



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

### WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

August 30, 2018  
10:00 a.m.

Natural Resources Building, First Floor Auditorium  
Sacramento, CA 95814

#### *Final Agenda*

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- \*7. Crescent City Marsh Wildlife Area, Expansion 2** **13**  
**Del Norte County**  
**\$0**  
To consider the acceptance of 133± acres of land by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to satisfy a natural resource damage mitigation requirement of the California Department of Transportation contained in a Stipulated Judgement. The property is located near Crescent City in Del Norte County.
- \*8 Garibaldi Land Exchange, Phase II** **16**  
**Solano County**  
**\$75,000**  
To consider the exchange of 336± acres owned by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) for 226± acres, owned by Pacific Flyway Fund to serve as a consolidation of CDFW's Grizzly Island Wildlife Area, located in the Suisun Marsh near the City of Fairfield in Solano County. The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, which allows for the acquisition, enhancement or restoration of wetlands in the Central Valley. [Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(d), Inland Wetlands Conservation Program]
- \*9. East Contra Costa County HCP/NCCP (Poppi/Halstead)** **20**  
**Contra Costa County**  
**\$0**  
To consider the acceptance of a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition grant and the approval to subgrant these federal funds to the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy for a cooperative project with the East Bay Regional Park District to acquire 72± acres of land for the protection and preservation of existing regional wildlife linkages, including grassland, oak woodland, oak savanna, seasonal wetland, and creek habitat areas within the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan, located in the Diablo Mountain Range, west of the City of Brentwood in Contra Costa County. The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, which allows for the acquisition and protection of habitats that are critical to the sustainability of threatened or endangered species. [Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75055(c)(SSJD-NCCP)]
- \*10. Sinnott Parcel – OSPR Oil Mitigation Fund Project** **24**  
**San Mateo County**  
**\$0**  
To consider the acquisition of a conservation easement over 160± acres of land by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and to accept settlement funds from the U.S. Department of the Interior Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Fund for the protection of threatened and endangered species, open-space, and habitat values for wildlife, fish, and plant species including its value as nesting habitat for marbled murrelets, located near Pescadero in San Mateo County. The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, which allows for the acquisition of habitat to protect rare, endangered, threatened or fully protected species. [Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c)]

- \*11. Morongo Basin Expansions 2 and 3** **28**  
**San Bernardino County**  
**\$196,250**  
To consider the allocation for two grants to the Mojave Desert Land Trust to acquire 247± acres of land from two separate owners for the protection of desert habitat corridors in the Morongo Basin, located near the community of Joshua Tree in San Bernardino County. The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, which allows for the acquisition of habitat to protect rare, endangered, threatened or fully protected species. [Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c)]
- \*12. Jamul Creek Watershed Riparian Restoration, Augmentation** **32**  
**San Diego County**  
**\$375,000**  
Item withdrawn from consideration at this time
- \*13. San Dieguito River Riparian Habitat Restoration, Augmentation** **33**  
**San Diego County**  
**\$345,000**  
To consider the allocation for an augmentation to an existing grant to River Partners for a cooperative project with the City of San Diego (City) to restore 100± acres of riparian and oak woodland habitat on City property located approximately two miles upstream of Lake Hodges, near Escondido in San Diego County. The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, which allows for the acquisition, restoration or enhancement of riparian habitat and aquatic habitat for salmonids and trout [Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(e/f)], and to protect or enhance a flood protection corridor or bypass. [Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(e/f) (Proposition 1E)]
- 14. Lake Earl Wildlife Area, Coastal Dunes Restoration** **37**  
**Del Norte County**  
**\$300,000**  
To consider the allocation for a grant to Friends of the Dunes for a cooperative project with the Tolowa Dunes Stewards, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and the California Department of Parks and Recreation to restore natural processes to coastal dune and sand spit habitats on CDFW's Lake Earl Wildlife Area, located near Crescent City in Del Norte County. The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, which allows for the acquisition, development, rehabilitation, restoration and protection of habitat to promote the recovery of threatened and endangered species, to provide corridors linking separate habitat areas to prevent habitat fragmentation, and to protect significant natural landscapes and ecosystems and other significant habitat areas. [California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Fund (Proposition 40), Public Resources Code Section 5096.650(a)]
- 15. Willow Creek Wildlife Area Meadow Enhancement** **41**  
**Lassen County**  
**\$225,000**  
To consider the allocation for a grant to Ducks Unlimited, Inc., for a cooperative project with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service to enhance meadows and restore riparian habitat on the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Willow Creek Wildlife Area, located 17± miles north of the City of Susanville in Lassen County. 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 to protect or enhance a flood protection corridor or bypass outside the Central Valley. [Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(d)(Proposition 1E), Wetlands Outside the Central Valley]

**16. Honey Lake Wildlife Area Water Infrastructure Improvements**

**45**

**Lassen County**

**\$396,000**

To consider the allocation for a grant to Ducks Unlimited, Inc., for a cooperative project with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to drill a deep well, rehabilitate a second deep well and install pipelines on CDFW's Honey Lake Wildlife Area, located 22± miles east of the City of Susanville in Lassen County. 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 outside the Central Valley. [Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(d), Wetlands Outside the Central Valley]

**17. Indian Creek, Lost Coast Redwood and Salmon Initiative Phase II**

**49**

**Mendocino County**

**\$1,250,000**

To consider the allocation for a grant to the Northcoast Regional Land Trust for a cooperative project with the California Natural Resource Agency and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to acquire a conservation easement over 2,703± acres of land for the protection of a mixed conifer working forest, including riparian corridors, salmonid streams, coastal watersheds and habitat linkages located near the community of Whitethorn in Mendocino County. The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, which allows for forest conservation and protection projects 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)]

**18. Laursen Outback Preserve**

**54**

**Placer County**

**\$600,000**

To consider the allocation for a grant to Placer Land Trust to acquire in fee 333± acres of land for the protection of native oak woodland habitat, and provide future wildlife oriented public use opportunities located near Auburn in Placer County. The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, which allows for the acquisition, development, rehabilitation, restoration and protection of habitat to promote the recovery of threatened and endangered species, to provide corridors linking separate habitat areas to prevent habitat fragmentation, and to protect significant natural landscapes and ecosystems and other significant habitat areas. [California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Fund (Proposition 40), Public Resources Code Section 5096.650(a)]

**19. Pacific Union College Forest**

**58**

**Napa County**

**\$3,500,000**

To consider the acquisition of a conservation easement over 864± acres of land by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) under the California

Forest Legacy Program Act of 2007, and the allocation of a grant to CAL FIRE of up to \$3,500,000 to protect a mixed conifer forest in Angwin in Napa County. The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, which allows for forest conservation and protection projects 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)]

**20. Lower American River Natural Resources Management Plan** **63**

**Sacramento County**

**\$500,000**

Item withdrawn from consideration at this time.

**21. El Dorado Ranch Phase III** **64**

**El Dorado County**

**\$2,500,000**

To consider the allocation for a grant to the American River Conservancy (ARC) to acquire in fee 1,018± acres of land for a cooperative project with the California Natural Resources Agency, California Wildlife Foundation, and El Dorado County for the protection and preservation of oak woodland habitat, and to provide for potential future wildlife oriented public use opportunities. The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, which provide funding for the acquisition and protection of habitat to promote the recovery of threatened and endangered species and to protect corridors linking separate habitat areas, to prevent habitat fragmentation, and to protect significant natural landscapes and ecosystems and other significant habitat areas. [California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Fund (Proposition 40), Public Resources Code Section 5096.650(a)]

**22. Willow Creek Ranch** **68**

**San Benito County**

**\$600,000**

To consider the allocation for a grant to the California Rangeland Trust for a cooperative project with the Bureau of Reclamation to acquire a working lands conservation easement over 4,459± acres of land for the protection of native oak woodlands, annual grasslands and riparian areas, and threatened and endangered habitat located near the community of Paicines in San Benito County. The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, which allows for the acquisition, development, rehabilitation, restoration and protection of habitat to promote the recovery of threatened and endangered species, to provide corridors linking separate habitat areas to prevent habitat fragmentation, and to protect significant natural landscapes and ecosystems and other significant habitat areas. [California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Fund (Proposition 40), Public Resources Code Section 5096.650(a)]

**23. San Joaquin River Parkway, River Center Public Access** **72**

**Improvements**

**Fresno County**

**\$400,000**

To consider the allocation for a grant to the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust (Trust) for a cooperative project with the San Joaquin River Conservancy and other

private donors to improve and construct public use and interpretive features, and install a solar power system at the Trust's 20± acre Coke Hallowell Center for River Studies, located 2± miles east of State Route 41 in Fresno County. The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, which allows for river parkway projects identified by the San Joaquin River Conservancy. [Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75050(f)]

**24 Triangle Ranch**

**77**

**Los Angeles County**

**\$3,400,000**

To consider the allocation for a grant to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for a cooperative project with the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy to acquire in fee 70± acres of land for the protection of chaparral, coastal sage scrub, native grasslands and oak woodland-savannah habitat and to protect populations of the federally endangered Lyon's pentachaeta located near the community of Agoura Hills in Los Angeles County. The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, which allows for the acquisition of habitat to protect rare, endangered, threatened or fully protected species. [Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c)]

**25 Lower American River Conservancy Program**

**81**

**Information/Action**

Staff will provide informational update and seek approval of Program Guidelines and the 2018 Proposal Solicitation.

**26. Strategic Plan Update**

**84**

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

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

- New Business
- Next WCB Meeting – November 15, 2018

**Adjourn**

**PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

Persons with disabilities needing reasonable accommodation to participate in public meetings or other CDFW activities are invited to contact the Department's EEO Officer at (916) 653-9089 or [EEO@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:EEO@wildlife.ca.gov). Accommodation requests for facility and/or meeting accessibility should be received by May 3, 2018. Requests for American Sign Language Interpreters should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event, and requests for Real-Time Captioners at least four weeks prior to the event. These timeframes are to help ensure that the requested accommodation is met. If a request for an accommodation has been submitted but is no longer needed, please contact the EEO Officer immediately.

## WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

August 30, 2018  
10:00 a.m.

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

### 1. **Roll Call**

#### Wildlife Conservation Board Members

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

Alina Bokde, Public Member

Michael Cohen, Member  
Director, Department of Finance

Diane Colburn, Public Member

Mary Creasman, Public Member

Fran Pavley, Public Member

Eric Sklar, Member  
President, Fish and Game Commission

#### Joint Legislative Advisory Committee

Senator Jean Fuller

Senator Nancy Skinner

Senator (*vacant*)

Assemblymember Laura Friedman  
*Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi –Alternate*

Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia  
*Assemblymember Miguel Santiago –Alternate*

Assemblymember Monique Limon  
*Assemblymember Marc Levine -Alternate*

Executive Director  
John P. Donnelly

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

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

## 3. Funding Status

Informational

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

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

(a) 2018-19 WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND, (0447)	
Budget Act	\$1,000,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	0.00
<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$1,000,000.00</i>
August 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
Total Project Development	0.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$1,000,000.00</i>
(b) 2018-19 HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND, (0262)	
Non-budget Act	\$20,663,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	0.00
<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$20,663,000.00</i>
August 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
Total Project Development	0.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$20,663,000.00</i>
(c) 2017-18 HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND, (0262)	
Non-budget Act	\$20,663,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	-1,991,000.00
<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$18,672,000.00</i>
August 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
Total Project Development	-3,000,000.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$15,672,000.00</i>
(d) 2016-17 HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND, (0262)	
Non-budget Act	\$20,663,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	-1,768,719.00
<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$18,894,281.00</i>
August 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	-4,234,503.00
Total Project Development	-14,659,778.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>
(e) 2015-16 HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND, (0262)	
Non-budget Act	\$20,663,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	-12,742,040.00
<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$7,920,960.00</i>
August 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	-189,673.00
Total Project Development	-6,249,303.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$1,481,984.00</i>



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(f) 2014-15 HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND, (0262)	
Non-budget Act	\$20,663,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	-18,609,353.00
<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$2,053,647.00</i>
August 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
Total Project Development	-2,051,697.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$1,950.00</i>
(g) 2013-14 HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND, (0262)	
Non-budget Act	\$20,663,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	-20,402,265.00
<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$260,735.00</i>
August 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	-244,050.00
Total Project Development	0.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$16,685.00</i>
(h) 2012-13 HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND, (0262)	
Budget Act	\$20,663,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	-7,167,463.00
<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$13,495,537.00</i>
August 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	-225,000.00
Total Project Development	0.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$13,270,537.00</i>
(i) 2011-12 HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND, (0262)	
Budget Act	\$20,663,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	-16,133,643.00
<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$4,529,357.00</i>
August 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
Total Project Development	0.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$2,942,902.00</i>
(j) 2010-11 HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND, (0262)	
Budget Act	\$20,668,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	-20,439,772.00
<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$228,228.00</i>
August 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	-133,777.00
Total Project Development	-10,000.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$84,451.00</i>
(k) 2009-10 HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND, (0262)	
Budget Act	\$20,668,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	-20,532,703.00
<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$135,297.00</i>
August 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	-130,247.00
Total Project Development	0.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$5,050.00</i>

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(l) 2008-09 HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND, (0262)	
Budget Act	\$20,668,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	-20,638,546.00
<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$29,454.00</i>
August 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
Total Project Development	0.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$29,454.00</i>
(m) 2007-08 HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND, (0262)	
Budget Act	\$20,674,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	-20,306,743.00
<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$367,257.00</i>
August 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
Total Project Development	0.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$367,257.00</i>
(n) 2006-07 HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND, (0262)	
Budget Act	\$20,699,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	-19,839,667.00
<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$859,333.00</i>
August 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
Total Project Development	-859,333.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>
(o) 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>
August 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
Total Project Development	-110,000.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$3,555,000.00</i>
(p) 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>
August 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
Total Project Development	0.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$141,000.00</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>
August 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
Total Project Development	-87,880.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>

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(r) 2003-04 CALIFORNIA CLEAN WATER, CLEAN AIR, SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS AND COASTAL PROTECTION FUND, (6029)	
Budget Act 2016 (New Appropriation of Reverted Fund EY 2006)	
(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>
August 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
Total Project Development	0.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$1,281,845.00</i>
(s) 2001-02 CALIFORNIA CLEAN WATER, CLEAN AIR, SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS AND COASTAL PROTECTION FUND, (6029)	
Continuously Appropriated (Section 5096.650)	
	\$273,000,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	-261,591,997.00
<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$11,408,003.00</i>
August 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	-4,035,000.00
Total Project Development	-7,373,003.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>
(t) 2002-03 WATER SECURITY, CLEAN DRINKING WATER, COASTAL AND BEACH PROTECTION FUND OF 2002, (6031)	
Continuously Appropriated (Sections 79565 and 79572)	
including Chapter 81, Statutes of 2005	\$814,350,000.00
2003-04 Budget Act Transfer to HCF from Section 79565	-21,000,000.00
2004-05 Budget Act Transfer to HCF from Section 79565	-21,000,000.00
2005-06 Budget Act Transfer to HCF from Section 79565	-4,000,000.00
2005-06 Budget Act Transfer to HCF from Section 79572	-3,100,000.00
2006-07 Budget Act Transfer to HCF from Section 79572	-17,688,000.00
2007-08 Budget Act Transfer to HCF from Section 79572	-5,150,000.00
2008-09 Budget Act Transfer to HCF from Section 79572	-1,000,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	-714,423,221.00
<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$26,988,779.00</i>
August 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
Total Project Development	-18,103,188.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$8,885,591.00</i>
(u) 2018-19 SAFE DRINKING WATER, WATER QUALITY AND SUPPLY, FLOOD CONTROL, RIVER AND COASTAL PROTECTION FUND OF 2006, (6051)	
Chapter 29, Statutes of 2018 (SJRS Projects)	
	\$8,000,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	0.00
<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$8,000,000.00</i>
August 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	-400,000.00
Total Project Development	-7,600,000.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>
(v) 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	-130,844.00
<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$10,869,156.00</i>
August 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
Total Project Development	-8,989,000.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$1,880,156.00</i>

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(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 (SB 8 SSJD-NCCP)	\$5,700,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	-2,456,750.00
<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	\$3,243,250.00
August 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	-10,000.00
Total Project Development	0.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	\$3,233,250.00
(x) 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	-156,993,070.00
<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	\$7,706,930.00
August 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	-4,795,000.00
Total Project Development	-2,852,306.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	\$59,624.00
(y) 2006-07 SAFE DRINKING WATER, WATER QUALITY AND SUPPLY, FLOOD CONTROL, RIVER AND COASTAL PROTECTION FUND OF 2006 CO Budget (6051)Continuously Appropriated (Section 75055b) &75055b3	
UC Natural Reserve & 75055b LA Rivers	\$123,525,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	-118,800,486.00
<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	\$4,724,514.00
August 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
Total Project Development	-4,175,000.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	\$549,514.00
(z) 2018-19 WATER QUALITY, SUPPLY, AND INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT FUND OF 2014, (6083)	
Budget Act 2018 (Section 79735(b)(2))- WCB Only	\$41,200,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	0.00
<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	\$41,200,000.00
August 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
Total Project Development	0.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	\$41,200,000.00
(aa) 2017-18 WATER QUALITY, SUPPLY, AND INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT FUND OF 2014, (6083)	
Budget Act (Section 79735(b)(2))- WCB Only	\$38,400,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	-30,226,438.00
<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	\$8,173,562.00
August 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
Total Project Development	0.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	\$8,173,562.00

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(ab) 2016-17 WATER QUALITY, SUPPLY, AND INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT FUND OF 2014, (6083)	
Budget Act (Section 79735(b)(2))- WCB Only	\$38,400,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	-20,165,924.00
<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$18,234,076.00</i>
August 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
Total Project Development	0.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$18,234,076.00</i>
(ac) 2015-16 WATER QUALITY, SUPPLY, AND INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT FUND OF 2014, (6083)	
Budget Act (Section 79735(b)(2))- WCB Only- Reapp 18/19	\$38,400,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	-18,122,078.00
<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$20,277,922.00</i>
August 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>
August 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>
August 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- Reapp 18/19	\$2,800,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	-1,433,207.00
<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$1,366,793.00</i>
August 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
Total Project Development	0.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$1,366,793.00</i>
(ag) 2018-19 CALIFORNIA DROUGHT, WATER, PARKS, CLIMATE, COASTAL PROTECTION, AND OUTDOOR ACCESS FOR ALL FUND OF 2018, (6088)	
Budget Act 2018 (80100(a)(3))	\$2,000,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	0.00
<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$2,000,000.00</i>
August 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	-500,000.00
Total Project Development	\$1,500,000.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$20,000,000.00</i>

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(ah) 2018-19 CALIFORNIA DROUGHT, WATER, PARKS, CLIMATE, COASTAL PROTECTION, AND OUTDOOR ACCESS FOR ALL FUND OF 2018, (6088)	
Budget Act 2018 80111(a)	\$2,000,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	0.00
<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	\$2,000,000.00
August 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
Total Project Development	\$2,000,000.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	\$2,000,000.00
(ai) 2018-19 CALIFORNIA DROUGHT, WATER, PARKS, CLIMATE, COASTAL PROTECTION, AND OUTDOOR ACCESS FOR ALL FUND OF 2018, (6088)	
Budget Act 2018 80111(b)	\$26,000,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	0.00
<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	\$26,000,000.00
August 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
Total Project Development	\$26,000,000.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	\$26,000,000.00
(aj) 2018-19 CALIFORNIA DROUGHT, WATER, PARKS, CLIMATE, COASTAL PROTECTION, AND OUTDOOR ACCESS FOR ALL FUND OF 2018, (6088)	
Budget Act 2018 80111(c)	\$4,000,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	0.00
<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	\$4,000,000.00
August 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
Total Project Development	\$4,000,000.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	\$4,000,000.00
(ak) 2018-19 CALIFORNIA DROUGHT, WATER, PARKS, CLIMATE, COASTAL PROTECTION, AND OUTDOOR ACCESS FOR ALL FUND OF 2018, (6088)	
Budget Act 2018 80111(d)	\$7,000,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	0.00
<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	\$7,000,000.00
August 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
Total Project Development	\$7,000,000.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	\$7,000,000.00
(al) 2018-19 CALIFORNIA DROUGHT, WATER, PARKS, CLIMATE, COASTAL PROTECTION, AND OUTDOOR ACCESS FOR ALL FUND OF 2018, (6088)	
Budget Act 2018 80132(a)	\$10,000,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	0.00
<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	\$10,000,000.00
August 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
Total Project Development	\$10,000,000.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	\$10,000,000.00

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(am) 2018-19 CALIFORNIA DROUGHT, WATER, PARKS, CLIMATE, COASTAL PROTECTION, AND OUTDOOR ACCESS FOR ALL FUND OF 2018, (6088)	
Budget Act 2018 80132(e )(1)	\$10,000,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	0.00
<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$10,000,000.00</i>
August 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
Total Project Development	\$10,000,000.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$10,000,000.00</i>
(an) 2018-19 CALIFORNIA DROUGHT, WATER, PARKS, CLIMATE, COASTAL PROTECTION, AND OUTDOOR ACCESS FOR ALL FUND OF 2018, (6088)	
Budget Act 2018 80132(f)	\$10,000,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	0.00
<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$10,000,000.00</i>
August 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
Total Project Development	\$10,000,000.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$10,000,000.00</i>
(ao) 2017-18 GENERAL FUND (0001)	
Budget Act 2017 (Lower American River Conservancy Program)	\$1,000,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	-25,000.00
<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$975,000.00</i>
August 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
Total Project Development	0.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$975,000.00</i>
(ap) 2018-19 GENERAL FUND (0001)	
Budget Act 2018 (Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District)	\$10,000,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	0.00
<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$10,000,000.00</i>
August 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
Total Project Development	0.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$10,000,000.00</i>
(aq) 2018-19 GENERAL FUND (0001)	
Budget Act 2018 (Monarch Butterflies and Other Pollinators)	\$3,000,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	0.00
<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$3,000,000.00</i>
August 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
Total Project Development	0.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$3,000,000.00</i>
(ar) 2017-18 GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION FUND (3228)	
Budget Act 2017 (Chapter 249, Statutes 2017)	\$20,000,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	0.00
<i>Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$20,000,000.00</i>
August 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
Total Project Development	0.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$20,000,000.00</i>

RECAP OF FUND BALANCES

WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND (0447)	\$1,000,000.00
August 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
Total Project Development	0.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$1,000,000.00</i>
HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (0262)	\$88,109,086.00
August 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	-5,157,250.00
Total Project Development	-26,830,111.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$56,121,725.00</i>
SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS, CLEAN WATER, CLEAN AIR, AND COASTAL PROTECTION BOND FUND (Proposition 12) (0005)	\$3,893,880.00
August 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
Total Project Development	-197,880.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$3,696,000.00</i>
CALIFORNIA CLEAN WATER, CLEAN AIR, SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS AND COASTAL PROTECTION BOND FUND (Proposition 40) (6029)	\$12,689,848.00
August 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	-4,035,000.00
Total Project Development	-7,373,003.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$1,281,845.00</i>
WATER SECURITY, CLEAN DRINKING WATER, COASTAL AND BEACH PROTECTION FUND OF 2002 (Proposition 50) (6031)	\$26,988,779.00
August 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
Total Project Development	-18,103,188.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$8,885,591.00</i>
SAFE DRINKING WATER, WATER QUALITY AND SUPPLY, FLOOD CONTROL, RIVER AND COASTAL PROTECTION FUND OF 2006 (Proposition 84) (6051)	\$34,543,850.00
August 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	-5,205,000.00
Total Project Development	-16,016,306.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$13,322,544.00</i>
WATER QUALITY, SUPPLY, AND INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT FUND (Proposition 1-6083)	\$93,853,926.00
August 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
Total Project Development	0.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$93,853,926.00</i>
THE CALIFORNIA DROUGHT, WATER, PARKS, CLIMATE, COASTAL PROTECTION, AND OUTDOOR ACCESS FOR ALL ACT OF 2018 (Proposition 68-6088)	\$71,000,000.00
August 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	-500,000.00
Total Project Development	0.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$70,500,000.00</i>



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GENERAL FUND (0001)	\$13,975,000.00
August 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
Total Project Development	0.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$13,975,000.00</i>
 GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION FUND (3228)	 \$20,000,000.00
August 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	 \$366,054,370.00
August 2018 Board Meeting Allocation	-14,897,250.00
Total Project Development	-68,520,488.00
<i>Projected Unallocated Balance</i>	<i>\$282,636,632.00</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

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**4. Proposed Consent Calendar (Items 5-13)****\*5. Approval of Minutes – May 24, 2018****\*6. Recovery of Funds**

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

<b>RECOVERIES BY FUND</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Habitat Conservation Fund	\$9,106.33
Wildlife Restoration Fund	\$0.00
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006	\$7,585.07
Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Fund of 2014	\$12,755.00
<b>Total Recoveries for All Funds</b>	<b>\$29,446.40</b>

<b>Habitat Conservation Fund</b>	<b>Allocated</b>	<b>Expended</b>	<b>Balance</b>
Big Tujunga Wash, Los Angeles County	\$800,000.00	\$800,000.00	\$0.00
Cienega Springs, Ventura County	\$7,545,000.00	\$7,535,893.67	\$9,106.33
Simi Hills - 118 Freeway Wildlife Connector, Ventura County	\$600,000.00	\$600,000.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Recoveries to Habitat Conservation Fund</b>			<b>\$9,106.33</b>

<b>Wildlife Restoration Fund</b>	<b>Allocated</b>	<b>Expended</b>	<b>Balance</b>
Hudeman Slough Fishing Access CEQA, Sonoma County	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Recoveries to Wildlife Restoration Fund</b>			<b>\$0.00</b>

<b>Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006</b>	<b>Allocated</b>	<b>Expended</b>	<b>Balance</b>
Davis Ranch Riparian and Hedgerow Restoration, Colusa County	\$219,999.70	\$218,720.78	\$1,278.92
East Contra Costa County HCP/NCCP (Roddy Ranch Golf Course), Contra Costa County	\$1,065,250.00	\$1,059,404.00	\$5,846.00
McCune and Cronin Habitat Enhancement, Solano County	\$375,000.00	\$375,000.00	\$0.00
San Joaquin River Bypass Riparian Restoration, Merced County	\$204,000.00	\$203,539.85	\$460.15
<b>Total Recoveries to Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006</b>			<b>\$7,585.07</b>

<b>Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Fund of 2014</b>	<b>Allocated</b>	<b>Expended</b>	<b>Balance</b>
Rancho Canada Carmel River Flow Enhancement, Monterey County	\$4,520,000.00	\$4,507,245.00	\$12,755.00
<b>Total Recoveries to Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Fund of 2014</b>			<b>\$12,755.00</b>

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**\*7. Crescent City Marsh Wildlife Area, Expansion 2  
Del Norte County  
\$0**

This proposal is to consider the acceptance of 133± acres of land by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to satisfy a natural resource damage mitigation requirement of the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) contained in a Stipulated Judgement.

**LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES**

The proposed acquisition (Property) is located south of downtown Crescent City and is bordered by State Route 101 (SR 101) to the south, undeveloped parcels to the west including Crescent City Marsh Wildlife Area (CCMWA) parcels, Hambro Forest Products mill and offices to the north, and CCMWA to the east. The Property consists of 140± acres; however, CDFW will only be acquiring 133± acres of the 140± acres. The property owner will retain the beach side of State Route 101 as well as existing fill prisms along the highway on the marsh side of the highway.

The Property is an in-fill parcel within the greater CCMWA. Currently, the CCMWA is approximately 335 acres. The CCMWA lies within a relatively small watershed of approximately 2,000 acres. Most of the watershed is low gradient and includes two small creeks that drain under SR 101 before spilling on to Crescent beach and entering the Pacific Ocean.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The proposed Property addition has exceptional habitat value and has been targeted by CDFW for acquisition since 1979 when the CCMWA was created. The Property recently became the subject of a proposed acquisition when CDFW staff was working with Caltrans on a violation in Del Norte County. The Del Norte County District Attorney's Office filed a Complaint against Caltrans over a grout spill that caused substantial mortality of stream biota in Del Norte County. The resulting Stipulated Judgement requires Caltrans to purchase a parcel, or parcels, of land with substantial resource value to mitigate the alleged natural resource damages. Caltrans was also required to provide an endowment for in-perpetuity management of the mitigation property.

As a desirable solution for both sides, CDFW proposed the purchase of the subject Property to satisfy the requirements of the Stipulated Judgement. In addition, Caltrans and CDFW jointly-developed a wetland mitigation proposal for addressing wetland impacts for the near-term seismic restoration of two small bridges in Del Norte County. CDFW also gave provisional concurrence to Caltrans that the Property could provide Caltrans the opportunity to conduct restoration and enhancement activities on at least nine acres for future temporal impacts associated with a large bridge replacement project in Del Norte County.

The CCMWA was formerly part of the Owen Bauer Ranch and was acquired by CDFW in 1979. The property was acquired for protection of coastal freshwater wetlands with funding provided by the Nejedly-Hart State Urban and Coastal Park Bond of 1976.

The proposed acquisition has three purposes: 1) conservation of mature Sitka spruce forest threatened by logging, development, and further invasion by English ivy, 2) protection and management opportunity for approximately 100-acres of wetlands that contain the largest known population of endangered western lily, and 3) add a major addition to the greater CCMWA, a priority for CDFW.

The Sitka Spruce stand on the Property is approximately 120 years old and is considered a Late Successional Forest Stand, with most trees between three and seven feet in diameter at breast height and most exceed 150 feet tall. The Sitka spruce stand is designated as a California Coastal Commission Special Treatment Area (STA) as adopted by the California Coastal Commission on July 5, 1977 (Section 31118.5 Public Resource Code and Title 14, California Code of Regulations (14 CCR) 895.1 Coastal Commission Special Treatment Area). A Timber Harvest Plan (THP) was proposed for 44.7 acres. The proposed selection harvest would remove 59% of the basal area of the Sitka spruce STA. The THP was approved by CAL FIRE on November 9, 2017, despite substantial concerns raised by CDFW's Timberland Conservation Program, the California Coastal Commission, and environmental groups within the region.

In addition, the current property owner showed CDFW a post-harvest development plan that would sub-divide the remaining Sitka spruce stand into a number of parcels, constituting a major sub-division (> 4-parcels) by Del Norte County standards. Hambro previously conducted percolation testing (for septic systems) in the stand in the proposed parcels to access feasibility of the development plan.

#### WCB PROGRAM

The proposed acceptance of the Property 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.). Under Fish and Game Code section 1348, the WCB may authorize acquisition of real property by CDFW. These activities are carried out in conjunction with CDFW, which evaluates the biological values of property through development of a Land Acquisition Evaluation (LAE)/Conceptual Area Protection Plan (CAPP). The LAE/CAPP is then submitted to CDFW's Regional Operations Committee (ROC) for review and, if approved, later transmitted to the WCB with a recommendation to fund.

#### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

Following the acquisition, CDFW will own and manage the Property as an addition to existing CDFW property in the CCMWA. Costs associated with managing the Property will be minimal as the main purpose of the acquisition is to retain the site in its natural state. Site visits will be required from time to time to monitor the Property. These site visits will be included with other surrounding parcels in State ownership and management. Caltrans is providing CDFW with an endowment for in-perpetuity management. The endowment amount is based on an assessment developed by CDFW staff.

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

#### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; 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.



**\*8 Garibaldi Land Exchange, Phase II**  
**Solano County**  
**\$75,000**

This proposal is to consider the exchange of 336± acres owned by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) for 226± acres owned by Pacific Flyway Fund (PFF) at CDFW's Grizzly Island Wildlife Area (GIWA).

**LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES**

The subject exchange properties are located in the Suisun Marsh in southern Solano County about 35 miles northeast of San Francisco. The marsh is bordered on the east by the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, on the south by Suisun Bay, on the west by highway 680, and on the north by highway 12 and the cities of Suisun and Fairfield. The CDFW owned properties (Exchange Properties) are adjacent to Interstate 680 and known as the Garibaldi Unit and the Gold Hills Unit, which are both part of the larger GIWA. Public access is not allowed on the Garibaldi Unit, which was acquired by CDFW for the purpose of conserving and enhancing wetland wildlife habitat and to act as a resting area for wintering waterfowl. The Gold Hills Unit is part of the GIWA hunt program and contains three waterfowl blinds for public use. The PFF owned property (Acquisition Property) is located six miles east of I-680 and is adjacent to the Crescent Unit of the GIWA. The Crescent Unit is open to the public and provides various recreational opportunities including hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, and hiking.

With 88,000 acres of land, bays, and sloughs, the Suisun Marsh is the largest contiguous estuarine marsh in the entire United States. The GIWA complex covers approximately 12,900 acres of this prime habitat and is a patchwork of 10 distinct land unit parcels, many of which are not connected and are surrounded by private land. The GIWA complex offers a variety of recreation opportunities and acts as a buffer against potential marsh development. The GIWA complex is a combination of natural tidal wetlands and artificially diked marshes that supports seasonal and tidal wetland habitat that is of particular importance to migratory waterfowl of the Suisun Marsh and the Pacific Flyway. The Pacific Flyway is a major north-south [flyway](#) for [migratory birds](#) in America, extending from [Alaska](#) to [Patagonia](#). Every year, migratory birds travel some or all of this distance both in spring and in fall, following food sources, heading to breeding grounds, or travelling to overwintering sites. Numerous other species of wetland wildlife also use the GIWA complex including herons, egrets, and shorebirds.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The Exchange Properties total 336± acres with 281± acres belonging to the Garibaldi Unit and 55± acres belonging to the Gold Hills Unit. The Garibaldi Unit is the remaining eastern portion of the original 559± acre unit acquired by the CDFW in 1986. At the May 2017 board meeting, the WCB approved the Phase I exchange with PFF for the 278± acre western portion of the Garibaldi Unit.

PFF is a non-profit corporation that has a charitable purpose of promoting the education and conservation of the Pacific Flyway. The proposed land exchange was requested by PFF so it could pursue its vision of permitting and constructing a Pacific Flyway Center (PFC) on the Exchange Properties. The proposed PFC would be a nonprofit educational and interpretive facility that would introduce the public to the history and importance of the Pacific Flyway, and promote wildlife conservation by educating the public about land stewardship. The PFC would promote the restoration of wetlands, and allow the public to access and learn about the benefits wetland wildlife receive from restoration projects.

CDFW is agreeable to the land exchange for several reasons. The Acquisition Property is more biologically valuable in terms of habitat types and diversity of wildlife species than the Exchange Properties. In addition, the Acquisition Property will increase the contiguous border within the Crescent Unit of the GIWA, which will make management of the area more uniform and cost effective. As a condition and as consideration for CDFW agreeing to this exchange, CDFW will reserve covenants and restrictions over the Exchange Property for the benefit of CDFW in perpetuity. These covenants and restrictions will restrict future use and development of the Exchange Property. PFF will only be allowed to construct the PFC on the Exchange Property and in the interim, or if the PFC is never built, PFF is restricted in its ownership of the Exchange Property and is required to keep it in its existing natural condition to function as wildlife habitat.

#### WCB PROGRAM

The proposed exchange 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 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 the acquisition of properties. Under Fish and Game Code section 1348(c)(2), WCB may authorize the exchange of real property or rights in real property held under the jurisdiction of CDFW. These activities were carried out in conjunction with CDFW, which prepared a Land Conversion Evaluation (LCE) to provide justification that the biological values of the Acquisition Property are consistent with, or exceed, those of the CDFW held Exchange Properties to be swapped. The LCE must be approved by subdivisions within CDFW, that includes the land acquisition coordinators in the Regional Office, Lands Program, Regional Manager, and Deputy Director for the Wildlife and Fisheries Division. The LCE is then submitted to the Director for final approval and submission to the WCB for its consideration and final approval.

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

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

- The Acquisition Property provides a high level of wetland habitat integrity that supports migratory waterfowl and shorebirds.

*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 submitted a Land Conversion Evaluation to WCB detailing the reasons and justifications for entering into and completing the proposed exchange of properties.

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

- The Acquisition Property will be managed by CDFW staff to provide the public an additional 226± acres to recreate in the form of hunting, hiking, wildlife viewing, and fishing.

#### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

CDFW will manage the Acquisition Property in conjunction with the existing GIWA. Public access will be available consistent with the existing public access at GIWA.

#### TERMS

The Acquisition Property has been appraised as having a fair market value of \$800,000. The Exchange Properties has been appraised as having a fair market value of \$725,000. WCB will compensate PFF \$75,000 for the difference in value between the Acquisition Property and the Exchange Properties. The appraisals covering all the properties have been reviewed by WCB staff and reviewed and approved by the Department of General Services (DGS). WCB must review and approve all title documents, appraisals, preliminary title reports, exchange documents, escrow instructions, and instruments of conveyance prior to the exchange.

#### PROJECT FUNDING

The Proposed funding breakdown for this project is as follows:

Wildlife Conservation Board	75,000
Total Purchase Price	75,000
<i>Total WCB Allocation</i>	<i>\$75,000</i>

It is estimated that an allocation of \$40,000 will be needed to cover upfront project related administrative costs by WCB, including the DGS appraisal review. All administrative expenses will be reimbursed by PFF and the amount will be deposited back into the fund from which it was paid. PFF will also bear the cost of all environmental assessments, appraisal report, survey, escrow, and title insurance costs related to the exchange.

#### FUNDING SOURCE

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

#### 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 Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$75,000 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(d)IWCP; authorize staff to accept reimbursement of internal project-related expenses by PFF; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and California Department of Fish and Wildlife to proceed substantially as planned.





**\*9. East Contra Costa County HCP/NCCP (Poppi/Halstead)**

**Contra Costa County**

**\$0**

This proposal is to consider the acceptance of a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition grant and the approval to sub-grant these federal funds to the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy (ECCCHC). The ECCCHC would use the subgrant funds for a cooperative project with the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) to acquire 72± acres of land for the protection and preservation of existing regional wildlife linkages, including grassland, oak woodland, oak savanna, seasonal wetland, and creek habitat areas within the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan (ECCC HCP/NCCP) plan area.

**LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES**

The subject property (Property) is located at the westerly end of Briones Valley, in an unincorporated area of Contra Costa County, approximately 3 miles west of the City of Brentwood and 3 miles south of the City of Antioch. Acquisition of the Property would protect a critical piece of the wildlife corridor connecting Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve to Marsh Creek State Park and Round Valley Regional Preserve. Surrounding land uses include existing natural park lands, wildlife mitigation lands, rural ranchettes, and private cattle ranching.

The ECCC HCP/NCCP designates the Property as a high priority for acquisition and protection due to its location within a critical linkage between previously conserved areas within the ECCC HCP/NCCP plan area. Over the past several years the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB), USFWS, ECCCHC and EBRPD have partnered to acquire 13,900± acres of habitat within the ECCC HCP/NCCP Preserve System, helping protect essential habitat and connectivity for multiple state- and federally-listed wildlife species. The project is also consistent with action proposed under the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) California State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP). The project is located within the Central Valley and Bay Delta region within the SWAP. One of the recommended conservation actions called out for this region is protection of upland linkages and reducing the risk of habitat isolation in the eastern San Francisco Bay area.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The Property consists of three adjacent legal parcels totaling 72± acres in size and is currently used as rural agricultural grazing land. The topography of the Property is predominately level to mildly sloping along the northerly areas adjacent to the road frontage. Thereafter, the land slopes up with moderate to steep topography. Habitat types found on the Property include annual grassland, oak woodland, oak savanna, seasonal wetland, and creek. The Property also provides benefits to wildlife in terms of future climate change resiliency by providing and connecting with varied terrains and elevations for species movement.

The Property is adjacent to the 960± acre Smith property which WCB approved funding for in May of 2014. North and adjacent to the Smith property is the 1,885± acre Roddy Ranch property which WCB approved funding for in November of 2013. These linkages include a northwest-southeast movement corridor for the state threatened and federally endangered San Joaquin kit fox. Acquisition of the Property will protect suitable habitat for the conservation of the California-listed threatened red-legged frog and a variety of other rare and important wildlife species including California tiger salamander, golden eagle, western burrowing owl, Swainson's hawk, Alameda whipsnake, and western pond turtle.

The Property is comprised of three legal parcels that can be sold separately and each parcel can be developed with a residence. Development of rural ranchettes in lower Briones Valley threatens to fragment grassland habitat within the valley. Approval of this project will prevent potential fragmentation of habitat and development from occurring.

#### WCB PROGRAM

The proposed subgrant for this project is being considered under the WCB's Land Acquisition Program (Program). The Program is administered pursuant to the WCB's original enabling legislation, "The Wildlife Conservation Law of 1947" (Fish and Game Section 1300, *et seq.*). It authorizes the WCB to acquire real property or rights in real property on behalf of 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. 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. As a participant in the USFWS Land Acquisition grant selection and review process, CDFW has also reviewed and approved the USFWS grant proposed for acceptance for this project.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Property is proposed to be acquired with 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. Funding of future management activities for this Property will be provided by ECCCHC and EBRPD, 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 future opportunities for passive recreational uses, an allowed use under the ECCC HCP/NCCP. The habitat will be maintained in conjunction with other properties acquired by EBRPD.

#### TERMS

The Property has been appraised as having a fair market value of \$725,000. The appraisal has been reviewed by WCB staff and reviewed and approved by the Department of General Services and the USFWS. The Property 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 funds, pre-acquisition research, due diligence, start-up habitat management, and enhancement expenditures. The terms and conditions of the proposed 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 subgrant 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	0
USFWS subgrant funds	377,000
East Bay Regional Park District	348,000
Total Purchase Price	725,000
<i>Total WCB Allocation</i>	<i>\$0</i>

#### FUNDING SOURCE

Transaction due diligence costs will be paid from the below referenced funding source. The transaction costs and the purposes of the 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 assist in the establishment of Natural Community Conservation Plans.

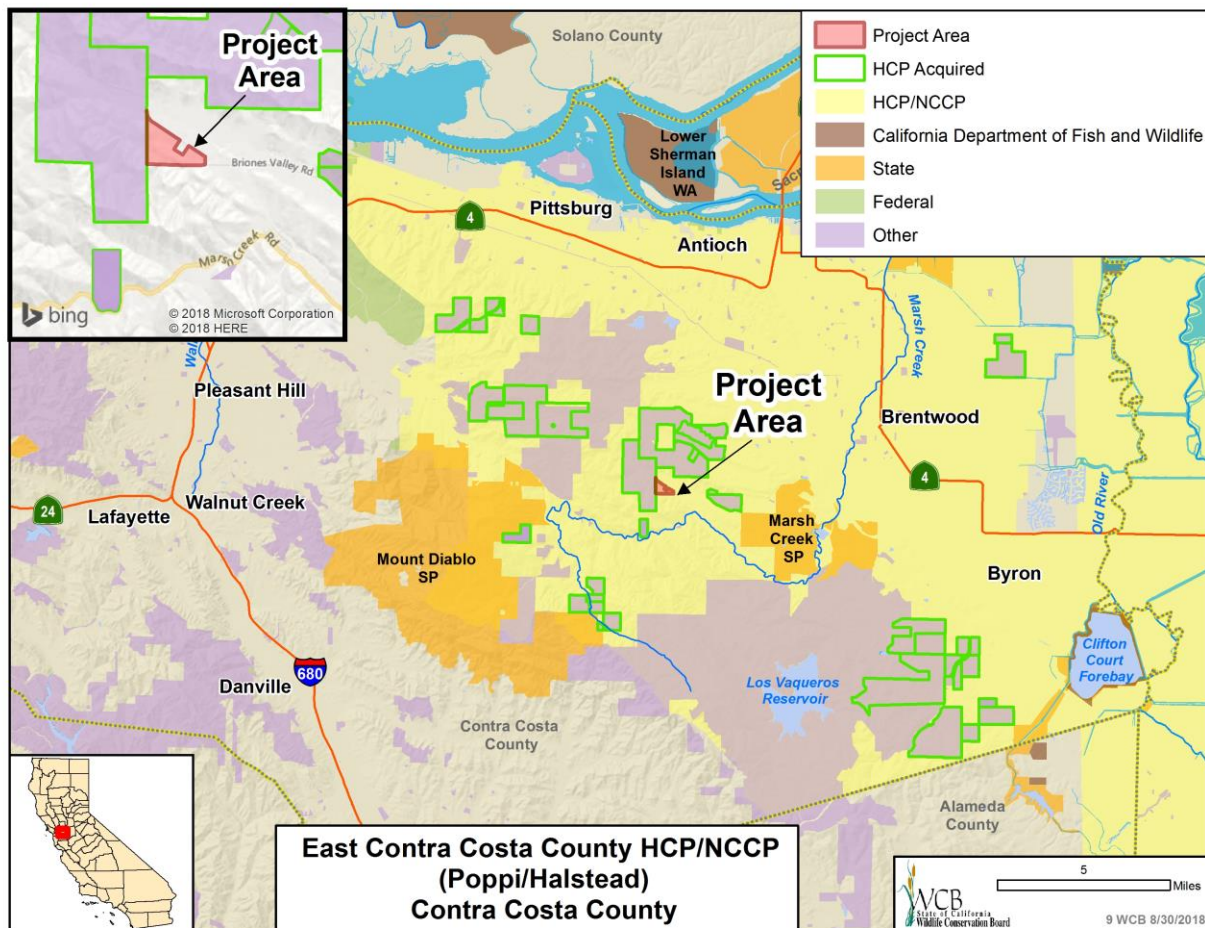
#### ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND STATE RECOMMENDATION

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

#### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve the project as proposed; approve the acceptance of Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition grant funds from USFWS in the amount of \$377,000 and approve the subgrant of the federal funds to ECCCHC; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish

this project; and authorize staff and California Department of Fish and Wildlife to proceed substantially as planned.





**\*10. Sinnott Parcel – OSPR Oil Mitigation Fund Project  
San Mateo County  
\$0**

This proposal is to consider the acquisition of a conservation easement (Easement) over 160± acres of land by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) for the protection of threatened and endangered species, open-space, and habitat values for fish, wildlife, and plant species including its value as nesting habitat for marbled murrelets. Additionally, this proposal is to consider the acceptance of settlement funds from the Coast Guard National Pollution Fund Center/Oil Spill Liability Trust Funds (OSLTF) aka “Luckenbach Settlement Funds,” currently held by the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) in the Natural Resource Damage Assessment Fund (NRDAR Fund), and use those to complete the acquisition.

**LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES**

The property (Property) is located along Butano Creek, approximately 3.5 miles southeast of the small community of Pescadero and 2 miles south of Loma Mar in San Mateo County. The Property sits between the 8,020-acre Pescadero Creek County Park and the 4,628-acre Butano State Park.

Access to the Property is via State Route 236 to China Grade Road in Big Basin State Park and through private roads over which CDFW will have a license agreement with the neighboring property owner(s) for access. The remote location and lack of public access ensure a safe haven for the state endangered and federally threatened marbled murrelets in this area of the watershed where timber harvesting continues.

The 160-acre Property is contiguous on the north side to a 40-acre parcel owned by the same property owner, Sempervirens Fund (Sempervirens). Contiguous to the east and south of the Property are lands owned by a lumber company for commercial timber production. To the west of the Property is an 80-acre privately owned parcel with a conservation easement held by the Peninsula Open Space Trust. Southwest of the Property is additional private property with portions encumbered by a conservation easement held by the Pacific Forest Trust.

The Property is located in the Butano watershed near the confluence of the north and south forks of Butano Creek. The main stem of Butano Creek and a portion of the North Fork of Butano Creek occur within the Property. These two perennial watercourses originate from China Grade, join together just south of the Property, and drain into Pescadero Marsh with flows ending in the Pacific Ocean.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The Property is rectangular in shape and supports late-seral redwood and fir forest habitat suitable for the marbled murrelet, which is protected under the Federal Endangered Species Act and the California Endangered Species Act. The Property is of particular importance because of its remote location and low occurrence of predatory corvids, offering safe refuge for the locally distinct population of the marbled murrelet. In addition to stands of late-seral trees, the Property also supports second-growth redwood and Douglas fir trees and redwood-dominated creek corridors.

This proposed acquisition is part of a funding commitment by CDFW's Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR) with respect to certain settlement funds authorized by the Coast Guard National Pollution Funds Center and paid from the OSLTF to the DOI NRDAR Fund on behalf of the Natural Resources Trustees (comprised of CDFW, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and DOI) to restore marbled murrelet

habitat and other natural resources injured by the S.S. Jacob Luckenbach oil spill (Luckenbach settlement funds).

The stretches of Butano Creek that cross the Property provide habitat elements for a variety of aquatic and riparian species including resident rainbow trout. Other special status species known to be in the vicinity include the Santa Cruz Manzanita, Dudley's lousewort, Swamp Harebell, and Long-Beard Lichen.

This Property was given the highest ranking for protection in the CDFW Santa Cruz Mountains Redwoods Conceptual Area Protection Plan because it is considered by the Department as a key wildlife corridor between Butano State Park, a mile and a half to the south, and Pescadero Creek Park, one parcel over to the northeast.

The Property also serves as a corridor for five focal species: black-tailed deer, bobcat, mountain lion, dusky-footed woodrat, and acorn woodpecker. Additionally, the Property's old growth trees, along Butano creek, provide suitable nesting habitat for marbled murrelet and is part of a murrelet flyway to groves upstream along Butano Creek.

#### WCB PROGRAM

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

#### STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

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

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

Due to the elevational gradient, water courses, and healthy stands of redwood, the Property can serve as a critical ecological refuge for marbled murrelets and other species against the impacts of climate change. Redwood forests and maritime chaparral occur only within reach of summer fog, and their protection can buffer the effects of climate change and changing weather patterns. Redwood forests intercept summer fog and the resulting fog drip contributes to groundwater recharge, which helps maintain year-round stream flows.

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

The Property was evaluated with a LAE and was requested as a priority property to pursue acquisition.

#### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

Sempervirens will continue to monitor and steward the Property's resources as it does with its property to the north. It will monitor the Property to assess any changes in the site condition and to identify potential management problems such as trespass, vandalism, or safety hazards and take action to fix any problems.

#### TERMS

The Easement has been appraised as having a fair market value of \$955,000. The appraisal has been reviewed by WCB staff and reviewed and approved by the Department of General Services. Sempervirens agreed to sell the Easement for \$760,000. The terms and conditions of the proposed acquisition provide that WCB staff must review and approve all title documents, preliminary title reports, documents for purchase and sale, escrow instructions, and instruments of conveyance prior to disbursement of Luckenbach settlement funds directly into the escrow account established for the acquisition. Once approved by the Board, the transaction will also be subject to review and approval by DGS.

#### PROJECT FUNDING

Coast Guard National Pollution Funds Center/OSLTF	760,000
<i>Total Purchase Price</i>	<i>760,000</i>
<i>Total WCB Allocation</i>	<i>\$0</i>

#### WCB FUNDING SOURCE

Transaction due diligence costs will be paid from the below referenced funding source. The transaction costs and the purposes the project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c) which allows for the acquisition of habitat to protect rare, endangered, threatened or fully protected species.

It is proposed that WCB accept a \$760,000 funding commitment by OSPR with respect to certain settlement funds disbursed by the Coast Guard National Pollution Funds Center to the Natural Resources Trustees to restore marbled murrelets injured by the S.S. Jacob Luckenbach oil spills. The funding commitment includes utilizing \$760,000 to acquire the conservation easement as described in the S.S Jacob Luckenbach Natural Resource Damage Claim Number A02005-OI2.

On October 5, 2007, the Governor designated the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency as California's Natural Resource Trustee and representative authorized to act on behalf of the public as trustee for natural resources within the purview of the Natural Resources Agency. On November 29, 2012, the Secretary delegated to the WCB the authority to act as trustee for natural resources for purposes of implementing restoration alternatives identified in restoration plans developed pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Contamination, and Liability Act and/or the federal Oil Pollution Act of 1990.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND STATE RECOMMENDATION

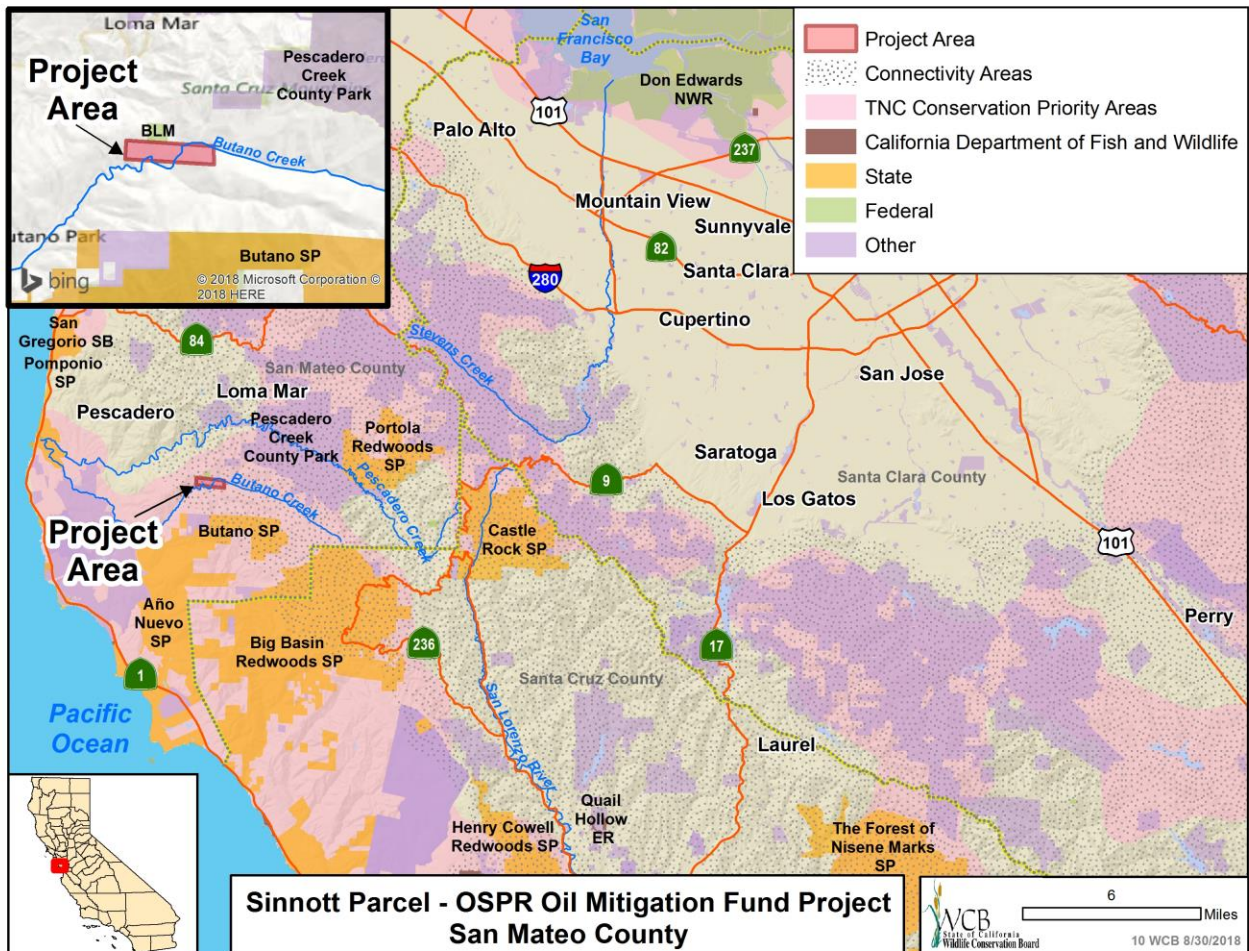
The project has been reviewed for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements and is proposed as exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section



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 existing natural conditions, including plant or animal habitats. Subject to authorization by the WCB, a Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse. The CDFW has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for approval.

#### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; approve acceptance of \$760,000 from the Coast Guard National Pollution Funds Center for disbursement into escrow for the purchase price; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and California Department of Fish and Wildlife to proceed substantially as planned.



**\*11. Morongo Basin Expansions 2 and 3**  
**San Bernardino County**  
**\$196,250**

This proposal is to consider the allocation for a grant to the Mojave Desert Land Trust (MDLT) to acquire 247± acres of land from two separate owners for the protection of desert habitat corridors in the Morongo Basin.

**LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES**

The subject properties (Properties), known as the Harrington (38± acres) and the Portillo (209± acres), are located within the Morongo basin. The Harrington property, near Yucca Valley, fronts the south side of State Route 62 just west of the city limits. The Portillo Property, located South of the Joshua Tree city limits, is on the east side of La Contenta Road and south of Alta Loma Drive. Commercial development is common along State Route 62 with a number of rural residential subdivisions radiating out from the communities of Yucca Valley and Joshua Tree. These developed areas give way to large open desert habitat parcels heading south and north of State Route 62 and the two communities.

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

The Morongo Basin is a high desert region, within the southeast portion of the Mojave Desert, with relatively flat to rolling hill terrain. This desert region is known mainly for the Joshua tree that dominates most of the open space desert habitat areas. The state and federally threatened desert tortoise can also be found in this area, and is the focal point of many of the desert conservation efforts that take place in the region. To the south is the Joshua Tree National Park and to the north is the 29 Palms Marine Corp Air Combat Center, both are large landscape level open space/ecosystems. The acquisition will help preserve the Joshua Tree - 29 Palms habitat linkage connection. The linkage occurs within an ecological transition zone between the Mojave and Sonoran (Colorado) desert eco-regions and connects the Joshua Tree National Park and the 29 Palms Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The Properties are vacant and both contain a gently to steep sloping drainage throughout and are zoned for residential uses. Acquisition of the Properties will help maintain connectivity within the CAAP area and protect view-sheds associated with Joshua Tree National Park, the main economic driver in the region. It will also provide public access and educational opportunities through outreach to the Morongo Basin's 68,000 residents and to the Morongo Basin Unified School District's 9,500 students. With a growing human population in the Morongo Basin, acquisition of the Properties is uniquely equipped to offer open space and outdoor activities to the area's youth and adults alike.

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

#### WCB PROGRAM

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

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

#### STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

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

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

The strong partnership between the WCB, CDFW, MDLT, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the National Park Service (NPS) and the Department of Defense (DOD), and others have allowed for the establishment of the Morongo Basin Linkages CAPP. The CAPP identified an urgent need to protect 10,003 acres habitat corridors between federal, state and locally owned Morongo Basin open spaces. The CAPP was approved by CDFW on December 1, 2016 and has allowed multiple agencies and land trusts to leverage available dollars and target specific lands deemed important wildlife corridors between Joshua Tree National Park, 29 Palms Marine Corps Ground Combat Center, and various BLM and MDLT owned lands.

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

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

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

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

#### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The Property will be managed and owned by MDLT. MDLT has acquired more than 900 properties in five and half years. All of these lands are being managed, and/or conveyed in accordance with the Land Trust Alliance Standards and Practices. In addition, MDLT plans to develop an educational program with the Morongo Unified School District for students, for MDLT's 1,300 members, and the local communities to utilize the land for learning about desert ecosystems, wildlife, watersheds, and species.

#### TERMS

The Properties have been appraised as having a combined fair market value of \$272,500. The appraisals have been reviewed by WCB staff and reviewed and approved by the Department of General Services (DGS). The Harrington property owner has agreed to sell the property for \$110,000 (WCB funding \$82,500) and Portillo property owner has agreed to sell for \$162,500 (WCB funding \$113,750). The terms and conditions of the grant between the WCB and the Mojave Desert Land Trust provide that staff of the WCB will review and approve all title documents, appraisals, preliminary title reports, documents for purchase and sale, escrow instructions and instruments of conveyance prior to disbursement of funds directly into the escrow account established for the acquisition. In the event of a breach of the grant terms, the WCB can require the grantee to encumber the Property with a conservation easement in favor of the State or another entity approved by the State and seek reimbursement of funds.

#### PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Wildlife Conservation Board	\$196,250
Mojave Desert Land Trust	\$76,250
Total Purchase Price	\$272,500
<i>Total WCB Allocation</i>	<i>\$196,250</i>

#### FUNDING SOURCE

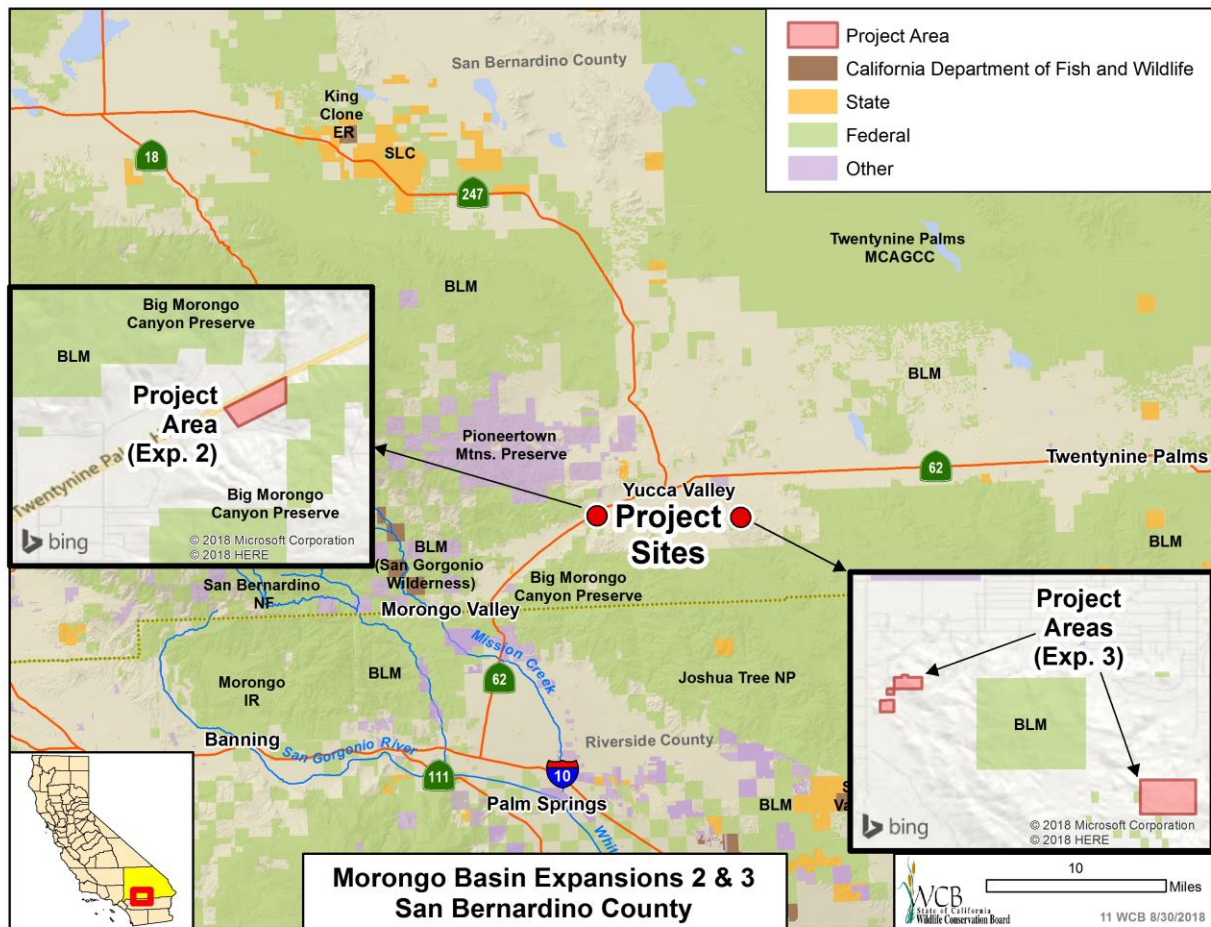
The purposes of this project are consistent with the proposed funding source, the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c) that allows for the acquisition of habitat to protect rare, endangered, threatened or fully protected species.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

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

#### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$196,250 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c) for the grant amount; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to proceed substantially as planned.





**\*12. Jamul Creek Watershed Riparian Restoration, Augmentation  
San Diego County  
\$375,000**

This item has been withdrawn from consideration at this time.

**\*13. San Dieguito River Riparian Habitat Restoration, Augmentation  
San Diego County  
\$345,000**

This proposal is to consider the allocation for an augmentation to an existing grant to River Partners for a cooperative project with the City of San Diego (City) to restore 100± acres of riparian and oak woodland habitat on City property located approximately two miles upstream of Lake Hodges, near Escondido in San Diego County.

**LOCATION**

Located approximately 24 miles north of downtown San Diego and east of the Interstate 15 freeway, the San Dieguito River Habitat Restoration Project area starts at the east end of Lake Hodges Reservoir and continues up the San Pasqual Valley in an easterly direction about one mile. The project site includes approximately 100 acres of active and passive riparian habitat restoration.

The watershed extends through a diverse array of habitats from its eastern headwaters in the Volcan Mountains to its outlet at the San Dieguito Lagoon and the Pacific Ocean. There are several important natural areas within the watershed that sustain a number of threatened and endangered species. Among these are the 55-mile long, 80,000-acre San Dieguito River Park, the 150-acre San Dieguito Lagoon, and five water storage reservoirs, the largest of which are Lake Hodges, Lake Sutherland, and Lake Poway.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

In September 2013, the WCB awarded a grant to River Partners for the restoration of Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest and Southern Riparian Forest habitat on a 100-acre site, along the north floodplain and bank of the San Dieguito River. The original workplan focused primarily on the federally and State endangered least Bell's vireo that is known to occur in the area.

The project, however, is also located in an area that falls under the scope of the City of San Diego Subarea Plan of the San Diego Multi Species Conservation Plan (MSCP), which has designated the project site as Critical Habitat for the federally endangered arroyo toad. Although this species is thought to be extirpated from the site, representatives from the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), U.S. Geological Service (USGS), and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) requested revisions to the workplan in order to allow for arroyo toad reintroduction to the site. In addition, since the original workplan was written, the area has also been identified as important for the habitat connectivity of the coastal cactus wren, a State species of special concern.

After receiving comments from the regulatory agencies in 2016, River Partners worked with USFWS, CDFW, and USGS to develop a habitat configuration that addresses the competing habitat requirements of least Bell's vireo, arroyo toad, the coastal cactus wren, and improve habitat for the federally endangered Quino checkerspot butterfly. This consultation led to a revised restoration plan that was acceptable to the regulatory agencies.

The most significant alteration in the new workplan is changing the targeted restoration habitat on 36 acres to purple needlegrass-dominated bunchgrass alliance. Purple needlegrass (the state grass of California) is a widespread bunchgrass that is representative of many native herbaceous habitat types west of the desert and higher elevation mountains in San Diego County. This community is designed to provide habitat for arroyo toad along with open habitat for riparian birds that prefer lower vegetation fields.

Other changes include increased field preparation, project installation, and maintenance costs due to altered methods, such as more hand labor, use of above-ground irrigation pipeline, and the need for listed species surveys and implementation monitoring.

#### WCB PROGRAM

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

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

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

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

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

- Improve habitat for threatened or endangered species. Once restored, the project site will provide habitat for a number of listed species including the least Bell's vireo, coastal cactus wren, and arroyo toad.

#### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

During the construction period, native seedlings will be planted in the field and operations and maintenance activities at the site will begin. River Partners' site work will include ongoing removal of invasive species, irrigation installation, vegetation mowing, herbicide applications, and replanting as necessary. Monitoring and reporting activities will continue through December 2020 to assure that the plants are successfully established. After project implementation is complete, long term management of the project area will be undertaken by the City of San Diego pursuant to the grant between the WCB and River Partners and consistent with the City of San Diego Subarea Plan of the San Diego MSCP.

If at any time during the 25-year life of the project, River Partners does not assure that the City of San Diego will 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 Augmentation	WCB Original Grant	Original Matching Funds*	Total
Project Development			\$17,621	\$17,621
Management	\$12,080	\$91,645		\$103,725
Planning		\$38,640	\$45,000	\$83,640
Field Preparation		\$193,290		\$193,290
Irrigation Installation		\$130,302		\$130,302
Planting		\$210,363		\$210,363
Maintenance	\$279,026	\$168,375	\$432,000	\$879,401
Monitoring	\$22,879	\$80,990		\$103,869
Administration	\$31,015	\$91,395		\$122,410
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$345,000</b>	<b>\$1,005,000</b>	<b>\$494,621</b>	<b>\$1,844,621</b>

\* Includes \$17,621 in-kind contribution from River Partners for Project Development, \$45,000 from the City of San Diego for Planning, and \$432,000 from the City of San Diego for Maintenance.

Project costs covered by this augmentation will be for increased field preparation, project installation, and maintenance costs due to more labor-intensive methods than the original work plan.

## FUNDING SOURCE

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

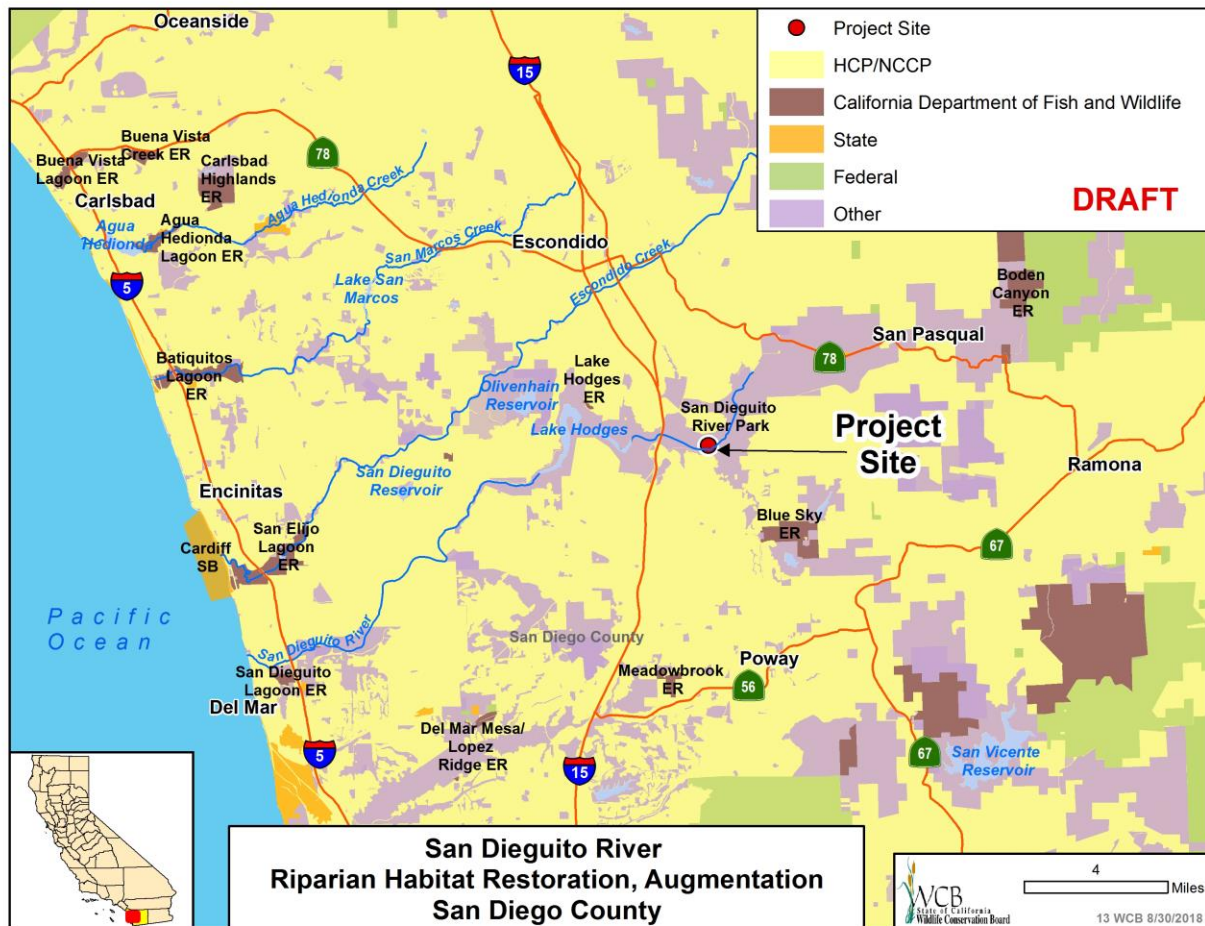
## CEQA AND CDFW REVIEW

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for funding by the WCB.

The proposal has been reviewed for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements and is proposed as exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15304, Class 4, as a minor alteration to land which would not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees. Subject to approval by the Board, the appropriate Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

## STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$345,000 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(e/f), and Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(e/f) (Proposition 1E); 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.



**14. Lake Earl Wildlife Area, Coastal Dunes Restoration  
Del Norte County  
\$300,000**

This proposal is to consider the allocation for a grant to Friends of the Dunes for a cooperative project with the Tolowa Dunes Stewards, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and the California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR) to restore natural processes to the coastal dune and sand spit habitats on CDFW's Lake Earl Wildlife Area, located near Crescent City in Del Norte County.

**LOCATION**

The proposed project area is located approximately 10 miles north of Crescent City on the western edge of the Lake Earl Wildlife Area (LEWA). The LEWA is a 6,144 acre Wildlife Area managed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) that includes the Lake Earl coastal lagoon and surrounding lands. The LEWA consists of wet meadows, coastal prairies, freshwater and estuarine wetlands, coastal forests, and open dunes.

The LEWA encompasses a peninsula that was a historically important Native American village site. This peninsula separates the bodies of water known as Lake Earl and Lake Tolowa. These lakes represent the largest coastal lagoon system in the western continental United States.

The project location contains no facilities and is bounded by largely undeveloped lands. The site consists of vegetated coastal dunes bordering the ocean, a sand bar that separates the lagoon from the ocean, and smaller dunes and hummocks fringing the lagoon. The dunes in the project area are part of the larger Lake Earl dune system that extends several miles north and south of Lake Earl and as much as two miles inland. The area is composed of dense European beachgrass (beachgrass) stands, open sand, native dune mat, herbaceous deflation plain wetlands, and some coastal scrub habitat.

In 1979, the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) provided funding to purchase lands to establish the LEWA. Since the original acquisition, WCB has continued to acquire fee title or conservation easements from willing sellers in order to manage the lagoon closer to natural conditions. Additionally, in 2014, WCB funded a trail improvement and signage project completed by Tolowa Dunes Stewards.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Prior to establishment by invasive species, foredunes were less continuous in terms of structure, hummocky in nature, and generally low in height with gentle slopes. Natural foredune complexes are often characterized by relatively flat corridors or "blow-outs" between dune ridges that allow for movement of wind and sediment, as well as animals, and "slacks" or depressional basins where groundwater and precipitation form dune swales or wetlands.

European beachgrass was introduced to California in the late 1800s to stabilize coastal dune environments in order to facilitate development and agriculture. Beachgrass tends to form steep continuous foredunes parallel to the shore over much of its west coast range. The beachgrass essentially freezes previously mobile dune systems by stopping or reducing sand movement. Sand movement is an important component for natural maintenance of ecologically intact dune environments.

European beachgrass-dominated foredunes also have negative impacts on native plant and animal communities on the west coast. This invasive species decreases invertebrate abundance and diversity, impacts native pollinators by reducing native plants, and

destroys nesting habitat of some bird species, including the federally threatened western snowy plover. Removal of beachgrass is critical to the conservation of native dune habitat, including dune mat plant communities, a habitat that is considered globally rare.

This project will remove European beachgrass from a 34-acre area of coastal dune habitat at the mouth of Lake Tolowa in the LEWA. A combination of manual and mechanical removal techniques will be used to remove beachgrass from the project area. Use of heavy equipment in areas of low environmental sensitivity will result in major cost efficiencies and increased effectiveness. The project is designed to complement and support a CDPR restoration effort completed on adjacent lands to the south in Tolowa Dunes State Park. Beachgrass removal in the project area is expected to have immediate positive impacts on vigor and extent of native dune mat habitat within the LEWA, based on the success of similar projects.

It is anticipated that crews from the California Department of Forestry and the California Conservation Corps will be employed to carry out most of the manual removal work and burning of beachgrass piles. Local crews may also be employed if available. Local contractors will be hired to perform mechanical removal with heavy equipment. Tolowa Dunes Stewards volunteers, the Smith River Rancheria's summer youth employment program, students and others will assist in maintenance pulling of any beachgrass resprouts.

#### WCB PROGRAM

The proposed project will be funded through the Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Program and meets the program's goal of providing for freshwater habitats, coastal scrub, grasslands, threatened and endangered species habitats, and instream 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:*

- This project provides resilience in the face of climate change by restoring the dunes to their natural state. The restored mobile dune systems will allow for natural maintenance of ecologically intact dune environments including the natural retreat of the dunes as sea levels rise. This natural retreat will provide refugia and connectivity to the upland habitats for a variety of species.

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

- Promotes participation in restoration activities. Tolowa Dunes Stewards volunteers, the Smith River Rancheria's summer youth employment program, students and others will assist in maintenance pulling of beachgrass resprouts.

#### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The proposed project is located in a designated Wildlife Area, owned by the State of California and managed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). The 2012 Lake Earl Wildlife Area Coastal Dune Restoration Plan includes a monitoring plan to facilitate adaptive management strategies to ensure project success. Long term management of the project area is guided by the Lake Earl Wildlife Area Management Plan (2003).

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

#### PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Project Task	Total Cost	WCB	CDFW	CDPR	Tolowa Dunes Stewards
1. Project mgmt.	\$57,480	\$57,480	\$0	\$0	\$0
2. Administration	\$42,240	\$42,240	\$0	\$0	\$0
3. Invasive Species Eradication	\$398,550	\$200,280	\$3,270	\$75,000	\$120,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$498,270</b>	<b>\$300,000</b>	<b>\$3,270</b>	<b>\$75,000</b>	<b>\$120,000</b>

WCB funds will be used for project management and beachgrass removal, as well as sensitive resource monitoring surveys and reporting associated with the Restoration Plan.

#### FUNDING SOURCE

The proposed funding source for this project is the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Fund (Proposition 40), Public Resources Code Section 5096.650(a), the acquisition, development, rehabilitation, restoration and protection of habitat to promote the recovery of threatened and endangered species, to provide corridors linking separate habitat areas to prevent habitat fragmentation, and to protect significant natural landscapes and ecosystems and other significant habitat area, and is consistent with the purposes 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 California Department of Fish and Wildlife, as lead agency, prepared a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the project pursuant to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Staff 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.

#### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board adopt the written findings and approve this project as proposed; allocate \$300,000 from the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Fund (Proposition 40), Public Resources Code Section 5096.650(a); authorize staff 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.



**15. Willow Creek Wildlife Area Meadow Enhancement  
Lassen County  
\$225,000**

This proposal is to consider the allocation for a grant to Ducks Unlimited, Inc. (DU), for a cooperative project with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to enhance meadows and restore riparian habitat on the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Willow Creek Wildlife Area, located 17± miles north of the City of Susanville in Lassen County.

**LOCATION**

The project will occur on the Willow Creek Wildlife Area (WCWA) in the Willow Creek Valley. The Willow Creek Valley is located approximately 17 miles north of Susanville, CA and 5 miles east southeast of Eagle Lake. The WCWA is owned and managed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and is one of many state and federally protected areas in northeast California.

The Willow Creek Valley region has a long history of livestock grazing and other agricultural production, with ranching being the primary land use. This region is very important to a variety of wildlife including waterfowl, waterbirds, and shorebirds. With many of the historical wetlands in the area having been previously drained and converted to agricultural uses, high-quality wetland habitats are now very limited in the area. Furthermore, livestock grazing and conversion of upland and wet meadow habitats to alfalfa production have caused a sharp reduction in available nesting cover for waterfowl and other ground nesting species.

The Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) acquired the 2,713-acre WCWA property for the CDFW in 1989 from Barron Ranch with the intent of preserving, restoring, and enhancing the existing wetland and associated upland habitats. Prior to agriculture/grazing development of the property by Barron Ranch, the WCWA property supported wet meadow and riparian habitat. Review of the General Land Office's 1870 plat map of Willow Creek Valley shows the area being mapped as "swamp and overflowed" lands.

Habitats at WCWA include freshwater emergent wetland, wet meadow pasture, riparian scrub, and agricultural uplands. CDFW's primary management goals for WCWA are to optimize its wetland values to benefit migratory and resident waterfowl and other waterbirds, including the state-threatened greater sandhill crane, and to provide public recreational opportunities. CDFW's secondary management goal is to protect and enhance habitats for threatened and endangered raptors, pronghorn antelope, mule deer, upland game, furbearers, and other non-game wildlife.

Since acquisition in 1989, existing wetlands have been improved over the years to a limited extent by CDFW and DU, and are managed to provide habitat for waterfowl and other wetland-associated birds. Those units that have water storage capabilities are generally flooded up in the early fall to provide fall staging habitat for migratory birds. Most of these units are at their maximum flooding in the early spring, so substantial wetland habitat is generally available for spring staging migratory birds. CDFW generally draws down water levels in most of the units in late spring. However, water is retained in some areas through the nesting season to provide brood habitat. Some water is retained in several of the units virtually year-round as these units do not have adequate drainage capabilities. Crops currently are not grown on the area. Public uses at WCWA include waterfowl hunting and other wildlife-oriented recreation including bird watching and nature study. Motorized vehicles are not allowed on the area. Public access is only by walking or bicycle. A gravel parking lot and information kiosk are present along State Highway 139 at the entrance to the area, but no other facilities are available.



#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Currently at WCWA, the deep well produces 5,000 gpm and the high volume cannot be successfully captured and utilized. In addition, the existing water control structures throughout the area are dilapidated and non-functioning. This project will install a short segment of pipeline that will be connected to the well discharge pipe that will allow pumped groundwater to be delivered simultaneously to three different irrigation ditches that supply water to both wetlands and uplands throughout the area. The old dilapidated corrugated metal water control structures in the Willow Creek channel will be replaced with new pre-cast concrete water control structures to improve water delivery to wet meadow units located in the heart of the site. With new structures, CDFG staff will be able to more effectively irrigate the Willow Creek meadow fields that support substantial nesting by waterfowl and greater sandhill cranes.

The overall work will include conducting a topographic and engineering survey of the Willow Creek channel areas associated with the project and preparing an engineering design for the proposed work. The engineering survey will guide the replacement effort of multiple old, dilapidated corrugated metal water control structures in the Willow Creek channel with new pre-cast concrete water control structures. This will improve water delivery to wet meadow units located in the heart of the site. Additionally, native willow cuttings will be planted along several thousand feet of Willow Creek's channel to re-establish riparian habitat. This work will improve approximately 870 acres of meadow habitat on the Willow Creek floodplain. Specifically, work on the floodplain units will enhance approximately 1,100 acres of wet meadow habitat, 145 acres of associated uplands, and 0.5 acres of riparian habitat.

This project will improve CDFW's ability to more efficiently manage habitats at WCWA. Project work will improve water use efficiency, conveyance, and distribution at WCWA. It will provide improved irrigation capacity and better vegetation management capabilities. Project work will enhance habitat conditions for a variety of waterfowl, shorebirds, waterbirds, and landbirds. Enhancing wildlife habitat conditions will also improve recreational opportunities for the public.

#### 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 shown 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 water-wise wetland habitat in a very wetland limited region 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 develops opportunities for controlled hunting, recreation, and research and educational uses 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. CDFW's ability to provide water as needed allows for great resilience. The Project will improve habitat conditions for a variety of waterfowl, shorebirds, waterbirds, and landbirds, including the state-threatened greater sandhill crane that have continuously utilized the property for many years.

#### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The project will be located on the WCWA, and management of this project will be incorporated into the existing management of the area. The improved water management capabilities associated with this project will allow CDFW managers to provide improved habitat through more efficient water delivery and drainage, and to conserve staff time.

If at any time during the 25-year life of the project, DU does not assure that the project improvements are managed according to the Management Plan, the Grant Agreement requires that DU refund to the State of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the project life.

#### PROJECT FUNDING

<b>Task</b>	<b>WCB</b>	<b>DU</b>	<b>NAWCA</b>	<b>CDFW</b>	<b>Total</b>
Project Management	\$32,345	\$6,000	\$24,460	\$9,930	\$73,646
Topographic Survey	\$20,476		\$15,958	\$25,304	\$61,738
Construction	\$135,630		\$85,396	\$60,166	\$281,192
New Well		\$128,787			\$128,787
Planting	\$9,228				\$9,228
Project Administration	\$12,808	\$25,001	\$7,000	\$4,204	\$49,013
Contingency	\$14,513				\$14,513
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$225,000</b>	<b>\$159,788</b>	<b>\$132,814</b>	<b>\$99,604</b>	<b>\$618,117</b>

Project components include project management and administration, topographic studies, construction of pipelines and swales, and planting native vegetation.

#### FUNDING SOURCE

The proposed funding source is the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(d)(Proposition 1E), Wetlands Outside the Central Valley, which allows for the acquisition, enhancement or restoration of wetlands to protect or enhance a flood protection corridor or bypass outside the Central Valley.

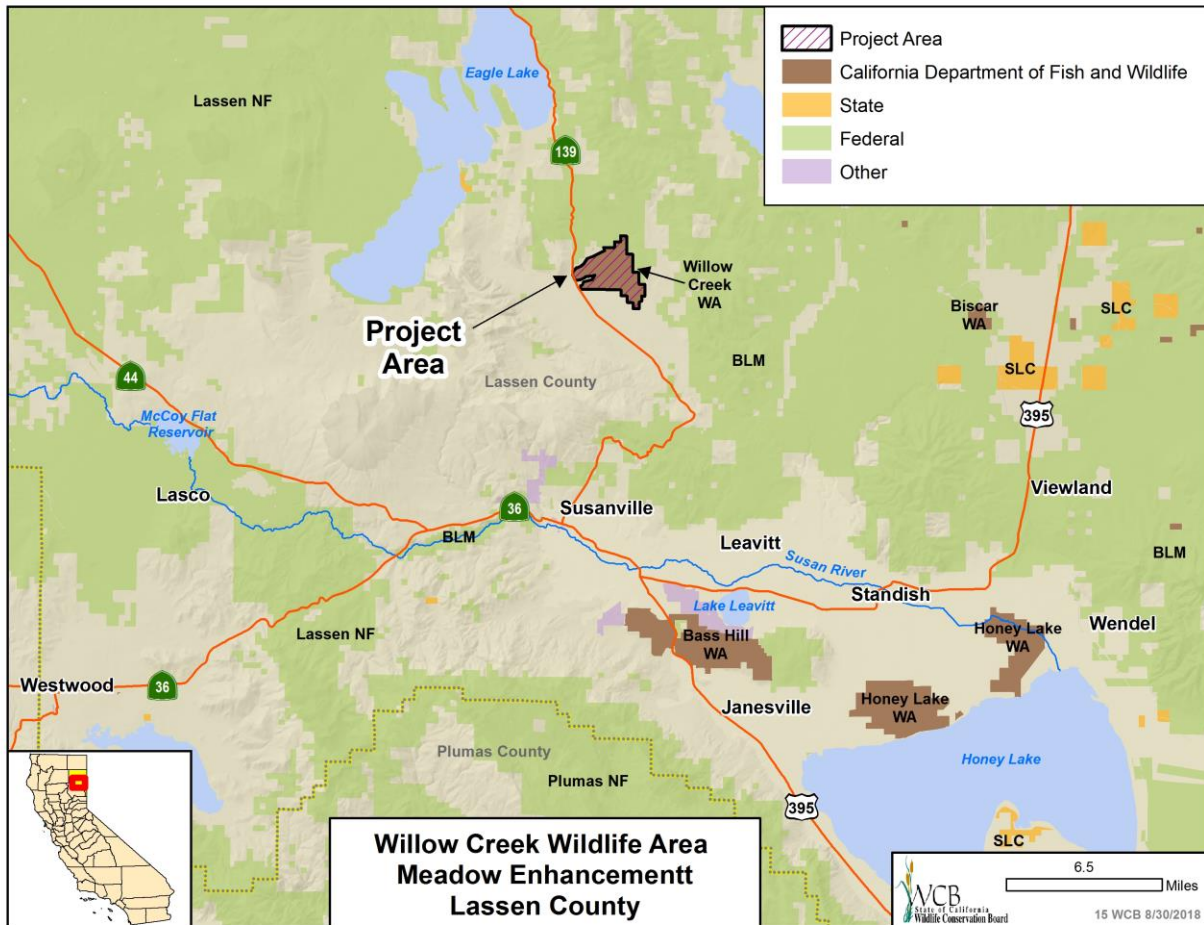
#### CEQA AND CDFW REVIEW/ RECOMMENDATION

The project is proposed as categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Section 15304, Class 4, as a minor alteration to land which would not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees. 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 \$225,000 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(d)OW (Proposition 1E); 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.



**16. Honey Lake Wildlife Area Water Infrastructure Improvements**

**Lassen County**

**\$396,000**

This proposal is to consider the allocation for a grant to Ducks Unlimited, Inc. (DU), for a cooperative project with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to drill a deep well, rehabilitate a second deep well, and install pipelines on CDFW's Honey Lake Wildlife Area, located 22± miles east of the City of Susanville in Lassen County.

**LOCATION**

The project will occur on the Honey Lake Wildlife Area (HLWA). The HLWA currently consists of 7,480 acres of managed public lands. The first land acquisition for HLWA occurred in 1942, with the purchase of the Fleming Ranch and was composed of 2,092 acres. Subsequently, in 1944, the 980-acre Dakin Ranch was acquired. Between 1944 and 1989, additional land acquisitions of 3,211 acres expanded the total HLWA management area. These acquisitions, along with the cooperative management of 1,051 acres of US Bureau of Land Management and 506 acres of State lands along Honey Lake, make up the present-day size of HLWA.

Habitat at HLWA area includes freshwater and alkali wetland, alkali meadow, alkali playa, grassland, desert scrub, desert dune, and riparian scrub habitats as well as agricultural lands. Topography is relatively flat in the Honey Lake Valley with elevations ranging from 3,985 to 4,017 feet on the Dakin Unit, generally falling south towards Honey Lake at a rate of one foot of fall for every 520 horizontal feet.

Wetlands have been developed at HLWA by CDFW, DU, and other partners and are managed to provide habitat for waterfowl and other birds. CDFW maintains water levels in some units through the waterfowl nesting season to provide brood water. In other units, CDFW manages water primarily to provide fall and spring staging habitat for migratory birds. Winter wheat and barley are grown to provide food and cover for a variety of wildlife. Public uses at HLWA include waterfowl and upland game bird hunting, fishing, and other wildlife-oriented recreation including bird watching and nature study. The Honey Lake Wildlife Area Management Plan (Management Plan) developed by CDFW in 1993 guides long-term management and development of HLWA. The primary goals as defined in the Management Plan are to increase waterfowl production, provide habitat for migrating waterfowl and other wetland-associated birds, and maintain and/or enhance habitat for threatened, endangered, or sensitive species. The water delivery upgrade work proposed by this project is consistent with the Management Plan.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The primary habitat management constraint for HLWA is the availability of water. HLWA possesses adjudicated surface water rights from the Susan River, and Dill and Hartson sloughs, all located in the Susan River Watershed. However, because of HLWA's geographic position at the bottom of the watershed, it only receives surface water after it has first flowed past all other water users. In heavy rain and snow years, the surface water received is adequate for all the water users and HLWA receives enough surface water to meet its habitat management needs. However, during normal to dry water years, there is insufficient surface water to meet the needs of all the water users, and HLWA does not receive sufficient surface water to meet its habitat management needs. Adding to the problem, the surface water received by HLWA must be routed through a series of open ditches to deliver it to habitat management units. These open ditches are subject to water loss via seepage, evaporation, and plant uptake. The ditches also require a large amount of regular maintenance performed by HLWA staff to provide adequate water flow.

The goals of the project are to install multiple underground pipelines to deliver pumped groundwater to some of HLWA's habitat management units. Pipelines previously installed have been successful and HLWA seeks to construct additional pipelines to continue to improve its water delivery infrastructure. Multiple sections of the open ditch system at HLWA fed by groundwater wells would benefit from upgrades with underground pipelines to reduce water loss during delivery of pumped groundwater. The open ditches would remain for delivery of surface water, but pumped groundwater would be routed via the underground pipelines.

Specifically, habitat management units irrigated by Wells #4 and #7 at the Dakin Unit will benefit from the installation of underground pipelines. Approximately 9,500 linear feet of pipeline will be required. This work would improve the efficiency of water delivery by reducing delivery time significantly and eliminating water loss from seepage, evaporation, and plant uptake. This grant will fund the construction of a pipeline beginning at Well #7 that will run south for approximately 5,500 linear feet and deliver water to two Field 15 sub-units (113 acres) and would merge with the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) funded pipeline to improve the ability to deliver water to 147 acres of the Field 6 sub-units.

In addition to the pipeline construction work at the Dakin Unit, water delivery at the Fleming Unit will also be upgraded. Groundwater Well #3 pumping capacity is producing much less water output than it has in the past. Well #3 works in conjunction with Well #5 to supply groundwater to a sump area on the Fleming Unit where a low-lift pump station is located. The low lift pump lifts water from the sump into an associated underground pipeline that delivers water to multiple habitat management fields at the Fleming Unit. However, the combined flows from the two wells recently has not been sufficient for the low-lift pump station to function properly, which has caused HLWA to forgo delivering water to multiple habitat management fields for the past several years. Well #3 will be rehabilitated to improve its performance. With this rehabilitation, the combined output of Well #3 and Well #5 will allow for the reestablishment of water delivery to upland Fields 22, 23, 24 and wetland Field 29.

#### 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 shown in the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) Strategic Plan:

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

- The project provides water-wise wetland habitat in a very wetland-limited region 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 develops opportunities for controlled hunting, recreation, and research and educational uses 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. CDFW's ability to provide water as needed allows for great resilience. The Project will improve habitat conditions for a variety of waterfowl, shorebirds, waterbirds, and landbirds, and CDFW will be able to more efficiently provide the water to maintain those habitats indefinitely.

#### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The project will be located on the HLWA, and management of this project will be incorporated into the existing management of the area, pursuant to its Land Management Plan. The improved water management capabilities associated with this project will allow the CDFW managers to provide improved habitat through more efficient water delivery and drainage, and less staff time.

If at any time during the 25-year life of the project, DU does not assure that the project improvements are managed according to the Management Plan, the grant agreement requires that DU refund to the State of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the project life.

#### PROJECT FUNDING

<b>Task</b>	<b>WCB</b>	<b>DU</b>	<b>NAWCA</b>	<b>Total</b>
Project Management	\$45,291	\$8,000	\$21,030	\$74,321
Topographic Surveys	\$27,351		\$15,535	\$42,886
Construction	\$273,185		\$168,023	\$441,208
Project Administration	\$22,375	\$44,104	\$11,771	\$78,250
Contingency	\$27,798			\$27,798
Total	\$396,000	\$52,104	\$216,359	\$664,463

WCB funding for this project will be for project management and administration, topographic surveys, construction, and contingency.

#### FUNDING SOURCE

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

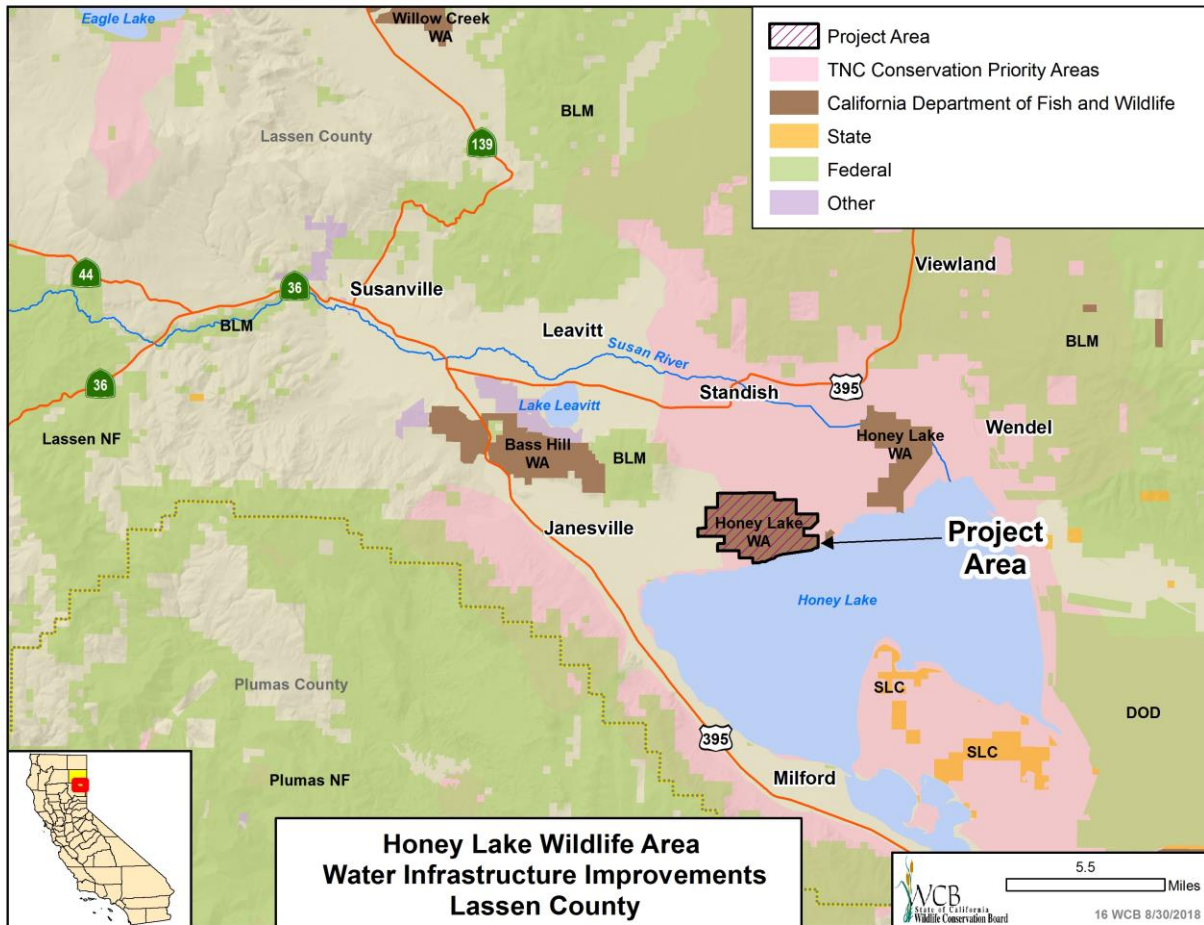
#### CEQA AND CDFW REVIEW/ RECOMMENDATION

The project has been reviewed pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and is proposed as exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15304, Class 4, as a minor alteration to land and vegetation that does not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees. Subject to approval by the WCB, the appropriate Notice of Exemption will be

filed with the State Clearinghouse. CDFW has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for funding by the WCB.

#### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$396,000 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(d)OW; 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.



**17. Indian Creek, Lost Coast Redwood and Salmon Initiative Phase II  
Mendocino County  
\$1,250,000**

This proposal is to consider the allocation for a grant to Northcoast Regional Land Trust (NRLT) for a cooperative project with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), California Natural Resources Agency, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to acquire a conservation easement over 2,703± acres of land for the protection of a mixed conifer working forest, including riparian corridors, salmonid streams, coastal watersheds, and habitat linkages.

**LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES**

The property (Property) is located just south of the community of Whitethorn, 22 road miles southwest of Garberville (the nearest town on State Route 101) and five miles inland from the ocean. The Property is situated in northern Mendocino County, in the scenic area known as the Lost Coast Region. Historically, this Region supported large scale timber production, but over-harvesting, subsequent neglect, and parcelization of large ownerships has resulted in conversion of substantial portions of this landscape to non-timber uses—notably, and increasingly, marijuana production on rural-residential ownerships.

The general terrain of the Property area is steep and mountainous, supporting mixed conifer and hardwood forested slopes with limited flatlands and extensive valleys. The Property is interspersed with a number of streams that are major salmon-bearing tributaries of the South Fork of the Eel River, including Indian and Coulborn Creeks, which are key strongholds for endangered salmonid species, as indicated in both the NOAA 2014 Final Recovery Plan and the CDFW Recovery Strategy for California Coho Salmon. The surrounding area is characterized by widely dispersed developed rural homesteads along with large landscapes of conserved areas.

At the May 2014 board meeting, the WCB approved implementation of Lost Coast Redwood and Salmon Initiative, Phase I project (Phase I Initiative), by providing a grant to the Sanctuary Forest Land Trust to acquire a working forest conservation easement over 3,312± acres in the Mattole and South Fork Eel watersheds. The Phase I Initiative properties are located just north of the Property and next to the 1,400± acre CDFW Mattole River Ecological Reserve. To the north and northwest, the 68,000-acre Bureau of Land Management - King National Conservation Area along with the 8,500-acre Sinkyone Wilderness State Park abuts portions of the Property; together these two properties form the largest coastal wilderness area within the contiguous United States. The south and east edges of the Property share an extensive border with the 50,000-acre Usal Redwood Forest, which is conserved by a conservation easement purchased with WCB funding in 2011.

The Property is of particular ecological significance with over 50% of the land delineated as an Essential Connectivity Area in the California Essential Habitat Connectivity Project. This Property, combined with the Phase I Initiative, will protect 6,015± acres of privately-held productive forestlands and watersheds from the detrimental effects of habitat fragmentation from subdivision for rural residential development and marijuana cultivation.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The Property is an undeveloped irregularly-shaped tract of land that includes 14 recognized patent parcels suitable for rural residential development. The Property has been managed as timberland for several decades with a well-developed network of interior access over older timber roads. The topography of the Property varies from rolling to steeply sloping terrain and is predominantly forested with redwood and Douglas-fir, with



some residual old growth redwoods scattered through some of the existing second and third growth forests. There are also significant stands of mixed hardwood species interspersed throughout, as well as scattered remnant meadows, oak woodlands, and coastal prairie habitat. Indian Creek runs in an easterly direction through the Property, then northerly along the eastern boundary to where Coulburn Creek feeds into it. Indian Creek continues northeasterly draining into the South Fork of the Eel River.

The purpose of the Easement is to allow for continued forest management practices and harvesting in a way that is compatible with protection of the Property's resource values. The Easement will prevent future subdivision and limit development of the Property, which would have a detrimental effect on the watersheds and ecological benefits of the Property. It will prohibit even-aged management except where necessary to transition forest stands dominated by tan oak to a more desired ecological condition of mixed conifers and hardwoods. The Easement also protects old-growth trees, widens riparian buffers, creates specially-protected Late Seral Reserves, limits the use of herbicides, and requires the increase of forest stand inventory across the Property until a set stocking threshold has been attained. Economic stimulus from forest land management investment and processing of forest products will still be allowed and have positive results for the region and local economies.

The streams that run through the Property are a significant contributor to adequate flow levels for the Chinook, coho, and steelhead salmonids. The tributaries of the South Fork Eel River have low dry-season stream flows, and associated water scarcity and water quality issues have posed a significant resource management challenge for fisheries, wildlife, and human needs. One of the primary goals of the Easement is to permanently limit dry-season water withdrawals from surface watercourses on the Property in order to improve ground and surface water hydrology and summer stream flows within and downstream for the benefit of fish, wildlife and neighboring communities. The parties to the Easement intend to extinguish most of the development rights and place additional safeguards on water withdrawals for permitted residential or commercial uses and activities. This will help the watercourses retain higher summertime stream flows benefiting salmonid survival rates. In addition, the Easement guarantees NRLT the affirmative right in the future to implement stream flow restoration projects along identified stream reaches in order to further improve the Property's natural capacity to maintain summertime flows.

Other species that will benefit from the protection of the Property include the following: northern spotted owl, marbled murrelet, western flycatcher, coastal tailed frog, southern torrent salamander, Pacific giant salamander, and the California red-legged frog.

#### 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 the 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, watersheds, 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.2 Fund Projects and landscape areas that conserve, protect, or enhance water resources for fish and wildlife.*

One of the primary goals of the Easement is to permanently limit dry-season water withdrawals from surface watercourses on the Property in order to improve ground and surface water hydrology and summer stream flows within and downstream for the benefit of fish, wildlife and neighboring communities.

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

Over 50% of the Property is delineated as an Essential Connectivity Area in the California Essential Habitat Connectivity Project, supported by CDFW.

*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

Under the terms of the Easement, the landowners will be allowed to continue uneven aged selective harvesting in accordance with a Forest Management Plan, and all applicable State and federal forestry laws, practices, guidelines, and regulations. The selective harvesting of trees would be consistent with sustainable and restorative forest management practices, including forest thinning that will benefit both forested and riparian areas within the Easement.

NRLT will hold, manage, and be responsible for the monitoring of the Easement in perpetuity per the WCB grant terms. If this project is approved, a baseline report will be completed by the Grantee and approved by the WCB. The conservation easement deed permits access to the subject Property by both NRLT and WCB staff for monitoring purposes.

#### TERMS

The Property has been appraised as having a fair market value of \$3,500,000. The appraisal has been reviewed by WCB staff and reviewed and approved by the Department of General Services (DGS). The terms and conditions of the grant between WCB and the NRLT provide that staff of the WCB must review and approve all title documents, appraisals, preliminary title reports, documents for purchase and sale, escrow instructions and instruments of conveyance prior to disbursement of funds directly into the escrow account established for the acquisition. In the event of a breach of the grant terms, the WCB can 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	1,250,000
California Department of Fish and Wildlife Proposition 1 Grant Program	1,400,000
California Natural Resources Agency's Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program	500,000
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Acres for America Program	350,000
Total Purchase Price	3,500,000
<i>Total WCB Allocation</i>	<i>\$1,250,000</i>

#### FUNDING SOURCE

The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75055(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.

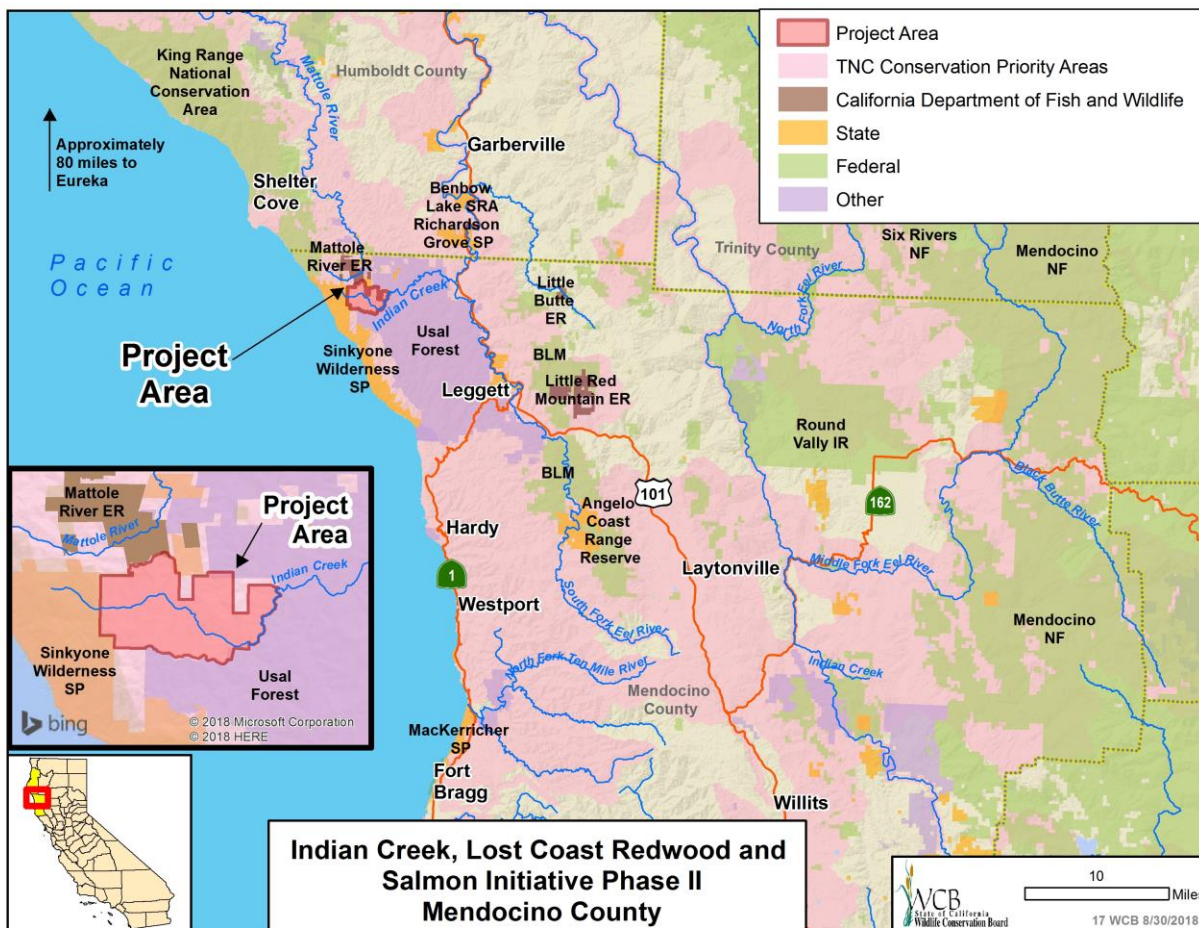
#### ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND STATE RECOMMENDATION

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 existing natural conditions, including plant or animal habitats. Subject to authorization by the WCB, a Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse. The CDFW has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for approval.

#### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$1,250,000 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); 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.



**18. Laursen Outback Preserve**  
**Placer County**  
**\$600,000**

This proposal is to consider the allocation for a grant to Placer Land Trust (PLT) to acquire in fee 333± acres of land for the protection of native oak woodland habitat, and provide future wildlife-oriented public use opportunities.

**LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES**

The property (Property) is located along and to the south and west of the Bear River, adjacent to and north of Sisson Lane, and west of State Route 49, in the rural Auburn area of Placer County. The 333± acre Property surrounds to the west, south and east the 40-acre Shutamul Bear River Preserve owned by PLT. To the west of the Property is the 1,778-acre Harvego Bear River Preserve also owned by PLT. Additionally, there is contiguous connectivity of protected lands to the north, south, and west of the Property that includes Garden Bar, Liberty Ranch, Kotomyan, Taylor, and Hidden Falls Regional Park as part of the Northern Foothills Partnership, which includes PLT and the Bear Yuba Land Trust. Northwest of the Property is California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) Spenceville Wildlife Area (SWA).

The Property is located within the Spenceville Conservation Area Protection Plan (CAPP). Properties situated within the CAPP include oak woodlands, riparian areas, and grassland pastures that are located adjacent to or in the vicinity of SWA. Additionally, the Property is within the Coon Creek and Bear River watersheds. The objectives within the Spenceville CAPP are to protect endangered and other at-risk species and native biotic communities.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The Property is an irregularly shaped parcel with an elevation ranging between approximately 1,000 to 1,500 feet above sea level. The Property has legal access from Sisson Lane on the southern and northwestern portion of the Property. There are private water wells and three onsite solar ponds on the Property to provide water.

Conservation of the Property protects it from substantial risk of being subdivided and developed for housing, as it lies along busy State Route 49 between Auburn and Grass Valley. Placer County is historically one of the fastest growing counties in California. Between 2015 and 2016 there was an increase in population of 5,354 people, or a 1.4% increase in population, making Placer County the second fastest growing county in the Sacramento Region behind Yolo County. The Property has development potential for up to 12 home sites.

The Property has abundant oak woodlands, including blue oaks and valley oaks, as well as native grasses throughout. Together the Shutamul Bear River Preserve and the Property contains 2.7 miles of Bear River frontage. Including adjacent protected lands, the acquisition of this Property will protect approximately eight miles of the Bear River. The area provides habitat for a variety of special status species including the California black rail, a state listed threatened species; valley elderberry longhorn beetle, a federally-listed threatened species; bald eagle, a state-listed endangered species; western pond turtle, a California Species of Special Concern; Townsend's big-eared bat, federal and state species of concern; and the foothill yellow-legged frog, federal and state species of concern. Additionally, the Property provides habitat for several game species including California quail, deer, turkey, mourning dove, and wild pig. The Property and the adjacent Shutamul Bear River Preserve together contain the largest known breeding area for the State Insect, the California dogface butterfly, an insect of special interest and study by the UC Davis Bohart Museum of Entomology.

The Property allows for continued connectivity of conserved lands along the south side of Bear River. The connectivity of the Property to the Harvego Bear River Preserve and a planned trail system through this Property and other preserved properties in the area can eventually connect the nearby Hidden Falls Regional Park to the southwest with the Bear River and Harvego Bear River Preserve to the north and northeast. Public access may be offered including fishing, hunting of pig, deer, wild turkey, and California quail as well as the possibility of providing additional recreational opportunities through CDFW's Shared Habitat Alliance for Recreational Enhancement (SHARE) program.

#### WCB PROGRAM

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

#### STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

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

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

The Property includes two miles of riverfront on the Bear River. Additionally, it adds to the contiguous connectivity making for over eight miles of protected river front.

*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 part of CDFW's Spenceville CAPP.

*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 Property will immediately be available for docent-led hiking and other non-motorized recreational tours, utilizing PLT's trained docents and using existing trails on the Property. PLT has met with representatives of the CDFW SHARE Program and is interested in enrolling this Property for pig and/or turkey hunting. Eventually it is likely that the Property will be open to more complete public access as PLT and Placer County continue expanding their public trail system north from Hidden Falls Regional Park. This would

likely require the construction of a small amount of trail on the Property (likely not exceeding one-half acre in total size).

#### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

PLT will manage the Property for wildlife and habitat resources and connectivity, and limited compatible recreation, starting with docent-led tours. PLT has over \$770,000 in dedicated endowment funding for the management, monitoring, and stewardship of its fee title and conservation easement lands along the Bear River, which is sufficient to include this Property.

#### TERMS

The Property has been appraised as having a fair market value of \$2,030,000. The appraisal has been reviewed by WCB staff and reviewed and approved by the Department of General Services (DGS). The property owner has agreed to sell the Property for \$1,508,000, \$522,000 less than the fair market value. The terms and conditions of the proposed WCB grant to PLT 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 the WCB can seek remedies such as encumbering the Property with a conservation easement in favor of the State or seek reimbursement of funds.

#### PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Wildlife Conservation Board	600,000
Emigrant Trail Greenway Trust	500,000
Placer Land Trust	408,000
Total Purchase Price	1,508,000
<i>Total WCB Allocation</i>	<i>\$600,000</i>

#### WCB FUNDING SOURCE

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

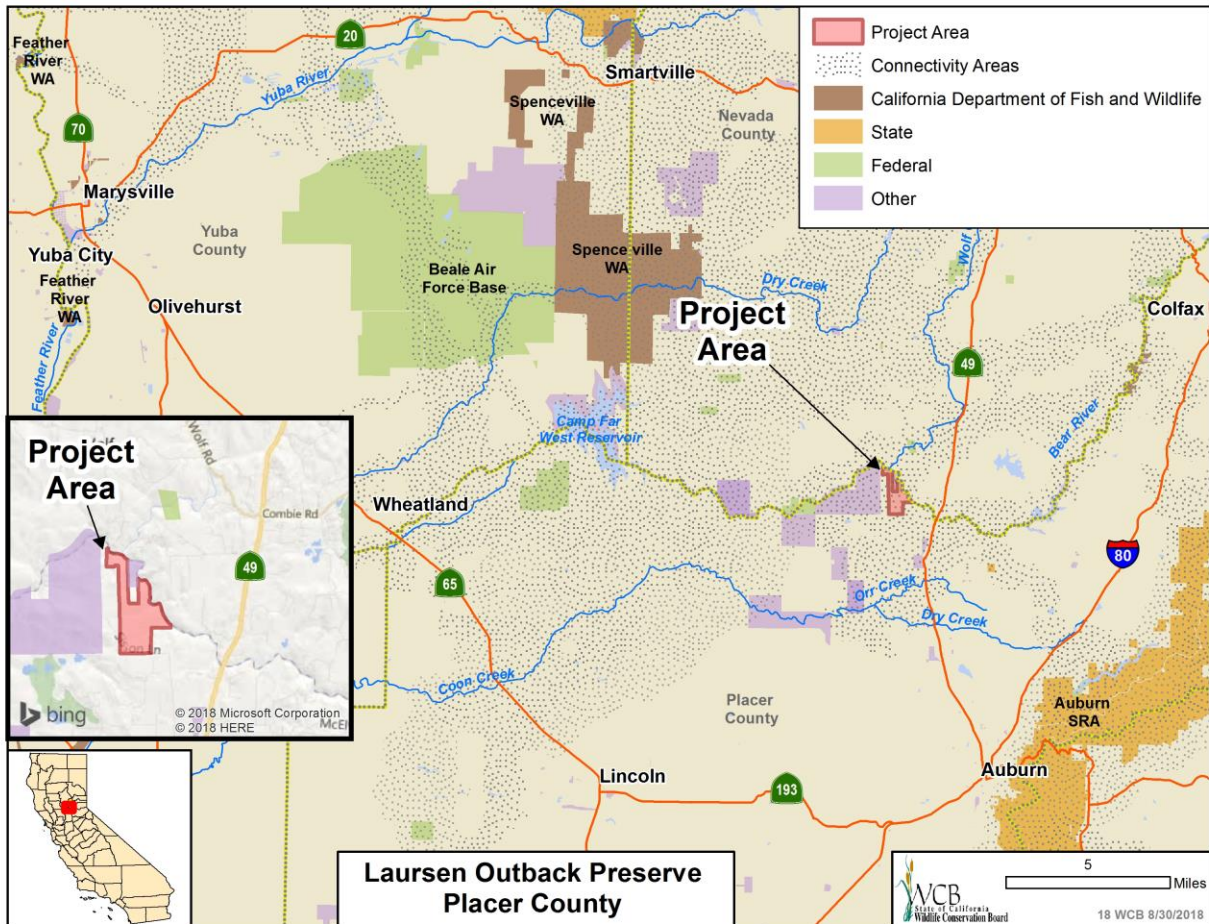
#### ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND STATE RECOMMENDATION

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 Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$600,000 from the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Sage Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Fund (Proposition 40), Public Resources Code Section 5096.650(a); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and California Department of Fish and Wildlife to proceed substantially as planned.



**19. Pacific Union College Forest  
Napa County  
\$3,500,000**

This proposal is to consider the acquisition of a conservation easement over 864± acres of land on behalf of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) under the California Forest Legacy Program Act of 2007 (CFLPA), and the allocation of a grant to CAL FIRE of \$3,500,000 for a cooperative project with the Land Trust of Napa County (LTNC) to protect a mixed conifer forest.

**LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES**

The property (Property) is located approximately eight miles west of Lake Berryessa, ten miles east of Calistoga, and just east of the community of Angwin in Napa County. The Property is bordered to the south by the 796-acre Las Posadas State Forest, managed by CAL FIRE, and to the southeast by the 110-acre Okin Preserve owned by the LTNC. The 730-acre Wantrup Wildlife Preserve and the 1,025-acre Catacula Lake conservation easement are located just to the east, both of which are managed by LTNC. Farther to the east lies the federally owned 6,300-acre Cedar Roughs Wilderness Area, to the west lies Bothe-Napa Valley State Park and to the northwest is LTNC's 3,000-acre Wildlake Ranch and the 7,260-acre Montesol Ranch, both of which were funded by the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB).

The project was submitted to the WCB's California Forest Conservation Program as a grant application and was reviewed, scored, and recommended for funding. The application scored high for mature redwoods. The Property is also located in the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) Blue Ridge Berryessa Natural Area Conceptual Area Protection Plan (CAPP), in which the Property was designated the highest priority for protection. Additionally, the Property is identified as a Critical Habitat Corridor in the Bay Area Open Space Linkages Program and the LTNC's Biodiversity Priorities, in which the forest was identified as essential to conserve.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The Property is an irregularly shaped parcel with elevations ranging between approximately 860 feet above sea level in the northwest corner to about 1,885 feet along the west side. The Property has legal access from Los Posadas Road over lands of CAL FIRE. There is one developed spring onsite and several seasonal creeks and drainages on the Property. The Property drains into both the Lake Hennessey and Lake Berryessa watersheds. Lake Hennessey provides drinking water to the city of Napa and drains into the anadromous fish-bearing (Chinook salmon and steelhead trout) Napa River.

Development threat to this Property is significant. Agricultural land values in Napa County are among the highest in the United States. This Property contains more than 200 acres of prime vineyard land and residential development is also highly desired in this area. Zoning of this Property allows for subdivision to three residential properties. The Property contains a current road system that would facilitate its development for vineyards, wineries, and residential home sites. The Property owner is under great pressure to sell off parcels from the forest to raise funds to further its educational mission.

The Property supports significant wildlife habitat and is a key site aimed at creating a corridor of protected land from Lake County throughout the length of Napa County to Solano County, which is important to the protection of large mammals such as black bear, deer and mountain lions. A pair of northern spotted owls, a federally listed endangered species, has been repeatedly documented within the Property's mature conifer stands along the forest's northern border. Two other pairs nest nearby, just outside the Property's



boundaries. Other habitat that this Property supports includes the California giant salamander, the endangered California red-legged tree frog as well as the foothill yellow-legged frog, northwestern pond turtle, ringtail cat, pallid bat and pale Townsend big-eared bat. The Property includes rare plants, such as stream-side daisy and Napa false indigo, which occur in only five counties in northern California; the number of plants observed on the Property was found by a botanist to be "exceptional...and indicates that this is core habitat for this species." The Property contains a forest that consists of a mix of Douglas-fir, redwood, ponderosa pine as well as tan oak, madrone, and black oak. The Property includes California coast redwood stands that are some of the most interior stands (farthest from the coast) in the species' entire range. Protecting and studying these redwoods will provide an opportunity to understand how these redwoods survive in the hotter, drier conditions found at this location.

CAL FIRE and the Property owner have been in discussions regarding the potential of allowing research and educational programs to be facilitated on the Property and to allow for public access, recreation, and educational opportunities. The Property has been open to the public for many years, offering an important and unique recreational use for Napa County, and the Property owner intends to continue such use pursuant to the terms of the conservation easement.

#### WCB AND CAL FIRE PROGRAMS

The proposed grant is being considered under the CFLPA. The CFLPA, adopted in 2000 and amended in 2007 (Public Resources Code Section 12200, et seq.), allows CAL FIRE to accept lands and interests in land to protect environmentally important forestlands that are threatened by present or future conversion to non-forest uses. Priority is to be given to lands that can be effectively protected and managed, and that have important scenic, recreational, timber, riparian, fish and wildlife, threatened and endangered species, and other cultural and environmental values. Under the CFLPA, WCB may acquire conservation easements on behalf of CAL FIRE (Public Resources Code Section 12240).

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

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

#### STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

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

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

The proposed conservation easement will conserve and protect several seasonal creeks and drainages on the Property. The Property drains into both the Lake Hennessey and Lake Berryessa watersheds. Lake Hennessey provides drinking water to the city of Napa and drains into the fish-bearing Napa River.

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

In addition to scoring high in the WCB's Forest Conservation Program, the Property is also part of CDFW's Blue Ridge Berryessa Natural Area CAPP.

*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 Property supports a wide range of recreational uses and the Property owner intends to continue such use pursuant to the terms of the conservation easement.

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

Under the California Forest Legacy Program, WCB is to assist CAL FIRE with the acquisition of the easement using Forest Legacy funds awarded to CAL FIRE from the State Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund.

#### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The easement will be held by CAL FIRE. CAL FIRE and LTNC have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in which LTNC will conduct annual monitoring, pursuant to the terms of the easement, on behalf of CAL FIRE. LTNC will also review aerial photographs of the Property every five years. CAL FIRE will be responsible for all activities related to the planning and implementation of forest management and timber harvesting activities on the Property, including the review and analysis of the documentation.

#### TERMS

The conservation easement has been appraised as having a fair market value of \$8,600,000. The appraisal has been reviewed by WCB staff and reviewed and approved by the Department of General Services (DGS). The Property owner has agreed to sell the Property for \$7,100,000, \$1,500,000 less than the fair market value. Pursuant to the terms and conditions of the proposed WCB Grant to CAL FIRE, in addition to WCB's role in assisting CAL FIRE with acquisitions, WCB staff will 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 seek specific performance of the grant or require the grantee to transfer the

Easement to WCB or another qualified holder. Once approved by the Board, the transaction will also be subject to review and approval by DGS.

#### PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Wildlife Conservation Board	3,500,000
CAL FIRE – State Forest Legacy Grant through the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF)	2,850,000
Land Trust of Napa County	750,000
Total Purchase Price	7,100,000
<i>Total WCB Allocation</i>	<i>\$3,500,000</i>

#### WCB FUNDING SOURCE

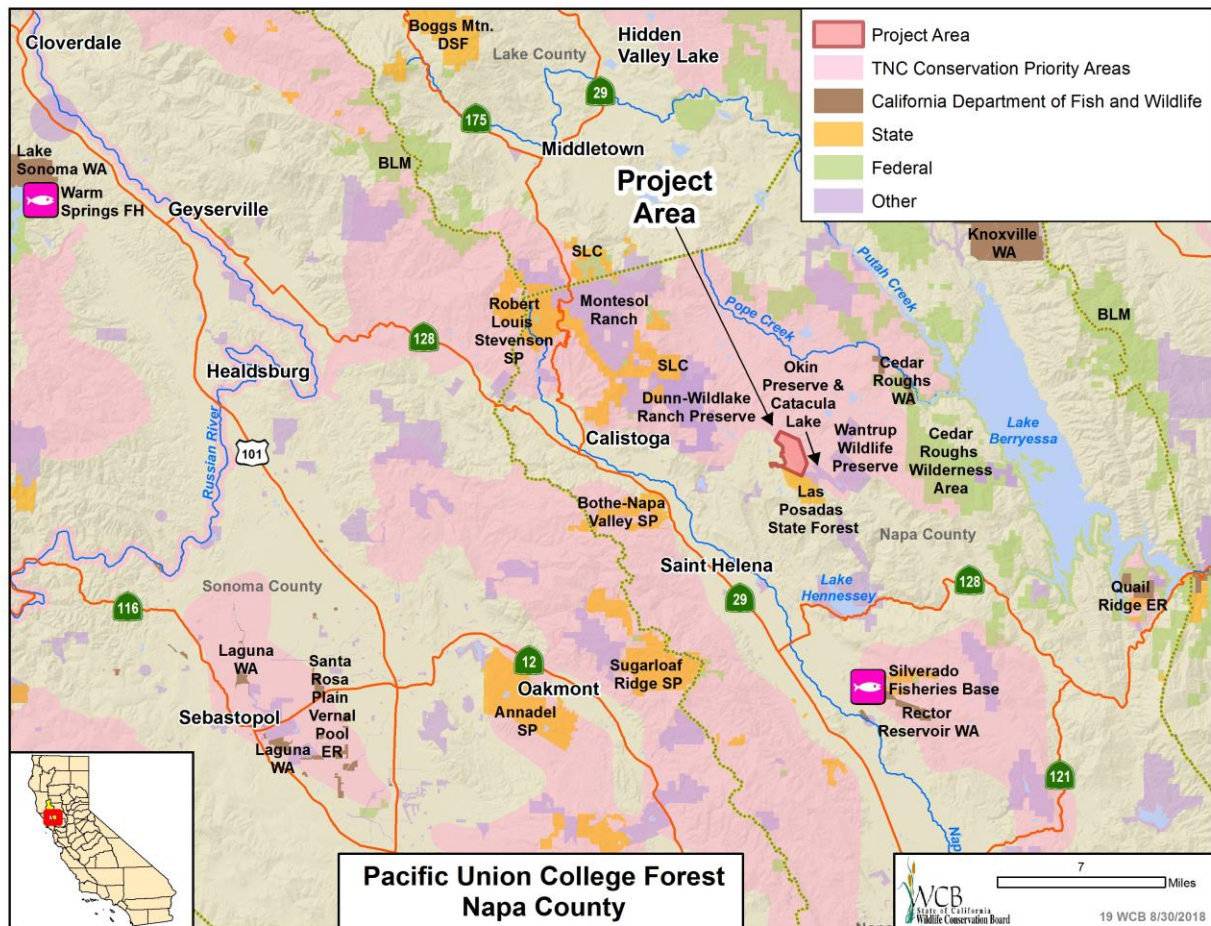
The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, which allows for forest conservation and protection projects in order to promote the ecological integrity and economic stability of California's diverse native forests, through forest conservation, preservation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

#### ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE 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 existing natural conditions, including plant or animal habitats. Subject to authorization by the WCB, a Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse. The CDFW has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for approval.

#### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$3,500,000 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; approve the acquisition of the easement over 864± acres on behalf of CAL FIRE under the California Forest Legacy Act; authorize acceptance of reimbursement from CAL FIRE to cover project related expenses; authorize staff and CAL FIRE to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff, CAL FIRE, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to proceed substantially as planned.



**20. Lower American River Natural Resources Management Plan  
Sacramento County  
\$500,000**

This item has been withdrawn from consideration at this time.

**21. El Dorado Ranch Phase III**  
**El Dorado County**  
**\$2,500,000**

This proposal is to consider the allocation for a grant to The American River Conservancy (ARC) to acquire in fee 1,018± acres of land for a cooperative project with the California Natural Resources Agency, California Wildlife Foundation, and El Dorado County for the protection and preservation of riparian and woodland habitat, and to provide for potential future wildlife oriented public use opportunities.

**LOCATION and SURROUNDING USES**

The property (Property) is located west of State Route 49 approximately four miles south of the town of El Dorado and 35 miles west of Sacramento, in southwestern El Dorado County. The Property lies in proximity to a nearby corridor of protected properties located along the Cosumnes River that are owned by ARC, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Pine Hill Ecological Reserve & Hope Valley Wildlife Area), the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Forest Service. The Property borders the original El Dorado Ranch (1,059± acres) property and the subsequent El Dorado Ranch Phase 1B (1080± acres), recently acquired by ARC with funding from the Natural Resources Agency and the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB). The Property is also located within the Upper Cosumnes River Basin Conceptual Area Protection Plan, which helps guide efforts to preserve an intact, landscape scale ecosystem, running the entire 80 mile length of the Cosumnes River; and protect the foothill belt of the Cosumnes watershed that supports intact blue oak woodlands and a number of sensitive wildlife species.

The Cosumnes River is one of the last undammed rivers flowing from the Sierra Nevada Mountains into the greater Central Valley. The river harbors runs of steelhead and salmon, and provides habitat for otters, beavers, and the rare giant garter snake. The river and riparian corridor support numerous species including deer, mountain lion, and coyotes along with numerous migratory song birds and waterfowl.

The Property currently remains in its natural and undeveloped state. The surrounding neighborhood is comprised of open land with single-family homes situated on large lots or acreages to the south, west, and east of the Property. The area primarily supports livestock grazing activities and is noted for its scenic beauty consisting of rolling hills, riverfront properties, and open space appeal. These attributes along with the Property's close proximity to the greater Sacramento metropolitan area, make the Property appealing for more intensive development.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The Property is comprised of two non-contiguous properties containing a total of 11 legal parcels that are zoned for agricultural use. El Dorado County is rapidly growing, and the area around the Property is prized for rural ranchettes. The Property is characterized by a slightly sloping to rolling topography, covered with chaparral, sage, oak woodlands, grasslands, riparian vegetation, and riverine habitat areas along the Cosumnes River.

The acquisition of the Property will help expand the protection of the Cosumnes River, from its headwaters to the confluence with the Mokelumne River, as an ecologically and hydrologically intact river system and expand the protection of significant riparian habitats beneficial to a number of native fishes, including salmonids, and other endemic mammals, birds and insects. The acquisition will also expand the protection of upland habitats, and help maintain wildlife corridors extending from the downstream protected areas of the Cosumnes River up into the higher foothill areas and into the El Dorado National Forest.

Projects such as this also help provide protection against the effects of climate change by providing varying elevations for species to move between in order to better adapt to temperature variations. The Property is also potentially suitable for future development of public access uses and facilities.

The Property supports multiple plant and animal species such as the Nissenan manzanita, blue oak woodland, deer, mountain lion, bald eagle and northern goshawk along with a number of rare and sensitive species including riverine habitat for the state and federally threatened Chinook salmon, the California threatened central valley steelhead, the State endangered bald eagle, the State threatened red-legged frog and other rare species including the foothill yellow legged frog and northwestern pond turtle.

#### WCB PROGRAM

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

#### STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

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

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

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

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

The acquisition of this conservation easement is at the request of CDFW. The Property is also located within the Upper Cosumnes River Basin Conceptual Area Protection Plan, which helps guide efforts to preserve an intact, landscape scale ecosystem, running the entire 80 mile length of the Cosumnes River; and protect the foothill belt of the Cosumnes watershed that supports intact blue oak woodlands and a number of sensitive wildlife species.

#### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The Property will be owned and managed by in the interim by ARC. The ARC, which has been in existence for over 20 years, manages a number of other properties 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 ARC to protect and preserve the Property's open space and natural resource values, and potentially afford future recreational opportunities to the public such as hunting, fishing, boating, hiking, photography and biking.

It is contemplated once the Property is assembled with the prior El Dorado Ranch acquisition (mentioned above) and management plans have been developed, the ARC may transfer the entire acreage to CDFW. The transfer would be a "no-cost" transaction. Regional staff has already visited both properties and expressed an interest in managing them for fishing, hunting and other outdoor recreation opportunities in an area of the State where these types of public opportunities are very limited. Under the terms of the grant the Executive Director of the WCB would need to approve the transfer, along with a transaction review and approval by the Department of General Services.

#### TERMS

The Property has been appraised as having a fair market value of \$4,680,000. 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 less than the approved appraised fair market value. The terms and conditions of the proposed WCB grant 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. Under the terms of the WCB Grant Agreement, ARC will be required to hold the Property in a manner consistent with the purposes of the grant agreement. The Property cannot be sold, transferred, exchanged or otherwise conveyed without WCB approval. In the event of default, WCB may require the ARC to convey a conservation easement over the Property in favor of the State, or another entity or organization authorized by California law to acquire and hold the conservation easement that is willing and financially capable.

#### PROJECT FUNDING

Wildlife Conservation Board	2,500,000
American River Conservancy	266,500
Caltrans EEM	850,000
El Dorado County	63,500
California Wildlife Foundation, Inc.	500,000
Total Purchase Price	4,180,000
<i>Total WCB Allocation</i>	<i>\$2,500,000</i>

#### FUNDING SOURCE

The purposes of this project are consistent with the proposed funding source, the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Fund (Proposition 40), Public Resources Code Section 5096.650(a) that allows for the acquisition, development, rehabilitation, restoration and protection of habitat to promote the recovery of threatened and endangered species, to provide corridors linking separate



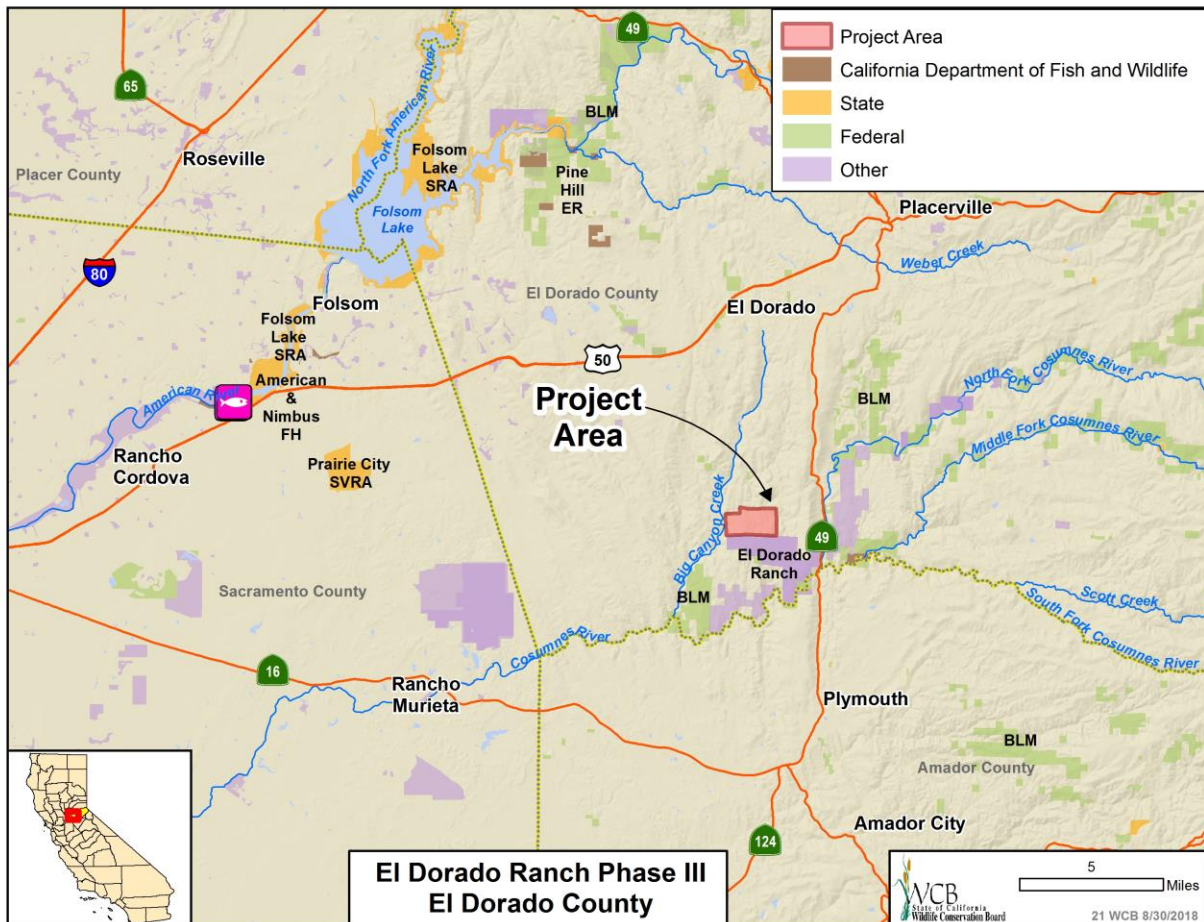
habitat areas to prevent habitat fragmentation, and to protect significant natural landscapes and ecosystems and other significant habitat areas.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

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

#### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$2,500,000 from the California Clean Water, Clear Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Fund (Proposition 40), Public Resources Code Section 5096.650 (a); and 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.



**22. Willow Creek Ranch**  
**San Benito County**  
**\$600,000**

This proposal is to consider the allocation for a grant to the California Rangeland Trust (CRT) for a cooperative project with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to acquire a working lands conservation easement over 4,459± acres of land for the protection of native oak woodlands, annual grasslands and riparian areas, and threatened and endangered habitat.

**LOCATION and SURROUNDING USES**

The property (Property), known as the Willow Creek Ranch, is located approximately ten miles south of the community of Paicines, in San Benito County. It is roughly twelve miles east of State Route 101 and the city of Gonzales and is about twenty-five miles southeast of Hollister, the county seat. State Route 25 runs along the eastern border of the Property while portions of the Property are bordered by La Gloria Road and Pinnacles National Park.

Aside from the CAL FIRE Bear Valley station located adjacent to the conservation easement, the Property is primarily surrounded by private land. Other Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) projects in the vicinity are the Gabilan Ranch Conservation Easement and the Dorrance Ranch Conservation Easement.

The Property is in CDFW's Santa Cruz Mountains Linkages Conceptual Area Protection Plan (CAPP). The primary purpose of the CAPP is to secure critical landscape linkages between the Santa Cruz Mountains and the Mount Hamilton and Gabilan ranges. The Property is located in the Gabilan Range and lies within both the Pajaro and Salinas watersheds. Willow Creek, along with the South Fork and North Fork of Willow Creek, are perennial and intermittent streams that flow on the Property.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The Property is irregularly shaped and is agricultural rangeland. It is accessed from the east by State Route 25 and from the south by La Gloria Road. Under the Agricultural Rangeland zoning designation, parcels are a minimum of 40 acres and agricultural and accessory residential, storage, and processing uses are allowed. The Property has been managed as a cattle ranch for generations and has been in the current owner's family for over 100 years. There are no structures within the conservation easement area.

The topography on Willow Creek Ranch varies from gentle grassy terraces and meadows to peaks and steep canyons with thick vegetation. These canyons feed streams containing riparian habitat and oak woodlands. Elevations range from approximately 1,500 to 2,200 feet.

The landscape contains a variety of vegetation types including chaparral, oak woodland, native annual wildflowers, and native perennial bunch grasses. Species located on the Property include deer, mountain lion, California tiger salamanders, western pond turtles, and California condors.

Willow Creek Ranch has been identified as an area central to regional habitat connectivity within the Gabilan Range. Since it is adjacent to Pinnacles National Park, a conservation easement on the Property will ensure long term management that is compatible with the Park's unique cultural and conservation values.

With the amount of home sites being developed along State Route 25 increasing

substantially every year, the proposed Project will ensure that the Property's rangeland environment, agricultural productivity, open space created by working landscapes, plant and wildlife habitat and associated watersheds will be conserved and sustained in perpetuity.

#### WCB PROGRAM

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

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

#### STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

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

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

The project preserves corridors that provide transitional habitat for wildlife to adapt to climate change by moving between the Property's lower elevation grasslands to the higher elevation habitat consisting of more diverse vegetation.

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

The Property is identified as a parcel for protection in CDFW's Santa Cruz Mountains Linkages CAPP. Both the habitat and wildlife value, along with the potential to promote the preservation of existing linkages and corridors, supported the Property's identity as a priority for protection.

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

The conservation easement is being acquired with WCB funds leveraged by the funding partnership of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

#### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

CRT will hold, monitor and enforce the terms of the conservation easement, which provide that the Property will be used primarily as an open space working landscape supporting cattle ranching and recreational uses. CRT currently holds more than 50 conservation

easements covering over 300,000 acres. The landowner will donate funding into a CRT stewardship endowment to cover easement monitoring costs.

#### TERMS

The conservation easement was appraised as having a fair market value of \$2,050,000. The appraisal has been reviewed by WCB staff and reviewed and approved by the Department of General Services (DGS). The property owner has agreed to sell the conservation easement for its approved appraised fair market value of \$2,050,000. The terms and conditions of the proposed WCB grant to CRT 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 seek specific performance of the grant or require the grantee to transfer the conservation easement to WCB or another qualified holder.

#### PROJECT FUNDING

The Proposed funding breakdown for this project is as follows:

Wildlife Conservation Board	600,000
Bureau of Reclamation	1,450,000
Total Purchase Price	2,050,000
<i>Total WCB Allocation</i>	<i>\$600,000</i>

#### WCB FUNDING SOURCE

The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Fund (Proposition 40), Public Resources Code Section 5096.650(a)(3), which allows for the acquisition, development, rehabilitation, restoration and protection of habitat to promote the recovery of threatened and endangered species, to provide corridors linking separate habitat areas to prevent habitat fragmentation, and to protect significant natural landscapes and ecosystems and other significant habitat areas.

#### 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 Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$600,000 from the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Fund (Proposition 40), Public Resources Code Section 5096.650(a)(3); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to proceed substantially as planned.





**23. San Joaquin River Parkway, River Center Public Access Improvements  
Fresno County  
\$400,000**

This proposal is to consider the allocation for a grant to the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust (Trust) for a cooperative project with the San Joaquin River Conservancy (SJRC) and other private donors to improve and construct public use and interpretive features, and install a solar power system at the Trust's 20± acre Coke Hollowell Center for River Studies (River Center), located 2± miles east of State Route 41 in Fresno County.

**LOCATION**

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

Owned and operated by the Trust, the River Center is located on Old Friant Road within the Parkway in an unincorporated area of Fresno County. The River Center lies within a mile of both the river and City of Fresno. The 20-acre site was formerly owned by a series of ranchers and a gravel mining company. Approximately half of the site is flat and developed. An abandoned gravel pit, partially filled with water and forming a pond, is located at the southern end of the site. An open field is located on the north end of the site. Most existing structures and facilities are located between the pond and the field.

Since its opening in 2002, the River Center has functioned informally as the only visitor center within the Parkway, interpreting the natural history and historic human uses of the river and surrounding area. Located on-site are the restored 1890's Riverview Ranch House and garden, a barn, a picnic area, restrooms, a 168-space parking lot, and administrative and maintenance buildings. The Trust enhanced the area around the pond with native plants, a nature trail, and interpretive signage. A segment of the Lewis S. Eaton Trail, the planned Parkway-wide multi-use trail, traverses the site. Approximately 20,000 people, including numerous school groups from Fresno and Madera counties, visit the River Center annually. The River Center is open daily and is accessible by motor vehicle, foot, bicycle, and horseback.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Since 2002, the Trust completed several planning efforts including the River Center Vision Plan (2012) with the goal to expand outdoor recreation and education programs for schoolchildren and the community. However, there are no outdoor, weather-protected spaces to host large groups and existing interpretive facilities limit the Trust's effort to convey information about the river and region.

The purposes of the proposed project are to provide recreational and interpretive facilities for the public and to reduce the carbon footprint of the River Center by generating solar power. Once completed, the improvements will allow the Trust to introduce more visitors to the natural history and culture of the region, and provide weather-protected venues for large group activities including educational field trips, meetings, and events.

The Trust is responsible for completing the following Project tasks:

Project Management. The Trust will oversee all elements of the Project, monitor the progress of the project tasks, track expenditures, and complete reporting related to execution and completion of the grant.

Planning and Permitting. Analysis and requirements related to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) have been completed as part of a County of Fresno Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) and Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for the River Center. Design for the barn is completed, and specific designs for the picnic shelter, solar power system, and water table will be provided by manufacturers. The Trust will design the native plant garden in-house. Permitting by Fresno County has been completed for the barn reconstruction. The WCB grant will fund any County of Fresno permitting associated with the picnic shelter, solar power system, and water table. No permitting is required for garden installation.

Construction and Installation.

- Picnic Shelter and Tables: The Trust will install an approximately 5,000 square foot picnic shelter that will function as an outdoor group gathering place and a lunch area for school groups. New picnic tables will accommodate up to 100 people.
- Native Plant Garden: The Trust will locate the garden, consisting of planted areas and pathways, adjacent to the picnic shelter. Local wildlife, especially native songbirds, will benefit from the plant selection. The Trust will grow plants from seeds collected locally and obtain plants from native plant nurseries as needed.
- Interpretive Water Table: Assembled on site: The water table will provide an interactive exhibit with hands-on stations that illustrate the complex functioning of the river and watershed. As part of the exhibit, the Trust will install an adjacent water source similar to a hose bib from which visitors can fill and then pour containers of water out at different points within the watershed to observe effects on the system.
- Solar Power System: A solar power system will be installed with ground-mounted panels, wiring, and electrical connections to generate electricity for the River Center and for any increase anticipated from the new facilities. The solar power system will be connected to the power grid and Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) will provide credits to the Trust for electricity produced.

Barn Reconstruction. The Trust's architect and structural engineer determined that the existing barn was degraded beyond repair and no longer salvageable. The Trust is constructing a new barn in approximately the same location, size, and shape as the dilapidated one. Design elements incorporated into the new structure include large doors that open to provide ventilation, a group gathering space, restroom, storage room, and lighting.

New facilities will meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements.

**WCB PROGRAM**

WCB assists with the administration of project funding for the SJRC. The WCB, represented by its Executive Director, holds a position on the 15-member SJRC Board along with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), represented by the Central Region Manager. The SJRC Board reviews and approves projects to ensure they are viable and consistent with the goals of the current SJRC Parkway Master Plan Update (2018), prior to consideration by the WCB. The SJRC Board approved this Project and its submittal to WCB on May 2, 2018.



The proposed Project will be funded through the WCB Public Access Program and meets the Program's goal for cooperative development of facilities for public access to wildlife-oriented public use and recreation. The Project is consistent with existing land uses and will not degrade environmental resources. It will support urban areas and disadvantaged communities.

#### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The Project is consistent with the Parkway Master Plan Update and will not conflict with Fresno County zoning or jurisdictions. The County of Fresno issued a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for development and operation of the River Center in 2001 and updated it in 2006. While the Project may increase visitation to the River Center by allowing the Trust to accommodate larger groups, it will not increase vehicle capacity at the site and will not increase use beyond what has been anticipated for facilities described in the CUP.

The objectives of the Project are consistent with the following Parkway Master Plan Update goals and policies:

- Develop Parkway exhibits, interpretive walks and trails, programs, outdoor classrooms, and self-guided brochure tours.
- Provide education programs for people of all ages and abilities.
- Develop public education elements in all Parkway projects, facilities and programs.
- Utilize educational and recreational programs developed by volunteer, school, and nonprofit organizations in the area to provide public outreach.
- Minimize potential impacts to sensitive natural resources by grouping facilities and intensive uses, or siting facilities and intensive uses, in areas that are already disturbed or developed where feasible.
- Work to minimize the greenhouse gas footprint, energy, and water use of Parkway operations, SJRC, and grant projects.
- Conserve, enhance, restore, and provide for public enjoyment of the aquatic, plant, and wildlife resources of the San Joaquin River Parkway.

The Trust's mission is dedicated to advocating for public access to the river and supporting the development of the Parkway. The Trust has the expertise to complete the Project and continue to oversee public access, administer interpretive programs, and provide operation and maintenance for the new facilities. The Trust entered into an agreement with the WCB to maintain the site for 25 years. If at any time during the 25-year life of the Project, the Trust 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:

Item Description	WCB Grant	Matching Funds*	Total Cost
Project Management	\$33,000		\$33,000
Planning and Permitting	\$5,000	\$114,015	\$119,015
Construction and Installation	\$329,000	\$20,000	\$349,000
Barn Reconstruction		\$1,172,095	\$1,172,095
Contingency (10%)	\$33,000		\$33,000
Total	\$400,000	\$1,306,110	\$1,706,110

\* Project matching funds are composed of private donations.

The Trust will manage and complete County of Fresno permitting, and construct and install a picnic shelter and tables, native plant garden, an interpretive water table, and a solar power system.

#### FUNDING SOURCE

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

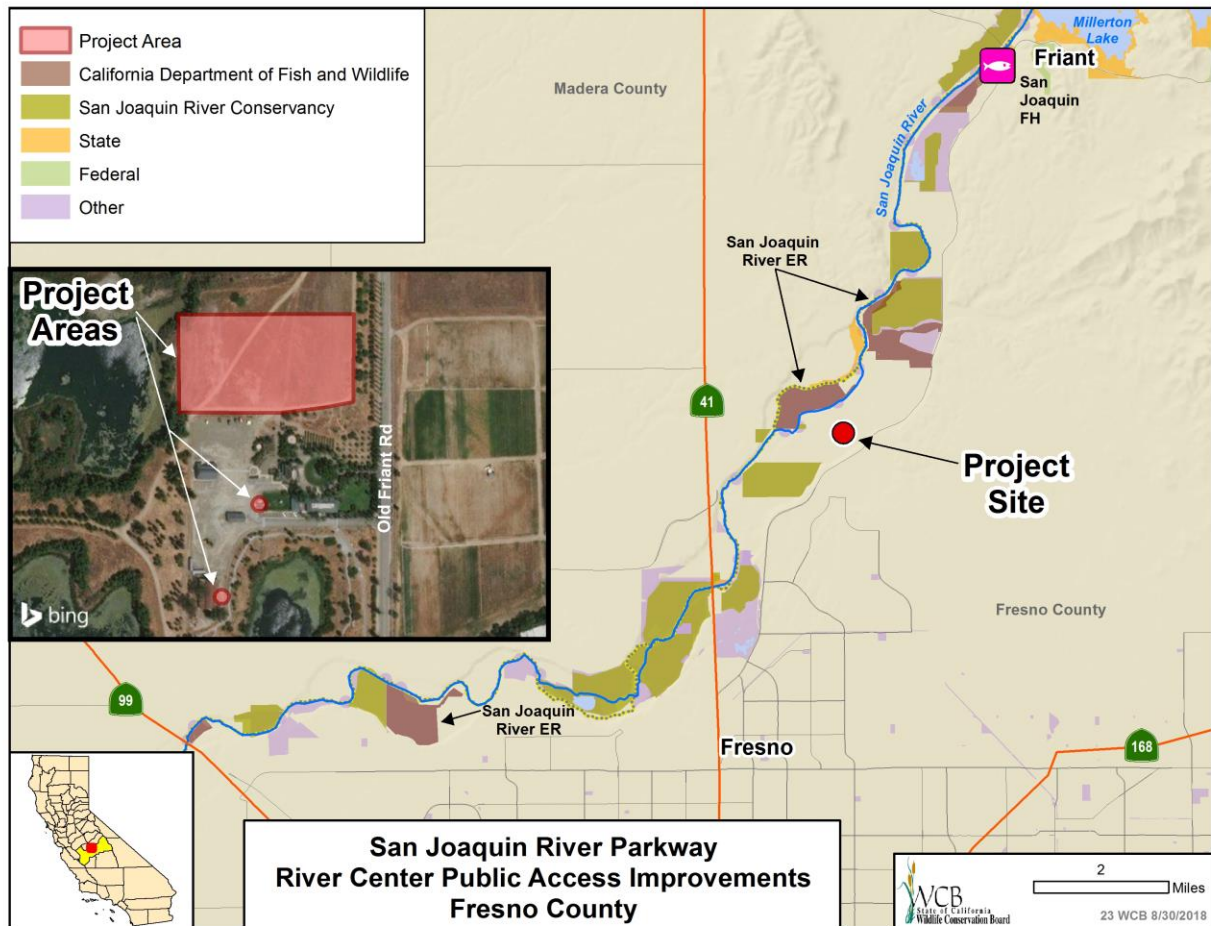
#### CEQA AND SJRC REVIEW/ RECOMMENDATION

The proposed Project is included among the highest priority projects recommended by the Interagency Project Development Committee, whose role is to evaluate projects to be considered by the SJRC Board. The prioritization criteria relevant to the Project include public demand, connectivity to trails, and a committed operator. The SJRC Board approved this Project and its submittal to WCB on May 2, 2018.

As lead agency, the County of Fresno filed a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) pursuant to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in 2001 and an amendment to the Mitigated Negative Declaration in 2006. Staff has considered the Mitigated Negative Declaration and prepared proposed, written findings documenting WCB's compliance with CEQA. Subject to approval of the funding by the WCB, the appropriate Notice of Determination will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

#### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board adopt the written findings and approve this Project as proposed; allocate \$400,000 from the California Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75050(f) for the Project; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this Project; and authorize staff and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to proceed substantially as planned.



**24. Triangle Ranch**  
**Los Angeles County**  
**\$3,400,000**

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 to acquire 70± acres of land for the protection of chaparral, coastal sage scrub, native grasslands, watersheds and oak woodland-savannah habitat and to enhance wildlife linkages and provide potential future wildlife-oriented public use opportunities.

**LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES**

The property (Property), known as Triangle Ranch (Phase 3), is located in Los Angeles County within a tributary of the regionally significant Malibu Creek Watershed. On the north and east, the Property abuts open space owned by the MRCA. The west side is bordered by Phase 1 of the Triangle Ranch, soon to be under MRCA ownership. The southern boundary of the Property is bordered by rural residential lots with large ranchette style homes.

Located just south of State Route 101 at the southern end of the Simi Hills, Triangle Ranch is one of the significant unprotected properties in the Santa Monica Mountains - Sierra Madre Connection Conceptual Area Protection Plan (CAPP). The acquisition of the Triangle Ranch will provide a wildlife corridor leading into the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA) and the Ladyface Mountain habitat area. The CAPP was amended in 2018 to include the 320-acre Triangle Ranch. This portion of the CAPP lies at the southern terminus of the Simi Hills-to-Santa Monica Mountains portion of this inter-mountain range habitat linkage system.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The Property is part of the 60 square mile Simi Hills core habitat area. Preservation of Triangle Ranch is critical for the functionality of the Liberty Canyon wildlife corridor. The Property is part of a habitat linkage that ties the approximately 1,000-acre Ladyface Mountain core habitat area with the Liberty Canyon inter-mountain range wildlife corridor and Malibu Creek State Park. Additionally, the Property's east end is approximately 3,300 feet from the Caltrans proposed wildlife bridge over State Route 101 at Liberty Canyon, within the City of Agoura Hills, Los Angeles County.

The Property contains a section of Medea Creek, a tributary of Malibu Creek, featuring the largest known populations of the federally-listed annual wildflower Lyon's pentachaeta and riparian habitat dominated by coast live oak and valley oak woodlands. The Property includes broad swaths of chaparral shrub, purple sage coastal sage scrub, native and annual grassland, and valley oak savannah. Many rock outcroppings contain unique microsites for plants and animals. The Property supports mountain lion, mule deer, American badger, bobcat, gray fox, ring-tailed cat, long-tailed weasel, California quail, and dozens of reptile species.

**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 Section 1300, *et seq.*) authorizing the WCB to acquire real property or rights in real property on behalf of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), grant funds to other governmental entities or nonprofit organizations to acquire real property or rights in real property and accept federal grant funds to facilitate acquisitions or 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. 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 for review and, if approved, later transmitted to the WCB with a recommendation to fund.

This project supports the following WCB 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.*

Acquisition of the Property will increase wildlife movement by providing additional area to the Liberty Canyon to Ladyface Mountain to Malibu Creek State Park corridor. The Property offers various elevation gradients and is a key link between Malibu State Park and the Santa Monica Mountains in the south and open space to the north, which continues unbroken to the Sierra Madre Mountains and the Los Padres National Forest. This will allow for anticipated habitat and wildlife migration in the face of climate change.

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

Malibu Creek is listed as in need of preservation in the Southern California Coast Steelhead Recovery Plan. Preservation of this upstream property will provide multiple benefits to the downstream integrity of the Malibu Creek watershed and improve the total watershed storage capacity.

*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 the newly created CDFW Santa Monica-Sierra Madre Linkage CAPP.

#### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

MRCA will be the sole entity responsible for management once the Property is acquired. Funding of future management activities for this Property will be provided by the MRCA. The MRCA manages and provides ranger services for almost 72,000± acres of parks and open space both within and outside the SMMNRA. MRCA does not anticipate the addition of this Property to significantly impact its existing operations. MRCA may explore the potential for future public use activities on the Property in conjunction with its management of adjacent properties.

#### TERMS

The Property has been appraised as having a fair market value of \$6,781,250. The appraisal has been reviewed by WCB staff and reviewed and approved by the Department of General Services. 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 the WCB can require the grantee to encumber the Property with a conservation easement in favor of the State or another entity approved by the State and seek reimbursement of funds.

#### PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Wildlife Conservation Board	3,400,000
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy	3,381,250
Total Purchase Price	6,781,250
<i>Total WCB Allocation</i>	<i>\$3,400,000</i>

#### WCB FUNDING SOURCE

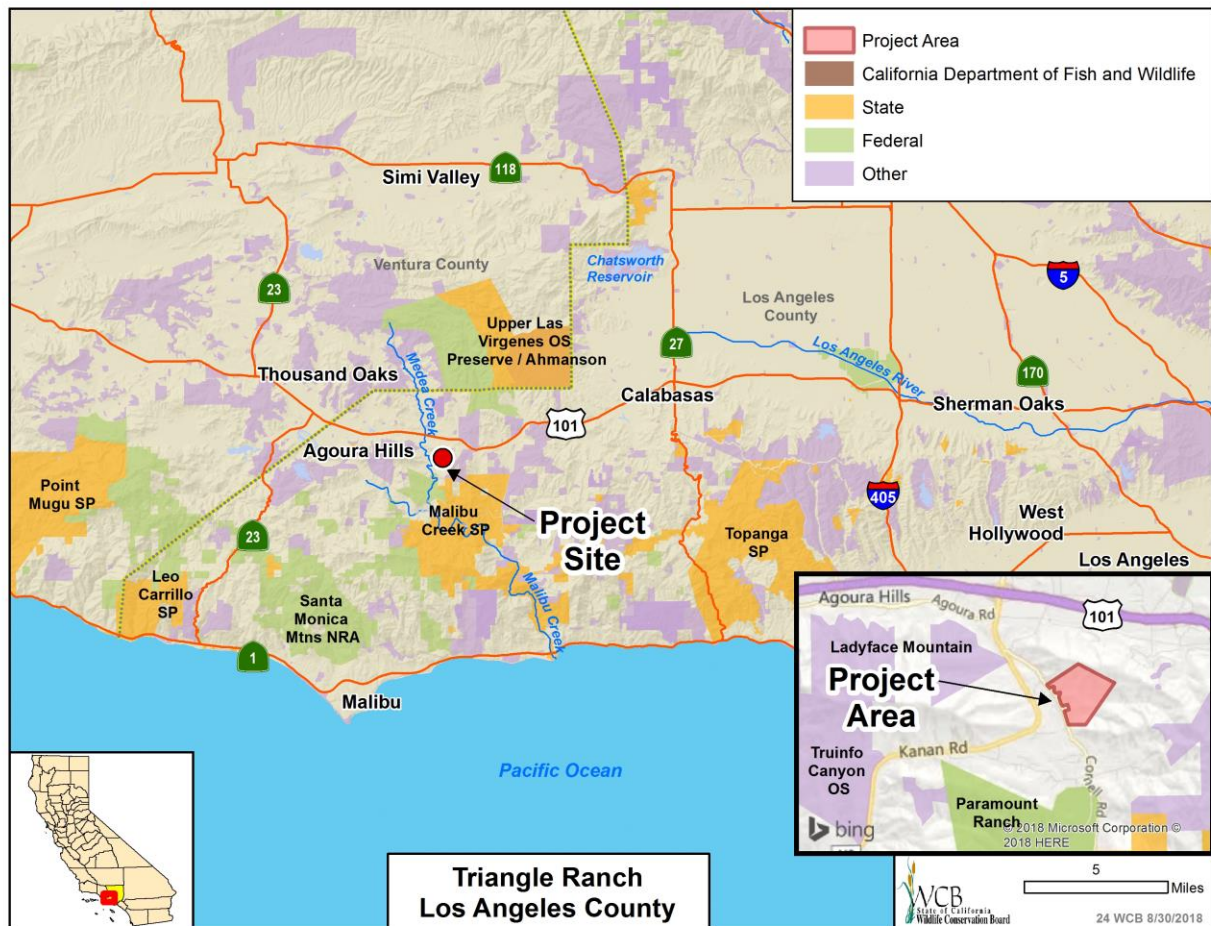
The purposes of this project are consistent with the proposed funding source, the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c), that allows for the acquisition of habitat to protect rare, endangered, threatened or fully protected species.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND STATE RECOMMENDATION

The project has been reviewed pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and is proposed as exempt under 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.

#### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$3,400,000 from the from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and California Department of Fish and Wildlife to proceed substantially as planned.





**25. Lower American River Conservancy Program Information/Action**

Staff will provide informational update and seek approval of Program Guidelines and the 2018 Proposal Solicitation.

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

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

The Parkway includes natural and recreational resources of statewide significance and is often referred to as "the jewel" of the Sacramento region. The Parkway provides significant benefits to the state and the Sacramento region including flood control, water supply, water quality, habitat for anadromous fisheries, including salmon and steelhead, habitat for migratory waterfowl and sensitive species, including Swainson's hawk, peregrine falcon, northern harrier, white-tailed kite, and western pond turtle, as well as habitat for other wildlife, including river otter.

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

The Program is administered by the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB). WCB is authorized to receive and expend proceeds from bonds or other appropriations for the benefit of the Parkway and related lands. In administering the Program, WCB will prioritize expenditures to develop and implement the County's Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP) and to improve access to, and protect and restore the Parkway. WCB may provide grants to other local agencies and nonprofit organizations for implementation of the NRMP. WCB, in implementing the program, will consult with the County of Sacramento to ensure projects are consistent with the Parkway Plan and will coordinate activities with appropriate local and regional agencies.

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

- Three members of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sacramento;

- Two representatives of the City of Sacramento; the Mayor and one member of the Sacramento City Council;
- The Mayor or a member of the City Council of the City of Rancho Cordova;
- A representative from the Natural Resources Agency, Department of Finance, and the State Lands Commission; and
- Three members from the public are large who have demonstrated knowledge of and expertise in the Parkway and the Parkway Plan; one member appointed by the Governor, one member appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules, and one member appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly.

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

WCB may award grants for the following project types under the Program:

- Acquisition, restoration, enhancement, and maintenance of fish and wildlife habitat and other natural resources, including resources impacted by wildfire, within and adjacent to the Parkway;
- Improvement and expansion of public access, recreational areas, and recreational facilities, including trails;
- Enhancement of interpretive and educational facilities related to the Parkway and its natural, cultural, and historic resources;
- Control and removal of invasive species and the propagation of native species;
- Improve and enhance lands within and adjacent to the Parkway. Projects funded on adjacent land shall contribute to the advancement of Parkway values; and
- Design, implement and provide grants for stormwater capture and treatment projects to improve the quality of water that flows within and into the Parkway and to increase habitat for fish and wildlife. Stormwater projects may include lands within and adjacent to the Parkway and its tributaries downstream of the Nimbus Dam and within Sacramento County.

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

At the August 30, 2017 meeting, WCB Executive Director Donnelly gave an overview of the history, mission, and structure of the WCB to the Advisory Committee members. Under AB 1716, the WCB is charged with administering and operating the Program. The 12 members of the Advisory Committee were introduced. One million is designated from the General Fund in the Governor's budget for the program, and additional funds are identified in Proposition 68. The funds are directed for Local Assistance and Capital Outlay. The legislation identifies the NRMP as a priority for funding. Jeff Leatherman, the Director of Regional Parks for Sacramento County at the time, gave an overview of the plans for recruiting a Deputy Director, and for completing the NRMP for the Parkway.

The Committee met again on October 24, 2017. WCB staff presented a Charter for the Committee which documents the protocols and guidelines for the administration and parliamentary function of the Committee. In addition, the Committee discussed Guidelines to establish the process, procedures, and general requirements through which the WCB will administer the Program, and to describe the role of the Committee. Also, Committee

discussion included the County Parks staff mapping efforts on the Parkway which helps identify new projects.

The third meeting occurred on March 15, 2018. Sacramento County Regional Parks gave a summary of the Request for Qualifications for potential vendors for the NRMP. The contractor selection is expected in June, and completion of the NRMP is expected to take approximately two years. Regional Parks has \$600,000 identified for the NRMP in its budget. Additionally, WCB gave a general overview of a draft Proposal Solicitation Notice (PSN).

The fourth meeting occurred on July 30 2018. Executive Director Donnelly announced the passage of Proposition 68; this brings an additional \$10 million to the Program with \$2 million allocated in the Governor's budget for fiscal year 2018-19. The total funding potential for the 2018 grant cycle is \$2.5 million. WCB staff presented a memorandum on the Disadvantaged Community requirement of Proposition 68 along with the inclusion of this requirement in the upcoming 2018 grant cycle. WCB staff reviewed proposed amendments to the Program Guidelines, as well as the proposed 2018 PSN for the Program. The Committee approved the amendments to the Program Guidelines and the proposed 2018 PSN.

Sacramento County Regional Parks presented a list of its priority projects for the Parkway. The Committee asked that for the next meeting WCB staff encourage other local agencies along the Parkway to attend and bring a list of their priority projects. WCB staff also presented a new Program web page, linked on the WCB website.

The next meeting, proposed for mid-November, will recommend that the WCB board allocate funds for a WCB grant to Sacramento County Regional Parks to support the development of the NRMP. Interested agencies and nonprofit organizations will be invited to provide a list of priority projects to the Committee. This meeting will also include discussion on the outcome of Proposition 3. Several Committee members will be invited to participate on the technical review panel for the 2018 grant cycle.

WCB intends to release the 2018 Program PSN in early September. Following the 2018-19 Timeline provided in the PSN, staff will bring projects to the Board for approval, expected at the May 2019 WCB meeting.

[LARCP Charter](#)  
[Guidelines \(July 31, 2018 version\)](#)  
[PSN \(Final Draft 2018 version\)](#)

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## 26. Strategic Plan Update

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

The Wildlife Conservation Board Strategic Plan (Plan) will be updated, pursuant to requirements of the California Clean Water, Climate, and Coastal Protection and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68). The steps to accomplish this task include stakeholder outreach, evaluation of key trends and strategic planning issues, modification of WCB's strategic priorities, and development of strategic directions to prioritize WCB's conservation efforts. To assure that WCB's limited resources are used most efficiently, it is expected that we will contract for assistance to coordinate with WCB staff and stakeholders and to write the final document. The following is an outline for the updated Plan.

Stakeholder Outreach. We will conduct surveys of key stakeholders and partners to identify WCB's strengths and weaknesses and help identify key factors that drive decisions in habitat conservation, restoration, and public access. These surveys will also help WCB understand how to support and be relevant to the priorities of our partners.

Trends and Strategic Planning Issues. The results of the outreach will help identify State-wide trends in conservation planning and implementation, which will be used to assist in developing WCB's conservation priorities.

Strategic Priorities. WCB staff will use the conservation priorities identified during the development of the implementing actions of the existing Strategic Plan, which were approved by the Board in November 2017, as a basis for identifying future priority conservation strategies. WCB staff will modify these priorities as a result of the stakeholder outreach and to take advantage of improvements in existing data and planning models.

Strategic Directions. The modified priorities will be used to provide more specific goals and objectives for identifying and scoring projects, with a goal of identifying areas and habitats in the State that are the highest priorities for conservation. These will be used guide WCB in project selection for the five years covered by the updated Plan.

### Timeline:

- September 2018 – Enter into contract for assistance with coordination and implementation
- October 2018 – Develop and circulate stakeholder surveys
- November 2018 – Discuss input from stakeholders, and suggested goals and objectives
- December 2018 – January 2019 – develop draft Plan
- February 2019 – Discussion with Board on draft Plan
- March – April 2019 – Revise Plan based on input from Board and interested parties
- May 2019 – Request approval of final Plan

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

- New Business
- Next WCB Meeting – November 15, 2018

**Adjourn**

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