

Meeting Minutes

Environmental Enhancement Committee Meeting

1515 Clay Street, 10th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612-1401
10th Floor, South Conference Room
May 15, 2019, 10:00 a.m.

<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/OSPR/Science/Environmental-Enhancement-Fund>

Public comments were to be accepted but no members of the public attended or have commented.

The meeting was called to order and began at 10:11AM. In attendance were the three Environmental Enhancement Committee (EEC) members, Sam Schuchat, Stephanie Tom Coupe, and Tom Cullen. Julie Yamamoto, Dan Orr, Bruce Joab, Julia Malia-Olea, Cristina Perez were in attendance from California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Office of Spill Prevention and Response (CDFW-OSPR), and Kathy Verrue-Slater (CDFW-OSPR) attended by telephone.

Dan Orr briefly reviewed information on the on the environmental enhancement fund (EEF) condition and the current project status. Dan also summarized the top seven highest ranking projects, as scored by the technical review committee, in a slide presentation. Dan answered questions on the fund condition and the current project status. Dan explained some new administrative constraints, such as a decrease in spending authority and the new requirement that expenditures for grant monies need to be within one fiscal year, as opposed to the previously accepted three years. Dan and Julie discussed the situation that the spending authority is reduced to a low level for EEF currently, due to misunderstandings by the Department of Finance, specifically that they still think that a prudent reserve is needed for this fund. Julie indicated that she is evaluating options to pursue a change that could result in increased spending authority for this fund.

Deliberation by the committee began. Sam Schuchat made a motion to fund the following projects from the EEF:

Restoration of ecosystem functions to benefit threatened and endangered amphibians at Elkhorn Slough, from Elkhorn Slough Foundation, in the following manner: Fiscal Year (FY) 2019/2020 \$33,950.03, FY 2020/2021 \$24,230.02, FY 2021/2022 \$108,344.00, totaling \$166,524.05 over those three years.

Restoring Coastal Dune Ecosystem Health and Resilience at Salinas River State Beach, from Coastal Conservation and Research, Inc., in the following manner: FY 2021/2022 \$47,292.85; provided that if CDFW-OSPR is successful in obtaining increased spending authority (over the existing amount of

\$181,632.00/year), this project may receive additional funds in amounts within the limits of any increased spending authority in the three years (FY 19/20, 20/21, or 21/22) up to their original request of \$399,909.00. He said this could happen without another EEC vote.

Año Nuevo Island Seabird Habitat Enhancement Project, from Oikonos Ecosystem Knowledge, in the following manner: FY 2019/2020 \$51,783.00, FY 2020/2021 \$0, FY 2021/2022 \$18,013.00, totaling \$69,796.00 over those three years.

Little River State Beach Nearshore Dune Habitat Restoration Project, from California Department of State Parks and Recreation – NCRD, in the following manner: FY 2019/2020 \$57,600.00.

Baker Creek Streamflow and Habitat Enhancement Project, from Sanctuary Forest Inc., in the following manner: FY 2019/2020 \$38,298.97, FY 2020/2021 \$157,401.98, FY 2021/2022 \$7,982.15, totaling \$203,683.10 over those three years.

Stephanie Tom Coupe seconded the motion, and the EEC voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Julia advised that it would take about 90 days to get the grant paperwork completed for these projects.

The meeting concluded and adjourned at 11:18 AM.

These minutes were approved via electronic mail to Dan Orr at daniel.orr@wildlife.ca.gov.