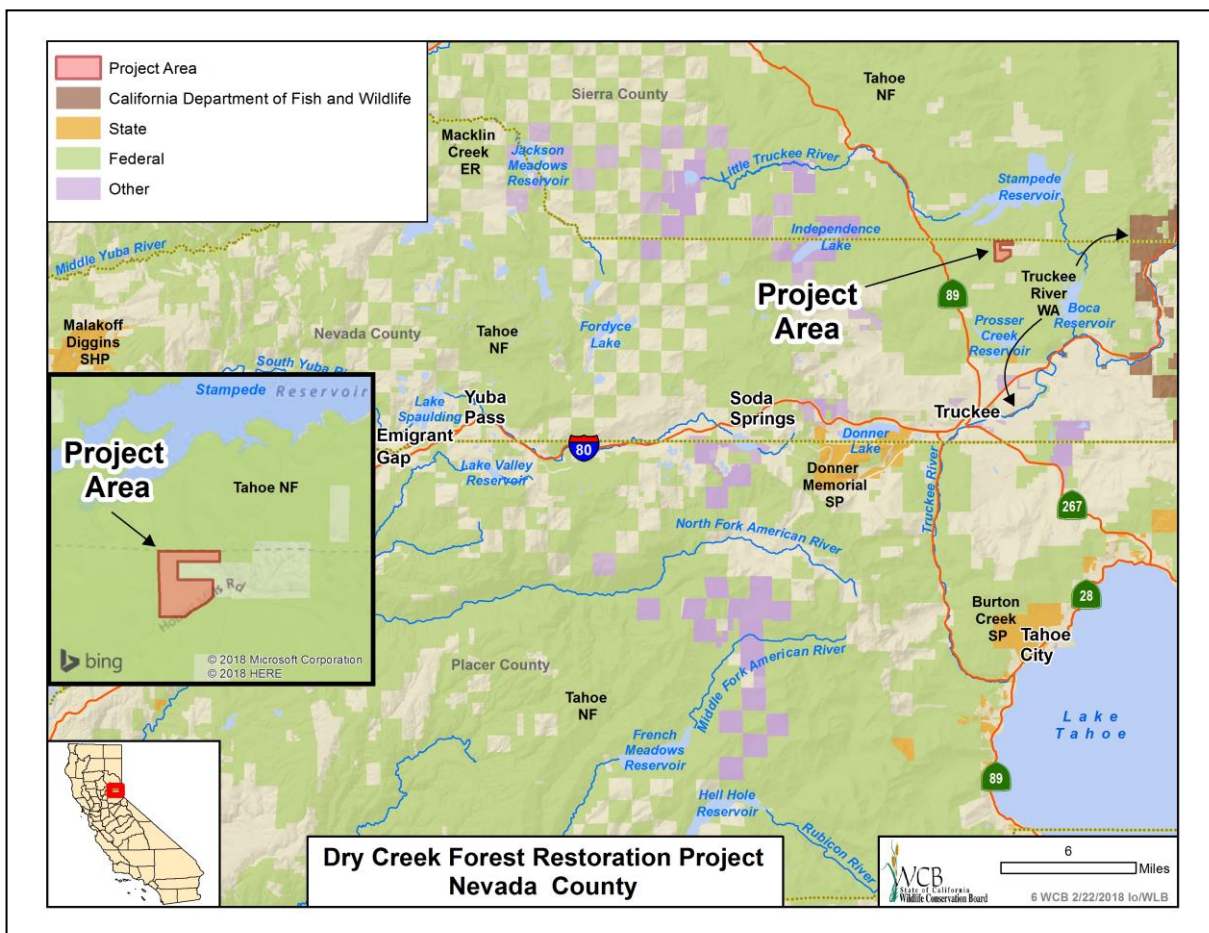
**Colborn – Yes**

**Creasman – Yes**

**Pavley – Yes**

**Sklar – Yes**

**Bonham – Yes**



**\*7. East Contra Costa County HCP/NCCP (Roddy Ranch Golf Course)  
Contra Costa County  
\$1,065,250**

This proposal is to consider the allocation for a grant to the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy (ECCCHC), as well as the acceptance of a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition grant and the sub-grant of these federal funds to the ECCCHC. The ECCCHC would use the grant and subgrant funds for a cooperative project with the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) to acquire 230± acres of land for the protection and preservation of existing regional wildlife linkages, including annual grassland habitat, within the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan (ECCC HCP/NCCP) plan area.

**LOCATION and SURROUNDING USES**

The property (Property), known as Roddy Ranch Golf Course, is located at 1 Tour Way within the city limits of the City of Antioch. It is an inholding within the larger 1,885± acre Roddy Ranch. ECCCHC and EBRPD purchased the Roddy Ranch property in 2014 and the 40± acre Roddy Home Ranch in 2017, both with partial funding from the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB). The proposed Property acquisition represents an important opportunity to expand the ECCC HCP/NCCP Preserve System, remove a large in-holding within the Preserve System, and link with existing and proposed ECCC HCP/NCCP preserve properties.

The Property supports movement habitat for San Joaquin kit fox, and serves a critical connectivity function. Previously conserved areas within the ECCC HCP/NCCP plan area surround the Property. Over the past several years the WCB, USFWS, ECCCHC, and EBRPD have partnered to acquire over 13,505± acres of habitat within the ECCC HCP/NCCP plan area, helping protect essential habitat and connectivity for multiple wildlife species. The project is also consistent with action proposed under the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) California Wildlife Action Plan (Plan). The Property is located within the Plan's Central Valley and Bay Delta region. Two of the recommended conservation actions called out for this region are protection of upland linkages and reduction of habitat isolation in the eastern San Francisco Bay Area. The proposed acquisition would meet both of these recommended actions.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The Property is 230± acres in size and bordered on all sides by the larger 1,885± acre Roddy Ranch property. The Property is irregular, almost rectangular in shape, and is predominately moderate sloping/rolling and ranges in elevation from 300 feet to 500 feet. The Property was developed and used as an 18-hole golf course until August 2016. While the Property was a golf course, putting greens, fairways and tees were sodded with various grasses suitable for golf course use. Areas alongside fairways and cart paths were left with generally natural vegetation, comprised of predominately range grasses. Since the golf course closure, the natural vegetation has returned without the need for irrigation. Current habitat types on the Property include grassland, ruderal, and seasonal wetland. The Property also includes some urban and aquatic features. The ECCCHC worked with a restoration consulting firm to develop a list of initial management and restoration actions that are recommended to improve the onsite habitat for species on the Property.

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

#### WCB PROGRAM

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

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

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

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

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

The Property supports the recovery of listed species.

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

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

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

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

#### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

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

#### TERMS

The Property has been appraised as having a fair market value of \$1,955,000.00. The appraisal has been reviewed by WCB staff and reviewed and approved by the Department of General Services (DGS) and the USFWS. The owner has agreed to sell the Property for the approved appraised fair market value. The USFWS funds require a non-federal match that is being provided by EBRPD bond funds and the proposed WCB grant to ECCCHC. The terms and conditions of the proposed WCB grant and subgrant to the ECCCHC provide that staff of the WCB must review and approve all title documents, preliminary title reports, documents for purchase and sale, escrow instructions and instruments of conveyance prior to disbursement of funds directly into the escrow account established for the acquisition. In the event of a breach of the grant terms, the WCB can require the grantee to encumber the Property with a conservation easement in favor of WCB and seek reimbursement of funds.

#### PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Wildlife Conservation Board	1,055,250
USFWS subgrant funds	879,750
East Bay Regional Park District	20,000
Total Purchase Price	1,955,000
Other Project Related Admin Costs	10,000
<i>Total WCB Allocation</i>	<i>\$1,065,250</i>

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

#### FUNDING SOURCE

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

#### ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND STATE RECOMMENDATION

The acquisition has been reviewed for compliance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and is proposed as exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15313, Class 13,

as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes, and Section 15325, Class 25, as a transfer of an ownership interest in land to preserve open space and existing natural conditions, including plant or animal habitats. Subject to authorization by the WCB, a Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse. The CDFW has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for approval.

#### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the WCB approve the project as proposed; approve the acceptance of the Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition grant funds from the USFWS in the amount of \$879,750.00 and the subgrant of these federal funds to the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy; allocate \$1,065,250.00 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(c) (SSJD-NCCP) for the grant to ECCCHC and to cover the project-related costs; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

**As one of the consent items heard at the beginning of the meeting, it was moved by Board Member Chuck Bonham that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve the project as proposed; approve the acceptance of the Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition grant funds from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service in the amount of \$879,750.00 and the subgrant of these federal funds to the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy; allocate \$1,065,250.00 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(c) (SSJD-NCCP) for the grant to East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy and to cover internal project-related costs; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to proceed substantially as planned.**

**Passed Unanimously.**

**Colborn – Yes**

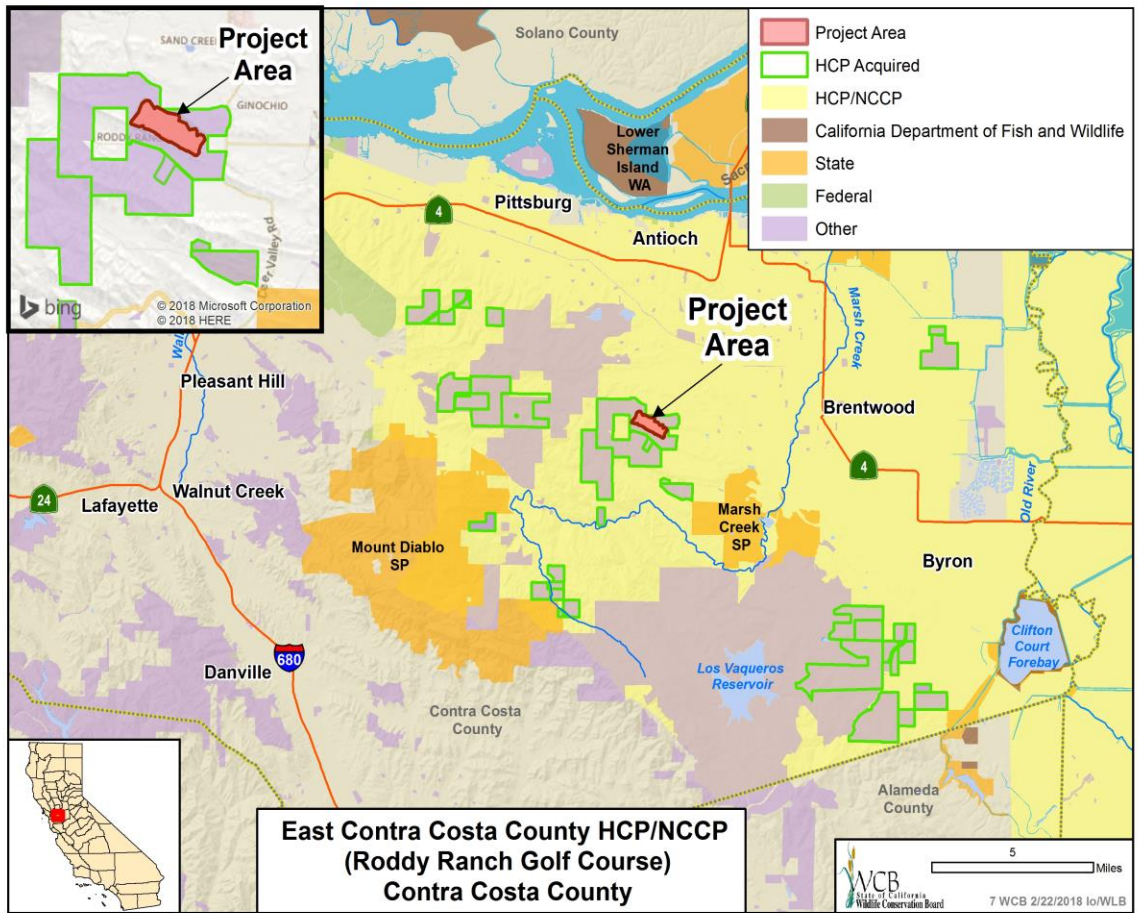
**Creasman – Yes**

**Pavley – Yes**

**Sklar – Yes**

**Bonham – Yes**







**\*8. Horse Valley Creek and Wetland Restoration Project  
Contra Costa County  
\$350,000**

This proposal is to consider an allocation to the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy (ECCCHC) for a cooperative project with the California State Coastal Conservancy to enhance 3± acres of wetland, riparian, and upland habitat in Horse Valley, located approximately six miles south of the City of Antioch in Contra Costa County.

**LOCATION**

The project is located south of the City of Antioch in Contra Costa County on the Roddy Ranch property. Roddy Ranch was conserved by the ECCCHC and the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) in 2013 with assistance from the Wildlife Conservation Board. This area is within the Deer Valley Regional Preserve that is operated by the EBPRD and is part of the ECCCHC's Preserve System. The Horse Valley portion of Roddy Ranch, where the project is located, is the northwestern extent of undeveloped valleys where the Diablo Range transitions to the San Joaquin Valley ecoregion.

Roddy Ranch has been actively managed as rangeland since the 1800s and the current vegetation there is non-native annual grassland with a mix of native grasses that are typical of rangeland in eastern Contra Costa County. The project site was homesteaded in the 1800s and at that time some modifications were made to the valley's drainage patterns for agricultural usages. More recently in the 2000s, after the area received entitlements from the City of Antioch for a new neighborhood of executive homes, some initial infrastructure was installed. This infrastructure included the construction of an elevated paved road that bisects the valley, installation of large culverts to route Horse Valley Creek under the road, and grading of ditches to drain the valley and direct water to the creek.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Horse Valley is located in the transition zone between two significant ecoregions in the greater San Francisco Bay Area. The western extent of the San Joaquin Valley includes hot, windy, and dry climate, ephemeral creeks, and vernal pools, while the eastern reach of the Diablo Range is composed of moist, comparably cool and higher elevations that support oak woodland, chaparral, springs and ponds. Horse Valley, the northernmost valley on the Roddy Ranch property is a resource-rich area that functions as both the northern and eastern extent of several species' range (for example, it is the western extent of vernal pool fairy shrimp) and functions as a key movement corridor for wildlife.

As a result of past structural modifications, Horse Valley is underperforming both biologically and hydrologically compared to the immediate surrounding landscape. This restoration project will focus on restoring ecological functions to the valley. Specifically, the goals of this project are:

- Removal of the elevated road and associated drainage modifications;
- Restoration of valley bottom habitats and hydrology to preserve and recover habitat for multiple state and federal special status species. This will include the restoration of 2.19 acres of seasonal wetland and the realignment and restoration of around 3,000 feet of ephemeral creek (approximately one acre of riparian habitat);
- Provision of a corridor for species to migrate through (and to) as climate changes forces them or migrate west toward the Diablo Range away from the San Joaquin Valley ecoregion; and

- Development of a recreational public trail connection in the new Deer Valley Regional Preserve (EBRPD) from an existing trail (Empire Mine Road) into other nearby conserved open space.

When complete, the project will benefit species that are endemic to both the San Joaquin Valley and the Diablo Range. The restoration plan includes features that are designed to benefit sensitive and listed species, including vernal pool fairy shrimp, tadpole fairy shrimp, California tiger salamander, and California red-legged frog. The improvement of the rangeland and hydrology will also provide benefits to the Western burrowing owl and special status plants identified in eastern Contra Costa County, including big tarplant and round-leaved filaree. The valley is also identified as an important movement corridor for the endangered San Joaquin kit fox.

#### WCB PROGRAM

The proposed project will be funded through the Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Program and meets the program's goal of providing for restoration of wetlands that fall outside the jurisdiction of the Inland Wetland Conservation Program such as coastal, tidal, or fresh water habitats, coastal scrub, grasslands, threatened and endangered species habitats, 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:

- Promote resilience in the face of climate change by offering refugia for species who have lost habitat in the region due to climate change,
- Provide corridors and connectivity for species whose native ranges have been reduced by climate change, and
- Enhance water resources for fish and wildlife by restoring the natural hydrology of the valley.

In addition, the proposed project addresses the following priorities outlined in the WCB Strategic Plan: Improvement of habitat for threatened or endangered species.

#### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

EBRPD is the fee-simple owner of the property. The cooperative arrangement between EBRPD and the ECCCHC is that lands that are acquired as part of the Preserve System will be managed to the standards established in the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan (HCP/NCCP).

An initial project-monitoring plan has been developed and was submitted with permit applications. The monitoring plan will be finalized and implemented as soon as construction is complete. The monitoring is designed to document hydrology, wetlands, site stability, vegetation, and species presence. The monitoring plan will establish success criteria and the monitoring results will inform management and maintenance activities on the site.

The ECCCHC is responsible for all management and maintenance of the project site until it reaches success criteria, at which point the project is integrated into the overall Preserve and managed consistently with surrounding land.

The ECCCHC will work with its partners (EBRPD, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service) to develop and adopt a Preserve Management Plan (PMP) for the region. The PMP will describe the different agency roles, rangeland management (weeds, grazing, native plant communities), aquatic features, species presence, public access, restoration opportunities, monitoring and adaptive management for the project site. The EBPRD and the ECCCHC will be responsible for implementing the PMP.

If at any time during the 25-year life of the project, ECCCHC 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

Task	WCB	East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy	State Coastal Conservancy	Total
Construction	320,000	117,303	410,000	877,303
Monitoring and Reporting	10,000	65,000		65,000
Maintenance	10,000	110,000		110,000
Administration	10,000	45,000		45,000
<i>Totals</i>	<i>\$350,000</i>	<i>\$337,303</i>	<i>\$410,000</i>	<i>\$1,097,303</i>

Project costs will be for construction activities including the removal of an elevated roadway, restoration of natural drainage patterns, fine grading of seasonal wetlands, and realignment of the creek bed.

#### FUNDING SOURCE

The proposed funding source for this project is the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75055(b) which provide funding for 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 and are consistent with the objectives of this project.

#### CEQA AND CDFW REVIEW/ RECOMMENDATION

As lead agency, the County of Contra Costa prepared an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan / Natural Community Conservation Plan which covers this project pursuant to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Staff has considered the EIR and has prepared proposed written findings documenting WCB's compliance with CEQA. Subject to approval of this proposal by the WCB, the appropriate Notice of Determination will be filed with the State Clearinghouse. 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 adopt the written findings and approve this project as proposed; allocate \$350,000.00 from the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River And Coastal Protection Bond Act 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.

**As one of the consent items heard at the beginning of the meeting, it was moved by Board Member Chuck Bonham that the Wildlife Conservation Board adopt the written findings and approve this project as proposed; allocate \$350,000.00 from the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River And Coastal Protection Bond Act 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.**

**Passed Unanimously.**

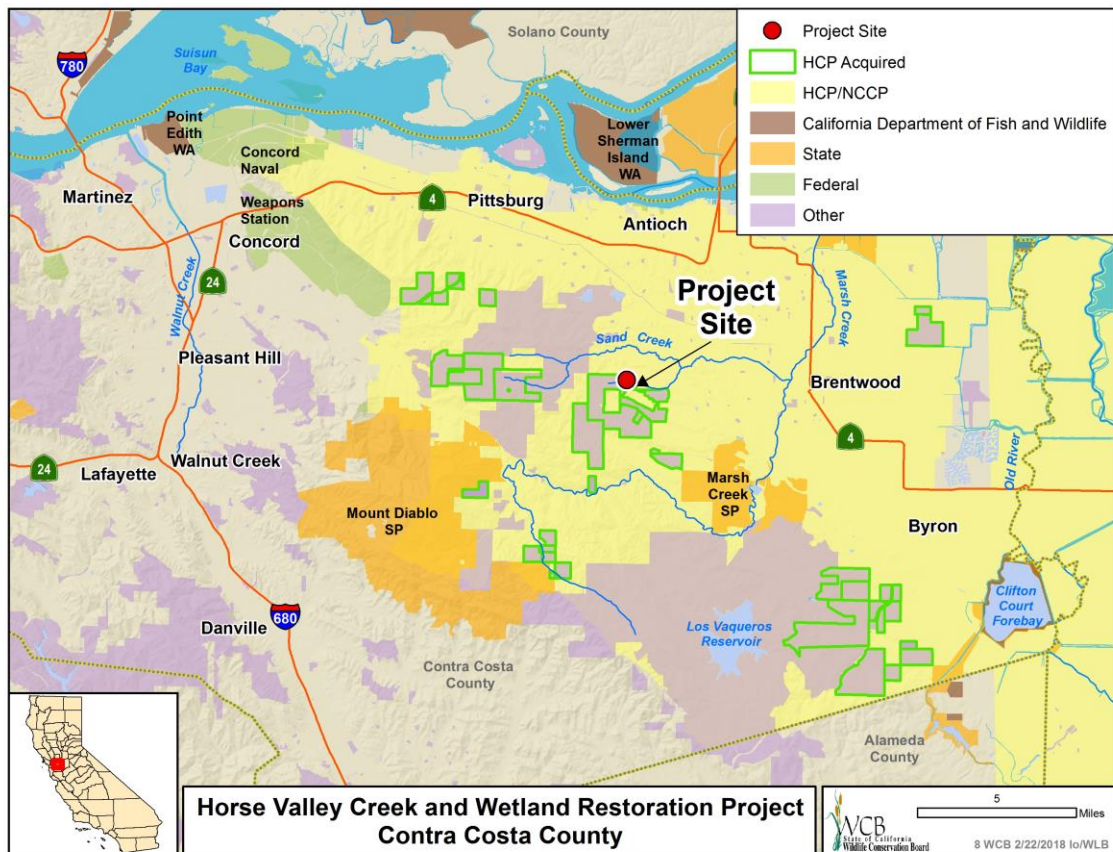
**Colborn – Yes**

**Creasman – Yes**

**Pavley – Yes**

**Sklar – Yes**

**Bonham – Yes**



**\*9. Glen Deven Native Habitat Restoration  
Monterey County  
\$255,000**

This proposal is to consider the allocation for a grant to the Big Sur Land Trust (BSLT) for a cooperative project to remove 2.5± acres of Eucalyptus trees and revegetate with native plants, located at BSLT's Glen Deven Ranch approximately 15 miles south of Carmel in Monterey County.

**LOCATION**

The Glen Deven Ranch (Ranch), an 860-acre property donated to the Big Sur Land Trust in 2001, lies at the top of Garrapata Ridge in northern Big Sur. The property ranges in elevation from 200 to 960 feet and supports diverse natural plant communities such as mixed woodland forest, central maritime chaparral, northern coastal scrub, coastal prairie grassland, and riparian woodlands. Two federally endangered and California listed species reside in the Ranch's waterways – California red-legged frog and steelhead trout. At least 46 federally or California listed species live within a five-mile radius of the property.

Glen Deven Ranch spreads into two distinct watersheds – Garrapata Creek and Palo Colorado Creek. Garrapata Creek, on the north side of the property, is an anadromous fish-bearing stream that contains perennial flow and habitat for steelhead trout. Palo Colorado Creek on the south side is an ephemeral stream with a waterfall barrier to anadromous fish near the coast.

Historically, the Ranch was home to a Depression-era Christmas-tree-growing operation, a cattle grazing program from about 1965-1985, a trout farm alongside Garrapata Creek in the 1970s, and a beekeeping operation for the last 60 years. In addition to the main house and caretaker's house near the Ranch entrance, there is a guest house, hay barn, horse stables, workshop, and outbuildings. Currently the ranch is used for occasional hikes by members of the Big Sur Land Trust and hosts up to 20 youth at a time during summer months for three-day summer camp sessions. Additional uses include hosting research by local universities including redwood seed gathering and propagation projects by UC Santa Cruz and a fog/water-collection station run by students from CSU Monterey Bay.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The Ranch has a substantial stand of non-native, invasive Blue Gum or Eucalyptus trees. *Eucalyptus globulus* is the most prolific invasive plant species on the Ranch, invading the Garrapata Creek and Palo Colorado Creek watersheds, and posing a threat to biodiversity and risk of catastrophic wildfire. The California Invasive Plant Council considers this species a severe threat to wildlands due to vegetation structure, as well as being reproductively adept with high rates of dispersal and establishment. It is an extremely hardy tree that is fast growing, drought tolerant, frost tolerant, resistant to most insects and diseases, and has an extensive and persistent root system. Native plants are unable to grow under groves of Eucalyptus due to both the thick leaf litter that develops as well as an alkaloid chemical compound produced by the tree that prevents growth of nearby vegetation. Eucalyptus bark and foliage have high volatile oil content that permeates the duff and soil around established trees and renders it inhospitable to native species survival.

The Ranch's existing Eucalyptus population originated from six trees that were planted on the property in 1896. The stands spread extensively through paths of disturbance down canyons into local streams. The stands that have taken over the canyons and around the main structures on the property are the largest in the Garrapata Creek watershed. The trees in this

stand are considered “ladder fuels” by fire agencies, referring to the ability of the tree to move fire rapidly from the ground into the canopy, thereby starting crown fires.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife funded a watershed plan for the Garrapata Creek watershed in 2006, which identified the control of non-native species as the highest priority to improve riparian habitat and maintain watershed health. The Ranch encompasses about 1.5 miles of the 8-mile Garrapata Creek watercourse.

BSLT staff worked closely with Monterey County and pertinent regulatory agencies including the California Coastal Commission and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire) to develop and submit a Timber Harvest Plan to remove 19 acres of Eucalyptus from the site. BSLT received approval for the plan in April 2012. The Glen Deven Timber Harvest Plan (THP) was the first plan to be approved in the county in 30 years to support timber removal with habitat restoration as a primary goal of the plan.

As described in the THP, the 19-acres of Eucalyptus control will occur under a phased removal method. In areas where no native trees are present, up to five widely spaced overstory Eucalyptus trees are retained per acre during initial thinning. The residual trees continue to provide habitat. The phased removal is intended to facilitate the establishment of a new understory of native species and to retain some overstory canopy structure for bird species to perch on while native tree species take hold.

In 2012 and 2013, BSLT completed the first two phases of the project on the south-facing slope in Palo Colorado Canyon. Six acres were cleared of Eucalyptus trees with ongoing stump treatments to ensure full removal. Phase 3 was a cooperative project funded in part by the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB), BSLT, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Approximately 1,000 Eucalyptus trees were removed from 6-acres of Redwood/hardwood habitat on the north-facing slope of Garrapata Ridge.

The proposed project, Phase 4, will remove nearly all eucalyptus trees, estimated at almost 1,000 trees, from 2.5 acres on Garrapata Ridge and the south-facing slope of the site, which drains to both Garrapata and Palo Colorado Creeks. This includes the remaining areas along the ridge near buildings, the county road, and south facing slope to facilitate restoration of native redwood forest/chaparral/scrub species. Retained trees from previous phases will be cut or girdled in place. Native species growing on the slope will be released from competition and additional, subsequent planting will enhance the assemblage of species present. Restoration efforts will include both the Phase 4 area as well as the project site as a whole. Trees will remain within 30 to 50 feet of Garrapatos Road due to potential instability concerns.

Several constraints will complicate operations and substantially increase costs for this final phase of tree removal work. Most of the work will require the use of tree service companies using large cranes to cut trees into small moveable pieces and lower them safely onto the ground for subsequent processing. Chipped material may also be used by local residents and logs may be used by local contractors, or hauled offsite to be used for firewood. Eucalyptus trees on the ridge will be cut and removed while the trees on the slope will be felled, lopped and scattered and left in place. Logs and chips will be spread out in widely dispersed areas of the 860-acre ranch to ensure rapid decomposition and minimal increase in fuel loads. After cutting, all stumps are treated promptly with the appropriate herbicide to inhibit stump sprouting. Other invasive species are removed from the project area as well by using manual removal and chemical control.

Native tree and shrub species from the local seed zone will be planted in openings created by eucalyptus removal, until the desired native species cover is established. Redwood forest re-vegetation species include redwood, Pacific madrone, coast live oak, huckleberry, big-leaf maple, canyon gooseberry, and coffeeberry. Coastal scrub species include coyote brush, poison oak, lizard tail, yarrow, sticky monkey flower, and others. BSLT has been working in partnership with the University of California at Santa Cruz to propagate redwood trees from seeds collected at Glen Deven. This phase will also include the continuation of herbicide treatment of eucalyptus stumps/seedlings plus other non-native plants throughout the project site.

#### WCB PROGRAM

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

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

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

- The restoration of native habitats increases the overall resiliency of ecosystems and dependent animals and plants to the damaging effects of climate change.
- Over time, the diversity of species selected for restoration will allow for the full range of native plants to successfully adapt during gradually changing climate conditions. Ideally, if dominant habitat components are impacted from climate change, the additional species provided via this project will ensure the natural shift towards other native riparian species.

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

*Provide or enhance habitat connectivity*

The Ranch falls within a significant natural resource area identified for protection by the Federal Wilderness Act, the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, the California Coastal Act of 1976, the Monterey County General Plan, and the Master Plan of the Monterey Peninsula Regional Parks District. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Joshua Creek Canyon Ecological Reserve borders Glen Deven to the east. It is two miles northwest of the Mill Creek Redwood Preserve of the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District and 3.5 miles east of the Ventana Wilderness of the Los Padres National Forest.

#### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The BSLT has established a harvest plan, management plan, and restoration plan which will remain active throughout the 25-year term of the grant and beyond. If at any time during the 25-year life of the project, the BSLT 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	BSLT	Total Cost
Project Management	0	30,000	30,000
Project Administration	0	20,000	20,000
Tree Removal	190,000	30,000	220,000
Restoration	65,000	42,000	107,000
<i>Totals</i>	<i>\$255,000</i>	<i>\$122,000</i>	<i>\$377,000</i>

Project costs will be for mobilization, equipment rental, tree falling and processing, herbicide, and native plant restoration.

**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 provide 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, or implements the recommendations of the California Comprehensive Wildlife Strategy and are consistent with the objectives of this project.

**CEQA AND CDFW REVIEW/ RECOMMENDATION**

CalFire, as lead agency, prepared a Timber Harvest Plan for the project under a certified state regulatory program pursuant to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Staff considered the THP and has prepared proposed, written findings documenting WCB's compliance with CEQA. Subject to approval of this proposal by the WCB, the appropriate Notice of Determination will be filed with the State Clearinghouse. 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 adopt the written findings and approve this project as proposed, allocate \$255,000.00 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.



As one of the consent items heard at the beginning of the meeting, it was moved by Board Member Chuck Bonham that the Wildlife Conservation Board adopt the written findings and approve this project as proposed, allocate \$255,000.00 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.

Passed Unanimously.

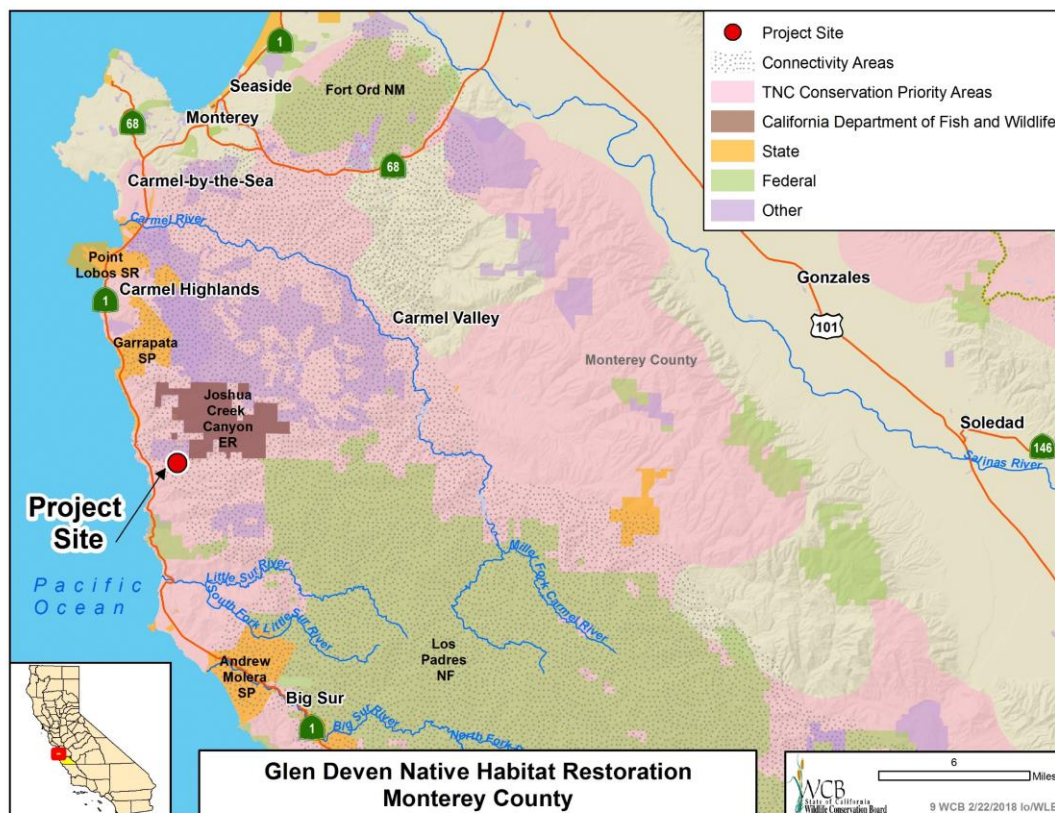
Colborn – Yes

Creasman – Yes

Pavley – Yes

Sklar – Yes

Bonham – Yes



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

This proposal is to authorize the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to enter into a 25-year lease with the California State Lands Commission (CSLC) for public purposes, including resource protection, land management, and public use opportunities on 1,155± acres of sovereign tide and submerged land in Morro Bay (Property).

**LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES**

Morro Bay is located along the Pacific coast approximately half way between Los Angeles and San Francisco. The entire bay is approximately 2,000 acres in size and of this, roughly 1,400 acres is exposed as mud flats during low tide. Chorro and Los Osos Creeks empty into the eastern portion of the bay. Under the proposed lease, CDFW will lease 750± acres, which were part of the original lease, and an additional 405± acres that was previously leased by the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR). The Property currently is divided and managed according to three state resource protection designations: the Morro Bay State Marine Reserve, Morro Bay Wildlife Area, and the Morro Bay State Recreational Management Area.

The Property is below the median high tide line but includes important intertidal and marine habitat types including saltmarsh and eelgrass. Tidal mudflats, which provide habitat for large numbers of invertebrates, make up the remainder of the below surface substrate.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The proposed project is to enter into a 25-year lease between the CSLC, as Lessor, and CDFW as Lessee. The original lease, executed in 1992, was between CSLC and the DPR and CDFW as co-lessees. This lease expired on April 30, 2017. DPR no longer has an interest in managing or leasing any portion of the Property. CDFW applied for a new lease for the northern half of Morro Bay and the land previously leased by DPR. The land previously leased by DPR is included in the Morro Bay State Marine Reserve. The rest of the Property is included in the Morro Bay State Marine Recreational Management Area and the Morro Bay Wildlife Area.

The primary purpose for CDFW to continue leasing the Property is to protect and manage the significant natural resources within and adjacent to Morro Bay. CDFW administers aquaculture leases, removes unpermitted anchorages, abandoned vessels and other debris from the premises, enforces hunting and fishing regulations, protects threatened and endangered species, and monitors and controls non-native invasive species within the bay.

**TERMS**

The proposed Lease is for a 25-year term, which would expire on April 30, 2042. The Lease consideration is public use and benefit; there is no monetary rent payable to CSLC.

**MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS**

CDFW will manage the Property according to its various designations: the Morro Bay State Marine Reserve, the Morro Bay State Marine Recreational Management Area, and the Morro Bay Wildlife Area. The lease will enable CDFW to accommodate, promote, and support recreational boating, fishing, hunting, public access, and enjoyment of the State's sovereign land.

#### WCB PROGRAM

The proposed Lease No. PRC 7629.9 is being considered under the Wildlife Conservation Board's (WCB) Land Acquisition Program. The Land Acquisition Program is administered pursuant to the Board's original enabling legislation, "The Wildlife Conservation Law of 1947" (Fish and Game Section 1300, et seq.), under which WCB may authorize CDFW to acquire interests in real property by various means including leases.

#### WCB FUNDING SOURCE

No funds are being requested for this project because there is no monetary consideration payable under the Lease.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

The project has been reviewed pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and is proposed exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15301, Class 1, existing facilities, as a lease of existing public facilities or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use, Section 15313, Class 13, as the 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 or animal habitats.

#### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the WCB authorize CDFW to execute Lease No. PRC 7629.9, authorize staff and CDFW to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project, and authorize staff and the CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

**As one of the consent items heard at the beginning of the meeting, it was moved by Board Member Chuck Bonham that the Wildlife Conservation Board authorize the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to execute Lease No. PRC 7629.9, authorize staff and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project, and authorize staff and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to proceed substantially as planned.**

**Passed Unanimously.**

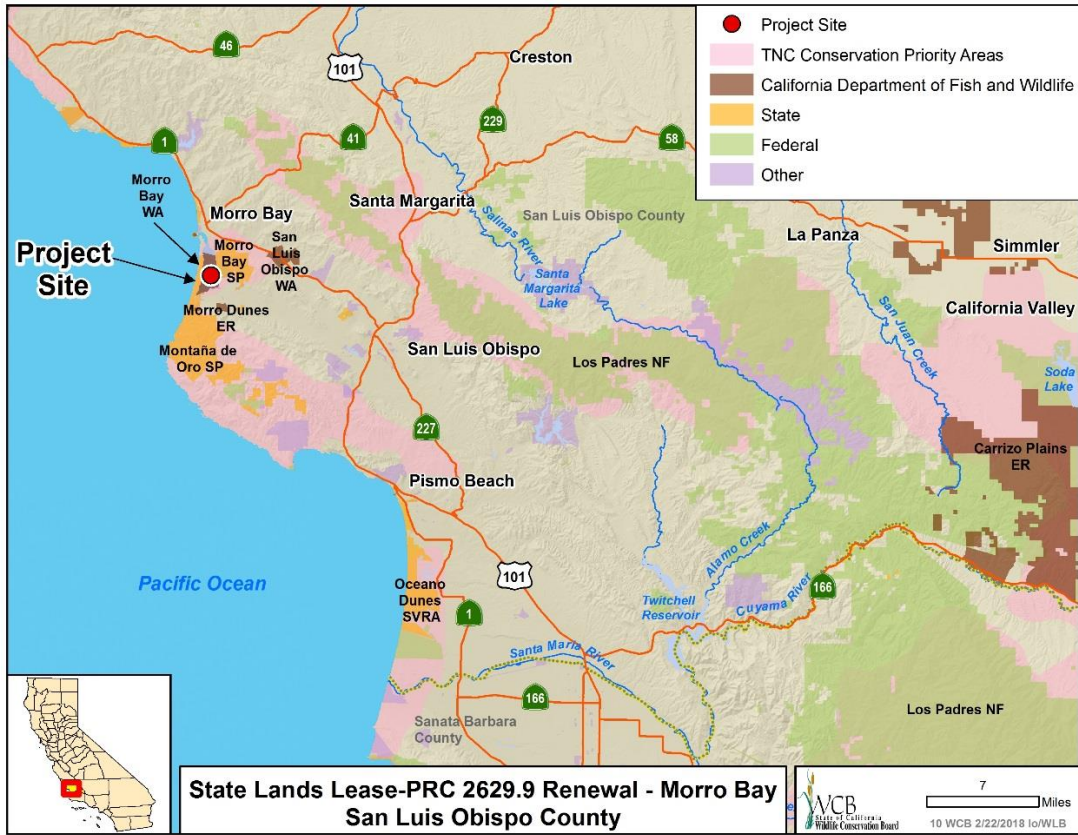
**Colborn – Yes**

**Creasman – Yes**

**Pavley – Yes**

**Sklar – Yes**

**Bonham – Yes**



**11. Hunter Ranch  
Humboldt County  
\$3,030,000**

*Mr. Kurt Weber presented this project.*

This proposal is to consider the allocation of a grant to the Northcoast Regional Land Trust (NCRLT) to acquire a conservation easement (Easement) over 15,682± acres (Property) of mixed conifer working forest lands, including diverse oaks and oak woodland habitat for conservation of natural resources, preservation of wildlife habitat linkages and habitat areas for numerous wildlife species, and to help sustain water quality.

**LOCATION and SURROUNDING USES**

The Property is situated in the vicinity of Pilot Rock (rock outcropping), east of the Mad River, south of Maple Creek on Maple Creek Road. The Property is approximately one and one-half hours from Eureka. Interior access is developed throughout the Property over a series of older ranch and logging roads.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The Property is rural rangeland with timber and sloping meadow cover. The Property is primarily within the Mad River drainage, with southwestern-facing slopes and several year-round feeder creeks and springs. Numerous cool-water tributaries drain the slopes of South Fork Mountain from its ridgeline down to the Mad River canyon bottom, where the streams join the main stem of the Mad River. Coho salmon, Chinook salmon, and steelhead trout migrate onto the Property and spawn there. The Property provides a habitat linkage from the Six Rivers National Forest to a variety of already protected reserves.

Hunter Ranch consists of over 12,000 acres of mixed conifer and hardwood forest ecosystems and about 3,000 acres of rolling grassland. Within this, there are thousands of acres of white and black oak woodland stands. If the Property is not managed pursuant to the Easement, these oak woodlands will be replaced by more common, shade-tolerant, and aggressive fir trees over time, displacing an important and disappearing habitat type in the region. In combination with the open prairies, these oak woodlands help support herds of deer, Roosevelt elk, and other wildlife that frequent the Property's open slopes. Numerous trees throughout the forest have nesting platforms, complex crowns, and reiterated tops that are all utilized by wildlife species.

The Property's topography includes gently sloping to steeply sloping hillsides. Elevations range from 4,400 to 4,800 feet along the ridge that runs along the northeastern boundary, to less than 1,000 feet along the Mad River at the Property's southwestern edge. Portions of the Property are very steep, but there are other portions that include more gently sloping topography, and afford very good views of the surrounding inland hills. The Property includes Pilot Rock, a prominent rock outcropping with an elevation of 4,453 feet that is visible for many miles.

Improvements to the Property include a variety of older barns and vacant residential structures, a hunting camp area, and a network of interior ranch/timber roads throughout the Property. The existing improvements do not contribute significant value to the Property, the structural improvements will not be affected by the proposed Easement.

Under the Easement, the Property owner is prevented from any subdivision of the land. Once the Easement is recorded, the Property can no longer be subdivided and must be retained as a single holding. The Easement allows development of a single rural home site with two residences that can be placed in a variety of potential locations defined in the Easement. There are additional restrictions and limitations associated with forest management on the Property.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) regional staff, including its biologists, have played an active role in drafting the terms and conditions of the proposed Easement. CDFW staff, WCB, and the NCRLT have combined their efforts to establish “best practice” conservation measures that will be applied to the Easement to ensure the sustainability of the Property’s conservation values.

#### WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD (WCB) PROGRAM

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 on November 17, 2007, and utilizing a peer review process involving biological and forestry expertise, including CDFW. The Program seeks to promote the ecological integrity and economic stability of California’s diverse native forests through conserving, preserving and restoring productive managed forest lands, 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 forest lands. 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 supports 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-4 Invest in priority conservation projects recommended by CDFW.*

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

*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 the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, CDFW, and the 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 landowner and/or have been incorporated in the terms of the Easement.

#### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

NCRLT will be responsible for monitoring and managing the Easement. Allowable uses include agriculture, subject to certain restrictions, including limiting intensive production of agricultural crops to 150 acres. Harvesting, removal of timber, and other forest management activities in accordance with the Timber Management Plan developed for the Property is allowed. The

sustained timber harvesting will provide revenue to assist in management of the Property. Prior to disbursement of funds, a baseline report of the Property's resource values will have been completed by NCRLT and reviewed and approved by the WCB. The baseline report will be the basis from which NCRLT will conduct future monitoring for compliance with the terms of the Easement.

#### TERMS

The Property owners have agreed to sell the Easement to NCRLT for \$3,000,000.00, significantly less than the \$4,755,000.00 appraised fair market value as approved by the Department of General Services (DGS). DGS reviewed the appraisal as well as the review provided by an independent reviewer and 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:

Wildlife Conservation Board	3,000,000
Total Purchase Price	3,000,000
Other Project Related Admin. Costs	30,000
<i>Total WCB Allocation</i>	<i>\$3,030,000</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 forest lands, 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 AND STATE RECCOMENDATION

The acquisition has been reviewed pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and is proposed as exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15313, Class 13, as an acquisition of 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 or animal habitats. Subject to authorization by the WCB, a Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse. The CDFW has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for approval.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$3,030,000.00 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 CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

*Director Donnelly reported the receipt of letters of support from Senator Michael McGuire, Assemblymember Jim Wood, and Humboldt County Supervisor, Estelle Fennell.*

*Mr. Weber noted that Rangeland Trust representatives, Greg Blomstrum, Dan Aries, and Shane Green were present, as well as landowner Jeremy Hendrick and CDFW staff Eric Haney.*

*Chair Bonham asked if there were any questions.*

*Mary Creasman commended staff for negotiating an easement at a price that makes sense for the WCB while being able to complete the project.*

*Chair Bonham reported a speaker card for Greg Blomstrom. He recognized Rangeland Trust staff and the landowner present and noted the beauty of this property and thanked the Board.*

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

**It was moved by Board Member Mary Creasman that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$3,030,000.00 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.**

**Passed Unanimously.**

**Colborn – Yes**

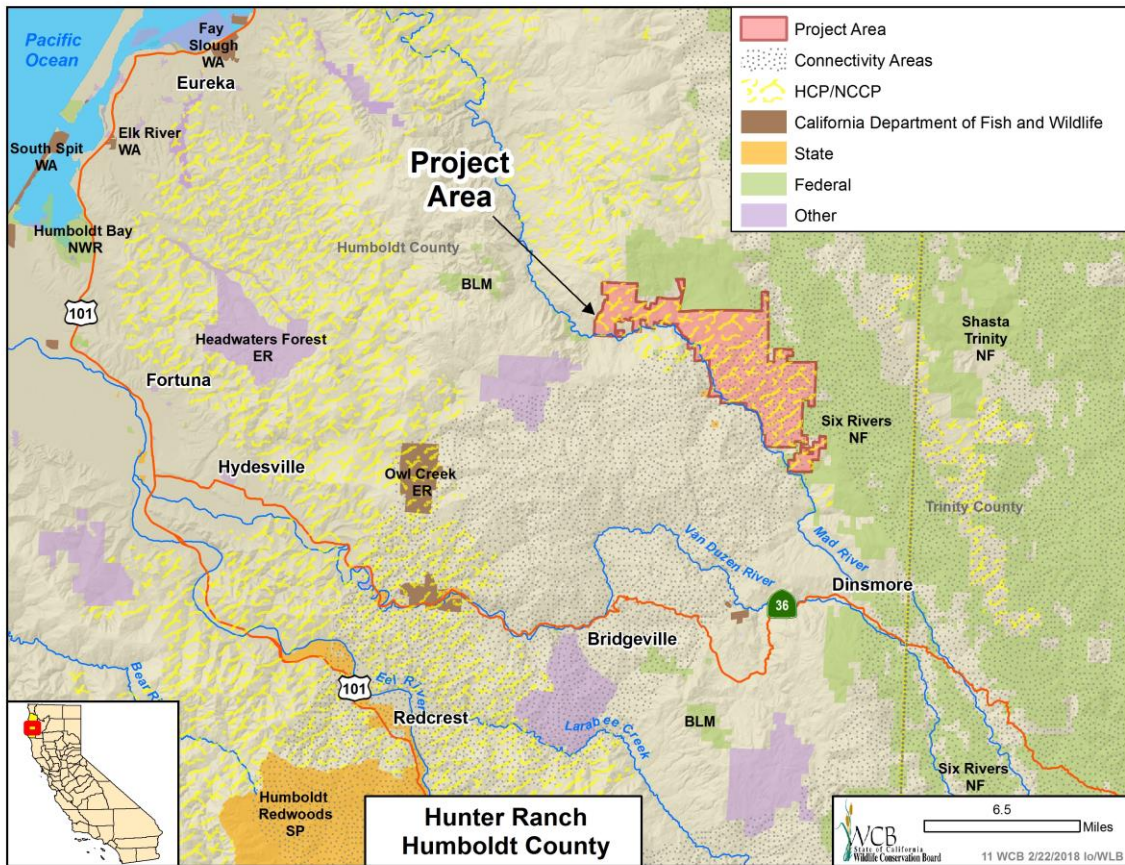
**Bonham – Yes**

**Pavley – Yes**

**Sklar – Yes**

**Creasman – Yes**





**12. Gray Lodge Wildlife Area, Water Recirculation and Wetland Restoration Project  
Butte County  
\$1,500,000**

*Mr. Shawn Fresz presented this project.*

This proposal is to consider the allocation for a grant to the California Waterfowl Association (CWA) for a cooperative project with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and the North American Wetlands Conservation Act to develop water conveyance infrastructure and enhance wetlands on Gray Lodge Wildlife Area, located 7.5± miles southwest of the town of Gridley in Butte County.

**LOCATION**

The CDFW Gray Lodge Wildlife Area (WA), first established in 1931, is a 9,100 acre multi-faceted complex situated due north of the Sutter Buttes in Butte County, CA. The WA includes approximately 600 acres of moist soil wetland units, deeper semi-permanent wetland units, riparian forested habitats, and associated uplands. The area provides habitat for more than 300 species of resident and migrant birds and mammals.

During the establishment of the wildlife area, properties were purchased and added to the complex as they became available. The infrastructure that was acquired was typically developed to allow for farming of these lands. As the wildlife area grew in size and complexity, CDFW staff is challenged to manage habitat with the original farming infrastructure.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

This project will allow the reuse of delivered water supplies by CDFW staff. Water recirculation is critical to enabling ideal flexibility, efficiency, and adaptability to CDFW's management strategies. To adapt to changing conditions, CDFW needs to create more efficient and conservative water reuse strategies for the WA. Creating flexibility through improved capabilities will allow for future droughts to have less of an environmentally damaging effect on the habitat conditions for wildlife. Conserving water supplies during a typical management year will assist with reducing costs and making better use of resources in the water conveyance system within the WA.

Currently, when water reaches the westernmost portion of the WA, the water is unrecoverable due to a lack of a pump at the end of the system. Wetland units within this portion of the wildlife area have water drained off in the spring in order to propagate moist soil and seed producing plants. The drained water is then released off the WA at the most northwestern wetland unit and discharged into the RD 833 Canal and lost. This same loss of water occurs during summer irrigations of the same habitat locations.

The original infrastructure at GLWA lacks updated structures which are needed for efficient management of wetland habitat. This project will develop a water recapture and return system and enhance wetlands on unit 36 of the WA.

The main components of the recapture and return system will be the installation of a lift pump and the extension of the eastern water recovery canal. The northwestern corner of Unit 2 is the lowest point for the WA, and the proposed lift pump station and new pipeline will be located there. The water will be lifted and transported over two miles through a new 27" pipeline before discharging into a refurbished distribution basin. As water is discharged within the basin, new water control structures will allow staff to select a destination location for the recaptured water. The distribution basin will also elevate an adjacent highline ditch's

levees, and widen the ditch's width thereby increasing its capacity and allowing the recovered water to be delivered an additional 2,600 feet to the east.

The recaptured water will be reused on an estimated 4,100+ acres of habitat, approximately 45% of the WA's total acreage. Reused water will be utilized for spring irrigations and maintenance of spring and summer semi-permanent wetland units maintained specifically for wildlife production. An extension of the eastern water recovery canal, initiated in 2015, will be the final component of the developed recapture and return system. During 2015, funding only allowed for the construction of the first section of the canal within Unit 63. This project will extend the recovery basin 2,750' along the eastern boundary of Unit 66, at which point it will deliver drain water directly into the main southeastern water recovery canal that collects water from the eastern portion of the WA. It is anticipated that roughly 1,600 acre/feet of water from 450 acres of habitat may be recoverable by the extension of this canal. The water once within the main southeastern recovery canal will be redistributed to support habitat needs on a total of 1,000+ acres of wetland, riparian and upland habitats on the wildlife area. By keeping the water on the area and enabling staff to use it for year-round flooding and irrigations, all water dependent species will see benefits.

The restoration within Unit 36 will include 219 acres of hunted seasonal wetland habitat that is in need of modifications to allow for improved management. Currently, the unit is made up of eight individual fields, with significantly higher elevation areas which don't flood, with conversely low elevation areas that are difficult to drain. Initial topographic surveys have allowed a preliminary design to be developed which identifies configuring the many units into four independent units. This configuration will reduce the extreme topographic variations. This will allow for more rapid flood-up and drainage times, it will also reduce overall water usage and improve management results. If water is left behind when draining, there is also greater chance of increasing mosquitos, as well as a reduction in feed production over time.

Research and new technologies have significantly changed how wetland units are built and managed. Today great effort is taken to ensure that habitat managers can move water on and off of wetland units, thus maximizing feed production while reducing water usage, mosquito issues and abatement costs. The increased management capabilities resulting from this proposed project will also allow water to be reused from field to field, and then recaptured at the end of the system when infrastructure is in place. By being able to recycle/recapture and reuse water supplies, water conservation practices and resource management results will be maximized.

Each wetland unit will have its topographic fall reduced, while the development of swales from the water inlets to the outlets will be established. Material from the swale development will be used to build and refurbish levees and create islands/loafing bars within the units. The drain structures will also be reset or replaced. Results will allow for reduced infrastructure overall (less maintenance over time), and create larger more easily managed units with improved feed production. The water delivery system will be refurbished to allow for water to be independently delivered to each wetland unit. The more efficient wetland units are, the more water can be drained and recaptured and thus reused for other management needs on the WA.

The public will see benefits from improved habitat conditions with the potential for increased bird numbers as water management is improved. The project will support the large number of hunters, bird watchers and other recreationists that use the wildlife area each year. The project will expand and enhance habitat conditions on a significant portion of the WA.

## 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 wetland habitat in a region with limited wetlands in critical times for migratory waterfowl, shorebirds and other wildlife.

*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 project maintains open space and expands opportunities for controlled hunting, recreation, and research and educational use that are compatible with the managed wetlands.

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

*Provide species strongholds or refugia. The project will enhance wetland and associated upland habitats and provide sustained beneficial management in the long term.*

## MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

CDFW will be responsible for all maintenance and upkeep of the completed project. The design work and construction practices will have specifications and features that will allow for management with existing CDFW equipment and personnel. The improved water management capabilities associated with this wetland enhancement will allow CDFW to provide improved wetland habitat through more efficient water delivery and drainage, with less water. Monitoring of plant response to water and cover management practices is the responsibility of CDFW, but technical assistance and periodic habitat reviews may be performed by CWA biologists. If at any time during the 25-year life of the project, CWA 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**

Project costs will be for construction, wetland infrastructure, and project management (survey, engineering, design, and construction management). Construction costs provide for acquisition and installation of water control structure (pipes, water control structures, lift pump) and earthwork.

Gray Lodge Wildlife Area Water Recirculation and Unit 36 Wetland Restoration Project (Amounts in Dollars)				
Construction Activity	NAWCA Match	DFW Match	WCB Funds	Project Total
Earthmoving - Site Prep/Levee/Swale/Island Construction	305,380	292,370	285,000	882,750
Water Control Structures/Installation/Removal of Debris	143,050	118,220	135,000	396,270
Lift Pump/Platform/Electrical/Installation			85,000	85,000
Pipeline/Site Prep/Installation			750,000	750,000
Rock (Rip-Rap & Road Base)/Installation			25,000	25,000
Perennial Grass Seed/Installed/Herbicide	16,340	54,075		70,415
Round-Stem Tule Transplants	1,520	1,300		2,820
Construction Subtotal:	466,290	465,965	1,280,000	2,212,255
Contingency			25,000	25,000
Engineering and Design	93,500	74,400	135,000	302,900
Project Management			60,000	\$60,000
<i>Project Totals</i>	559,790	540,365	1,500,000	2,600,155
<i>Grand Totals</i>	<i>Match- \$1,100,155</i>		<i>\$1,500,000</i>	<i>\$2,600,155</i>

**FUNDING SOURCE**

The proposed funding source for this project is the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(d), (1E), Inland Wetland Conservation Program. 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.

**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. Subject to approval by the Board, 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 \$1,500,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(d), (1E), 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.

*Mr. Fresz stated the Chad Santerre, California Waterfowl, and Andy Atkinson, CDFW were in the audience.*

*Board member Pavley said this is a great project and asked if the site overlies a significant ground water basin that land owners also manage and if the WCB has models of similar projects. Mr. Fresz responded that being able to reuse and recirculate water on the landscape will increase water percolation. Chair Bonham added it would be hard to find a property that the CDFW owns that is as important to the Department's history and it's future. He continued saying that the WA averages 80,000 visitors a year, evidence of how much it is cherished. In the height of the drought, one of the things the Department pursued was an assessment of all owned properties and a stern direction toward wiser water management practices on particular properties. The culmination of which, is this type of proposal. It also relates to CDFW's aging infrastructure, which the Department is modernizing. That connects to the last agenda item which is resiliency in the face of climate change. Chair Bonham and board member Pavley observed together that this project offers multiple benefits.*

*Director Donnelly added that the WCB has projects similar to this one in Shasta Valley, Ash Creek, and the areas of Los Banos and San Jacinto.*

*Chair Bonham reported no speaker cards and asked if there were questions or comments. There were none.*

**It was moved by Board Member Diane Colburn that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed, allocate \$1,500,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(d), (1E), 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.**

**Passed Unanimously.**

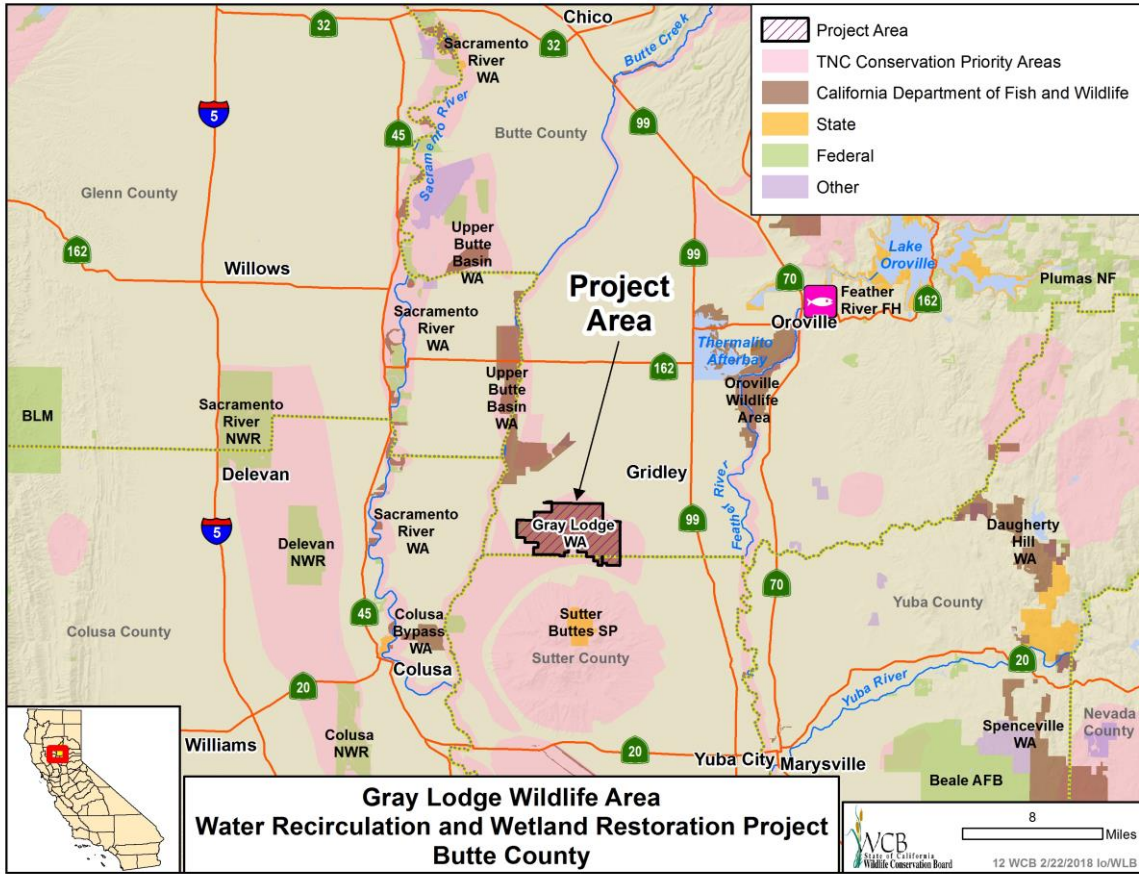
**Bonham – Yes**

**Creasman – Yes**

**Pavley – Yes**

**Sklar – Yes**

**Colburn – Yes**





**13. Palisades Ranch, Mojave River  
San Bernardino County  
\$1,270,000**

*Mr. Brian Gibson presented this project.*

This proposal is to consider the allocation for a grant to the Mojave Desert Land Trust (MDLT), as well as the acceptance of a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Recovery Land Acquisition grant and the sub-grant of these federal funds to the MDLT, to acquire 1,640± acres of land and its associated water rights to conserve habitat for the threatened desert tortoise and other threatened, endangered and sensitive species that may occur on the property.

**LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES**

The property (Property), known as Palisades Ranch, is located along the Mojave River (River) approximately ½ mile south of the community of Helendale and north of the city of Victorville in unincorporated San Bernardino County. Specifically, the Property is located off Bryman Road, west of Historic State Route 66.

Lands to the west of the Property are in a checkerboard pattern of public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management and private lands. Lands to the east are comprised mostly of active and fallow agricultural fields and a 20-megawatt solar plant, with sparse residential development farther east. South of the Property is comprised mostly of smaller private ranches.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The Property is 1,640± acres in size and is comprised of twenty-one parcels. The eastern half of the Property is comprised of floodplain along the River and the western half is comprised of steep, dissected cliffs, bluffs and flat alluvial areas. The River provides the only significant corridor of riparian habitat in the western Mojave Desert. The reach of the River between the city of Apple Valley and Helendale, referred to as the Transition Zone, is unique because it has perennially flowing surface water and supports a lush riparian zone of cottonwood and Goodding's black willow. The Property is approximately 3 miles along a north-south axis and approximately 1 mile wide on an east-west axis. The Property supports creosote brush scrub in the upland areas and Fremont cottonwood forest mixed with screwbean mesquite and various willow species throughout most of the River floodplain.

Improvements include a 2,600± square foot residence constructed in good condition, two 2,500± square foot residences, one of which is uninhabitable, a 7,500± square foot metal storage building, and a metal office building, along with smaller structures, a driveway and parking areas.

The objective of the acquisition is to permanently protect vital riparian habitat that supports Southwestern willow flycatcher, least Bell's vireo, Mojave tui chub and Western yellow-billed cuckoo. Protection of the Property will also support populations of migratory birds and several California Species of Special Concern, Southwestern pond turtle, Brown-crested flycatcher, and Long-eared owl. Upland areas adjacent to the riparian habitat also support several listed species including desert tortoise, Mohave ground squirrel and burrowing owl.

**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. The USFWS grant proposed for acceptance for this project has also been reviewed and approved by CDFW as a participant in the USFWS Land Acquisition Grant selection and review process.

#### 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 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.*

The Property comes with ten acre feet of water rights.

*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 USFWS grant has been reviewed and approved by CDFW as a participant in the USFWS Land Acquisition grant selection and review process.

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

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

#### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The Property will be owned and managed by MDLT who will provide resource stewardship and monitoring. The Property owner has agreed to donate One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) to MDLT to help defray the initial costs of stewardship, maintenance and restoration. The Property is natural open space, and will be maintained as such.

#### TERMS

The Property has been appraised as having a fair market value of \$2,540,000.00. The appraisal has been reviewed by WCB staff and reviewed and approved by the Department of General Services (DGS) and the USFWS. The Property owner has agreed to sell their property for its approved appraised fair market value. The USFWS funds require a non-federal match that would be provided by the proposed WCB grant to MDLT. The terms and conditions of the proposed WCB grant and the USFWS subgrant to MDLT 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 MDLT 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	1,240,000
USFWS subgrant funds	1,300,000
Total Purchase Price	2,540,000
Other Project Related Admin Costs	30,000
<i>Total WCB Allocation</i>	<i>\$1,270,000</i>

It is estimated that an additional \$30,000 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 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. The CDFW has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for approval.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the WCB approve this project as proposed; approve the acceptance of Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition grant funds from USFWS in the amount of \$1,300,00.00 and the subgrant of these federal funds to MDLT; allocate \$1,270,00.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c)(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 CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

*Mr. Gibson reported that Frazier Haney, Mojave Desert Land Trust, and Peter Colby, Western Rivers Conservancy, were in attendance.*

*Chair Bonham recognized the USFWS for matching WCB funds for this project and voiced an appreciation that, even in tough political times, the relationship between regional USFWS and CDFW staff remains strong and results in projects getting done.*

*Chair Bonham reported one speaker card. Peter Colby, Western Rivers Conservancy, stated that Western Rivers is not the grantee for this project but the organization that purchased the property several years ago with a foundation loan and the expectation of holding onto it until it could be transferred to another organization for long-term ownership. He stated that since that time, Western Rivers has been working on acquiring grant funds so the property could be transferred to a long-term steward. He noted this process has taken eight years and thanked the Board, staff, USFWS and the Mojave Desert Land Trust for sticking with the project. He observed that it is a beautiful property, an oasis, that deserves to be preserved.*

*Chair Bonham observed the dramatic difference in climate and topography between this project and the Hunter Ranch project and reflected that is the beauty of California, and the beauty of the opportunity to be part of the Board.*

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

**It was moved by Board Member Eric Sklar that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; approve the acceptance of Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition grant funds from United States Fish and Wildlife Service in the amount of \$1,300,00.00 and the subgrant of these federal funds to Mojave Desert Land Trust; allocate \$1,270,00.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c)(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.**

**Passed Unanimously.**

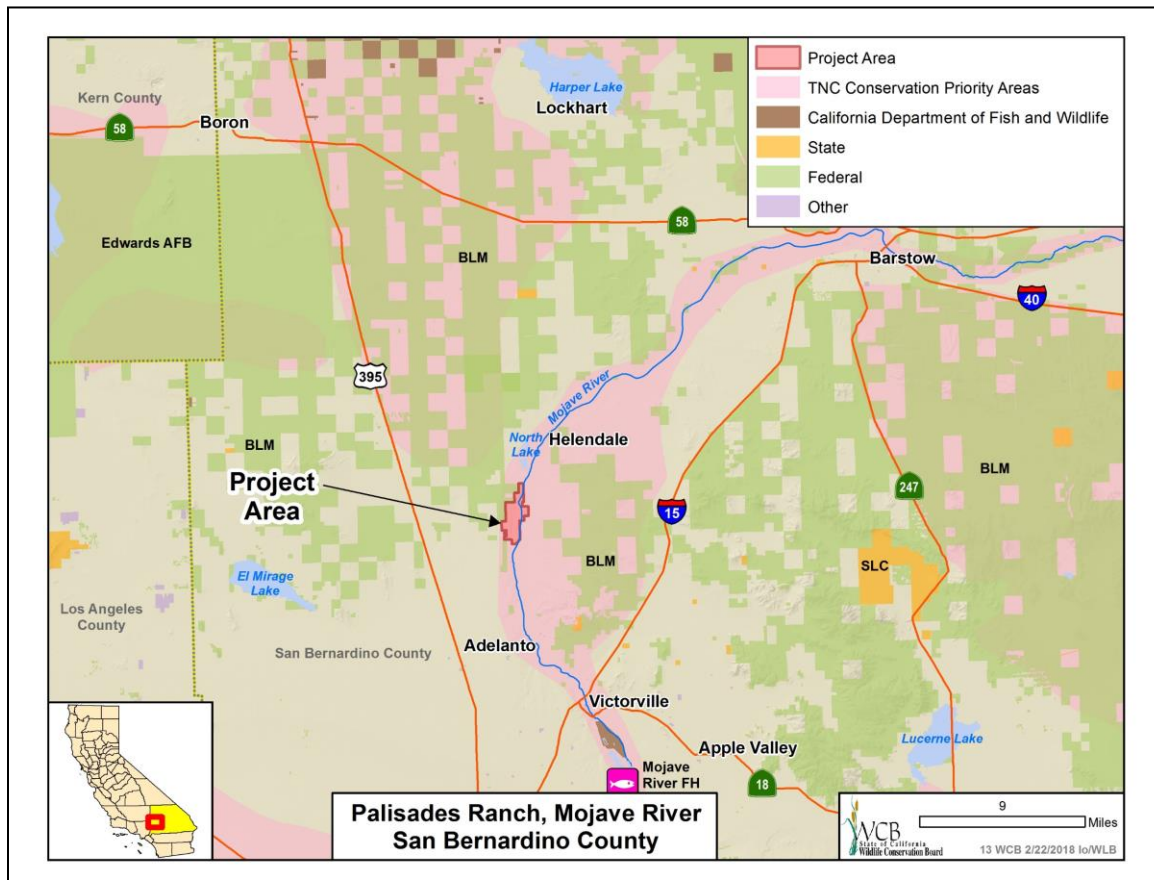
**Colborn – Yes**

**Creasman – Yes**

**Pavley – Yes**

**Bonham – Yes**

**Sklar – Yes**



**14. Big Tujunga Wash**  
**Los Angeles County**  
**\$800,000**

*Mr. John Walsh presented this project.*

This proposal is to consider the allocation for a grant to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) for a cooperative project with the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Los Angeles County to acquire in fee 111± acres of wildlife habitat, to maintain a migration corridor for the Big Tujunga Gorge mule deer sub-herd, enhance wildlife linkages, and provide future wildlife oriented public use opportunities.

**LOCATION and SURROUNDING USES**

The property (Property) is located in the community of Tujunga within the City of Los Angeles. The community of Tujunga is suburban and primarily residential in nature, located between the San Gabriel Mountains to the north and Verdugo Hills to the south.

The 111-acre Property is located in the San Gabriel Mountains adjacent to the Angeles National Forest in the Big Tujunga watershed, which is a tributary of the Los Angeles River. Topographically the Property comprises the transitional area between the broad Big Tujunga Wash and narrow, steep-walled Big Tujunga Canyon. The Big Tujunga Wash is a Los Angeles County-designated Significant Ecological Area and perhaps the most ecologically diverse geographic area in the County.

The section of Big Tujunga Wash conterminous with the Property supports clear perennial stream flow with native fish populations that include arroyo chub and the federally-listed Santa Ana sucker. The MRCA owns and restored a 10-acre property in this section of the wash. The dominant riparian vegetation includes mixed willow species and Fremont's cottonwood. The federal and state-listed slender horned spine flower occurs on MRCA-owned Big Tujunga Wash property approximately one mile downstream from the MRCA owned property.

The Property is enveloped by different public ownerships including the Angeles National Forest, Los Angeles County, and City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. The Property is located in the Eastern Rim of the Valley Conceptual Area Protection Plan (CAPP). The primary goal of the Eastern Rim of the Valley CAPP is to maintain and enhance wildlife habitat, habitat connectivity, and wildlife movement among several existing protected areas within the eastern portion of the Rim of the Valley Corridor, namely the San Gabriel Mountains, Verdugo Mountains, and San Rafael Hills. Protection of the Property is critical to maintain a viable corridor for mountain lion and deer.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The Property includes twelve legal lots with favorable access to Big Tujunga Canyon Road. Development of the Property would fragment the key habitat transition area between the Big Tujunga Wash and the narrow, steep-walled Big Tujunga gorge. The subject area is a large island of private land that separates the topographically more navigable lower elevations at the foot of the San Gabriel Mountains. These lowlands are essential for frequent wildlife access to the resources of Big Tujunga Wash and for east-west wildlife movement in the mountain range. Edge effects from development of the Property would radiate into hundreds of acres of surrounding protected lands.

The Property supports extensive alluvial fan scrub vegetation in a U.S. Geological Survey blue-line tributary, coast live oak woodland, sage scrub, mixed chaparral, and disturbed grassland. The large, level plateau area adjacent to Big Tujunga Canyon Road has endured repeated disturbances and has had some recent occupation by squatters. The sloped areas are generally undisturbed with intact vegetation communities.

#### 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 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 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, 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)/CAPP. The LAE/CAPP is then submitted to CDFW's Regional Operations Committee for review and, if approved, later transmitted to WCB with a recommendation to fund.

#### STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

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

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

Acquisition of the Property will preserve corridors that provide for transitional habitat to adapt to climate change by allowing movement between the Property's lower elevation to higher elevation habitat and will increase wildlife migration by providing additional area in the Rim of the Valley Corridor.

*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 Tier 1 parcel for protection in CDFW's Eastern Rim of the Valley CAPP.

#### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The Property will be owned, managed, and monitored by MRCA. MRCA manages numerous parks and open space in the area for habitat preservation and provides public use opportunities, relying on a combination of employees, volunteers, partners, and members to support this effort. The acquisition of the Property will provide an opportunity for MRCA to protect and preserve the Property's open space and natural resource values, and potentially afford recreational opportunities to the public such as hiking and photography.

#### TERMS

The Property has been appraised as having a fair market value of \$4,440,000. 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 \$4,440,000. The terms and conditions of the proposed WCB grant to MRCA 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. In the event of a breach of the grant terms, WCB can require the grantee to encumber the Property with a conservation easement in favor of WCB or another entity approved by WCB and seek reimbursement of funds.

#### PROJECT FUNDING

Wildlife Conservation Board	800,000
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy	3,500,000
Los Angeles County	140,000
Total Purchase Price	4,440,000
<i>Total WCB Allocation</i>	<i>\$800,000</i>

#### WCB FUNDING SOURCE

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

#### 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. The CDFW has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for approval.

#### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$800,000 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(a), for the grant; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

*Mr. Walsh stated that Jeff Mahoney, Mountains Recreation Conservation Authority was in attendance.*

*Chair Bonham reported no speaker cards and asked if there were any questions or comments. Board Member Pavley stated that as a long serving member of the Santa Monica Conservancy Advisory Committee she has been aware of the Rim of the Valley Corridor, and it's extension into wildlife protection and connectivity. She said she feels it's time has come. She noted that it is amazing that wildlife continues to flourish in LA County, an urban area with 12 million people. She continued observing that the WCB, the Conservancy and Los Angeles County is a partnership that is working well.*

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



It was moved by Board Member Chuck Bonham that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$800,000 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(a), for the grant; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to proceed substantially as planned.

Passed Unanimously.

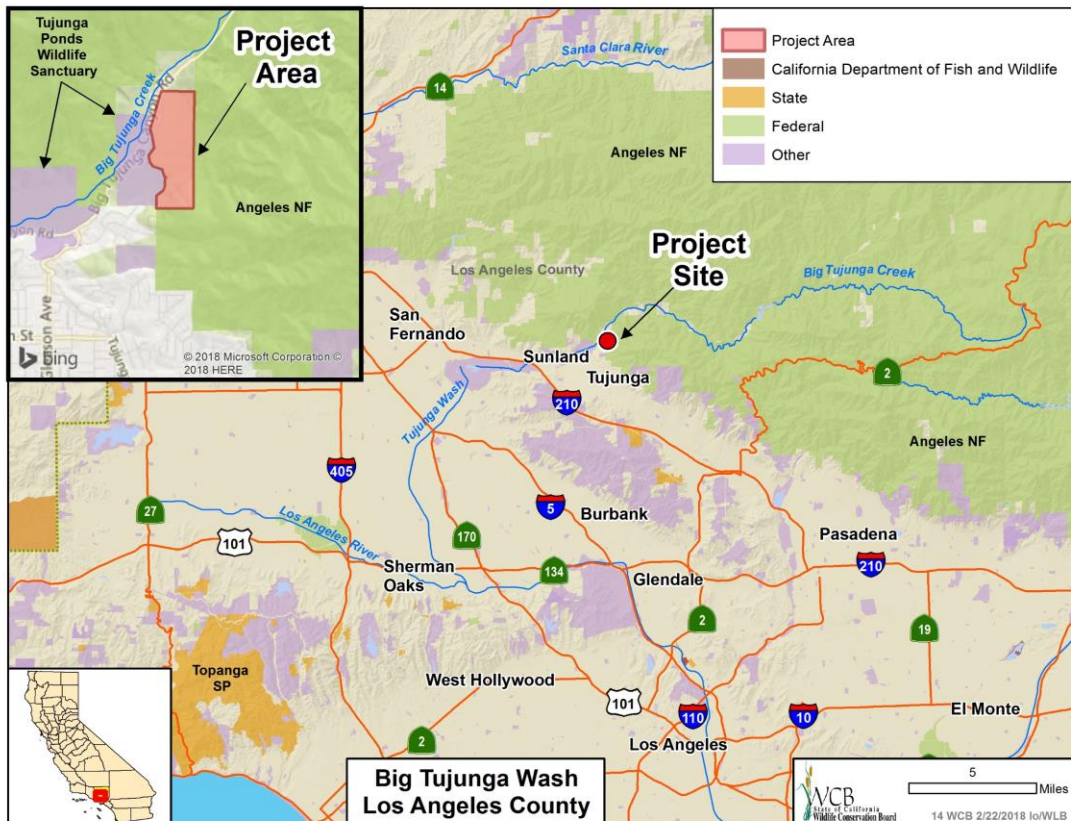
Colborn – Yes

Creasman – Yes

Pavley – Yes

Sklar – Yes

Bonham – Yes



**15. Los Angeles River-Taylor Yard G2 Expansion 1**  
**Los Angeles County**  
**\$5,015,000**

*Mr. Brian Gibson presented this project.*

This proposal is to consider the allocation for a grant to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) for a cooperative project with the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC) to assist with the acquisition of a Multipurpose Easement (Easement) over 3+ acres (Easement Area) of a 41± acre property, commonly known as the Taylor Yard G2 parcel (Property), for habitat restoration, open space preservation, and to provide potential future wildlife oriented public use opportunities.

**LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES**

The Property is located in the City of Los Angeles (City) approximately four miles north of downtown. Specifically, the Property is located west of San Fernando Road and the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) track and east of the Los Angeles River (River) in the former Taylor Yard railyard. The Easement Area is located in the northern portion of the Property adjacent to the River. Immediately north of the Easement Area is a 9+ acre portion of the Property which will also be encumbered with the Easement with funding approved by the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) at its August 24, 2017 meeting.

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

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

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

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



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

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

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

The Easement conveys the rights to MRCA to carry out habitat restoration, environmental remediation beyond industrial use standards, improvements for public access and recreational purposes, and to prevent inconsistent uses by the fee title owner on the Easement Area. As an owner of an interest in the Property, MRCA intends to work cooperatively with the City to develop a comprehensive plan for the restoration of the entirety of the Property pursuant to the Master Plan and the Restoration Project. However, in the event that federal funding is not available and the City determines that the Restoration Project is no longer feasible, the existence of this Easement will guarantee that the 3+ acre portion of the Property will be used only for the purposes outlined herein in a manner consistent with the grant agreement and the provisions of Proposition 84. For the Easement Area to be safe for public access, it needs to be environmentally remediated to a standard greater than industrial use. MRCA agreed to pay for additional remediation costs incurred by it to clean the Easement Area to a standard greater than industrial use.

Further, the USACE requires environmental remediation of the Property, and the Easement Area, be conducted prior to its funding and implementation of the Restoration Project. MRCA and SMMC are pursuing funding to conduct such cleanup of the Property in conjunction with the City.

The Property acquisition combined with the potential future restoration of the Property under the Restoration Project would facilitate wildlife connection to the Verdugo Wash and Arroyo Seco tributaries that can eventually link to significant habitat areas including Elysian Park to

Griffith Park (the eastern terminus of the Santa Monica Mountains), Mount Washington, San Rafael Hills, Verdugo Mountains, and eventually the San Gabriel Mountains.

The WCB has made several investments in the River watershed to date. Some of those investments include funding acquisition projects such as Monrovia Wilderness Preserve (2002), Ahmanson Ranch (2003), Joughin Ranch (2003), Cahuenga Peak (2010), Rubio Canyon (2011), Millard Canyon (2012), Gateway Ranch (2014), and Taylor Yard (2017). The WCB also funded restoration of the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Area (1985) and the Big Tujunga Canyon Restoration Project (2014). The adjacent State Park also received WCB funding in 2005 to construct a loop trail and interpretive signage around a restored wetland and riparian habitat area. The State Coastal Conservancy, at its April 27, 2017 meeting, awarded a grant to the City to develop an implementation plan for the Property and to install fencing.

#### WCB PROGRAM

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

MRCA and the City will be responsible for management of the Easement Area. The City will retain residual rights as the fee title holder to the extent exercise of those rights does not conflict

with MRCA's Easement rights. Funding of future management activities for the Easement Area will be provided by the MRCA. The MRCA, in conjunction with SMMC, manages and provides ranger services for almost 69,000± acres of land within the southern

California region. The MRCA and the SMMC operate several nearby facilities, including Marsh Park, Steelhead Park, and the Los Angeles River Center and Gardens. Maintenance personnel and sworn rangers are assigned to work these nearby areas every day of the year. After cleanup to appropriate environmental standards, it is expected that recreational activities such as hiking, biking, and bird watching will be offered to the public as acquisition of this Property would facilitate restoration and construction of recreational facilities in this key section of the River.

#### TERMS

The Easement has been appraised as having a fair market value of \$6,952,770.00. The appraisal has been reviewed by WCB staff, reviewed and approved by an independent appraiser hired by WCB staff, and reviewed and approved by the Department of General Services (DGS). The independent appraisal review was posted on the WCB's website at least thirty days prior to the February 22, 2018 WCB Board meeting. The City has agreed to sell the Easement for \$6,952,770.00. The terms and conditions of the proposed WCB grant to MRCA provide that staff of WCB must review and approve all title documents, preliminary title reports, documents for purchase and sale, escrow instructions, and instruments of conveyance prior to disbursement of funds directly into the escrow account established for the acquisition. In the event of a breach of the grant terms, WCB can require specific performance of the grant agreement or require MRCA to convey its interest in the Easement to WCB or, at the election of WCB, another entity or organization authorized by California law to acquire and hold easements and that is willing and financially able to assume all of the obligations and responsibilities of MRCA. If the Easement is terminated for any reason, MRCA shall be required to repay the grant amount to WCB.

#### PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for this project is as follows:

Wildlife Conservation Board	5,000,000
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy	1,952,770
Total Purchase Price	6,952,770
Other Project Related Admin Costs	15,000
Total WCB Allocation	\$5,015,000

It is estimated that an additional \$15,000.00 will be needed to cover project related administrative costs, including DGS appraisal review.

#### FUNDING SOURCE

The purposes of this project are consistent with the 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)(LAR)]. Further, the purposes of this project are consistent with the Legislative appropriation from Prop. 84 which can be found in the Budget Act of 2015, Section 27, Item 3640-401 which appropriated \$5,000,000 from Public Resources Code section 75055 to be used for restoration of riparian habitat and wetlands projects along the Los Angeles River.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND STATE RECCOMENDATION

CDFW has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for funding by the WCB. The City of Los Angeles, as lead agency, prepared an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the project pursuant to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Staff considered the EIR and has prepared proposed, written findings documenting WCB's compliance with CEQA. Subject to approval of this proposal by the WCB, the appropriate Notice of Determination will be filed with the State Clearinghouse. The CDFW has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for approval.

#### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the WCB adopt the written findings and approve this project as proposed; allocate \$5,015,000.00 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)(LAR), for the grant and to cover internal project-related expenses, authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project, and authorize staff and the CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Pursuant to WCB policy, an Independent Appraisal Review has been performed and is available at [www.wcb.ca.gov](http://www.wcb.ca.gov).

*Mr. Gibson stated that Jeff Maloney, Mountains Recreation Conservation Authority, and Catherine Dougherty, City of Los Angeles Public Works, were in attendance.*

*Director Donnelly stated that the appraisal for this project was executed according to the Board's appraisal policy in that the appraisal was performed, then independently reviewed and that review has been posted on the WCB's website for 30-days.*

*Chair Bonham observed that this project is part of a bigger vision for the river and a good example of how a small part can make a difference.*

*Board Member Mary Creasman agreed and observed this is a good example of what the WCB can do in an urban environment.*

*Chair Bonham reported no speaker cards and asked if there were any further questions or comments. There were none.*

**It was moved by Board Member Eric Sklar that the Wildlife Conservation Board adopt the written findings and approve this project as proposed; allocate \$5,015,000.00 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)(LAR), for the grant and to cover internal project-related expenses, authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project, and authorize staff and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to proceed substantially as planned.**

**Passed Unanimously.**

**Colborn – Yes**

**Creasman – Yes**

**Pavley – Yes**

**Bonham – Yes**

**Sklar – Yes**



**16. Palo Verde Ecological Reserve, Expansion 4 (Crescent Shores)  
Riverside County  
\$1,885,000**

*Mr. Jasen Yee presented this project.*

This proposal is to consider the acquisition of 328± acres of land by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) for a cooperative project with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), to protect open space and promote the restoration of critical habitat adjacent to the Colorado River that supports threatened and endangered species and the preservation of a wildlife linkage and corridor from the Colorado River to the Colorado Desert. The acquisition will be an expansion to CDFW's Palo Verde Ecological Reserve (PVER) and provide future wildlife oriented public use opportunities.

**LOCATION and SURROUNDING USES**

The property (Property), known as Crescent Shores, is located in Riverside County, 65 miles east of the Salton Sea, and is adjacent to the west bank of the lower Colorado River. The Property is within the northern city limits of Blythe, approximately 3 miles north of the downtown area. Primary access to this area is provided by Interstate 10, which is three miles south of the Property. North and south access is by way of U.S. Highway 95 and State Route 78.

The Property is situated in a region known as the Palo Verde Valley (Valley). The Valley is in a low desert region, characterized by an arid climate, broad valleys, and low elevations. These features are ideal for agricultural production that dominates the landscape of the Valley. Recreation is also a major component to the Valley, largely due to the proximity of the Colorado River. The river provides numerous recreational opportunities for the nearby residents of both California and Arizona. Adjacent uses next to the Property are mainly large private agricultural operations with some residential developments fronting the west bank of the Colorado River. Further, to the north and south of the Property are two segments of the PVER. Since 2004, the WCB approved the acquisition of approximately 1,900 acres of land to establish the PVER. The PVER provides restored habitat for a number of rare, threatened and endangered species, including the southwestern willow flycatcher, yellow-billed cuckoo, Gila woodpecker, Gilder flicker, Yuma clapper rail, California black rail, bonytail chub, razorback sucker, and the desert tortoise. The PVER also provides recreational public opportunities in the form of hunting, wildlife viewing, and nature studies.

The Property is recognized and considered a Tier 1 priority in the Palo Verde Valley-Colorado River Conceptual Area Protection Plan (CAPP) developed by CDFW. Certain criteria were used to establish acquisition priorities for properties in the CAPP. Tier 1 is the highest priority. Tier 1 properties consist of those properties directly adjacent, or in close proximity, to the Colorado River channel. They were also chosen as the highest priority for protection based upon their level of development threat, location relative to the river, current or historical importance as riparian habitat, and potential for restoration when considering water rights and existing water delivery infrastructure. Water rights within the Valley are unlike those found anywhere else in California. They belong to the Palo Verde Irrigation District (PVID). Water use charges administered by PVID are based on a per acre toll rather than the normal standard of charging by acre-feet. If a landowner wishes to irrigate based on this cost formula, an annual water toll fee is paid per acre for an unlimited amount of water. These water rights are a unique incentive to acquire property in the Valley to support the goals of the CAPP.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property is comprised of six contiguous parcels, forming an irregular shape with topography that is generally graded and cultivated for agricultural purposes. The Property contains 314 water toll acres that will be provided by PVID. The Property is currently being leased to a local farmer for the production of alfalfa. The lease will terminate upon the transfer of ownership to the CDFW. The Property has approximately 3,200 feet of river frontage, providing the additional appeal for recreational-residential development. Originally, the Property was part of a 732-acre master planned community, referred as Crescent Shores, but due to the limited demand for new housing in the area, the landowner has decided to sell the Property for conservation purposes.

The opportunity to purchase riverfront property within the Valley is extremely rare. While any riverfront property in the Valley is ideal to acquire, restore, and include in the PVER, this Property in particular is exceptional due to its location, soil types, and restoration potential. The Property is in close proximity to lands currently within the PVER making the land easier to manage and cutting down on internal costs and staff time. In addition, a wider variety of habitats can be restored with riverfront properties (e.g. riparian, scrub, wetland, upland, etc), as opposed to those lands located away from the river. The acquisition of this Property supports the expansion of the PVER and provides permanent protection from development. The acquisition will also support the preservation of a wildlife corridor and linkage between the Colorado River and the Colorado Desert which will benefit numerous rare, threatened, and endangered species that inhabit the PVER.

## 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 for suitable wildlife-oriented recreation opportunities. These activities are carried out in conjunction with the CDFW, which evaluates the biological values of property through development of a Land Acquisition Evaluation (LAE)/Conceptual Area Protection Plan (CAPP). The LAE/CAPP is then submitted to CDFW's Regional Operations Committee (ROC) for review and, if approved, later transmitted to the WCB with a recommendation to fund.

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

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

The Property contains 314 water toll acres that CDFW will utilize to restore critical habitat to support the effort of maintaining minimum viable populations of species associated with the Colorado River Ecosystem.

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

CDFW created the Palo Verde Valley-Colorado River Conceptual Area Protection Plan which identified this Property as a high priority for protection due to the potential of restoring critical habitat that supports rare, threatened, and endangered species that inhabit the Valley.

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

The Project expands existing recreational public use opportunities as part of the PVER, which includes hunting, wildlife viewing, and nature studies.

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

The Property is proposed to be acquired with WCB funds leveraged by Pittman-Robertson funds provided by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Also, the purchase price is below the approved Department of General Services (DGS) fair market value of the Property.

#### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

CDFW will manage and monitor the Property as part of the PVER. CDFW intends to transition the Property from its current agriculture use to multiple and various wildlife habitats. Potential future restoration project types are waterfowl ponds, upland game feed plots, and mesquite, cottonwood, and willow establishment. The Property will eventually provide recreational public use opportunities in the form of hunting, wildlife viewing, and nature studies.

#### TERMS

The property has been appraised as having a fair market value of \$7,400,000.00. The appraisal has been reviewed by WCB staff and reviewed and approved by DGS and USFWS. The property owner has agreed to sell the property for \$7,340,000.00. The USFWS funds require a non-federal match that is being provided by the WCB's funding allocation. The terms and conditions of the proposed USFWS grant funds each provide that staff of the WCB must review and approve all title documents, preliminary title reports, documents for purchase and sale, escrow instructions and instruments of conveyance prior to disbursement of funds directly into the escrow account established for the acquisition. Once approved by the WCB the transaction must also be reviewed and approved by the Department of General Services.

#### PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for this project is as follows:

Wildlife Conservation Board	1,835,000
USFWS funds - Pitman Robertson	5,505,000
Total Purchase Price	7,340,000
Other Project Related Admin Costs	50,000
<i>Total WCB Allocation</i>	<i>\$1,885,000</i>

It is estimated that an additional \$50,000.00 will be needed to cover project related administrative costs, including, environmental assessment, DGS appraisal and transaction review, escrow and title insurance costs.

#### WCB FUNDING SOURCE

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



#### ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND STATE RECOMMENDATION

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

#### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the WCB approve this project as proposed, allocate \$1,885,000 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c) for the acquisition and to cover internal project-related expenses, authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project, and authorize staff and the CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

*Mr. Yee reported that Chris Hayes, CDFW, and Alex Size, Trust for Public Lands, were in the audience.*

*Chair Bonham asked if there were questions.*

*Board Member Mary Creasman stated she would recuse herself as this is a Trust for Public Lands partnership project.*

*Board Member Diane Colborn asked for comments on the significance of the federal match.*

*Director Donnelly explained that two-years ago, it became possible for the Department to apply for Pittman – Robertson Act funding, through the USFWS, specifically for acquisitions. The Department was successful in obtaining a \$10 million grant. This is the first project using those grant funds. He stated that there would be other projects coming up and that the WCB is working closely with USFWS and while they cannot commit future grant funds, they have indicated if this project is successful, there may be other opportunities. So, with the Department, the WCB is giving thought to possible future projects using these funds they have never used before.*

*Chair Bonham added this project is located in an underserved area of the state and will bring restoration and recreation benefit to the local community.*

*Speaking on behalf of Assemblymember Garcia, Mr Rossow agreed, saying this area has very few recreational opportunities and the Assemblymember is happy the project is moving forward.*

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

*Chair Bonham requested that the record reflect the recusal of one board member and asked for a motion to approve the proposal.*

**It was moved by Board Member Diane Colburn that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed, allocate \$1,885,000 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c) for the acquisition and to cover internal project-related expenses, authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project, and authorize staff and the California**

**Department of Fish and Wildlife to proceed substantially as planned.**

**Motion Passed.**

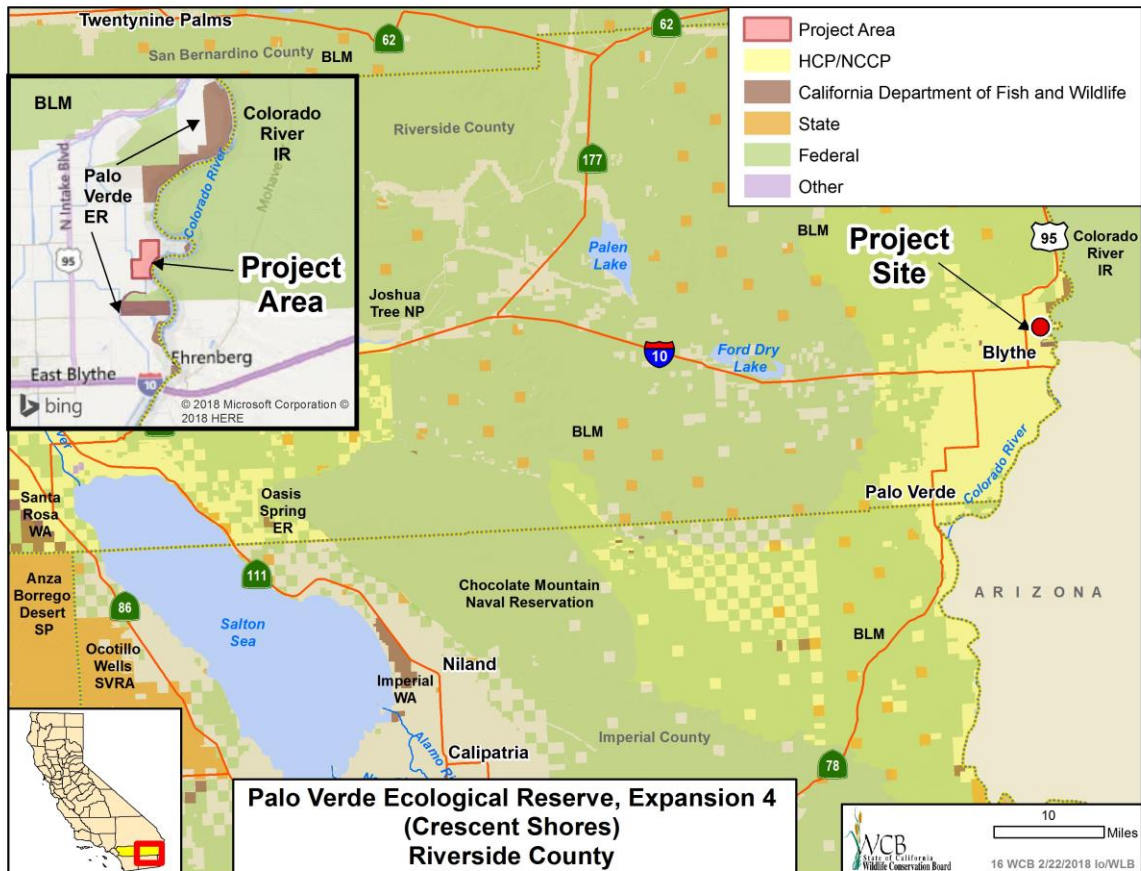
**Pavley – Yes**

**Bonham – Yes**

**Sklar – Yes**

**Colburn – Yes**

**Creasman – Recused**



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

*Mr. Don Crocker presented this project.*

This proposal is to consider the allocation for an amendment to an existing grant to the Imperial Irrigation District (IID) to restore 530± acres of shallow brackish water habitat in the Red Hill Bay area of the Salton Sea, located 15 miles northwest of Brawley in Imperial County. This augmentation will allow for the use of an underground pipeline and saline pump barge to deliver water to the project site as opposed to the open channel, gravity fed design of the original project.

**LOCATION**

Red Hill Bay (Bay) is located in the southeast quadrant of the Salton Sea, immediately south of Red Hill, approximately 12.5 miles north of the city of Westmoreland, California. The Bay is bordered to the west by the Salton Sea and to the east by Garst Road and adjacent habitat managed as part of the Sonny Bono Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge). Red Hill Road forms the northern boundary and Cox and Gentry roads form the southern limit of the project site.

The Red Hill Bay site was recently a shallow (one to three feet deep) bay off the Salton Sea. It was part of the larger Salton Sea but uncovered as the lake elevations declined in the 1920s to 1940s – portions of the area were in agricultural production during that time. The site was inundated again when water levels rose in the Salton Sea, during the late 1980s and 1990s. While it provided some habitat for fish, including the federally listed, endangered native desert pupfish, the main functional value of the Bay was as a habitat for invertebrates, which provide excellent forage for wading and shore birds. The Red Hill Bay project will restore the shallow water habitat value.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The Red Hill Bay project will restore shallow brackish water habitat to the Salton Sea through the construction of a series of low earthen berms that will create water impoundments in two large cells. The resulting impoundments will contain approximately two or three feet of water at the western end of the cells and will become increasingly shallow to the east. This new shallow water habitat will be managed to maximize populations of the endangered desert pupfish and other fish species that form an important food resource for both local and migratory birds.

The technologies that will be used in this project have not yet been tested in the Salton Sea area, and the Red Hill Bay project will be the first time they are applied towards mitigating the negative impacts caused by the receding Sea. As such, the project will serve as a valuable proof of concept for the much larger Species Conservation Habitat project that will cover a far greater area with similar habitat ponds. As with any project that is utilizing innovative but unproven technology, transitioning to the implementation phase can reveal limitations that were not apparent during the design phase. For the Red Hill Bay project, one such issue relates to the saline and river water intakes necessary to provide water to the project site.

The project was originally configured in terms of saline and river water intakes via open dirt channels to a central mixing station and associated mixed water pumps. However, this design has been found to be extremely impractical and cost prohibitive. Every five years as the sea recedes, the distance to the project site will increase by 0.5 miles, thus necessitating an extension of the earthen channel and its associated depth. This will result in the initial 13,150-

foot long, 25-foot deep open dirt channel eventually expanding to an 18,500-foot length and 50-foot depth in order to supply saline waters to the project in the later years.

This augmentation will allow for the use of an underground pipeline and saline pump barge to deliver water to the project site as opposed to the open channel, gravity fed design of the original project. The new design will be more effective due to having the pumps located as close to their respective water sources as possible and using underground force mains to deliver both saline and river water to the mixing station and then distributing the mixed water into the project habitat. Maintaining proximity to the receding seawater will be facilitated by mounting the pump upon a barge that can be moved as necessary. Once the pumping barge is towed to its next location, the addition of intermediate sections of force main piping on the playa will be all that is needed to maintain the saline water supply to the project. Calculations show that once installed, the saline pump barge would only have to be relocated twice during its entire 25-year operational life.

The use of an underground pipeline and saline pump barge will result in more efficient delivery of water to the project along with improved salinity control and reduced ground disturbance impacts through not having substantial open channels across the playa. This new design will also allow for further habitat ponds to be built in a cascade manner from Red Hill Bay, as both the forced main and power cables will be buried and can be built over. This would not be possible with an open, earthen channel.

#### WCB PROGRAM

The proposed project augmentation 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; and threatened and endangered species habitats.

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 create brackish shallow water habitat that will benefit local and migratory bird species as well as the federally listed, endangered native desert pupfish.
- The project will provide a means to stabilize habitat in the event climate change impacts the local hydrologic cycle.

In addition, the proposed project addresses the following priorities outlined in the WCB Strategic Plan: provides species strongholds or refugia and improves habitat for threatened or endangered species.

The Red Hill Bay project is a component of the IID/Imperial County Salton Sea Restoration and Renewable Energy Initiative and the Salton Sea Authority's lake management plan. The project is consistent with relevant regional plans including Imperial County's recently completed renewable energy program and the Open Space Element (under revision) of its General Plan. In addition, the Red Hill Bay project is included in the Refuge's Comprehensive Conservation Plan and was evaluated in its accompanying Environmental Assessment.

#### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

Refuge personnel will operate and manage the project after completion. The cost for that effort is included in the in-kind services from IID and the Refuge. Maintenance and operational costs

will include electrical costs for pumping the water into the cells, repair of eroded areas, maintenance of berms and related tasks.

Ongoing monitoring of the site for pesticide residuals and selenium concentrations will be conducted by Refuge staff, the IID water transfer mitigation team, Salton Sea Authority water transfer mitigation program (as part of the water transfer permit requirements), and U.S. Geological Survey. The monitoring will include documentation of bird sightings and monitoring of water constituents. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation will also participate in the analysis of selenium and other samples.

The project will also be managed according to the Refuge's Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP). As part of the CCP, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be responsible for the following management activities:

- Preparation of a step-down habitat management plan for the proposed project that addresses the range of species supported on the restored wetland. The management plan will include habitat development, maintenance of suitable habitat conditions, and protection of habitat from human disturbances for the Yuma clapper rail.
- Annual Yuma clapper rail surveys to track population size within the Red Hill Bay area and the Refuge. In addition, the Refuge will seek funding to study clapper rail movement among established cattail marsh areas on the project site and the Refuge, the effect that prescribed burns may have on rail movement and productivity, and the effects, if any, of hunting-related disturbance on rail populations in marshes located adjacent to waterfowl hunting areas. The results of this work would be incorporated into a Bay-wide/Refuge-wide habitat management plan, and/or a step-down Yuma clapper rail management plan.
- Protection of desert pupfish populations. When the population of desert pupfish in the created ponds reach suitable levels, Refuge staff will work with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to relocate excess desert pupfish to appropriate habitat in the Salton Sea or adjacent drainage ditches.
- Enhanced Seabird Nesting Site Management, which will encompass the following activities:
  - Maintaining water levels in managed permanent open water ponds that support seabird nesting islands at a depth of at least 18 inches throughout the breeding season;
  - Identifying predators and disturbance to nesting colonies especially during nocturnal periods using motion-activated cameras to be installed in nesting areas during the breeding season;
  - Evaluating benefits of modified nesting site substrates on selected islands to discourage competing Caspian terns and California gulls from establishing nesting colonies in nesting areas favored by gull-billed terns and black skimmers;
  - Developing a monitoring program to evaluate the extent of predation and/or disturbance from California gulls on nesting gull-billed terns and black skimmers; and implementation of a predator management plan to improve gull-billed tern and black skimmer productivity.

## PROJECT FUNDING

Task	Augmentation		Original		Total
	WCB	Match <sup>1</sup>	WCB	Match <sup>2</sup>	
Environmental Compliance				40,000	40,000
Land Lease				85,000	85,000
Project Design			40,000	170,000	210,000
Construction	912,970	350,000	1,537,500	755,914	3,556,384
Electrical Power System	505,380		150,000	536,000	1,191,380
Monitoring and Management			30,000	70,000	100,000
Contingency	74,650		92,500	0	167,150
<i>Totals</i>	<i>\$1,493,000</i>	<i>\$350,000</i>	<i>\$1,850,000</i>	<i>\$1,656,914</i>	<i>\$5,349,914</i>

*Notes:*

- California Natural Resources Agency and US Fish & Wildlife Service Financial Assistance Program (FAP)*
- Match includes: \$1,194,154.00 from FAP; \$332,760.00 from Sonny Bono Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge; and \$130,000.00 from IID*

Project costs in the original grant will be for the finalization of the project design; construction (salt water intake station, river channel, berm and pond construction); extending electrical power to the project site; project management; and water quality monitoring. Augmentation funds will provide for an underground pipeline and saline pump barge to deliver water to the project site, as opposed to the open channel, gravity fed design of the original project.

## FUNDING SOURCE

The proposed funding source for this project augmentation is the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 (Proposition 50), Water Code Section 79565, Fish and Game Code Section 2932.2, which allows for acquisition, grants or other activities that directly restore the Salton Sea and its transboundary watersheds.

## CEQA AND CDFW REVIEW/ RECOMMENDATION

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for funding by the WCB. As lead agency, the Imperial Irrigation District prepared a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the project pursuant to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). On February 6, 2018, the Imperial Irrigation District Board of Directors certified the MND. Staff has considered the MND and has prepared proposed written findings documenting WCB's compliance with CEQA. Subject to approval of this proposal by the WCB, the appropriate Notice of Determination will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

*Chair Bonham asked if there were questions or comments.*

*Board Member Diane Colborn noted that time is of the essence at the Salton Sea, which has resulted in frustration about how long it has taken to get some Salton Sea projects off the ground, in this case, it is a good thing the engineers took time to re-evaluate and redesign the project into a better result.*

*Mr. Crocker stated that Red Hill Bay is the first of similar projects to hit the ground and it bears the weight of proof of concept. The engineers took their time and got it right and hopefully this project can serve as a lesson going forward.*

*Chair Bonham added that you hear in the tech industry that failure is part of innovation and that what has happened here is an iterative advancement to the right technology. This amendment will allow us to do this and we need to do it so that we can ramp to scale yesterday.*

*Mr. Rossow offered the Assemblymember Garcia is also happy to see this amendment move forward. Red Hill Bay was one of his first pieces of legislation.*

*Chair Bonham reported no speaker cards and asked if there were questions or comments. There were none.*

#### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board adopt the written findings and approve this project augmentation as proposed; allocate \$1,493,000.00 from the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 (Proposition 50), Water Code Section 79565, Fish and Game Code Section 2932.2; 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.

**It was moved by Board Member Mary Creasman that the Wildlife Conservation Board adopt the written findings and approve this project augmentation as proposed; allocate \$1,493,000.00 from the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 (Proposition 50), Water Code Section 79565, Fish and Game Code Section 2932.2; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to proceed substantially as planned.**

**Passed Unanimously.**

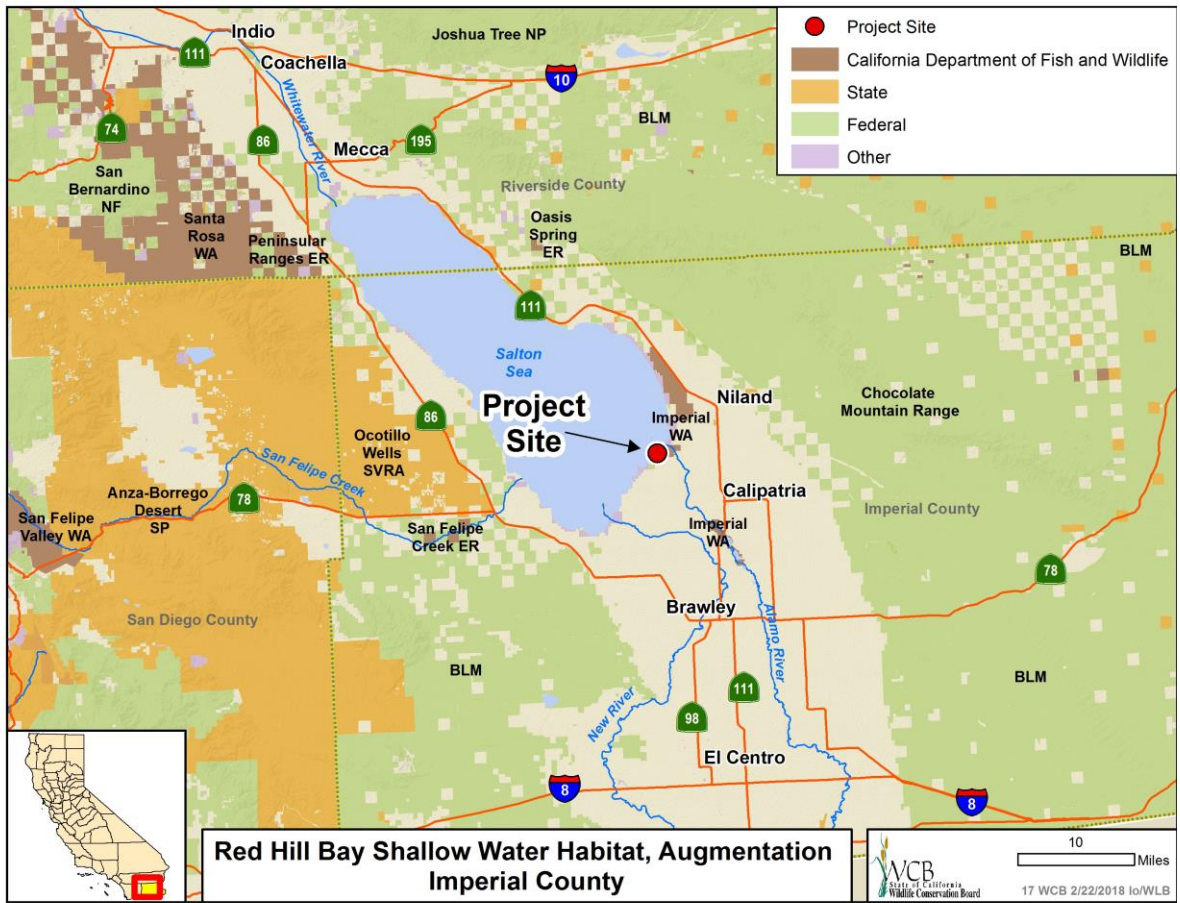
**Colborn – Yes**

**Pavley – Yes**

**Sklar – Yes**

**Bonham – Yes**

**Creasman – Yes**





**Proposals Recommended for Approval Under the Competitive Public Access Program**

Staff will present an overview of the 2017 public access competitive grant program and recommend proposals for funding.

*Chair Bonham noted that the three following projects indicate a new programmatic direction for the WCB.*

*Director Donnelly explained that the three following projects directly relate to public access infrastructure. One of the implementing actions of the Strategic Plan was for the WCB to evaluate its programs and consider which lend themselves to a competitive process and then implement a competitive grant process. To that end, we held a public workshop and then developed and issued a solicitation. He advised that Peter Perrine and Sadie Smith would present the projects.*

*Peter Perrine stated that staff began work on this program about a year ago at the Board's direction. He continued, saying that the goal of the program is provide access to wildlands to urban residents, to provide benefits to disadvantaged communities, and to reach out to the next generation of users of wild California. He reported the receipt of 11 proposals, all of which were reviewed via the approved guidelines, and stated that staff would present the three most deserving proposals received.*

*Board member Mary Creasman said she is very excited about this program. She noted that the program offers a lot of value in areas where infrastructure, such as bathrooms and footbridges, is hard to fund. She said she thinks that in terms of guidelines and solicitation, the WCB needs to think differently about how they are doing outreach and technical assistance. She noted that this program is targeting a new audience, not the typical WCB partner, and that the WCB needs to do more and do differently to make this program a success. She said thinking differently would be required to ensure the money is going where it is intended. She added that the WCB should push for more applications from Southern California.*

*Chair Bonham added, with the disclaimer that he is not trying to influence anyone's opinion on anything that may be on the ballot, that CDFW is in a similar evolution. Own and manage a million plus acres and have a core constituency, which will always be our future. Hunting, angling, wildlife viewing, but what you will find in SB 5/Prop 68, in any components that apply to CDFW there is pretty clear instruction for CDFW to be thinking about how it might spend money on its lands engaging both traditional constituents and then the parts of California the Department has not best engaged with, i.e. urban, disadvantaged communities. I think that is the trajectory of the Department as well. Thank you for bringing it up.*

*Peter Perrine added that he was surprised he had not received more applications from Southern California and that he is committed to providing outreach to the area prior to the next solicitation period. Chair Bonham requested and Mr. Perrine agreed to bring the solicitation to the Board before releasing it publicly. Mary Creasman added that Board members are ready to be a resource too and Fran Pavley concurred.*

One million dollars from the Wildlife Restoration Fund is available for award. Eleven proposals totaling three million dollars were received and evaluated. Priority was given to proposals that aligned with the 2017 priorities: provide the public better access and deeper engagement to fishing, hunting, and wildlife oriented recreational opportunities focused on the following populations: youth/next generation, disadvantaged communities, and urban-focused communities.

Staff recommends Items 18-20 for award and funding under the Public Access Program.

Ms. Sadie Smith presented projects 18-20.

**18. Oroville Wildlife Area Public Access Improvements  
Butte County  
\$484,000**

This proposal is to consider the allocation for a grant to the Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency (SBFCA) for a project to provide public access improvements, including a new earthen canal crossing, new kayak/river access, public parking and restroom improvements on the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Oroville Wildlife Area, located five miles southwest of the City of Oroville in Butte County.

**LOCATION**

The Oroville Wildlife Area (OWA) encompasses approximately 11,869 acres along the Feather River in Butte County, California, and is subdivided into eight areas named A through H. The project area is the D-Unit, which covers approximately 1,500 acres and is located just west of State Route 70 and across the Feather River from the Thermalito Afterbay outlet.

The area consists of riparian woodland habitat and grasslands. Warm water fish species (largemouth bass, bluegill, green sunfish, channel catfish, and black crappie) can be found in the ponds and afterbay. Salmon, steelhead, shad, and striped bass can be found in the Feather River.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The activities proposed as part of this grant application are part of a larger \$19M, multi-benefit project. The purpose of the overall project is to improve public recreation access, improve the connectivity of the Feather River to its historic floodplain, reduce flood stages within the main channel, provide more frequently inundated floodplain-rearing habitat for juvenile salmonids, reduce the extent of invasive plant species, and carry out habitat restoration at the OWA.

The proposed public access component is contained in OWA area D. OWA D-Unit currently suffers limited or non-existent restroom access, and safety issues arising from the makeshift and limited canal crossings that visitors use to access the interior of the OWA. There are no clear designated spots for visitors to park and vehicles regularly become stuck in the loose cobble and gravel. Due to its close proximity to the urban area of Oroville, the OWA can receive a high number of daily visitors (particularly during the opening of Salmon season), which can exacerbate these problems. In addition, the current site conditions provide for limited Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant accessibility.

This Public Access Program Grant award will fund four of the recreation-related components of the overall project. The work includes the construction of a culvert and

new earthen canal crossing, grading work to provide new kayak/river access, and public parking and site access improvements at two locations. The grading and parking improvements will include the installation of large boulders, which will be placed around the perimeter to prevent vehicles from encroaching on the environment. There are limited level areas to park and the popular parking areas consist mainly of either loose gravel or large cobble. The parking areas will be leveled and Class 2 AB road base installed. The project will also construct a concrete foundation pad to allow the placement of ADA portable restrooms. All design work for the project is complete.

The property is a popular site for people wishing to experience the wildlife values of the OWA, with an estimated 170,000 visitors per year. During salmon season, the site is the most popular salmon fishing location on the Feather River, and it may be the most used salmon fishing site in California. Most of the visitors are from Oroville and neighboring cities, all of which are either disadvantaged or severely disadvantaged communities.

### WCB PROGRAM

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

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

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

### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The proposed project is located in a designated Wildlife Area, which is owned by the State of California and managed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) under contract with the Department of Water Resources. Long-term management of the project will be provided by CDFW under their existing land management plan for the area. As land manager, CDFW shall ensure that the Property enhanced with funds provided by Grantor is operated, used and maintained throughout the project life consistent with the purposes of grant.

### PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB	SBFCA	Total Cost
Project Management	15,330	5,000	20,330
Construction	390,530		390,530
Environmental Monitoring and Mitigation	39,070		39,070
Construction Management and Inspection	39,070		39,070
<i>Totals</i>	<i>\$484,000</i>	<i>\$5,000</i>	<i>\$489,000</i>

The project funding includes costs for project management and reporting, construction of the northwest area parking area improvements, the southwest area parking improvements, northern interior road and culvert crossing, northern river/kayak access improvements, environmental monitoring and mitigation, and construction management and inspection.

#### FUNDING SOURCE

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

#### CEQA AND CDFW REVIEW/ RECOMMENDATION (IF NEEDED)

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for funding by the WCB. As Lead Agency, the SBFCA has 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.

#### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board adopt the written findings and approve this project as proposed; allocate \$484,000.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund; authorize staff and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to proceed substantially as planned.

*Ms. Smith noted that Chris Fritz from the Sutter-Butte Flood Control Agency was in attendance.*

*Chair Bonham noted he had not received any speaker cards and asked if there were and comments are questions. Mary Creasman said it is a great project.*

**It was moved by Board Member Mary Creasman that the Wildlife Conservation Board adopt the written findings and approve this project as proposed; allocate \$484,000.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund; authorize staff and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to proceed substantially as planned.**

**Passed Unanimously.**

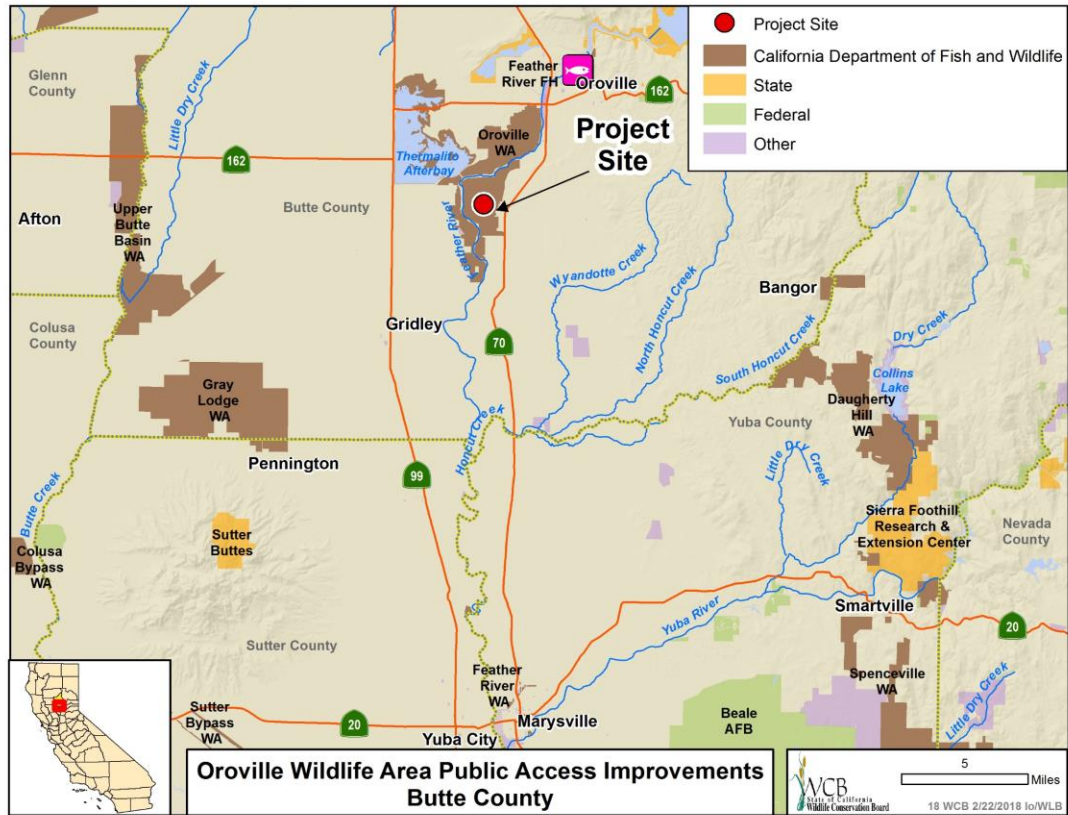
**Colborn – Yes**

**Creasman – Yes**

**Bonham – Yes**

**Sklar – Yes**

**Pavley – Yes**



**19. Point Isabel Water Access Improvements  
Contra Costa  
\$200,000**

This proposal is to consider the allocation for a grant to East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) for a cooperative project with the State Coastal Conservancy to construct a new Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-accessible non-motorized boat ramp, located in the City of Richmond in Contra Costa County.

**LOCATION**

The project site consists of approximately nine acres of parkland along the Point Isabel Regional Shoreline and is a part of the larger McLaughlin Eastshore State Park, which extends 8.5 miles along the East Bay shoreline and totals 1,854 acres of uplands and tidelands. The State of California Department of Parks and Recreation and the EBRPD jointly own the property, but EBRPD manages and operates the project site. It is estimated that more than 4,000 people visit McLaughlin Eastshore State Park each day, or over 1.4 million visits annually. The project site is frequented by hikers, bikers, wind surfers, kayakers and visitors to the off-leash dog park. Additionally, the San Francisco Bay Trail (Bay Trail) runs through the project site.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The existing boat launch area – comprised of cement steps to a graveled jetty – has eroded severely and poses a safety hazard for those trying to access the water. Additionally, there is currently no location for windsurfers, kayakers, canoeists, and stand-up paddle boarders to rig their equipment or wash down their equipment after use. The cement steps and current disabled access parking do not meet ADA codes. There is no access path, making transporting watercraft to the shoreline a challenge.

The Point Isabel Water Access Improvements project will construct a new 100-foot long ADA-accessible kayak ramp and replace 10-feet of deteriorated concrete steps. The existing 40-foot long jetty will be improved. The existing 50-foot long emergency egress area (near the Hoffman Channel inlet) will be improved by reconfiguring the boulders so that boaters may exit the water more safely. A new 3,000 square foot rigging area will be created and interpretive and water trail signage installed. In addition, two existing ADA parking spots will be improved to current code standards and a 250-foot ADA access path will be constructed.

This project is part of a larger effort to improve user experience at Point Isabel Shoreline and build resiliency to sea level rise. WCB funding will be used for Phase 1, which includes enhancing an existing emergency kayak access and providing new rigging area, ADA parking, path and non-motorized boat ramp. Future phases will include shoreline stabilization and revetment along the Hoffman Channel.

The project will provide direct access to the scenic San Francisco Bay, a 450 square-mile estuary rich with wildlife. Interpretive signage will be installed as part of the project to educate water users about how to plan their trip to maximize enjoyment of the natural world in ways that avoid sensitive habitats and leave no trace. The launch site will be available to all non-motorized watercraft including canoe, kayak, windsurf, kite surf or other beach-able sail craft.

WCB PROGRAM

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

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

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

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The EBRPD provides monitoring, operations, and maintenance to a system of parklands and trails in Alameda and Contra Costa counties east of San Francisco. The system comprises 119,000 acres in 65 parks, including over 1,250 miles of trails. EBRPD acquires, manages, and preserves natural and cultural resources for all to enjoy now and into the future. Point Isabel is already part of this well-maintained park system. Parks are maintained in perpetuity. Long-term operations and maintenance will be provided by EBRPD staff and funded from the EBRPD's General Fund.

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

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB	EBRPD, State Coastal Conservancy	Total Cost
Mobilization/Demobilization	20,000	27,000	47,000
Demolition & Site Prep	0	30,000	30,000
Launch Area Improvements	100,000	120,000	220,000
ADA Parking & Access Path	50,000	50,000	100,000
Signage	0	8,000	8,000
Project Management	30,000	40,000	70,000
<i>Totals</i>	<i>\$200,000</i>	<i>\$275,000</i>	<i>\$475,000</i>

Project costs will be for contractor mobilization and demobilization at the project site; site prep; replacement of existing failing concrete steps and current disabled accessible parking not up to current code; construction of access path, rigging area and a 100-foot long ADA-accessible kayak ramp; improvement of existing 40-foot long jetty and 50-foot long emergency egress area by reconfiguring the boulders; installation of interpretive signs and San Francisco Bay Water Trail signs; and project management and oversight.

FUNDING SOURCE

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

**CEQA AND CDFW REVIEW/ RECOMMENDATION (IF NEEDED)**

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for funding by the WCB. As Lead Agency, the East Bay Regional Parks District has prepared a Mitigated Negative Declaration pursuant to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Staff has 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.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board adopt the written findings and approve this project as proposed; allocate \$200,000 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to proceed substantially as planned.

Chair Bonham asked if there were any questions or comments. Executive Director John Donnelly reported the receipt of a letter of support from Assemblymember Tony Thurmond. Chair Bonham added that he personally can attest to the difficult nature of the existing steps. Chair Bonham confirmed no speaker cards were received for this project.

**It was moved by Board Member Chuck Bonham that the Wildlife Conservation Board adopt the written findings and approve this project as proposed; allocate \$200,000 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to proceed substantially as planned.**

**Passed Unanimously.**

**Colborn – Yes**

**Creasman – Yes**

**Bonham – Yes**

**Pavley – Yes**

**Sklar – Yes**





**20. Elkhorn Slough Ecological Reserve Amphitheater Improvements  
Monterey County  
\$278,000**

This proposal is to consider the allocation for a grant to the Elkhorn Slough Foundation, for a cooperative project with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to redesign and repair the existing outdoor amphitheater at the CDFW's Elkhorn Slough Ecological Reserve, located eight miles south of the City of Watsonville in Monterey County.

**LOCATION**

The Oak Grove Amphitheater is located adjacent to the visitor center at the Elkhorn Slough Ecological Reserve (Reserve). The Reserve includes the Elkhorn Slough estuary, which empties into Monterey Bay in the town of Moss Landing in Monterey County. The Reserve, which extends inland for seven miles from Monterey Bay, is owned by the CDFW and managed in partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The Reserve provides five miles of hiking trails, a picnic area, outdoor amphitheater, conference room, the Visitor Center with award-winning interpretive exhibits, teaching and research laboratories, and administrative offices for the Reserve partners. The site supports education, public outreach, research, stewardship and volunteer programs serving primarily the communities of the North Monterey County but receiving visitors from throughout California and around the world.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The existing amphitheater provides an ideal venue for school and youth group orientations, public talks, and special events. In the amphitheater, naturalists introduce visitors to the various habitats and wildlife on the Reserve. However, the current finished redwood seating and electrical infrastructure, installed over 20 years ago, have begun to show signs of weather and termite damage. The benches are cracking and splintering causing a health and safety risk to the public. The electrical is no longer fully operational resulting in a lack of lighting in the evening, also a health and safety risk. Additionally, the amphitheater space currently lacks any shade or weather protection thus eliminating use on overly hot or rainy days. A shade structure would provide covered seating for visitors and youth groups, ensuring a safe and cool gathering place. Without this funding, the Reserve will have to close the amphitheater, losing a valuable opportunity to engage students and the public in this beautiful outdoor space.

The objective of this construction project is to construct an amphitheater with new seating, electricity, shade covering, stage, and interpretive signage in order to increase public and student access to and enjoyment of the unique wildlife area.

The proposed project will deepen the outdoor experiences to more than 8,000 students who visit the Reserve each year at no charge. The amphitheater will be the site of environmental education lessons led by the CDFW education staff and volunteers. These lessons focus on habitat and wildlife identification, regional natural history, and ecology. An improved and covered sitting area would support the lesson delivery to the students and in addition the Reserve offers a lecture series to the general public and to groups, such as the Boy and Girl Scouts. In all, more than 26 youth groups (1000 children) will directly benefit from improvements to the dilapidated facilities. The site is made available to other environmental education partners with environmental education programs. Finally, the amphitheater offers direct access to the adjacent oak grove, which is an exceptional bird watching site with numerous songbirds, acorn woodpeckers, hawks, and owls known to frequent the area. These opportunities are offered to the estimated 20,000 annual unscheduled Reserve visitors.

### WCB PROGRAM

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

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

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

### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The Elkhorn Slough Foundation Reserve Manager will supervise the general upkeep and maintenance at this site. The project site will be managed by CDFW staff pursuant to the Elkhorn Slough Ecological Reserve Land Management Plan.

### PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB	CDFW	Total Cost
Design	20,000		20,000
Demolition	20,000		20,000
Construction	175,000		175,000
Signage	12,000		12,000
Landscaping		2,000.00	2,000
Project Management	51,000	12,045.00	63045
Labor		32,594.00	32,594
<i>Totals</i>	<i>\$278,000</i>	<i>\$46,639</i>	<i>\$324,639</i>

Project costs will be for architectural designs and drawings completed and submitted to State Architect; removal of all existing structures; installation of electrical infrastructure, benches, shade structure, a new stage, complete lighting and audio/visual equipment, and signage; landscaping; and project management.

### FUNDING SOURCE

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

### CEQA AND CDFW REVIEW/ RECOMMENDATION (IF NEEDED)

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for funding by the WCB. The project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3 Section 15301 (d), Restoration or rehabilitation of deteriorated or damaged structures, facilities, or mechanical equipment. Subject to Board approval of the project, staff will file the appropriate Notice of Exemption with the State Clearinghouse.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$278,000.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund; authorize staff and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to proceed substantially as planned.

*A video provided by the Elk Horn Foundation was played and proved effective in communicating the impact the work at the Reserve is having on young visitors.*

*Ms. Smith noted that Dave Feliz and Virginia Guhin from the Elk Horn Slough Foundation were in attendance.*

*Chair Bonham stated there were no speaker cards and asked if there were any questions or comments. Mary Creasman noted the effectiveness of the video and suggested it would be worthwhile to explore adopting videos as a common way of telling the story of individual projects and the investment being made. Chair Bonham followed with a thought, conceding he was not aware of particulars, that perhaps local TV stations might be interested in participating from a public service standpoint. Executive Director Donnelly said WCB staff will check it out.*

*Board Member Eric Sklar commented that approving projects like these is the joyful part of being part of the Board, adding that these are great projects. He thanked the staff and everyone who worked on the projects.*

*Mr. Sklar also suggested two administrative changes; the addition of a "New Business" item, and, in the interest of conservation and saving money, the move to an electronic packet.*

*Executive Director Donnelly asked if everyone is comfortable with an electronic agenda packet. The Board indicated they are. Mr. Sklar noted the importance of providing a PDF file to Board members that they can access even when not connected to the internet.*

**It was moved by Board Member Eric Sklar that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$278,000.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund; authorize staff and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to proceed substantially as planned.**

**Passed Unanimously.**

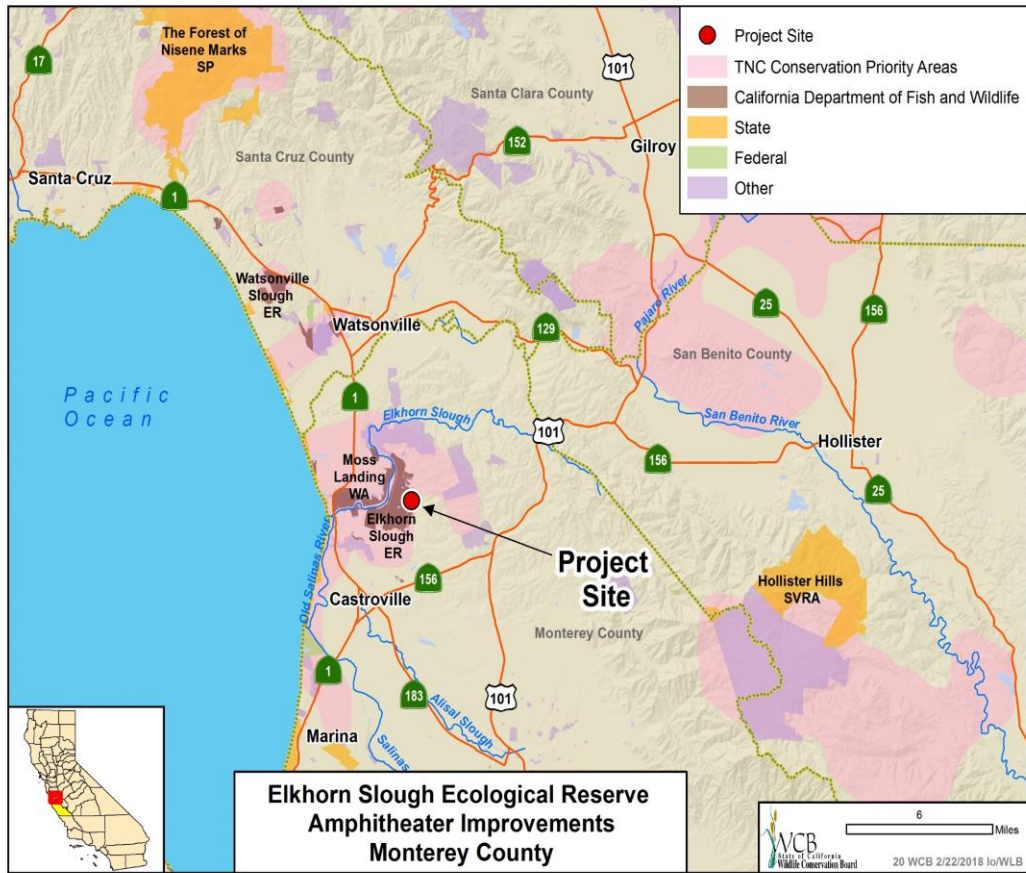
**Colborn – Yes**

**Creasman – Yes**

**Bonham – Yes**

**Pavley – Yes**

**Sklar – Yes**



## **21. Wildlife Conservation Board Strategic Plan Informationa**

*Melanie Gogol-Prokurat, CDFW, presented this information.*

Staff with the Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) presented an overview of the latest version of CDFW's Areas of Conservation Emphasis (ACE-3). ACE-3 is a system that provides an interactive map of biological data generated by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and its partner organizations. This tool allows for the spatial visualization of areas within the State that provide the following: species biodiversity, significant habitats, connectivity, climate change resilience, State Wildlife Action Plan priority areas, and potential stressors (e.g., sea level rise extent or planned urbanization). These concepts will allow WCB staff and our partners to prioritize potential projects for funding.

*Ms. Gogol-Prokurat reported that Karen Miner and other CDFW staff were present.*

*Mary Creasman said she is curious about data regarding disadvantaged communities being sourced later. She said she is most interested in the three audiences that the Board has adopted as the target of recreation and the Public Access Program. What is the plan and how can we be sure that we make those targets stack players?*

*Ms. Gogol-Prokurat stated that including that data is on the radar and staff can make it a priority.*

*Ms. Creasman said she thinks this is great and that it will amp up the Board's ability to do multi-benefit projects in a strategic way. She continued, saying she thinks a great purpose for this tool will be prioritization, providing a view of where the biggest bang for the buck is. She continued, saying she thinks it may be helpful at some point to add an overlay of previous conservation projects that would show where state dollars have previously been spent, in order to identify areas that are high-need but have not received the benefit of State conservation dollars. She stated she thinks many stake-holders could make good use of this tool and she would like to see it shared.*

*Ms. Gogol-Prokurat confirmed that CDFW intends to conduct outreach to the public regarding use of the tool.*

*Director Donnelly stated that the ACE 2 version of this program has been instrumental in the WCB's priority of projects to fund. He added it may not have been evident at the Board level, but behind the scenes, projects went through ACE 2 and LAE and CAPP development. The ACE 3 will offer even more benefit. He said the WCB will be able to use this at the front end and the back end of project evaluation. The ACE update dovetails with a joint WCB/CDFW effort to update and amend the information contained in LAE and CAPP documents as recommended in the Strategic Plan.*

*Diane Colborn asked how best to share this information with other State agencies.*

*Ms. Gogol-Prokurat stated that ACE 2 is shared with other agencies and the public, so a process is already in place.*

*Chair Bonham noted his commitment to sharing data and reported that one of the maps shared at this meeting was a joint effort of CDFW and CalFire.*

*Director Donnelly thanked Karen Miner, Melanie Gogol-Prokurat, Tom Lupo, and all the GIS and IT staff, not only for assistance with the ACE 3, but also for the LAE and CAPP process. He stated he very much appreciates the help the Department provides the WCB and hopes the Board does too.*

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



## **22. Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Informational**

*Director John Donnelly introduced this Item.*

Staff will present latest information on the development of the Wildlife Conservation Board's [Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program Guidelines \(pdf\)](#) (Guidelines), a program funded through the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. The program's funds will be used for climate adaptation projects that will result in enduring benefits and provide the following objectives:

- At least 60 percent of the funds appropriated shall be made available for grants for conservation easements and long-term conservation agreements that conserve natural and working lands for at least 50 years for the benefit of climate adaptation and resilience.
- The remainder of the funds may also be used to develop and implement natural and working lands adaptation and resiliency planning that prioritizes the conservation and management of natural and working lands, provide technical assistance for natural and working land managers, and support efforts that improve rural-urban coordination on climate change adaptation.

The intent of this grant program is to fund projects that provide for climate adaptation and resilience consistent with the State's climate adaptation strategy (Safeguarding California Plan), contribute to the goals of AB 32, support WCB's Strategic Plan, and help fulfil WCB's Mission. In addition, projects will be consistent with other statewide plans and priorities, including the State Wildlife Action Plan and the California Water Action Plan, among others.

*Mary Creasman noted that the enabling legislation specifies natural and working lands and asked whether the Guidelines mention working lands.*

*Chair Bonham stated that Section 1.3 on page one of the Guidelines addresses working lands. He added that there would be value in defining "working lands" for these purposes.*

*Director Donnelly added that staff is exploring the definition of working lands as it exists in the Climate community.*

*Board Member Eric Sklar said that he would like to see the 60 percent as outlined in Section 1.3 at a higher percentage.*

*Director Donnelly asked the Board to consider whether to cap the amount of a grant.*

*Mr. Sklar suggested another approach would be to cap the number of grants.*

*Mary Creasman said she is concerned with durability and long-term benefit and questioned whether that will be emphasized in scoring.*

*Director Donnelly said it will be a significant factor in scoring conservation easement projects, which will be perpetual easements rather than 50-year easements. It will not be required on the planning side.*

*Chair Bonham noted that there may be merit in considering a workshop to discuss durability, and more discussion could take place at the next Board meeting, but to him, durability may fall into a pass/fail category. He said he feels the issue is less-complicated on the easement side than on the restoration side.*



*Peter Perrine observed that the ACE 3 presentation included climate-adaptation and resiliency models that were 50-year or longer models. .*

*Mary Creasman said she likes the pre-proposal phase of the Guidelines. She asked for more information on what technical assistance will be available, particularly to under-resourced communities. She also wondered if outreach is done about the public comment period.*

*Director Donnelly said some outreach has occurred.*

*Chair Bonham suggested that a notification release regarding the public comment period should be sent to the WCB mailing list. He said it should include the date by which comments must be received, and the date and time of the workshop, once that is in place. He noted he would like to discuss further at the next Board meeting.*

*Board Member Sklar offered that the Fish and Game Commission would be happy to send a notice through their email list also.*

*Mary Creasman asked if information about technical assistance would show up in the Guidelines. Director Donnelly replied that he didn't know yet, but that it will be in the solicitation.*

*Peter Perrine said that if anyone had specific language in mind, it would be useful, but that the Guidelines are intentionally broad so they may be used for multiple solicitations. The solicitations are more specific.*

*Director Donnelly said there may be multiple solicitations in a single year.*

*Chair Bonham reported six speaker cards.*

*Paul Mason, Pacific Forest Trust, welcomed the new Board members and stated he likes the expanded Board. He stated he is pleased that Greenhouse Gas Relief Funds have come to the WCB. He noted that much of the Board discussion covered much of what he intended to comment on, but would add that he feels the Guidelines and/or solicitation would benefit from increased clarity and the addition of examples.*

*Analise Rivero, Defenders of Wildlife, voiced support for this effort.*

*Kristen Murphy, California Association of Resource Conservation Districts, wished to echo the importance of including working lands. Defined by her organization as: agriculture, rangelands and working forests-*

*Alex Lumur, The Nature Conservancy, concurred with earlier comments on the importance of working lands, stating that The Nature Conservancy also recommends that the Guidelines allow for funding of County Scale Climate Action Plans that include both mitigation and adaptation of working lands, and fund activities that can implement these plans. She requested science-based evaluation of proposals and commented on the importance of developing metrics. She observed the use of both "resilience" and "adaptation" in the Guidelines and suggested consistent use of one or the other would be more clear*

*Vivien Erickson, Carbon Institute, expressed excitement over the Program and emphasized the importance of settling on a definition of "working lands".*

*Brian Shobe, Cal Can, stated he is excited about the Program and agrees on the need for a definition of working lands. Noting that what farmers are growing now is not what they will be growing in the future, he said the challenge will be how to manage the transition of lands to new crops or restored habitat. He shared CalCan's assessment of what will be required for a successful transition. Lastly, he suggested the 50-year reference in the Guidelines be clarified and offered CalCan's assistance with developing language.*

*Director Donnelly thanked the speakers for participating and said the WCB would welcome their comments in writing as well.*

*Mary Creasman asked if at the next meeting, there could be some discussion on how Proposition 68 money would be allotted, in the event the proposition passes.*

*Fran Pavley commented that she believes "resiliency" should be used in the Guidelines, and that she agrees with Paul Mason's suggestion that examples would be helpful. She directed attention to an LA Times article about sea-marshes being at risk and observed that \$20 million won't go far in this big state. She said she assumed conservation easements are in perpetuity and 50-years isn't very long.*

*Ms. Pavley asked what other agencies might be worked with to leverage projects.*

*Ms. Colborn touched on the conservation easement perpetuity language in the Guidelines and expressed concern about monitoring requirements of conservation easements.*

*WCB General Counsel Colin Mills confirmed that in the Civil Code, conservation easements are defined as being in perpetuity.*

*Mr. Perrine stated that conservation easements in perpetuity will be monitored in perpetuity.*

*Chair Bonham asked if there were more questions or concerns, there were none and the meeting was adjourned.*

Respectfully Submitted



John P. Donnelly  
Executive Director

## PROGRAM STATEMENT

At the close of the meeting on **February 22, 2018**, the amount allocated to projects since the Wildlife Conservation Board's inception in 1947 totaled **\$2,781,999,771.27**. This total includes funds reimbursed by the Federal Government under the Accelerated Public Works Program completed in 1966, the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program, the Anadromous Fish Act Program, the Sport Fish Restoration Act Program, the Pittman-Robertson Program, and the Estuarine Sanctuary Program.

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

A. Fish Hatchery and Stocking Projects .....	\$18,414,394.06
B. Fish Habitat Preservation, Development & Improvement .....	\$51,546,520.92
Reservoir Construction or Improvement .....	7,456,397.00
Stream Clearance and Improvement.....	31,246,049.78
Stream Flow Maintenance Dams.....	542,719.86
Marine Habitat .....	5,865,581.57
Fish Screens, Ladders and Weir Projects .....	6,435,772.71
C. Fishing Access Projects.....	\$73,390,235.34
Coastal and Bay .....	9,469,773.14
River and Aqueduct Access .....	27,819,731.92
Lake and Reservoir Access.....	15,097,877.24
Piers .....	21,002,853.04
D. Game Farm Projects.....	\$146,894.49
E. Wildlife Habitat Acquisition, Development and Improvement .....	\$2,537,671,301.95
Wildlife Areas (General) .....	497,213,552.49
Miscellaneous Wildlife Habitat Development .....	54,445,903.81
Wildlife Areas/Ecological Reserves, (Threatened, Endangered or Unique Habitat) .....	814,337,222.64
Land Conservation Area .....	15,130,464.18

Inland Wetlands Conser. Grants & Easements ....	46,504,561.87	
Riparian Habitat Conser. Grants & Easements ..	104,364,587.42	
Other Wildlife Habitat Grants .....	1,005,675,009.54	
F. Hunting Access Projects .....		\$1,365,195.57
G. Miscellaneous Projects (including leases) .....		\$54,150,586.98
H. Special Project Allocations.....		\$1,932,420.35
I. Miscellaneous Public Access Projects .....		\$41,535,886.59
State Owned .....	2,247,004.81	
Grants .....	39,288,881.78	
J. Sales and/or exchanges .....		\$1,846,335.02
K. Natural Heritage Preservation Tax Credit Act (tax credits awarded). (\$57,261,234.00)		
Statutory plans .....	(0.00)	
Corridors, wetlands, wildlife habitat, streams and riparian habitat .....	(6,289,658.00)	
Agricultural lands .....	(13,775,640.07)	
Water and water rights.....	(0.00)	
State and local parks, open space and archaeological resources .....	(37,195,935.93)	
<b>Total Allocated to Projects .....</b>		<b>\$2,781,999,771.27</b>