



Gavin Newsom, Governor
NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD
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Final Meeting Agenda

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

February 26, 2020, 10:00 a.m.

Natural Resources Building, First Floor Auditorium
1416 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

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Adjourn

ATTACHMENTS

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PERSONS WITH DISABILITES

Persons with disabilities needing reasonable accommodation to participate in public meetings or other CDFW activities are invited to contact the Department’s EEO Officer at (916) 653-9089 or EEO@wildlife.ca.gov. Accommodation requests for facility and/or meeting accessibility and Requests for American Sign Language Interpreters should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event. Requests for Real-Time Captioners should be submitted 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.

1. Roll Call

Wildlife Conservation Board Members

Charlton H. Bonham, Chair
Director, Department of Fish and Wildlife
Alina Bokde, Public Member
Keely Bosler, Member
Director, Department of Finance
Diane Colborn, Public Member
Mary Creasman, Public Member
Fran Pavley, Public Member
Eric Sklar, Member
President Fish and Game Commission

Joint Legislative Advisory Committee

Senator Andreas Borgeas
Senator Nancy Skinner
Senator Henry Stern
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. Discussion and Selection of new Board Chairman

3. 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)

4. Funding Status – Informational

The following funding status depicts total Capital Outlay and Local Assistance appropriations by fund source and fund number:

WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND (0447)	\$1,000,000.00
February 2020 Board Meeting Allocation:	0.00
Total Project Development:	(1,000,000.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	\$0.00

HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (0262)	\$77,624,932.64
February 2020 Board Meeting Allocation:	(8,717,312.50)
Total Project Development:	(29,498,828.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	\$39,408,792.14

SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS, CLEAN WATER, CLEAN AIR, AND COASTAL PROTECTION BOND FUND (Proposition 12) (0005)	\$1,264,936.00
February 2020 Board Meeting Allocation:	(54,484.00)
Total Project Development:	(65,000.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	\$1,145,452.00

CALIFORNIA CLEAN WATER, CLEAN AIR, SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS AND COASTAL PROTECTION BOND FUND (Proposition 40) (6029)	\$6,439,295.50
February 2020 Board Meeting Allocation:	(958,500.00)
Total Project Development:	(4,095,000.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	\$1,385,795.50

WATER SECURITY, CLEAN DRINKING WATER, COASTAL AND BEACH PROTECTION FUND OF 2002 (Proposition 50) (6031)	\$24,079,132.83
February 2020 Board Meeting Allocation:	0.00
Total Project Development:	(17,583,129.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	\$6,496,003.83

SAFE DRINKING WATER, WATER QUALITY AND SUPPLY, FLOOD CONTROL, RIVER AND COASTAL PROTECTION FUND OF 2006 (Proposition 84) (6051)	\$30,350,592.44
February 2020 Board Meeting Allocation:	(8,154,466.00)
Total Project Development:	(11,931,996.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	\$10,264,130.44

WATER QUALITY, SUPPLY, AND INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT FUND (Proposition 1) (6083)	\$67,865,997.60
February 2020 Board Meeting Allocation:	0.00
Total Project Development:	(25,602,566.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	\$42,263,431.60
THE CALIFORNIA DROUGHT, WATER, PARKS, CLIMATE, COASTAL PROTECTION, AND OUTDOOR ACCESS FOR ALL ACT OF 2018 (Proposition 68) (6088)	\$187,013,790.00
February 2020 Board Meeting Allocation:	(16,002,744.00)
Total Project Development:	(78,595,935.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	\$92,415,111.00
GENERAL FUND (0001)	\$11,296,460.00
February 2020 Board Meeting Allocation:	(1,296,460.00)
Total Project Development:	(10,000,000.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	\$0.00
GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION FUND (3228)	\$14,051,325.00
February 2020 Board Meeting Allocation:	0.00
Total Project Development:	(8,166,500.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	\$5,884,825.00
TOTAL – ALL FUNDS	\$420,986,462.01
Grand Total - February 2020 Board Meeting Allocation:	(35,183,966.50)
Grand Total - Project Development:	(186,538,954.00)
Grand Total Projected Unallocated Balance:	\$199,263,541.51
RECAP OF NATURAL HERITAGE PRESERVATION TAX CREDIT ACT OF 2000	
Chapter 113, Statutes of 2000 and Chapter 715, Statutes of 2004 (through 6/30/08)	\$48,598,734.00
Chapter 220, Statutes of 2009 (effective 1/1/10)	\$8,662,500.00

Consent Items

Items 5-35 are part of the Consent Calendar

5. Approval of Minutes – November 21, 2019

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.

Table 1 - Recoveries by Fund

Fund Name	Amount
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006	\$6,866.00
Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Fund of 2014	\$112.55
Total Recoveries for All Funds	\$6,978.55

Table 2 - Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006

Project Name	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Angelo Coast Range Reserve Improvements	\$682,000.00	\$682,000.00	\$0.00
Shasta Big Springs Fee Acquisition	\$2,440,000.00	\$2,433,134.00	\$6,866.00
Total Recoveries to Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006			\$6,866.00

Table 3 - Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Fund of 2014

Project Name	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Dry Meadow Restoration Project	\$94,635.00	\$94,634.99	\$0.01
Pine Gulch Water Rights and Instream Flow Enhancement	\$406,917.00	\$406,804.46	\$112.54
Total Recoveries to Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Fund of 2014			\$112.55

7. CAL FIRE Humboldt County Community Forest McKay Tract, Expansion 1

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) approve this project as proposed and approve the acceptance of a conservation easement (Easement) over 197± acres by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). The Easement is being conveyed as a condition of a grant from CAL FIRE to Humboldt County (County) under the California Forest Legacy Program Act of 2007, with funding provided by the California Climate Investment Fund.

Project Title:	CAL FIRE Humboldt County Community Forest McKay Tract, Expansion
Project Type:	CAL FIRE Conservation Easement (197± acres)
Amount Recommended:	\$0
County:	Humboldt
Program:	California Forest Legacy Program Act of 2007

LOCATION

The property (Property) is southeast of Eureka, in western Humboldt County. The Property borders the County-owned McKay Community Forest on the north and east, a residential neighborhood on the west, and the proposed CAL FIRE Ryan Creek Easement project on the south.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property is within the Ryan Creek watershed and provides critical habitat for a variety of special status fish, wildlife, and plant species. The Easement will permanently preserve a working redwood forest, contribute to the protection of water quality in the Humboldt Bay region, protect the significant biological resources of the Property, and expand the recreational and educational opportunities for residents and visitors to the area. The Easement provides an excellent opportunity to match the guiding principles of the Forest Legacy Program with the California Climate Investment Fund.

The Property is comprised mainly of coast redwood and Douglas-fir. It serves as critical habitat for a variety of species, many of them rare, threatened, and/or endangered. Species known to exist on or adjacent the Property include steelhead trout, coho salmon, Chinook salmon, northern spotted owl, red-legged frog, osprey, and peregrine falcon. Plants on the Property include ghost-pipe and Howell's montia.

The County will incorporate the Property into the McKay Community Forest. The McKay Community Forest, containing 1,000± acres of forestland, is adjacent to the Property and functions as a recreational and educational area for residents in the Eureka area.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

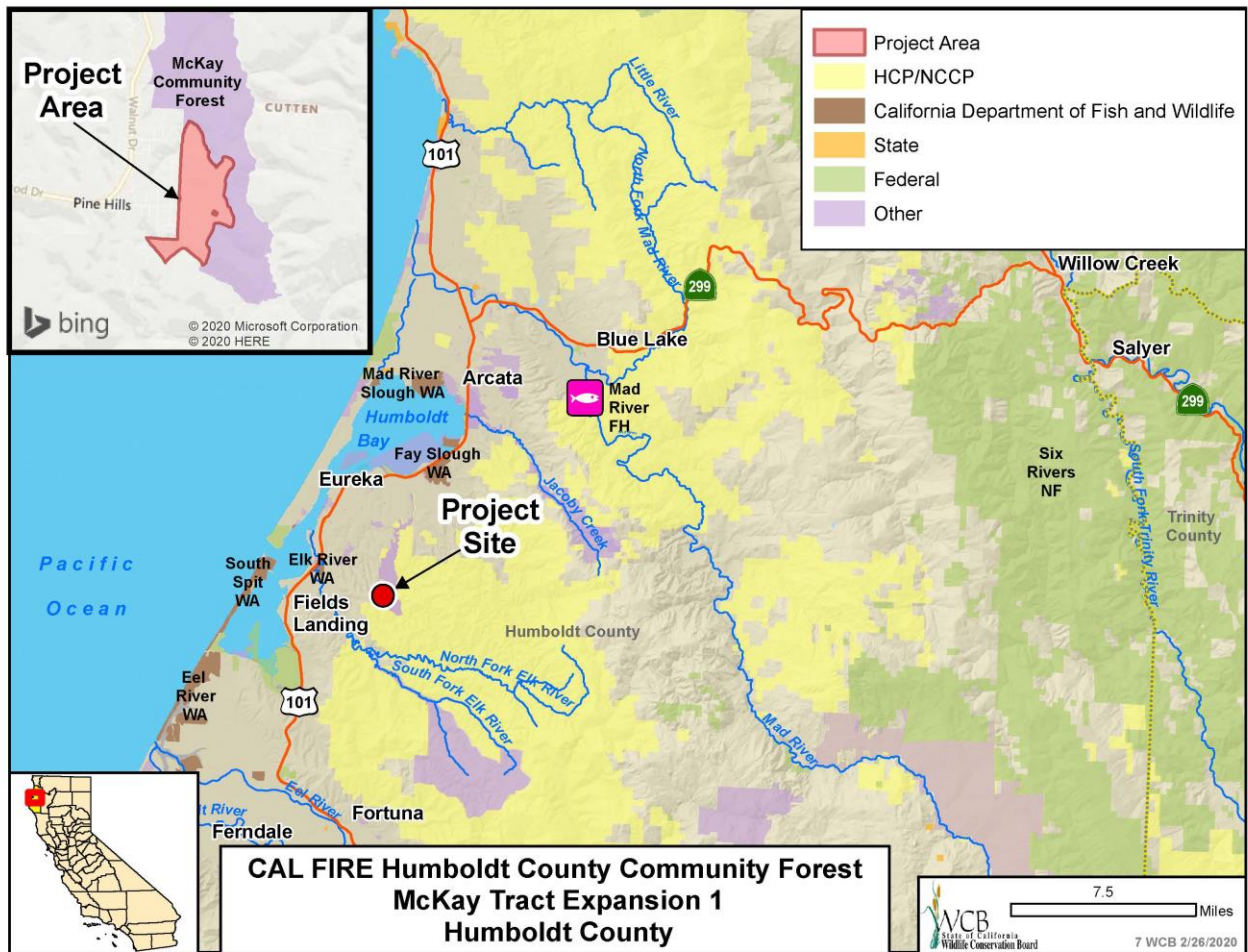
CAL FIRE will monitor the Property for compliance with the terms of the Easement. The Easement allows access by CAL FIRE or its agents annually for monitoring purposes.

PROJECT FUNDING

No WCB funding is needed. The County has agreed to grant the Easement to CAL FIRE as a condition of a grant from CAL FIRE for the purchase of the Property. WCB staff will review and approve all title documents, preliminary title reports, the Easement, and instruments of conveyance.

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

The project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Public Resources Code 21080.28, Acquisition of an Interest in Land by a Public Agency, as an acquisition of an interest in land by a public agency for preservation of natural conditions existing at the time of transfer, including plant and animal habitats. Subject to Board approval of the project, staff will file the appropriate Notice of Exemption (NOE) with the State Clearinghouse and the county clerk.



8. CAL FIRE Ryan Creek Conservation Easement

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed and approve the acceptance of a conservation easement (Easement) by CAL FIRE over 5,967± acres. CAL FIRE is purchasing the Easement under the California Forest Legacy Program Act of 2007, with funding provided by the California Climate Investment Fund.

Project Title:	CAL FIRE Ryan Creek Conservation Easement
Project Type:	CAL FIRE Conservation Easement (5,967± acres)
Amount Recommended:	\$0
County:	Humboldt
Program:	California Forest Legacy Program Act of 2007

LOCATION

The property (Property) is southeast of Eureka, in western Humboldt County. The Property borders the McKay Community Forest, owned by Humboldt County, on the west and is just south of Redwood Acres Fairgrounds. It also borders a portion of the proposed CAL FIRE Humboldt County Community Forest McKay Tract, Expansion 1 project also covered in this agenda.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property is within the Ryan Creek watershed and provides critical habitat for a variety of special status fish, wildlife, and plant species. The Easement will permanently preserve a working redwood forest, contribute to the protection of water quality in the Humboldt Bay region, protect the significant biological resources of the Property, and expand the recreational and educational opportunities for residents and visitors to the area. The Easement provides an excellent opportunity to match the guiding principles of the Forest Legacy Program with the California Climate Investment Fund.

The Property is comprised mainly of coast redwood and Douglas-fir. It serves as critical habitat for a variety of species, many of them rare, threatened, and/or endangered. Species known to exist on or adjacent to the Property include steelhead trout, coho salmon, Chinook salmon, northern spotted owl, red-legged frog, osprey, and peregrine falcon; plants include ghost-pipe and Howell's montia.

Ryan Creek, which flows through the Property, is among the most pristine and productive tributaries to Humboldt Bay. It is home to a functionally independent, core coho population, as well as Chinook and steelhead. Lower reaches include extensive off-channel, low-gradient, and low-velocity habitats important to juvenile salmonids, especially coho. Upper reaches connect to spawning gravels excellent for salmonid reproduction

Public access and education will be assured through an extensive trail system over an existing road network, including potential alignment for the Bay to Headwaters Trail, linking the California Coastal Trail with Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Headwaters Forest.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

CAL FIRE will enter into the Easement with the landowner and will monitor the Property for compliance consistent with the terms of the Easement. The Easement allows access by CAL FIRE or its agents annually for monitoring purposes.

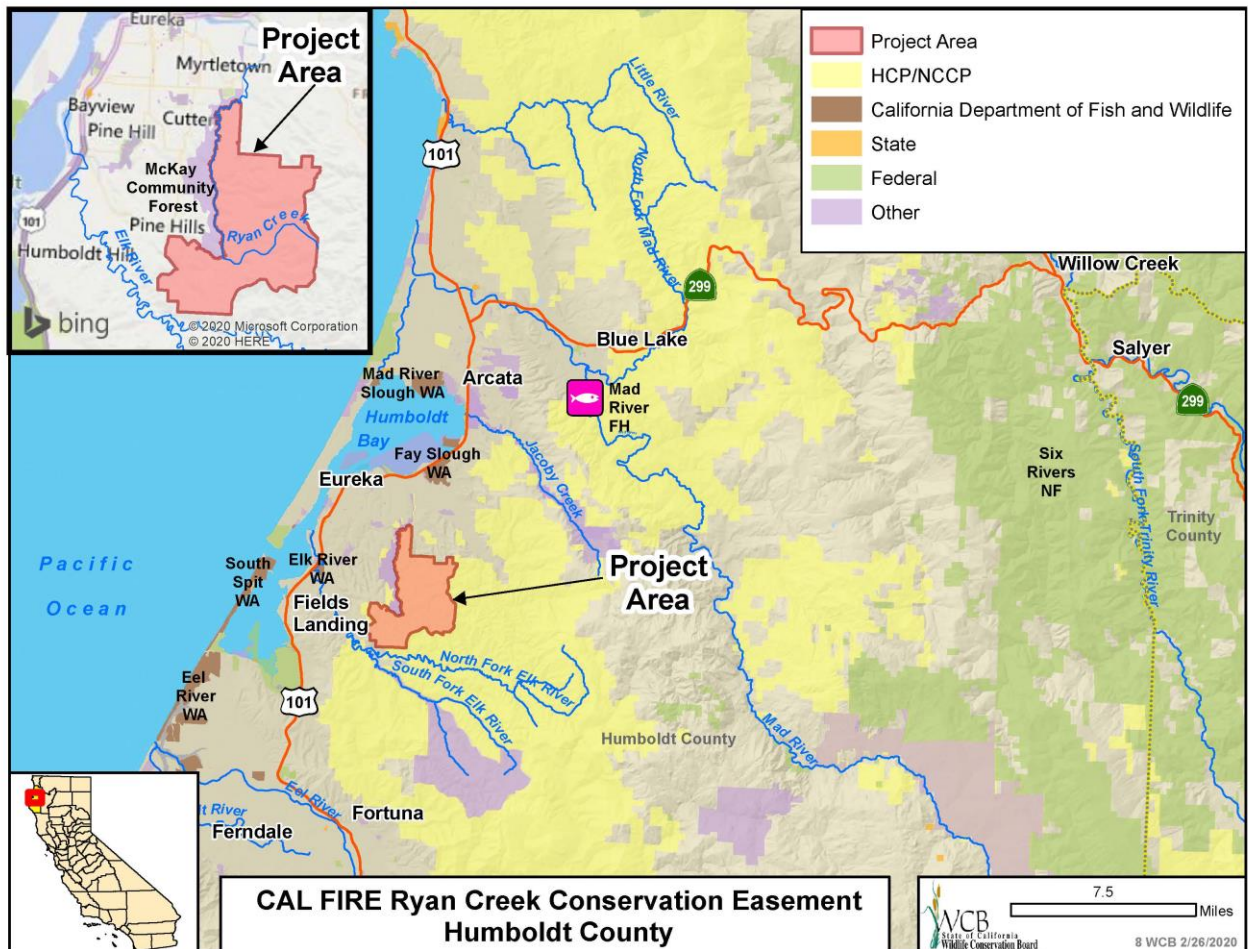
PROJECT FUNDING

The Department of General Services' (DGS) approved fair market value is \$4,076,000. CAL FIRE will reimburse WCB for indirect costs related to the project. The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Partners	Amount
CAL FIRE	\$3,129,000
EEMP	\$500,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$3,629,000

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

The project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to Public Resources Code 21080.28, Acquisition of an Interest in Land by a Public Agency, as an acquisition of an interest in land by a public agency for preservation of natural conditions existing at the time of transfer, including plant and animal habitats. Subject to Board approval of the project, staff will file the appropriate NOE with the State Clearinghouse and the county clerk.



9. Luffenholtz Beach Park Public Access and Safety Improvements

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$74,000 from the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68), Public Resource Code Section 80132(a); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title: Luffenholtz Beach Park Public Access and Safety Improvements Project
Project Type: Planning
Applicant/Grantee: Trinidad Coastal Land Trust
Amount Recommended: \$74,000
Funding Partners: Trinidad Coastal Land Trust
County: Humboldt County
Program: Public Access Program
Funding: Proposition 68
Strategic Plan Goals: B.1 Objectives: SI 3.2, 3.3, 3.4

LOCATION

Luffenholtz Beach Park property, located approximately two miles south of Trinidad in Humboldt County, is a popular public destination to access onshore surf fishing and traditional surf net fishing, explore tide pools, and view marine wildlife and seabirds from the property’s vistas and trail heads. The property is bordered by Luffenholtz Creek, once a cutthroat trout recreational fishery. WCB approved the transfer of the property from CDFW to Trinidad Coastal Land Trust (TCLT) in March 2019.

The increasingly popular destination offers various wildlife recreation opportunities for the public, including fishing, bird watching, and tidepooling. This property provides a unique opportunity for traditional onshore beach net surf fishing for smelt, pole surf fishing for rock fish, and exploring the diverse marine wildlife tide pools and kelp beds. Several seabird species and nests are visible from the California Coastal National Monument rocks located directly offshore from the beach and vista point. This property is frequently used by anglers, birdwatchers, tidepoolers, beachgoers and families. Local schools and Humboldt State University classes often visit this beach for science studies.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

As one of the most publicly visited beach and vista points in the region, this public access beach park is currently in need of infrastructure improvements that address public access, visitor use, and safety. Existing features in need of repair/replacement include a vista point trail, public parking area, discontinued septic system restroom, and additional public visitor infra-structure improvements. This project will complete environmental review, and associated agency permit approvals, design, engineering, surveys, plans, and direct preconstruction costs.

Features to be added or improved include a restroom, trail steps and railing, trail erosion control, public safety signage, benches and picnic benches, bike racks,

and parking lot enhancement. Additional Americans with Disability Act (ADA) components include an accessible vista observation lookout and picnic area, restroom, and parking. Once full build out is completed, the new ADA accessible vista point picnic area will be the first of its kind along the Trinidad coast.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

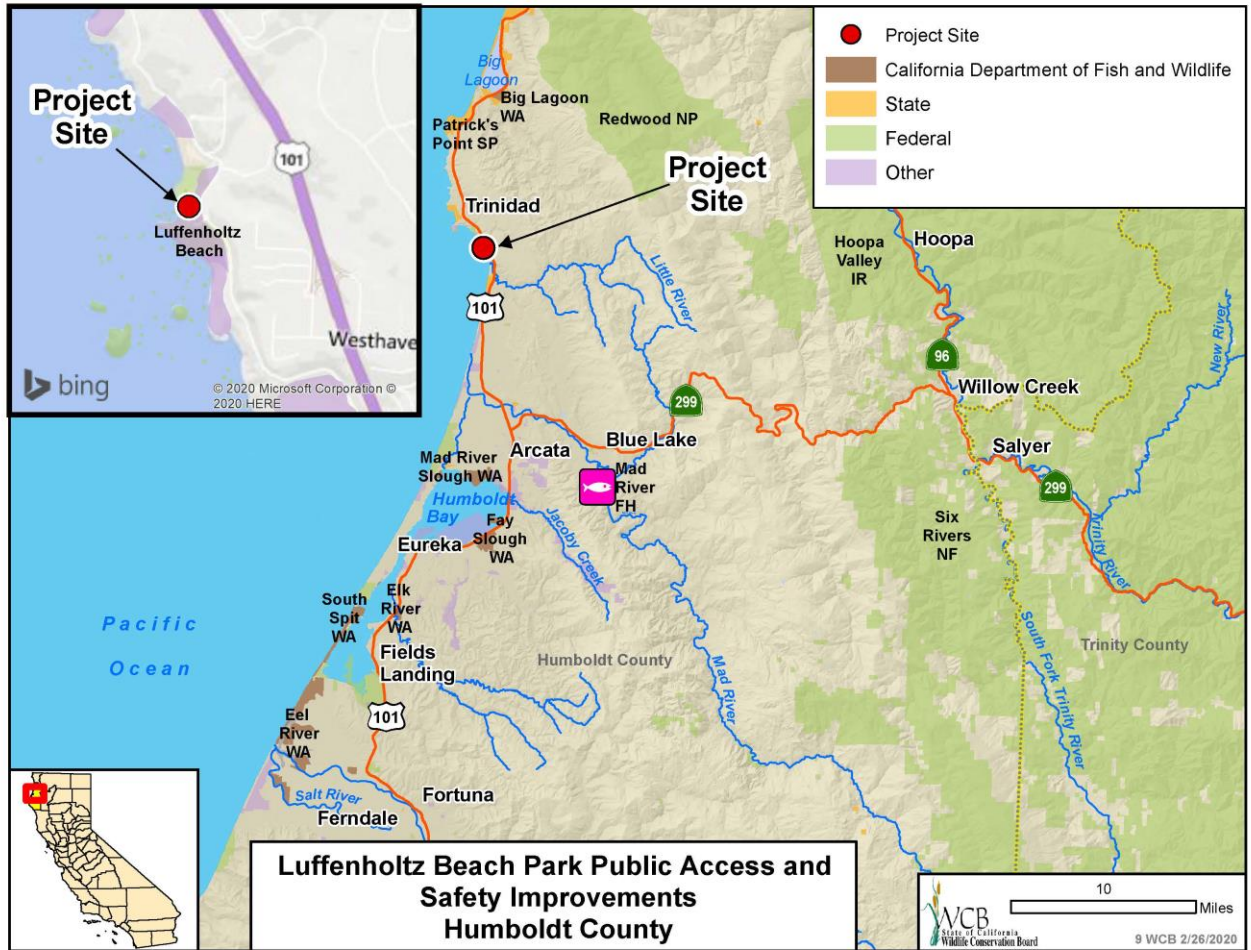
Project Task	Total Cost	WCB	Non-WCB Funds
Site Design	\$19,000	\$19,000	---
Environmental Studies	\$15,000	\$15,000	---
Permits	\$22,000	\$22,000	---
Project Management	\$13,000	\$8,000	\$5,000
Contingency	\$10,000	\$10,000	---
Total	\$79,000	\$74,000	\$79,000

Project costs include:

- Site Design - Complete survey of project boundary, develop site plan, geologic consulting, and engineering
- Environmental Studies - Surveys, assessments, and technical reports
- Permits - Coastal Development Permit, CEQA, and additional permits
- Project Management – Coordinate with partners to complete all tasks

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

The project is statutorily exempt from the CEQA pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3) Section 15262, Feasibility and Planning Studies, as it involves only feasibility and planning studies for possible future actions.



10. North Table Mountain, Expansion 3

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; approve the acceptance of the property; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title: North Table Mountain Ecological Reserve, Exp. 3
Project Type: CDFW Fee Donation (24± acres)
Amount Recommended: \$0
County: Butte
Program: Land Acquisition Program
Funding: Habitat Conservation Fund
Strategic Plan Goals: A.1, A.4, C.1 Objectives: SI 2.1, 2.4

LOCATION

The property (Property) is situated in central Butte County, on the edge of the scenic Sierra Nevada range foothills just north Oroville. One of the foothills, known locally as Table Mountain, is the location of this donation. This project is the third expansion to protect important oak woodlands and unique vernal pool grasslands at the North Table Mountain Ecological Reserve (NTMER). Presently, this region supports rural residential development, and the area is experiencing expansion of rural residential and rural ranchette development on lands historically used solely for grazing. The general terrain of the vicinity and the Property is rolling hills supporting grasslands, oak woodlands, and vernal pool wetlands. The Property is of ecological significance for these oak woodlands and has been added to the North Table Mountain Conceptual Area Protection Plan (CAPP). In addition to the protection of oak woodlands, the CAPP was created to protect the northern basalt flow vernal pool habitat type and sensitive species that depend on this habitat.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property consists of 24± acres and is an undeveloped, rectangular-shaped tract of land that includes a single assessor parcel number. The topography of the Property varies from 530 to 590 feet above sea level with rolling to steeply sloping terrain and is predominantly oak woodlands. The general terrain of the vicinity and the Property is rolling hills supporting grasslands, junipers, and sage brush habitat types. The surrounding area is characterized by a significant amount of developed rural homesteads along with large rangeland landscapes.

Species observed on the Property that will benefit from its protection include the following: raptors like Swainson's hawk, golden eagle, bald eagle, and prairie falcon. Deer, bobcat, coyote, and rabbit are known to use the Property as well.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

CDFW be responsible for the long-term management of the Property. The Property will be added to the existing NTMER. NTMER has extensive hiking trails, that provide opportunities to view season waterfalls and spectacular wildlife displays in the spring. In addition to hiking, NTMER is open to hunting. Ongoing operations and

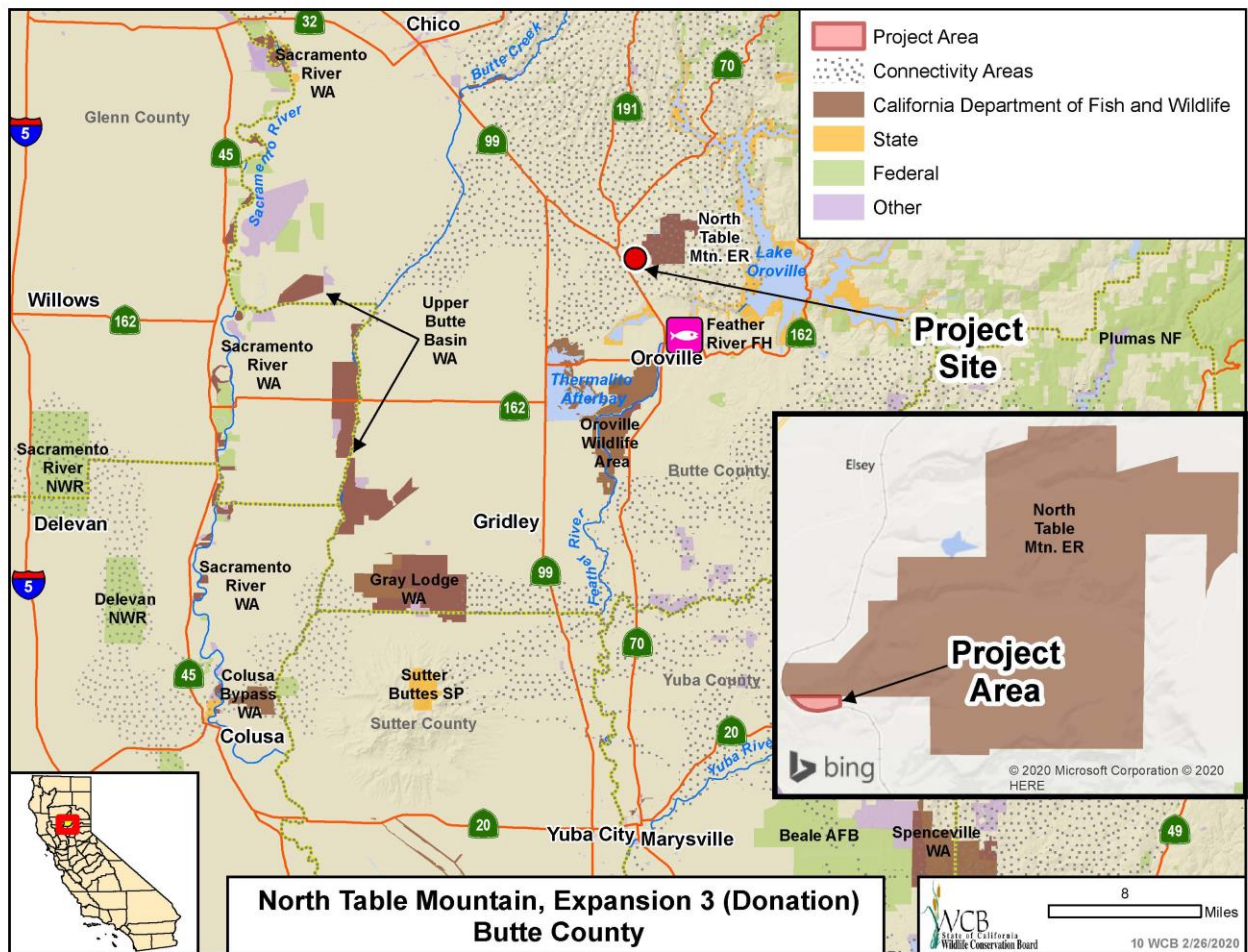
maintenance costs have been and are expected to be relatively limited. The costs will be included in NTMER's current budget.

PROJECT FUNDING

The Property is being donated to CDFW by the landowners (and must be approved by the Department of Finance before final transfer). DGS's approved fair market value is \$18,500.

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

The project is exempt from the CEQA pursuant to Public Resources Code 21080.28, Acquisition of an Interest in Land by a Public Agency, as an acquisition of an interest in land by a public agency for preservation of natural conditions existing at the time of transfer, including plant and animal habitats. Subject to Board approval of the project, staff will file the appropriate NOE with the State Clearinghouse and the county clerk.



11. Haskell Peak Meadow Planning Project

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$430,143 from the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68), Public Resources Code Section 80132(f); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Haskell Peak Meadow Planning Project	
Project Type:	Planning	
Applicant/Grantee:	South Yuba River Citizens League	
Amount Recommended:	\$430,143	
Funding Partners:	Tahoe National Forest	
Landowner(s):	U.S. Forest Service	
County:	Sierra	
Program:	California Forest Conservation Program	
Funding:	Proposition 68	
Strategic Plan Goals:	B.1, B.2	Objectives: SI 1.3, 2.1, 3.3

LOCATION

The project includes 131± acres of meadow habitat at Haskell Headwater Fen, Chapman Saddle, and Freeman Meadow. All three meadows are in the headwaters of the North Yuba watershed within Sierra County of the Tahoe National Forest (TNF) in the Sierra Nevada mountain range. They are within 10 miles of Bassetts Station and can be accessed via Highway 49 and the Gold Lakes Highway. Past land uses for this area include grazing, logging, and mining. Current land uses include grazing and recreation.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project will result in planning for 131± acres of wet meadow habitat which, upon implementation, will result in increased groundwater storage, improved water quality, increased growth of native wetland vegetation, and increased carbon sequestration. Meadows can provide benefits such as flood attenuation, water filtration, cold clear water critical for wildlife, water storage, carbon storage, and groundwater recharge and release. When the hydrologic regime of a meadow is disturbed, as it is at Haskell Headwater Fen, Chapman Saddle, and Freeman Meadow, the ability for these sites to provide these important benefits is negatively affected. An initial assessment was completed in 2018 to identify potential sources of disturbance within these meadows. In 2019, conceptual restoration designs were completed in partnership with a team of meadow specialists. The proposed funding will complete restoration plans, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and CEQA analysis, conduct baseline monitoring, and complete permit applications.

Over the last decade, TNF has been actively working to restore and ensure the resiliency of the headwaters of the North Yuba River watershed. The overarching objective of this work is to address major impacts to the North Yuba River watershed through headwater restoration that prioritizes forest health. The project is within TNF's "Yuba Project," which encompasses nearly 15,000± acres of forest lands

identifying thinning treatments, prescribed fire, road work, and meadow restoration as primary restoration actions within the upper North Yuba watershed.

Most of the project is within a disadvantaged community in Sierra County. The meadow restoration components will benefit the community by improving water storage and water quality for consumptive use.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

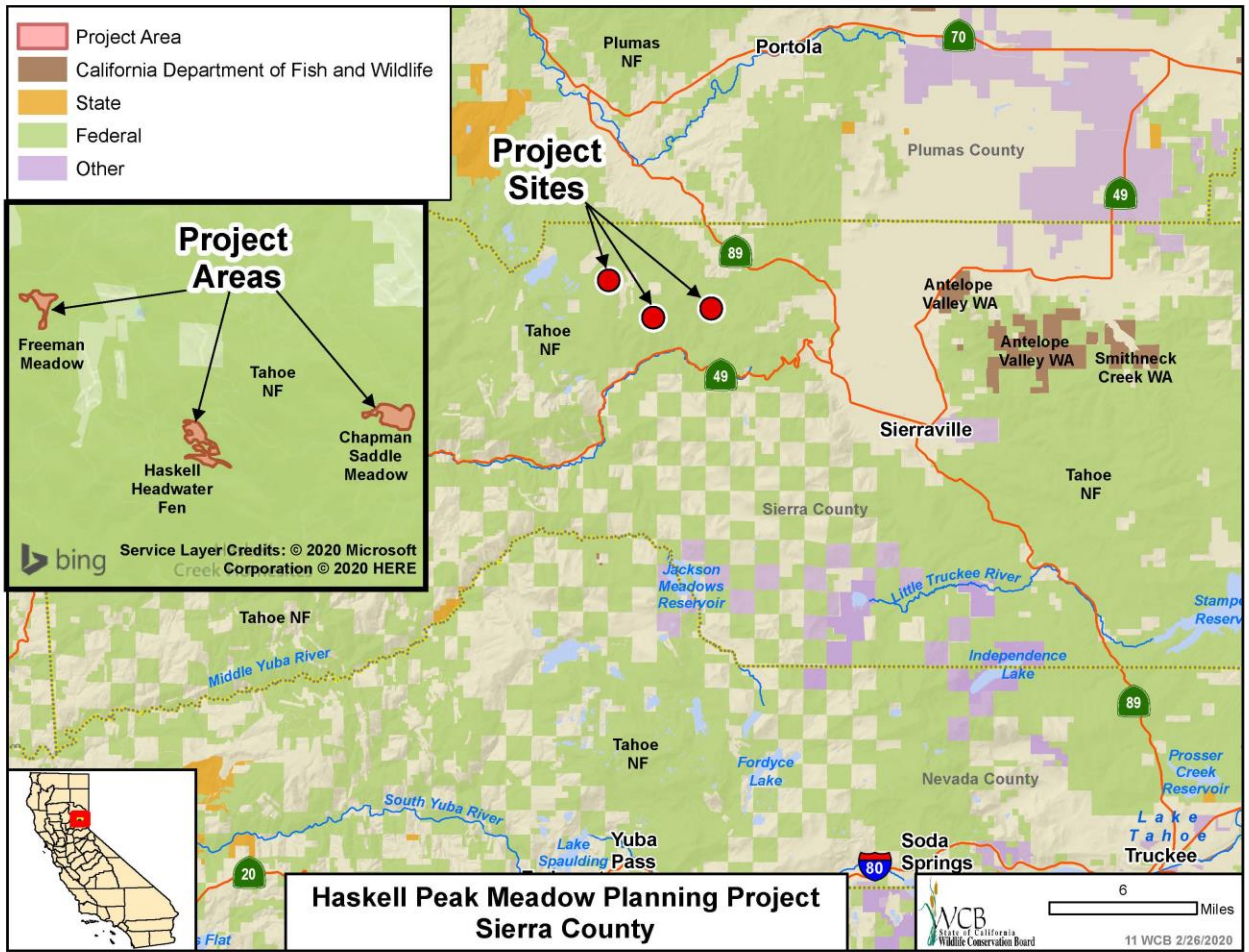
Project Task	Total Cost	WCB	Non-WCB Funds
Task 1 – Project Management	\$10,795	\$10,795	---
Task 2 – Restoration Design Plans	\$181,496	\$140,346	\$41,150
Task 3 – Permitting and Environmental Compliance	\$195,912	\$195,912	---
Task 4 – Monitoring	\$60,021	\$43,603	\$16,418
Task 5 – Public Outreach	\$12,796	\$12,796	---
Task 6 – Yuba Project Implementation	\$50,000	---	\$50,000
Indirect	\$26,691	\$26,691	---
Total	\$537,711	\$430,143	\$107,568

Project costs include:

- Grant management, assuring all permits are finalized, administering subcontracts, invoicing and payments, drafting and finalizing progress and final reports, and data management.
- Development of ecologically and process-based restoration designs to completion.
- Complete necessary biological and archeological surveys and reports in order to meet NEPA and CEQA requirements.
- Completion of a Restoration Monitoring Plan.
- Stakeholder meetings to acquire community feedback and support for the restoration designs at the 65 percent design phase.
- Removal of conifers within and immediately adjacent to the meadows.

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

The project is proposed as both statutorily exempt from CEQA pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, Section 15262), as it involves feasibility and planning studies for possible future actions and as exempt from CEQA pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, Section 15304, Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land as a minor alteration to land which does not involve the removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.



12. Sierra Valley Conservation Area, Expansion 5

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$360,000 from the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002 (Proposition 40), Public Resources Code Section 5096.650(a) for the grant to the Feather River Land Trust; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Sierra Valley Conservation Area, Expansion 5	
Project Type:	Conservation Easement (632± acres)	
Grantee:	Feather River Land Trust	
Amount Recommended:	\$360,500	
Funding Partners:	Natural Resources Conservation Service	
County:	Sierra	
Program:	Land Acquisition Program	
Funding:	Proposition 40	
Strategic Plan Goals:	A.1, A.4	Objectives: SI 2.1, 2.4

LOCATION

The property (Property) consists of 632± acres located three miles west of Loyalton in the Sierra Valley area of Sierra County, approximately 25 miles north of Truckee. Access to the Property is from State Route 49.

The Property falls within CDFW's Sierra Valley - Truckee Conceptual Area Protection Plan (SVT CAPP). The main objectives of the SVT CAPP are to conserve and enhance biodiversity, protect threatened vegetative communities along with other rare and important plants and animals, and maintain habitat linkages that help protect elevation gradients that allow species to migrate and adapt to climate change.

The Property is in the Sierra Valley, in northern Sierra Nevada. The Sierra Valley is ringed by the northern Sierra on the west, the Sierra and Diamond mountains to the north, and the Bald Mountain range to the east and south. The Sierra Valley encompasses approximately 120,000± acres with the bulk of its land area lying at about 5,000 feet in elevation. The Sierra Valley is drained to the northwest by the Middle Fork of the Feather River, which gathers the waters of the many creeks that head in the surrounding uplands. Agriculture in the Sierra Valley began in the 1850s and remains an important enterprise today. There are about 150 active ranches in the Sierra Valley, most producing hay and livestock.

The entire eastern and southern borders of the Property are adjacent to conserved lands. The southwest corner borders the CDFW Antelope Valley Wildlife Area, forming an important corridor for mule deer and other wildlife. The surrounding area is characterized by a significant amount of developed rural homesteads along with large rangeland landscapes.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property is made up of four irregular shaped parcels. The Property is generally level at an elevation of 4,951 feet above sea level.

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The Property has 445± acres of planted, dryland pasture and hayfields, 72± acres of dry meadow, and 103± acres of bitterbrush-sagebrush-low sage habitats. The Property is located in the lower portion of the Antelope Creek watershed. Antelope Creek is a seasonal stream, fed by upland snowmelt, groundwater, and springs south of the Property.

The Property regularly provides breeding, wintering, migration, and/or foraging habitat for the following wildlife species: white-faced ibis, golden eagle, Swainson’s hawk, ferruginous hawk, northern harrier, bald eagle, prairie falcon, sandhill crane, mule deer, and pronghorn antelope.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The Feather River Land Trust (FRLT) will manage this easement as part of its larger easement program. FRLT currently has eleven conservation easements in the watershed that protect 56,000± acres. FRLT has a pooled easement stewardship endowment of over \$2.5 million and a land stewardship staff of four. FRLT also has a legal defense fund and a conservation easement monitoring policy and procedure that meets and exceeds the Land Trust Alliance’s Standards and Practices and WCB monitoring requirements. Future consideration for the Property is the conservation easement transfer from FRLT to the California Rangeland Trust as they hold a conservation easement on the adjacent property.

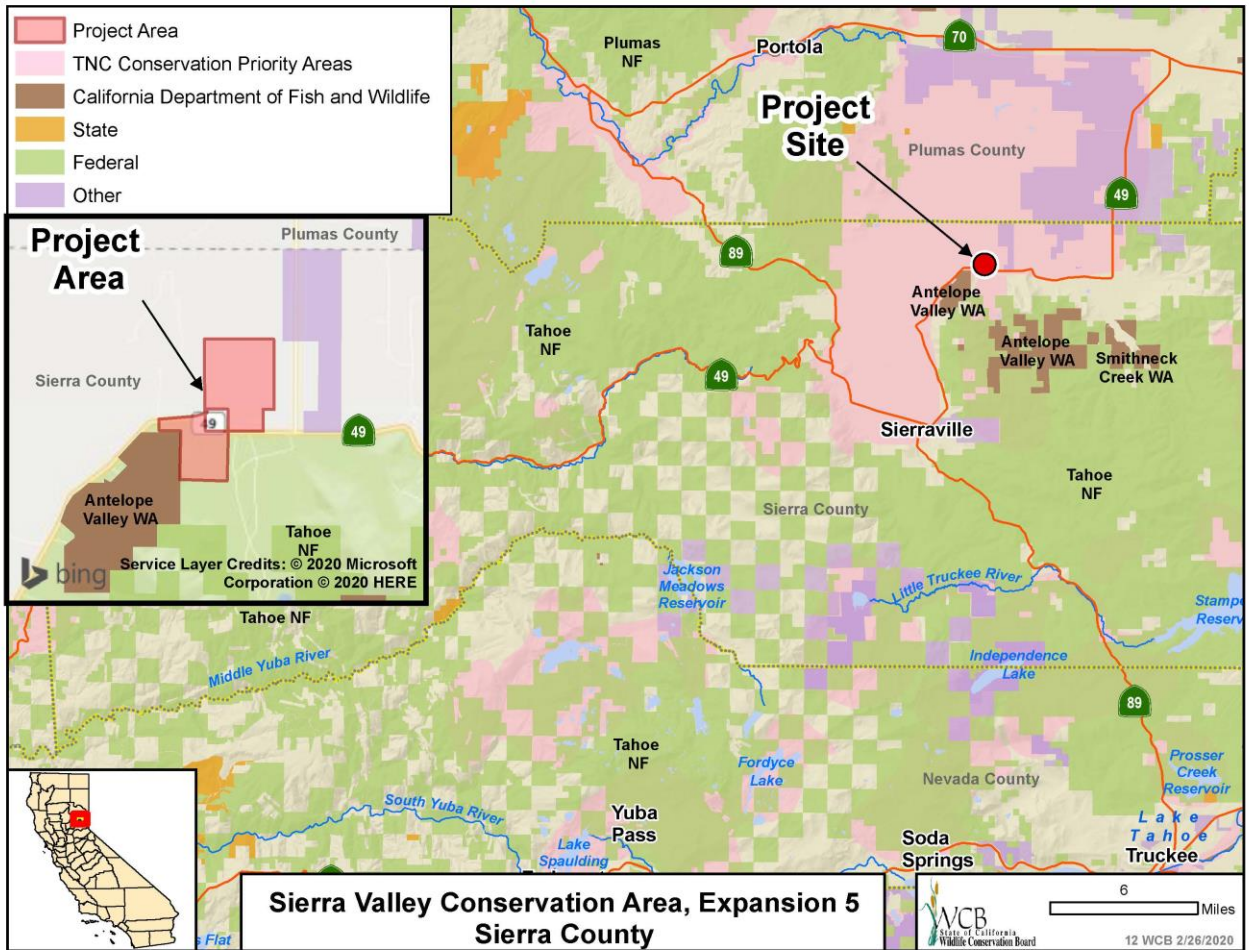
PROJECT FUNDING

DGS’ approved fair market value is \$721,000. The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$360,500
Natural Resources Conservation Service	\$360,500
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$721,000

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

The project has been reviewed for compliance with 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 WCB, a NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.



13. Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area, Expansion 16

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$75,000 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(a) for the acquisition; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title: Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area, Expansion 16
Project Type: CDFW Fee (22± acres)
Amount Recommended: \$75,000
County: Yuba
Program: Land Acquisition Program
Funding: Habitat Conservation Fund
Strategic Plan Goals: A.1, A.4, C.1 Objectives: SI 2.1, 3.3, 3.4

LOCATION

The property (Property) is located in the Sierra foothills, in northeastern Yuba County, near the community of Browns Valley. Situated on the east side of Mourning Dove, two and one-half miles east of Marysville Road, the Property is adjacent to CDFW's Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area (Wildlife Area) and north of the University of California Foothill Research and Extension Center.

The areas west and south of the Property are characterized by a significant amount of developed rural homesteads along with large rangeland landscapes.

The Property is located within the Lower Yuba River Watershed CAPP. The CAPP encompasses approximately 186,000± acres of annual grasslands, oak woodlands, and valley foothill riparian habitat surrounding the Lower Yuba River watershed. Acquisition of lands within the CAPP contribute to the oak woodland corridors that ensure migratory deer have a place to winter. If acquired, the Property will be incorporated into the Wildlife Area.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property consists of 22± acres of undeveloped rolling hills and steep ground with elevation ranging from 1,150 feet along Mourning Dove to 1,670 feet near the east side of the Property. The Property consists of oak savanna and mature oak woodlands. The Property has not been grazed due to the lack of perimeter fencing. The Property contains a domestic well approximately 125 feet east of Mourning Dove.

The northwestern Sierra foothill region has been identified by CDFW and conservation groups as one of the most impacted habitat areas in the state as a result of increased urban and residential development, which causes fragmentation of larger habitat areas into smaller acreage sites. Over the last 40 years, the northern Central Valley has undergone rapid residential and urban development. Some of this growth has extended into and impacted the adjoining foothill areas. As a result, what were once large tracts of undeveloped land and ranches have been subdivided into smaller holdings and ranchette-type developments. This fragmentation has especially

impacted wildlife migration corridors that run between the valley floor up into the higher elevations of the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

The Property provides excellent and essential Mooretown deer winter range. The Property is located along the migratory corridor for the deer herd, comprising a portion of the herd's lower elevation wintering grounds and important foraging habitat. The Property is listed in the CAPP due to its habitat values and location within the deer herd's migration corridor. This acquisition will also protect blue oak woodland habitat for upland game such as turkey and quail and winter range for the bald eagle.

In 2012 and 2015 WCB approved acquisitions of fee title totaling 1400± acres as expansions of the Wildlife Area.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

CDFW will be the owner in fee simple and will add this Property to the adjacent Wildlife Area. CDFW regional staff anticipates that nominal management costs would be associated with some perimeter fencing and signage for the Property. Given the Property's location adjacent to the Wildlife Area, additional management funds for staffing would not be required. Public access to the Wildlife Area is currently provided for low-impact recreational activities, including hunting, fishing, hiking, birdwatching, photography, seasonal equestrian and bicycle use.

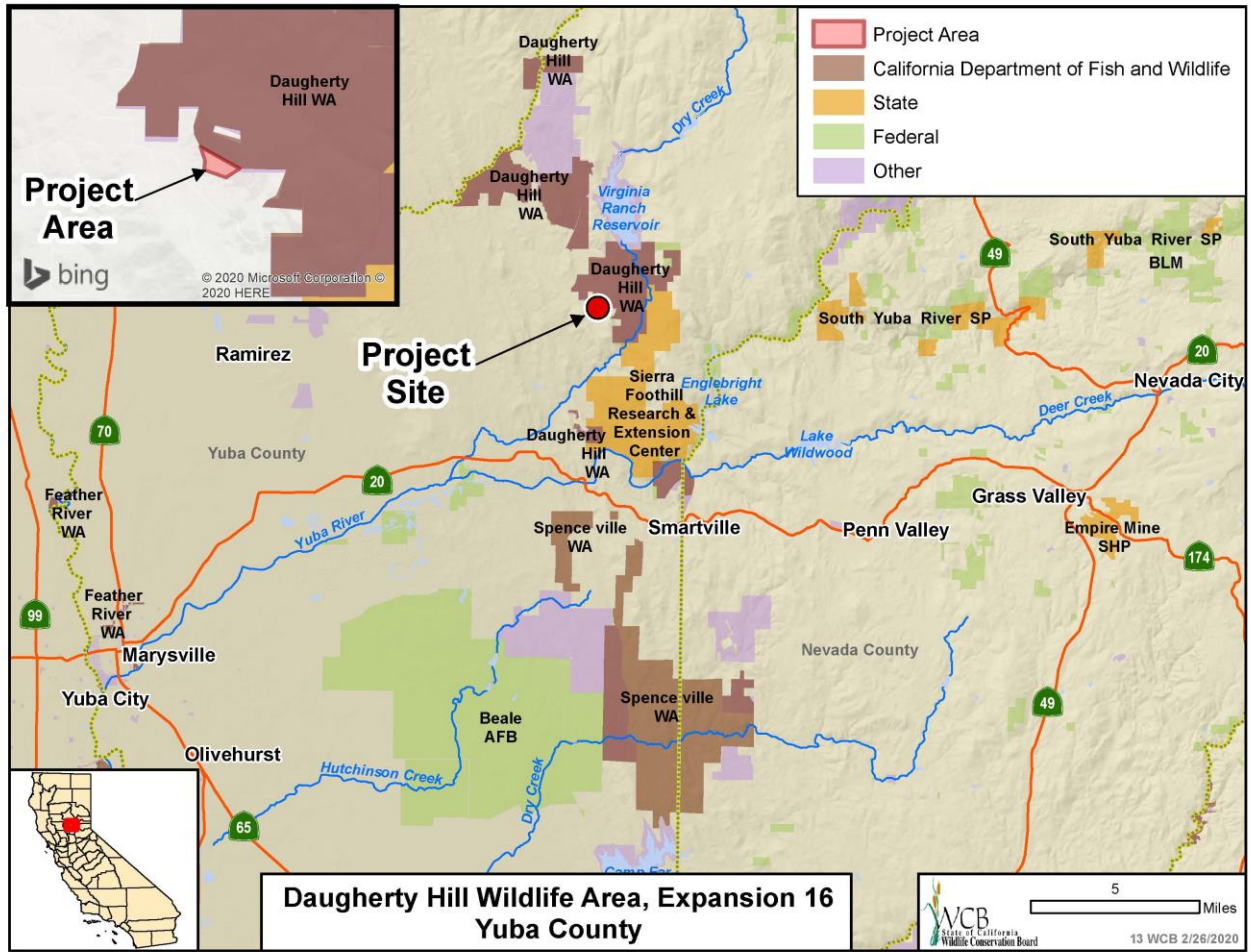
PROJECT FUNDING

DGS' approved fair market value is \$75,000.00. The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$75,000.00
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$75,000.00

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

The project is exempt from the CEQA pursuant to Public Resources Code 21080.28, Acquisition of an Interest in Land by a Public Agency, as an acquisition of an interest in land by a public agency for preservation of natural conditions existing at the time of transfer, including plant and animal habitats. Subject to Board approval of the project, staff will file the appropriate NOE with the State Clearinghouse and the county clerk.



14. Laursen Outback Preserve, Expansion 1

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$683,000.00 from the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal Protection Bond Fund (Proposition 12), Public Resources Code Section 5096.350(a)(4) and the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117) Fish and Game Code Section 2786(a) for the grant to Placer Land Trust (PLT); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Laursen Outback Preserve, Expansion 1
Project Type:	Fee (185± acres)
Grantee:	Placer Land Trust
Amount Recommended:	\$683,000
Funding Partners:	Sierra Nevada Conservancy
County:	Placer
Program:	Land Acquisition Program
Funding:	Proposition 12 & Habitat Conservation Fund
Strategic Plan Goals:	A.2, A.4, C.1 Objectives: SI 2.1, 3.4

LOCATION

The property (Property) is located along and to the south of the Bear River, adjacent to and east of Sisson Lane, and west of State Route 49, in the rural Auburn area of Placer County. The 185± acre Property is adjacent to the 427±-acre Oest Ranch Preserve to the south, which has been permanently protected by an agricultural conservation easement held by PLT. The Property also connects via trail easement to the 333±-acre Laursen Outback Preserve, the 40±-acre Shutumul Bear River Preserve, and the 1,778±-acre Harvego Bear River Preserve, all along the Bear River, and owned by PLT. Additionally, these preserves in turn connect with thousands of acres of contiguous preserved lands on both sides of the Bear River including Garden Bar, Liberty Ranch, Kotomyan, Taylor Ranch, 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 CDFW's Spenceville Wildlife Area (SWA).

The Property is located within the Spenceville 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 Bear River watershed. The objectives within the Spenceville CAPP are to protect endangered and other at-risk species and native biotic communities.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property is 185± acres with an elevation ranging between approximately 1,350 to 1,550 feet above sea level. The Property has legal access from Sisson Lane on the southern and western portion of the Property, and Overhill Drive from the northern portion of the Property.

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 percent 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 nine home sites.

The Property has abundant oak woodlands, including blue oaks and valley oaks, as well as native grasses throughout. The area provides habitat for a variety of special status species including valley elderberry longhorn beetle, a federally-listed threatened species; bald eagle, a state-listed endangered species; 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 connects to Laursen Outback Preserve and the Shutamul Bear River Preserve, which together contain the largest known breeding area for the official 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.

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.

PROJECT FUNDING

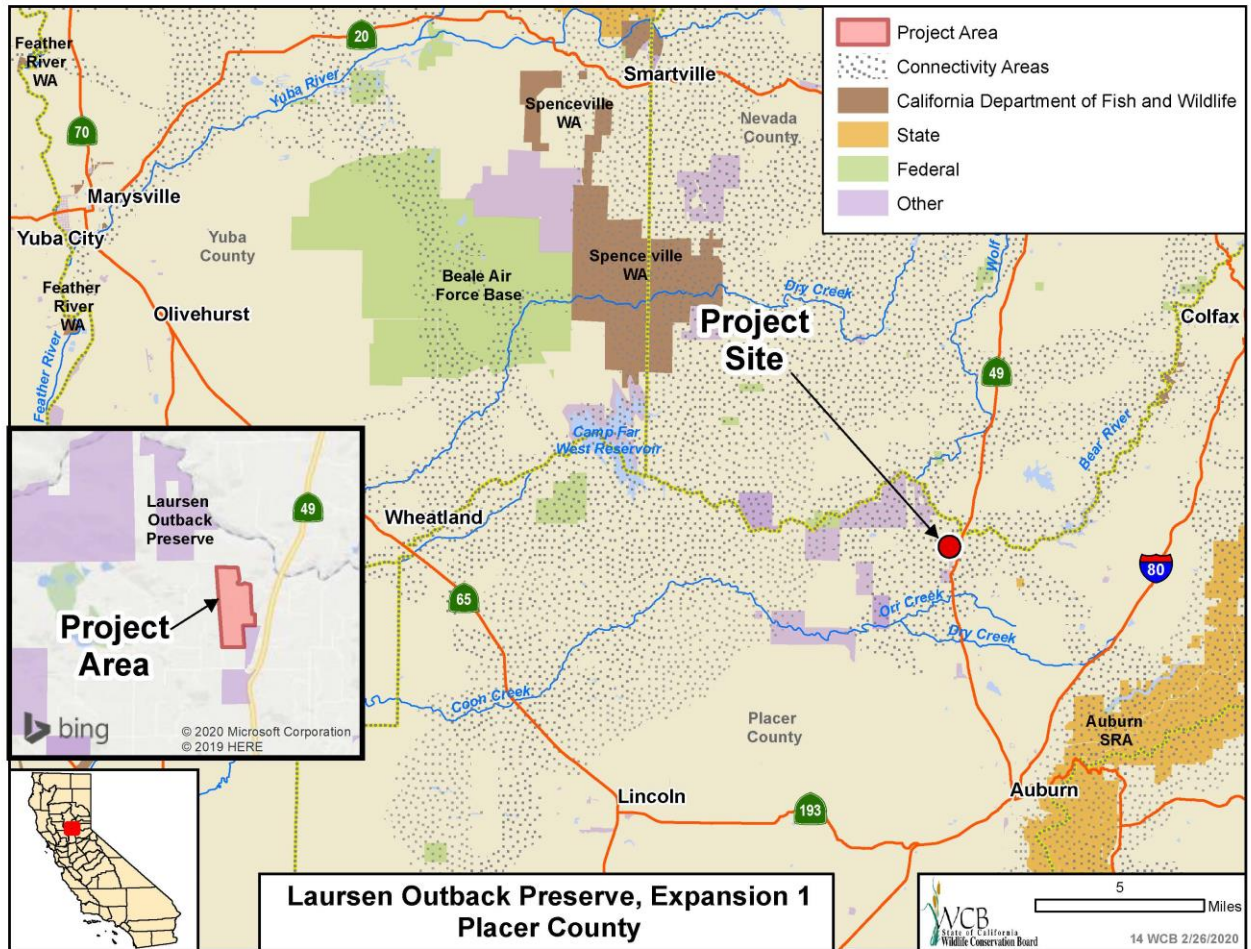
DGS' approved fair market value is \$1,665,000. The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$683,000
Sierra Nevada Conservancy	\$982,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$1,665,000

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

The project has been reviewed for compliance with the 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 WCB, a NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.



15. Hudeman Slough Boat Launch Improvements

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$130,000 from the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68), Public Resource Code Section 80132(a); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Hudeman Slough Boat Launch Improvements	
Project Type:	Planning	
Applicant/Grantee:	Sonoma County Regional Parks	
Amount Recommended:	\$130,000	
Funding Partners:	Sonoma County Regional Parks	
County:	Sonoma	
Program:	Public Access Program	
Funding:	Proposition 68	
Strategic Plan Goals:	C.1	Objectives: SI 3.2, 3.3

LOCATION

Hudeman Slough Boat Launch is located on Hudeman Slough, a tributary of Sonoma Creek in Sonoma County. By land, the site is accessed from Highway 12 at Ramal Road, continuing south and east to Skaggs Island Road, and then south to the site. There are several dozen miles of interconnected navigable tidal waterways between Sonoma Creek, Hudeman Slough, and the Napa River. Hudeman Slough is recognized in the San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail Plan and also provides connection for the San Francisco Bay Trail along the levee.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

By 2012, Hudeman Slough Boat Launch was showing wear due to general use, vandalism, and tidal forces. Also, it was no longer ADA compliant due to theft of structural components. In 2012, WCB contributed \$50,000 for environmental review, which led to 50 percent design plans and CEQA. In 2017, tidal silt build-up damaged the dock beyond repair and the boat launch had to be closed for safety reasons, eliminating boating access for hunting, fishing, and birdwatching.

This project will complete final engineering plans and permitting for project components, resulting in a shovel-ready project. Project components will include a boat launch and dock, a low freeboard ADA compliant kayak launching dock, a permanent restroom building, parking lot resurface, and an ADA compliant pathway. This renovation and improvement project will enhance the functionality of the launch facility, minimize siltation of the ramp to improve safety and reduce maintenance costs, provide required accessibility improvements, and improve the user experience of the facility while discouraging future vandalism. Additionally, the new dock will be floating and designed to accommodate projected tidal rise.

When operational, Hudeman Slough Boat Launch provides access for boats under 24 feet long at no cost for fishing, hunting, bird watching, wildlife photography, and waterway exploring. The County expects approximately 10,500 motorized and non-motorized launches annually. When public use is restored to Hudeman

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Slough, Sonoma County Regional Parks will establish programs including organized outings, environmental education for school groups, and outreach programs prioritized for communities of concern including seniors, disabled visitors, and low-income youth.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

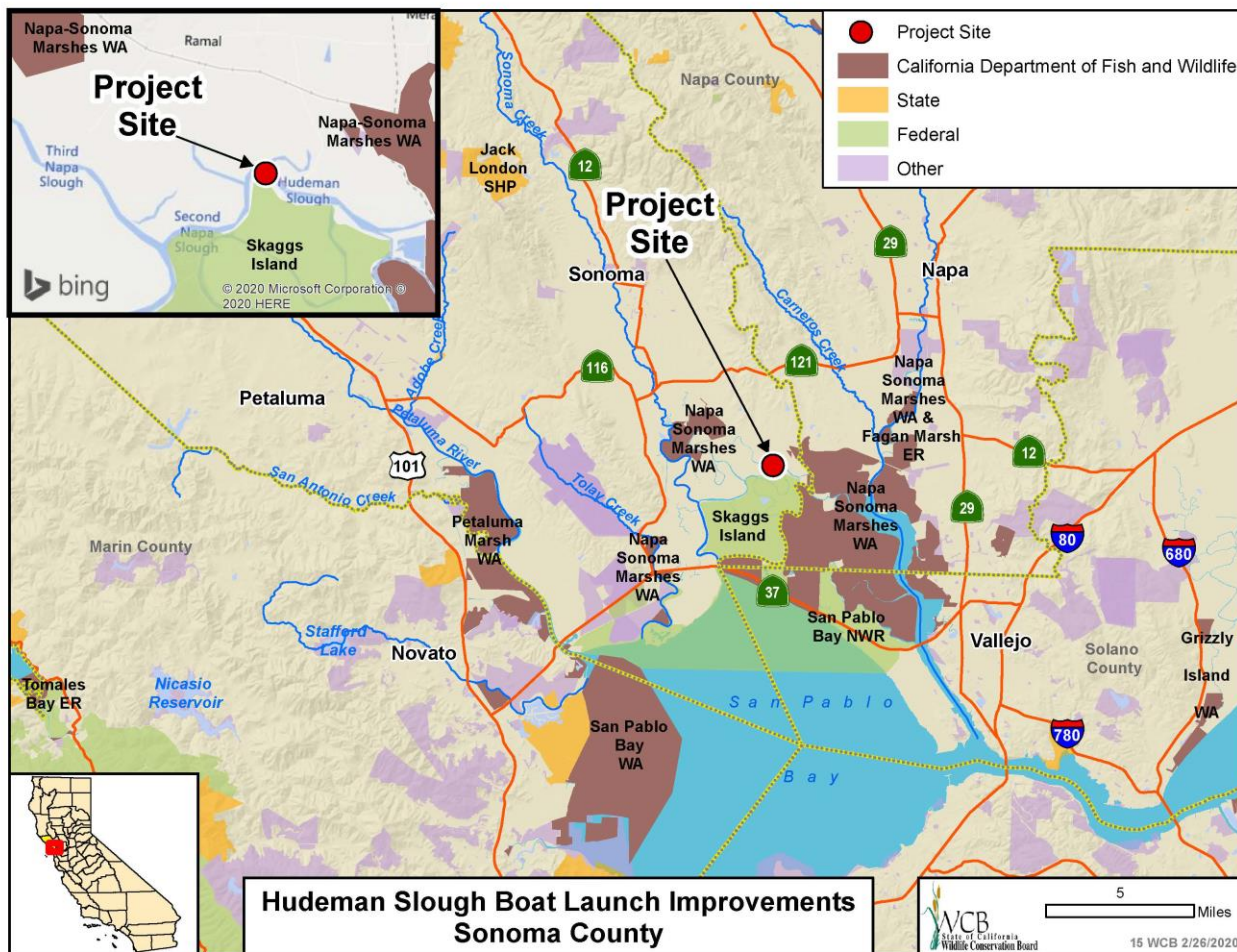
Project Task	Total Cost	WCB	Non-WCB Funds
Construction Documents	\$162,000	\$59,000	\$103,000
CEQA Addendum	\$20,000	\$18,000	\$2,000
Permits	\$60,000	\$53,000	\$7,000
Total	\$242,000	\$130,000	\$112,000

Project costs include:

- Construction Documents: final engineering plans and specifications
- CEQA Addendum: update approved Mitigated Negative Declaration
- Permits: secure regulatory permits and approvals

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

The project is statutorily exempt CEQA pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, Section 15262), as it involves only feasibility and planning studies for possible future actions.



16. American River Ranch Parking Lot, Phase II

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB adopt the written findings and approve this project as proposed; allocate \$393,731 from the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection and Outdoor Access for All Fund of 2018 (Proposition 68), Public Resources Code Section 80100(a)(3); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	American River Ranch Parking Lot, Phase II
Project Type:	Implementation
Applicant/Grantee:	Sacramento County Department of Regional Parks
Amount Recommended:	\$393,731
Landowner(s):	Sacramento County
County:	Sacramento
Program:	Lower American River Conservancy Program
Funding:	Proposition 68
Strategic Plan Goals:	C.1 Objectives: SI 3.1

LOCATION

The project (Project) area lies within 7± acres of a developed recreation land use area of the American River Ranch (Ranch) property, which is situated entirely within the American River Parkway (Parkway). Located in the northwestern half of Rancho Cordova, between Folsom Boulevard and the American River at mile 15 within the Parkway, the 48±-acre Ranch is devoted to agriculture, gardens, pasture, and other farm-related activities. Seven± acres are devoted to education and interpretation of the Ranch through facilities such as a farm office, staff quarters, and a multi-purpose barn. The Ranch offers a rare combination of natural resources, infrastructure, and activities that help interpret the dynamic interplay between food, personal health, and the environment.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

American River Ranch opened to the public in 2007, operated by a local nonprofit organization, Soil Born Farms (SBF). Since that time, annual visitor use has increased to approximately 17,000. Despite the increase in visitors, few improvements have been made to the site. In August 2019, WCB approved an initial phase I for funding, which included the redesign, regrading, and graveling of the new parking lot serving 57 vehicles, and installation of fencing, signs, and construction of a bioswale. The Project, Phase II, will pave the gravel parking lot, stripe accessible parking stalls, install landscaping with native and edible plants, and augment the bioswale with native plants that remove toxins and contaminants from water.

Paving and striping the 20,703 square foot gravel parking lot will ensure a reduction in errant parking and full compliance ADA requirements. The paved lot will provide a better experience for Ranch visitors and significantly reduce dust control and other long-term maintenance activities.

The existing and proposed tree canopy is expected to provide over 10,000 square feet in shade. Native and edible horticultural plants proposed for the lot include a

cherry tree, European olive tree, dwarf pomegranate, pecan tree, English lavender, English thyme, tufted hairgrass, water rush, pacific rush, and deer bed sedge.

The Project was recommended by the Lower American River Conservancy Program Advisory Committee, whose role is to evaluate and recommend projects to be considered by the WCB. The Project was recommended for submittal to WCB by the Advisory Committee on October 17, 2019. American River Parkway Compliance Analysis was completed for the Project at the December 12, 2019, Recreation and Parks Commission meeting, in accordance with Public Resources Code section 5845.5. The Project was determined to be consistent with the American River Parkway Plan.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

Soil Born Farms is responsible for the maintenance, repairs, safety and cleanliness of the Project as it lies within their leased premises. If Soil Born Farms fails to perform maintenance duties or should they choose not to renew their lease in the future, the Sacramento County Department of Regional Parks (Regional Parks), as landowner, will become responsible for the Project’s maintenance. Regular maintenance will include clearing any noxious weeds and invasive plants. Major maintenance activities may include repairing vandalism and adaptive management of landscape features as needed.

The Grantee adopted a Management Plan that guides management of the property. If at any time during the 25-year life of the Project, Regional Parks does not manage and maintain the Project improvements, the Grant Agreement requires that it refund to the state of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the Project life.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	Total Cost	WCB	Non-WCB Funds
Project Management	\$12,000	\$5,000	\$7,000
Engineering, Design, Permitting	\$45,000	\$45,000	---
Construction	\$288,731	\$283,231	\$5,500
Inspections, Project Closure	\$48,000	\$34,000	\$14,000
Total	\$393,731	\$367,231	\$26,500

Project costs include:

- Project Management: Administering grant contract and monitoring
- Engineering, Design, and Permitting: Preparing final design specifications, hydraulic analysis, and additional permitting
- Construction: Preparing bid package, awarding contract, engineering support, paving, striping, and landscaping
- Inspection and Project Closure: Construction inspection review and final as-built drawings

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

The City of Rancho Cordova, as lead agency, prepared a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA. Staff considered the MND and has prepared proposed, written findings documenting WCB's compliance with CEQA. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.



17. Bushy Lake Conceptual Restoration Plan

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$370,000 from the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68), Public Resources Code Section 80100(a)(3); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Bushy Lake Conceptual Restoration Plan
Project Type:	Planning
Applicant/Grantee:	University Enterprises, Incorporated (a nonprofit auxiliary organization of California State University, Sacramento)
Amount Recommended:	\$370,000
Funding Partners:	University Enterprises, Incorporated
Landowner(s):	California Exposition and State Fair
County:	Sacramento
Program:	Lower American River Conservancy Program
Funding:	Proposition 68
Strategic Plan Goals:	B.1 Objectives: SI 2.1, 2.5, 3.4

LOCATION

Bushy Lake is an 86±-acre site located in the floodplain of the lower American River, approximately five miles east of the California State Capitol. Bushy Lake is part of the California Exposition floodplain which is state-owned land and was protected with the enactment of the Bushy Lake Preservation Act of 1976 (Act). The Act designates Bushy Lake as a State Nature Preserve with the primary intent of preserving important vegetation, emphasizing riparian habitat, wildlife species and their supporting ecosystems. The California Exposition floodplain and Bushy Lake were among the first additions to the 4,300±-acre American River Parkway and are managed by Sacramento County Department of Regional Parks (Regional Parks) consistent with Regional Park's 2008 American River Parkway Plan and the Act.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In 2015 the California State University Sacramento, Department of Environmental Studies, spearheaded the Bushy Lake pilot habitat restoration project, which has incorporated experimental design and adaptive restoration methods to inform restoration practice, wildlife monitoring, and adaptive management. In the process of monitoring, it was discovered that Bushy Lake is a refuge for the western pond turtle (pond turtle). Unfortunately, the invasive red-eared slider turtle was also found at the site and is outcompeting the pond turtle by approximately 80 percent.

Development of the Bushy Lake Conceptual Restoration Plan (CRP) will focus on the following priorities: 1) protect, enhance and restore a sustainable habitat refuge for pond turtles, 2) enhance habitat for fire resiliency, and 3) enhance the education and interpretation of resources in the Parkway. Technical studies, followed by design plans, will be completed for pond turtle conservation and fire resilient habitat restoration at the site. Scientific studies will summarize pond turtle baseline data, identifying invasive species threats and critical habitat elements for the pond turtle,

complete surveys of the aquatic habitat and water quality, characterize hydrology, and complete wetland boundary mapping. Planning activities will also develop recommendations for long-term management, monitoring, and adaptive management of the conceptual Bushy Lake improvements. Public and stakeholder outreach will be an integral part in developing the CRP; a public education plan will be developed in collaboration with the Sacramento Zoo to inform pond turtle education and advocacy. The final CRP will include: baseline site conditions, restoration goals and objectives, habitat restoration specifications and preliminary designs, restoration management needs, invasive species control methodologies and specifications, and monitoring and adaptive management strategies.

The project was recommended by the Lower American River Conservancy Program Advisory Committee, whose role is to evaluate and recommend projects to be considered by WCB. The project was recommended for submittal to WCB by the Advisory Committee on October 17, 2019. American River Parkway Compliance Analysis was completed for the project at the December 12, 2019, Recreation and Parks Commission meeting, in accordance with Public Resources Code Section 5845.5. The Project was determined to be consistent with the American River Parkway Plan.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Project Task	Total Cost	WCB	Non-WCB Funds
Environmental Studies & Designs	\$236,571	\$236,571	---
Public Outreach & Education	\$24,583	\$24,583	---
Conceptual Restoration Plan	\$61,513	\$61,513	---
Field Supplies, Equipment, Travel	\$6,637	\$6,637	---
Indirect	\$85,463	\$40,696	\$44,767
Total	\$414,767	\$370,000	\$44,767

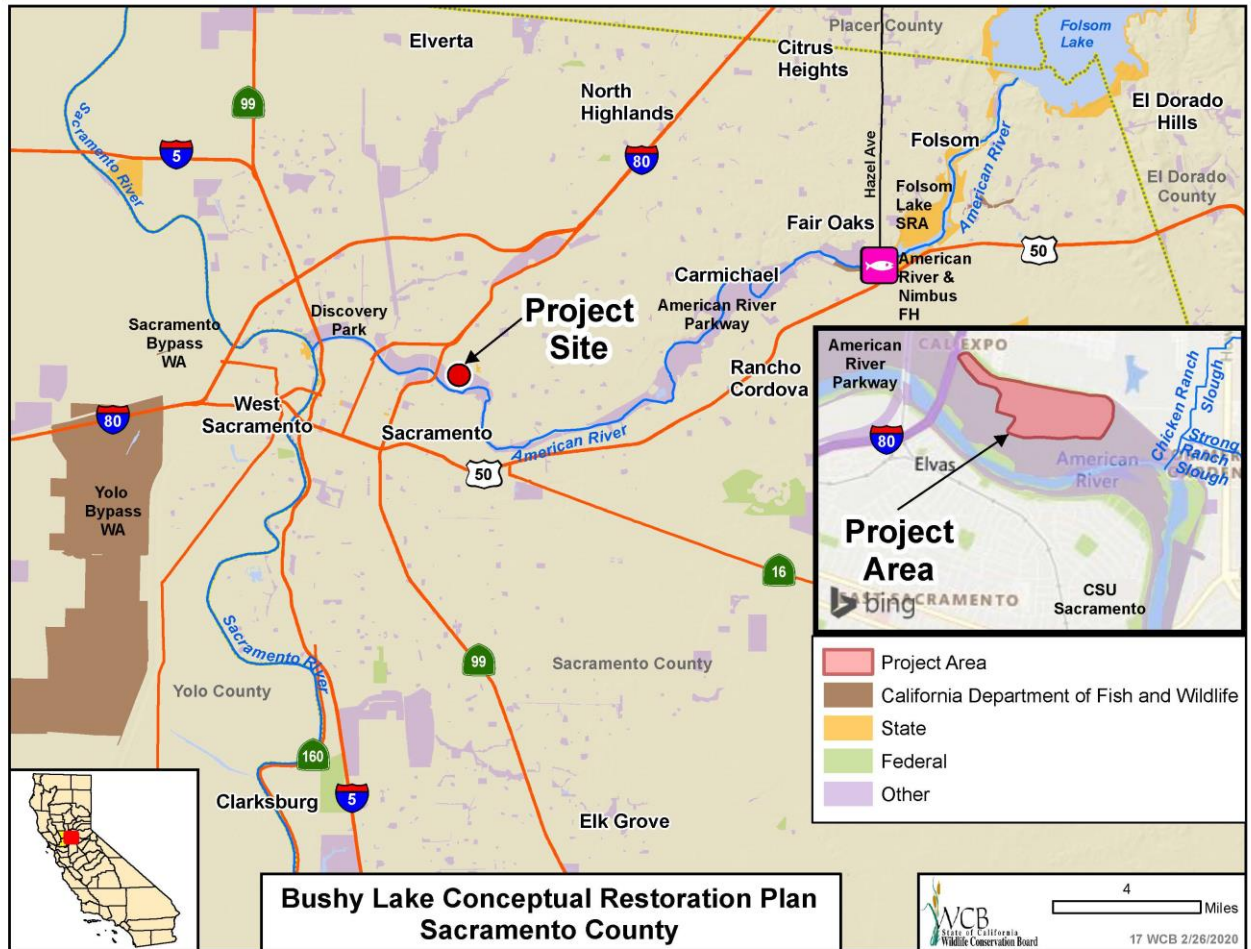
Project costs include:

- Task 1: Conduct studies and designs for pond turtle conservation and fire resilient habitat restoration.
- Task 2: Outline mechanisms to promote public education and engagement at Bushy Lake, host stakeholder meetings, and provide a public meeting presenting the development of the CRP.
- Task 3: Prepare a draft and final CRP.
- Task 4: Travel expenses to and from Bushy Lake and field supplies and equipment to support Task 1 studies.
- Task 5: Indirect costs limited to 20 percent of the total direct WCB award.

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

The project is statutorily exempt from the CEQA pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3) Section 15262,

Feasibility and Planning Studies, as it involves only feasibility and planning studies for possible future actions.



18. Lower Cordova Creek Restoration Planning

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$248,000 from the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68), Public Resources Code Section 80100(a)(3); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Lower Cordova Creek Restoration Planning
Project Type:	Planning
Applicant/Grantee:	City County Office of Metropolitan Water Planning
Amount Recommended:	\$248,000
Funding Partners:	City County Office of Metropolitan Water Planning
Landowner(s):	Sacramento County
County:	Sacramento
Program:	Lower American River Conservancy Program
Funding:	Proposition 68
Strategic Plan Goals:	B.1
Objectives:	SI 3.1, 3.4, 4.3, 5.4

LOCATION

Cordova Creek, formerly known as Clifton Drain, is located within the city of Rancho Cordova and is a drainage channel for remediated groundwater from the Aerojet General Corporation Superfund site as well as stormwater runoff from surrounding residential and park areas. Cordova Creek begins as a trapezoidal concrete-lined drainage and weaves through residential areas of the city before entering the American River Parkway (Parkway) at River Bend Park, where it flows directly into the American River. Cordova Creek flows through the American River Ranch and is the western boundary of Soil Born Farms (SBF), an organic, community educational farm. In 2016, the upper reach of the Cordova Creek Naturalization Project was completed with a California River Parkways grant. Nine± acres of riparian habitat and eight± acres of upland habitat were restored, and the project created an accessible walking trail and interpretive signage on the west side of the creek.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Due to budget constraints, the lower 420 feet of the creek was not restored during the initial project work. While this portion of the creek is the most complex, it is also the most vital as it is the confluence with the American River and can either invite or deter fish use of the naturalized creek.

The project will facilitate a planning process focused on science, design, and stakeholder engagement to 1) increase and enhance habitat for native plants and wildlife, 2) increase production of threatened salmonids from Cordova Creek and the American River, 3) protect existing sensitive natural and cultural resources, and 4) improve access and interpretation on the east side of the creek to facilitate recreation and education via a safer, better connection between the Cordova Creek naturalization site and the American River Ranch.

The project will include baseline aquatic and topographic studies, stakeholder outreach and coordination. It will complete up to 65 percent design for naturalization

of the lowest 420 feet of Cordova Creek, accompanied by development of plans and designs for public access and interpretation facilities for the east side of Cordova Creek which neighbors SBF.

The project was recommended by the Lower American River Conservancy Program Advisory Committee, whose role is to evaluate and recommend projects to be considered by WCB. The project was recommended for submittal to WCB by the Advisory Committee on October 17, 2019. American River Parkway Compliance Analysis was completed for the project at the December 12, 2019, Recreation and Parks Commission meeting, in accordance with Public Resources Code Section 5845.5. The project was determined to be consistent with the American River Parkway Plan.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Project Task	Total Cost	WCB	Non-WCB Funds
Project Management	\$20,000	---	\$20,000
Data Collection	\$58,000	\$50,000	\$8,000
Conceptual Alternatives & Outreach	\$31,000	\$16,000	\$15,000
Designs	\$226,000	\$182,000	\$44,000
Total	\$335,000	\$248,000	\$87,000

Project costs include:

- Task 1: Administer grant, secure and manage contracts with sub-contractors, oversee project team, and prepare invoices and reports.
- Task 2: Conduct spawning surveys, rearing surveys, topographic survey, substrate mapping, temperature monitoring, and data management.
- Task 3: Develop conceptual alternatives for creek and habitat restoration and improved access and interpretation. Host stakeholder outreach meetings on design alternatives.
- Task 4: Develop 65 percent designs for creek restoration and public access improvements. Designs for public access will include connecting paths to SBF, and designs for reconstructing the bike/pedestrian bridge over the restored Cordova Creek.

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

The project is statutorily exempt from CEQA pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3) Section 15262, Feasibility and Planning Studies, as it involves only feasibility and planning studies for possible future actions.



19. Effie Yeaw Nature Center Facilities Improvement Planning

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$112,000 from the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68), Public Resources Code Section 80100(a)(3); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Effie Yeaw Nature Center Facilities Improvement Planning
Project Type:	Planning
Applicant/Grantee:	American River Natural History Association
Amount Recommended:	\$112,000
Funding Partners:	American River Natural History Association
Landowner(s):	Sacramento County
County:	Sacramento
Program:	Lower American River Conservancy Program
Funding:	Proposition 68
Strategic Plan Goals:	B.1
Objectives:	SI 3.1, 3.4, 5.4

LOCATION

The Effie Yeaw Nature Center (Nature Center), is located within the American River Parkway, approximately one mile north of Rancho Cordova. The Nature Center is nestled next to a 103±-acre Nature Study Area designated by Sacramento County Department of Regional Parks (Regional Parks) in their 2008 American River Parkway Plan. Riparian woodland, grassland, and oak woodland surround the Nature Center and a gravel beach of the American River can be reached by three self-guided trails that originate from the Nature Center. The American River Natural History Association (Association) operates the Nature Center pursuant to a lease with Sacramento County. The Association provides educational and interpretive programs about the natural and cultural environment of the American River Parkway, and promotes awareness, appreciation, understanding, and enjoyment of these resources for the Sacramento region.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Since it was constructed in 1976, the Nature Center has not been updated to accommodate the growth of its nationally recognized educational programs. In 2017, recognizing the need for facility improvements, the Association began preparation of the Effie Yeaw Nature Center Master Plan for Facilities Improvement (Master Plan). The Association proposes to make capital improvements to the Nature Center's Museum Building as described in the Master Plan. Improvements are proposed to be implemented in two phases.

This planning project will enable the Association to complete environmental review in accordance with the CEQA for the Master Plan and obtain Sacramento County approval of the Master Plan. Additionally, engineering studies and designs will be completed for the first stage of construction, in order to bring the plans to shovel ready status. Initial plans will design construction of a separate aviary adjacent to the Museum Building in the current location of the amphitheater. The new aviary will

replace the outdated facilities currently used to house live animals serving as ambassadors for the Nature Center. The aviary will provide a secure location for live animals and an improved work area for staff assigned to their care. Project design will also provide for replacement of the existing amphitheater with an improved outdoor education classroom in the area adjacent to the proposed aviary. The existing mews where the live animals are currently housed will be converted into an improved animal care area.

The Association will hold public meetings to solicit input from the community and stakeholders on the proposed Nature Center improvements. Designs will be completed at 65 percent and 100 percent along with bid packages and permitting. Existing environmental conditions and environmental impacts associated with all construction proposed in the Master Plan will be analyzed and environmental review will be conducted. It is expected that a Negative Declaration or MND will be completed as a part of the project. Sacramento County will be lead agency for CEQA. The final draft Master Plan and 100 percent construction designs will be reviewed in accordance with the policies of Regional Parks' 2008 American River Parkway Plan with final approval of the Master Plan and environmental document by Sacramento County Board of Supervisors.

The project was recommended by the Lower American River Conservancy Program Advisory Committee, whose role is to evaluate and recommend projects to be considered by WCB. The Project was recommended for submittal to WCB by the Advisory Committee on October 17, 2019. American River Parkway Compliance Analysis was completed for the Project at the December 12, 2019, Recreation and Parks Commission meeting, in accordance with Public Resources Code Section 5845.5. The Project was determined to be consistent with the American River Parkway Plan.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Project Task	Total Cost	WCB	Non-WCB Funds
1. Public Outreach	\$6,000	\$1,500	\$4,500
2. Engineering & Designs	\$109,000	\$109,000	---
3. Master Plan and CEQA	\$19,500	\$1,500	\$18,000
Total	\$134,500	\$112,000	\$22,500

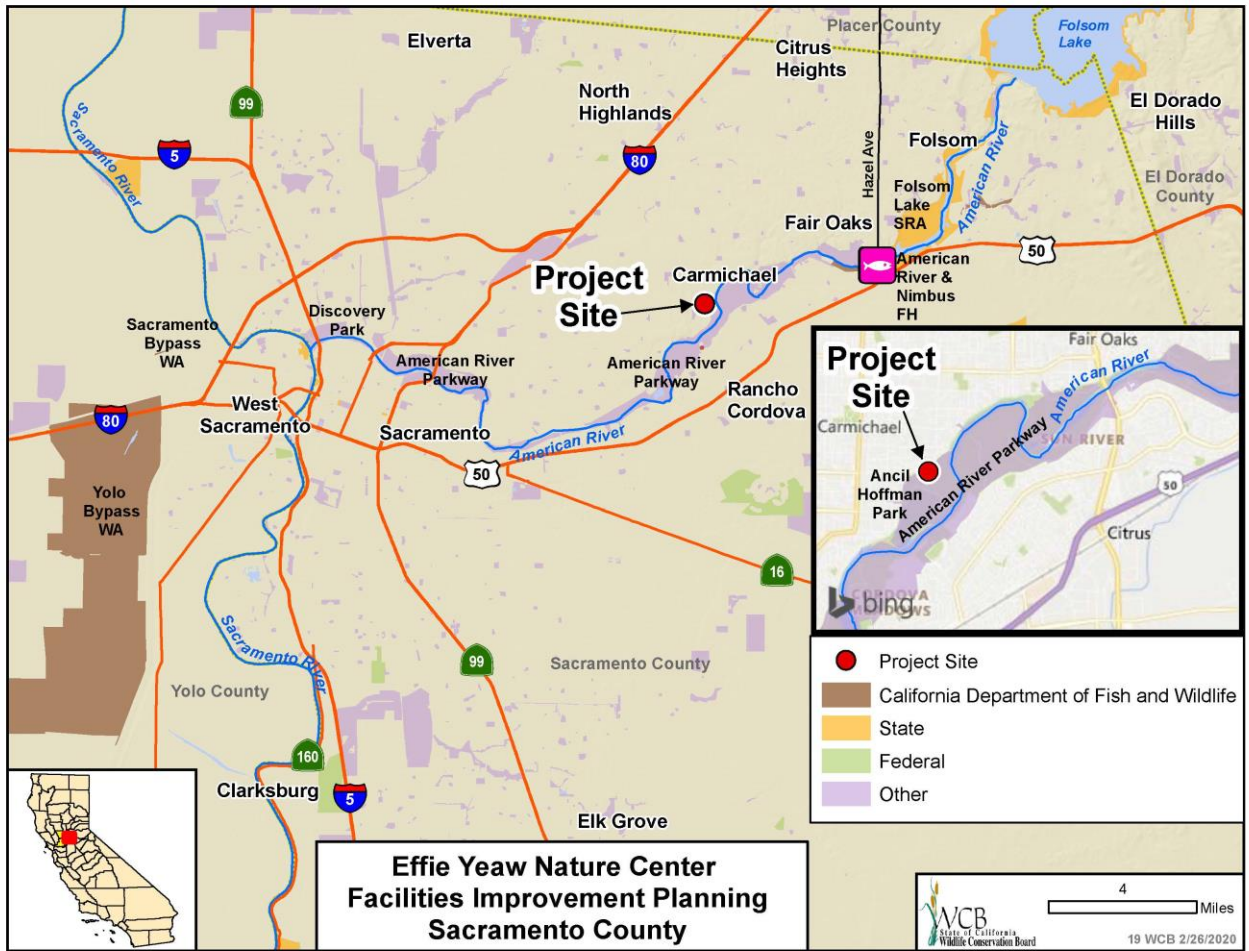
Project costs include:

- Task 1: Conduct public meetings at the Nature Center and offsite locations.
- Task 2: Complete engineering studies and design plans for aviary, outdoor classroom, and associated features.
- Task 3: Complete CEQA review for the Master Plan. Obtain construction and regulatory permits.

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

The project is statutorily exempt from CEQA pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3) Section 15262, Feasibility and

Planning Studies, as it involves only feasibility and planning studies for possible future actions.



20. Pacific Flyway Center Public Access

This item has been withdrawn from consideration at this time.

21. Roddy Ranch Grassland and Wetland Restoration Design

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$555,000 from the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68), Public Resources Code Section 80111(b); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Roddy Ranch Grassland and Wetland Restoration Design
Project Type:	Implementation/Planning
Applicant/Grantee:	East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy
Amount Recommended:	\$555,000
Funding Partners:	East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy
Landowner(s):	East Bay Regional Park District
County:	Contra Costa
Program:	Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Program
Funding:	Proposition 68
Strategic Plan Goals:	B.1 Objectives: SI 2.1, 2.2, 2.4, 2.5, 3.4

LOCATION

The 230±-acre property is the site of the former Roddy Ranch Golf Course, located approximately five miles east of Brentwood in Contra Costa County. The golf course opened in 2000, with subsequent plans to construct executive homes around the site. In 2014, plans fell through, and the larger ranch area surrounding the golf course was sold for conservation and subsequently incorporated into the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan (HCP/NCCP) Preserve System in 2018. The golf course however, since it was still in operation, was not acquired during initial negotiations for acquisition until operations ceased in 2016 due to financial feasibility issues. Once closed, the golf course property was acquired by the East Bay Regional Park District, primarily through a WCB grant of \$1,065,250, approved by the Board in February 2018. This project will take place primarily on the former golf course property, as well as adjacent areas within the HCP/NCCP Preserve.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

During the golf course's development and operation, the soil, land forms and hydrology were altered. The operators brought in topsoil to amend the land's inhospitable native soils. Throughout its operation, soil amendments, fertilizers and herbicides were used to keep the grass growing through the year. When the golf course operations ceased, weeds rapidly moved in and dominated the property. Initial weed mapping revealed 160± acres of the 230±-acre property was infested with 14 different non-native noxious weeds, including 150± acres of Italian thistle.

There are three lakes on site that are lined with plastic. The golf course also includes an extensive subsurface drainage system that was installed to capture irrigation and natural precipitation runoff and convey this water to a series of sedimentation basins. The basins remain ponded into the summer and contain emergent vegetation. California red-legged frogs have been observed in one of the lakes, and Western

toads are present in abundance. Additionally, there are documented state and federal listed species on the adjacent HCP/NCCP Preserve lands including California tiger salamander and vernal pool fairy shrimp.

This project will restore the grassland and wetland ecology of the former golf course and surrounding area through three main tasks: 1) invasive weed control, 2) native grassland restoration including native seed amplification, and 3) initial restoration planning for wetland enhancement and restoration.

Invasive Weed Control - Herbicide application will be implemented to control annual invasive species. Follow-up monitoring and invasive weed mapping will be completed to confirm efficacy of weed control methods, identify new locations of invasive weeds so they can be targeted for control, determine if the strategy needs to be modified based on adaptive management, and take photos from photo monitoring locations.

Native Grassland Restoration - Seeds of native grassland species will be collected on adjacent preserves and amplified at a native seed farm to ensure locally sourced seeds are available for seeding on site. Seeding will occur in select areas where invasive weed removal occurs.

Initial Wetland and Drainage Restoration Planning - A Biological Resource Assessment and Wetland Delineation Report will be completed to inform the development of restoration alternatives and to help support permitting of the preferred alternative under a future phase of the project. A range of wetland design alternatives will be developed in consultation with the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy, and will take into account existing biological resources including existing wetlands and native plant communities, as well as existing physical conditions, cultural resources and any other restraints.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The restoration and management objectives for this project are covered in the East Contra Costa County HCP/NCCP. If at any time during the 25-year life of the project, Grantee does not manage and maintain the project improvements, the Grant Agreement requires that it refund to the state of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the project life.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

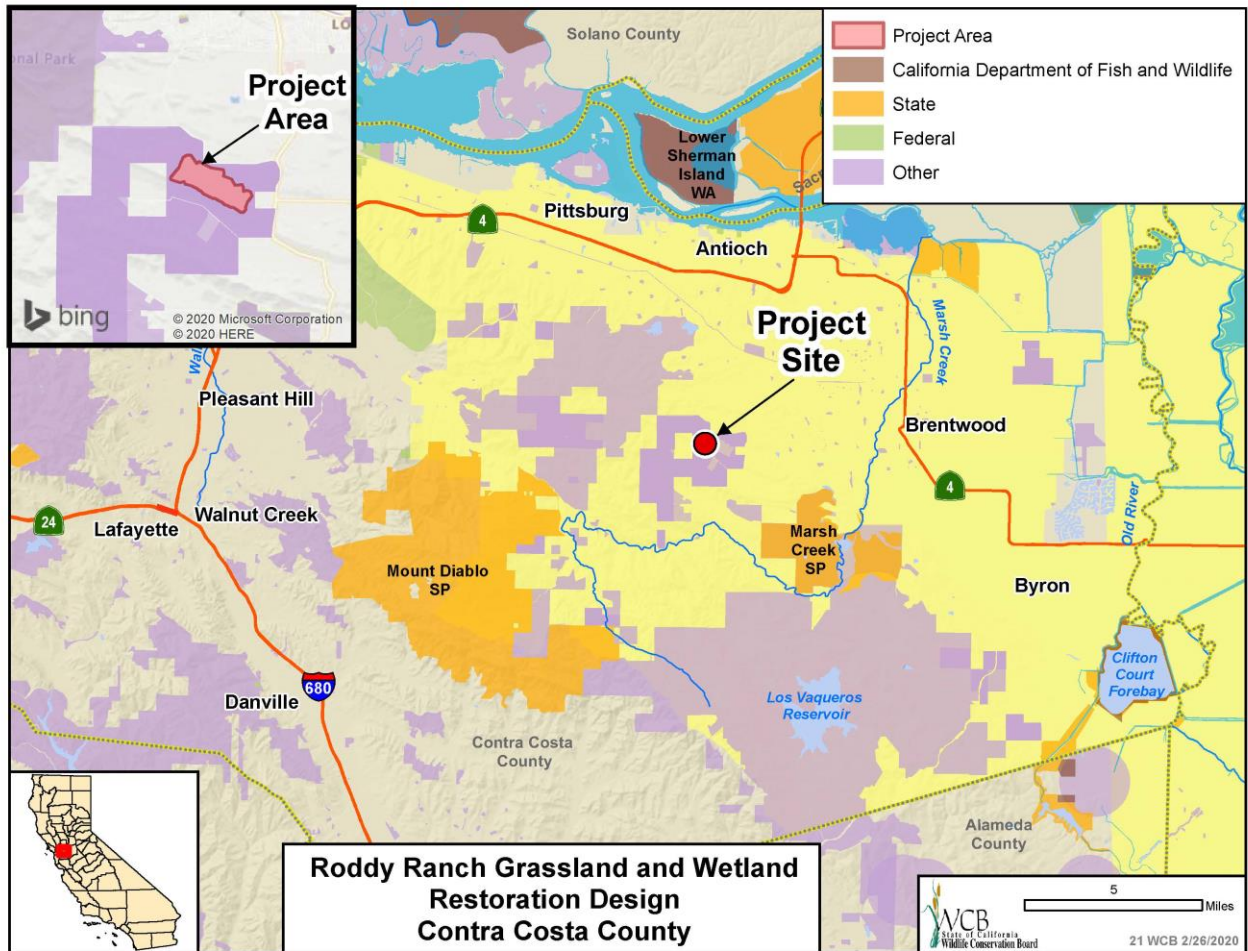
Project Task	Total Cost	WCB	Non-WCB funds
Invasive Weed Control and Monitoring	\$215,250	\$205,000	\$10,250
Native Grassland Restoration	\$126,000	\$120,000	\$6,000
Initial Wetland Restoration Planning	\$241,500	\$230,000	\$11,500
TOTAL	\$582,750	\$555,000	\$27,750

Project costs include:

- Invasive weed control (mowing, herbicide application, hand removal where necessary, monitoring of progress)
- Native grassland restoration (onsite seed collection, determine seed sources, application of seed mixes, monitoring of propagation and post-grazing conditions)
- Initial wetland restoration planning (Biological Resource Assessment/Wetland Delineation Report, restoration planning)

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

The project has been reviewed for compliance with CEQA requirements and is proposed as exempt under CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3) Section 15304, Class 4, as a minor alteration to land, water and/or vegetation which does not involve the removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.



22. Central Sierra Meadow Planning

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$275,000 from the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68), Public Resources Code Section 80132(f); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Central Sierra Meadow Planning
Project Type:	Planning
Applicant/Grantee:	American Rivers
Amount Recommended:	\$275,000
Funding Partners:	Stanislaus National Forest and Yosemite National Park
Landowner(s):	Stanislaus National Forest and Yosemite National Park
County:	Tuolumne
Program:	California Forest Conservation Program
Funding:	Proposition 68
Strategic Plan Goals:	B.1, B.2 Objectives: SI 1.3, 2.1, 3.1, 3.4

LOCATION

The project includes 230± acres of mountain meadow at three sites: Ackerson, South Ackerson, and Wire Corral meadows. Ackerson Meadow and South Ackerson Meadow are located in Yosemite National Park (YNP) on Evergreen Road near Camp Mather and approximately ten miles northwest of Big Oak Flat Entrance Station. Wire Corral Meadow is located in the Stanislaus National Forest (SNF), approximately four miles northwest of Pinecrest Lake.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project is designed to capitalize on economies of scale to complete environmental compliance, planning, and permitting for 230± acres of mountain meadow at three priority meadows for threatened species. Legacy impacts, including overgrazing and ditching within Ackerson Meadow, created a deeply eroded channel that no longer floods onto the greater meadow surface, even during the 500-year event. In South Ackerson and Wire Corral meadows, headcuts are actively eroding and threatening upstream meadow areas. The goals of the Project are to restore natural floodplain and channel evolution processes in Ackerson Meadow and to prevent South Ackerson and Wire Corral meadows from becoming degraded like Ackerson Meadow. This planning project will result in high-priority, near-term implementable projects that advance the meadow and riparian restoration priorities. Efforts to protect and restore breeding sites occupied by threatened species are among the most vital and time-sensitive conservation activities, particularly in light of climate change.

The Ackerson/South Ackerson meadow complex is a hotspot for focal bird species in the Sierra Nevada. It has been documented as having the highest density of breeding great gray owl pairs in the Sierra, and restoration of the complex is a priority under the Great Gray Owl Recovery Plan. In addition, Ackerson Meadow was historically important Central Sierra breeding habitat for the willow flycatcher, but the species

was believed to be locally extirpated based on lack of detection since 2000. However, willow flycatcher were observed in Ackerson Meadow in three of the last four years, including a female with brood patches, which is encouraging for re-establishing a breeding population.

The Ackerson and South Ackerson Meadow restoration projects became feasible when the sites were transferred from private ownership to YNP in 2016. Protection of Ackerson Meadow was attempted for decades by multiple conservation organizations and agencies, and the meadow was included in John Muir’s proposed boundaries of YNP. A baseline monitoring approach was initiated in 2017 with two stream gauges, vegetation surveys, headcut tracking, long-term monitoring for bird diversity and breeding of target species, and continuous monitoring at 12 groundwater wells.

The expected post-restoration results at Ackerson and South Ackerson meadows include: augmented baseflows, raised groundwater levels, expanded cover of native meadow vegetation and improved forage for wildlife, improved water quality through the reduction of turbidity and sedimentation by the elimination of eroding banks, and restored and protected habitat for an array of species, including listed species. The expected post-restoration results at Wire Corral Meadow include: protection of current baseflows and groundwater levels, prevention of loss of native meadow vegetation and forage for wildlife, improved water quality through sedimentation reduction and elimination of eroding banks, and protected habitat for an array of species, including listed species.

The project is entirely within a disadvantaged community and restores a site that allows public access and is very popular for birdwatching.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Project Task	Total Cost	WCB	Non-WCB Funds
Task 1 – Project Management	\$27,000	\$27,000	---
Task 2 – Environmental Compliance	\$162,000	\$42,000	\$120,000
Task 3 – Permits	\$90,479	\$40,479	\$50,000
Task 4 – Monitoring and Project Evaluation	\$43,104	\$18,104	\$25,000
Task 5 – Final Designs	\$158,084	\$133,084	\$25,000
Task 6 – Outreach and Communication	\$1,000	\$1,000	---
Indirect	\$40,137	\$13,333	\$26,804
Total	\$521,804	\$275,000	\$246,804

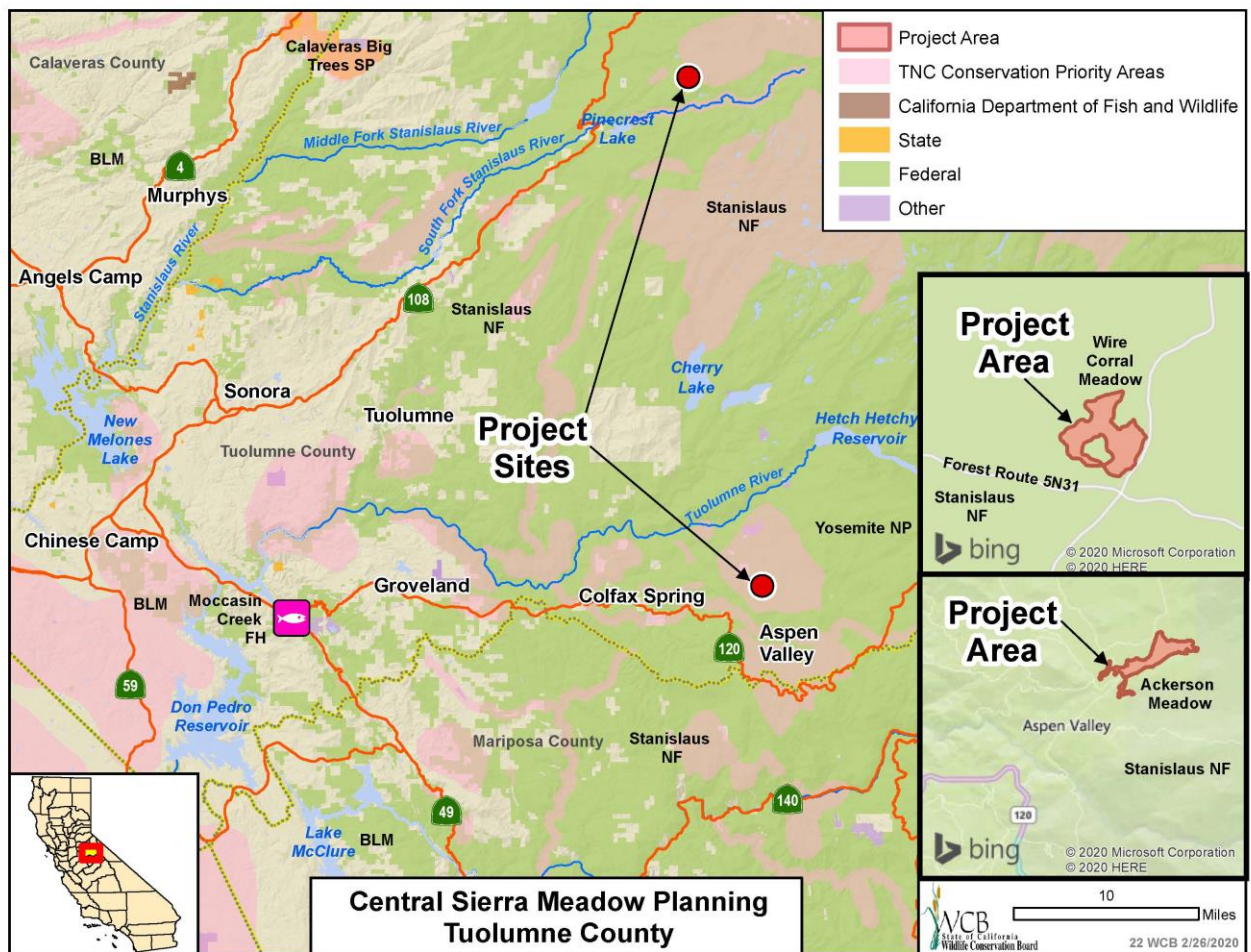
Project costs include:

- Grant management, assuring all permits are finalized, administering subcontracts, invoicing and payments, drafting and finalizing progress and final reports, and data management.

- Ensure compliance with permits including documentation and reporting and complete CEQA/NEPA and update Biological Opinion.
- Complete permits.
- Complete data collection and project monitoring at sites.
- Review, evaluate and approve final designs.
- Draft and coordinate outreach including press reports and web/social media.

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

The project is statutorily exempt from CEQA pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, Section 15262), as it involves only feasibility and planning studies for possible future actions. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.



23. Central Region State Wildlife Area Habitat Enhancement

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$302,000 from the Habitat Conservation Fund, Fish and Game Code Section 2786(d), Inland Wetlands Conservation Program; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Central Region State Wildlife Area Habitat Enhancement Project Augmentation
Project Type:	Implementation
Applicant/Grantee:	Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
Amount Recommended:	\$302,000
Funding Partners:	Ducks Unlimited, Inc., CDFW
Landowner(s):	CDFW
County:	Merced
Program:	Inland Wetlands Conservation Program
Funding:	Habitat Conservation Fund
Strategic Plan Goals:	B.1 Objectives: SI 2.1, 2.4, 2.5

LOCATION

The project will occur on the North Grasslands Wildlife Area (NGWA) Salt Slough Unit in Merced County. NGWA was historically a matrix of grasslands and seasonal wetlands influenced by drainage from tributaries of the San Joaquin River, which were grazed and hunted prior to purchase by the state of California in the early 1990s. Currently, the NGWA consists of seasonal wetlands, semi-permanent emergent wetlands, and uplands with a focus on waterfowl habitat management. NGWA is open to the public with a focus on waterfowl hunting.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project originally approved by the Board on November 16, 2016, and is improving nesting/brood-rearing, winter, and migration habitat for waterfowl, waterbirds, shorebirds, and neotropical migratory birds by improving water conveyance and supply, habitat, and management capabilities at three sites: Los Banos Wildlife Area (LBWA) and the Gadwall and Salt Slough Units of NGWA. Ultimately 956± acres of habitat, including 445± acres of wetlands, 44± acres of riparian habitats, and 467± acres of wetland-associated and managed uplands will be improved. Major project activities include adding new and replacing existing deteriorated water control structures (e.g., flashboard risers and culverts), cleaning water conveyance ditches, installing new irrigation pumps and motors, installing electrical service to a well site, and re-grading uplands to improve food plots and nesting habitats.

At the NGWA Salt Slough Unit, the project has re-graded 168± acres of managed uplands in fields to improve irrigation efficiency and planted with native grasses to provide foraging habitat for mourning doves, California quail, and ring-necked pheasants.

Unfortunately, native grass restoration has been weak in initial test fields. Follow-up studies have determined that the fields were overly sandy and lacked organic matter.

These studies have also found that native grass establishment will be most effective immediately after a farming operation, as the presence of crops and herbicides reduce weed pressure to a point where native grasses can outcompete weeds.

A cover crop of winter wheat was planted last fall to provide three immediate benefits: prohibit weed germination in the coming winter/spring; provide upland nesting cover for waterfowl, pheasants, quail, and passerines; and provide organic matter to the soil.

This augmentation will support continued native grass plantings and will provide rental sprinklers to provide a more consistent and deeper soil profile penetration of water within the native grass fields. The project team was able to receive donated compost to amend the soil prior to native grass planting. The augmentation will provide for the transportation and application of compost to the native grass fields, supporting the successful establishment of native grasses.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

Management of this project area will be incorporated into the existing Management Plan of the NGWA that guides management actions for the Wildlife Area, including management of the Salt Slough Unit. If at any time during the 25-year life of the Project, Grantee does not manage and maintain the project improvements, the Grant Agreement requires that it refund to the state of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the project life.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

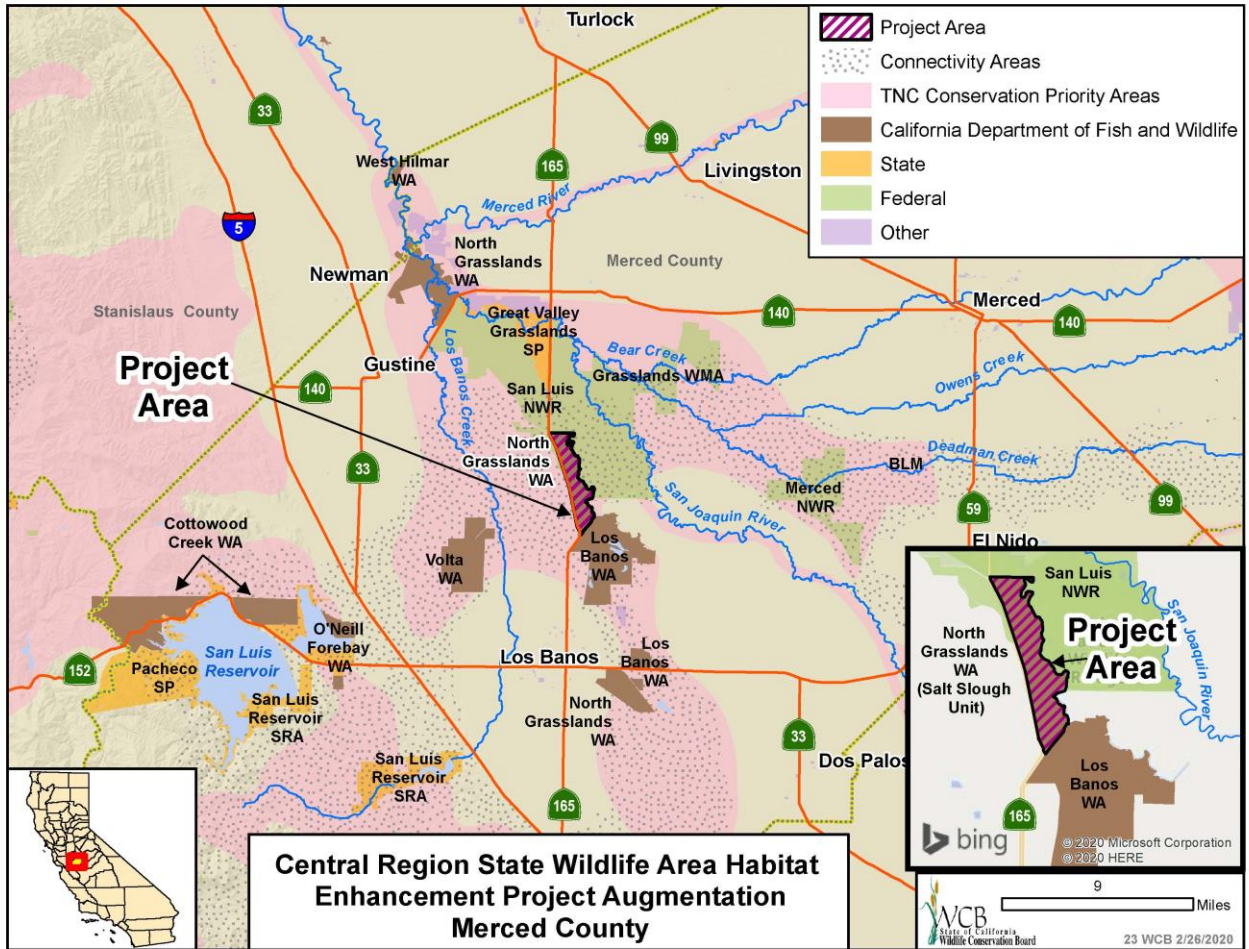
Project Task	WCB	WCB Augmentation	Non-WCB Funds	Total Cost
Project Management	\$139,456	\$9,078	---	\$148,534
Construction	\$374,654	\$23,443	\$1,000	\$399,097
Planting	\$243,352	\$226,479	---	\$469,831
Herbicide	\$93,334	---	---	\$93,334
Sign Repair	\$1,000	---	---	\$1,000
Contingency	\$85,079	\$25,900	---	\$110,979
Grant Administration	\$56,125	\$17,100	---	\$73,225
Indirect Overhead	---	---	\$91,666	\$91,666
Total	\$993,000	\$302,000	\$92,666	\$1,387,666

Project augmentation costs include:

- Project Management: project management and administration.
- Construction: transport and application of compost.
- Planting: native grass planting, sprinkler rental.
- Contingency: 8 percent contingency only be used to support the Project after WCB staff review and written approval.
- Grant Administration: 6 percent maximum reimbursement of indirect costs.

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

The project is proposed as exempt from the CEQA pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, Section 15304, Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.



24. Santa Cruz Long-toed Salamander Connectivity Planning

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB and approve this project as proposed; allocate \$172,000 from the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68), Public Resources Code Section 80132(e)(1); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Santa Cruz Long-toed Salamander Connectivity Planning
Project Type:	Planning
Applicant/Grantee:	Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County
Amount Recommended:	\$172,000
Funding Partners:	CDFW, California Department of Transportation, and United States Fish and Wildlife Service
Landowner(s):	CDFW and private landowners
County:	Santa Cruz
Program:	Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Program
Funding:	Proposition 68
Strategic Plan Goals:	B.1 Objectives: SI 1.1, 2.4

LOCATION

The project site is a culvert under California Highway 1 in Santa Cruz County. This location has been determined by CDFW and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) as being the best and only feasible location to provide connectivity between the isolated Ellicott-Buena Vista and Larkin Valley metapopulations of Santa Cruz long-toed salamanders (SCLTS).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The federally and state endangered SCLTS occurs in southern Santa Cruz and northern Monterey counties, within a limited range in an area that measures approximately 16 miles long (north to south) by 5 miles wide (east to west). The six existing metapopulations are separated by natural and anthropogenic barriers, resulting in a fragmented landscape. Threats from genetic isolation within each metapopulation are becoming increasingly severe and represent a serious threat to the persistence of this species. Inbreeding depression, as a result of genetic isolation, is known to reduce the ability of the species to adapt to changing environmental threats, including climate change, disease, and habitat fragmentation.

The project will study the feasibility of modifying an existing culvert to facilitate use by the SCLTS for the purpose of ensuring successful dispersal across Highway 1 in southern Santa Cruz County. Currently, an approximately 2-foot diameter culvert exists at this location, which directs flow off Highway 1 and into lands owned by CDFW. This culvert is unsuitable for use by the SCLTS due to its small size, perched outlet, and heavy hydrological flows, which impede movement by the species. Enabling habitat connectivity at this location will promote protection and recovery efforts for the endangered SCLTS and would also benefit other native wildlife species by allowing reliable safe passage under the highway to access suitable habitat located on both sides.

The Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County (RCD), the Department of Transportation (Caltrans), USFWS, and CDFW are proposing a collaborative project to study the feasibility, alternatives, and cost of implementing a wildlife undercrossing on Highway 1 that would allow SCLTS (and other wildlife) to safely travel under the highway between the Ellicott-Buena Vista and Larkin Valley metapopulations.

In addition to habitat improvements already undertaken by USFWS, CDFW and RCD in the area, this project will benefit from a statewide research study recently completed by the United States Geological Survey and the Western Transportation Institute. The five-year study, funded by Caltrans, will provide best management practices and recommendations for habitat connectivity for amphibians and reptiles on California roads and highways. Consequently, this project will capitalize on the best available science, innovative design concepts, and regional expertise when developing proposed design alternatives for amphibian highway undercrossings.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Project Task	Total Cost	WCB	Non-WCB Funds
Project Management	\$15,145	\$15,145	---
Outreach and Coordination	\$37,155	\$37,155	---
Planning	\$110,000	\$110,000	---
Environmental Review	\$114,691	\$9,700	\$104,991
Total	\$276,991	\$172,000	\$104,991

Project costs include:

- Project Management will include all administrative services associated with completing the work for this project.
- Outreach and Coordination will include engagement with landowners who are located within the subject migration corridor to provide information on the project and its goals.
- Planning will include the technical studies necessary to design a new wildlife crossing to facilitate movement of SCLTS.
- Environmental Review will include the development of a Caltrans Project Initiation Document.

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

The project is statutorily exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, Section 15262), as it involves only feasibility and planning studies for possible future actions.



25. Watsonville Slough Farm Trails: Public Access to Nature

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$300,000 from the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68), Public Resource Code Section 80132(a); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Watsonville Slough Farm Trails: Public Access to Nature
Project Type:	Planning
Applicant/Grantee:	Land Trust of Santa Cruz County
Amount Recommended:	\$300,000
Funding Partners:	State Coastal Conservancy
County:	Santa Cruz
Program:	Public Access Program
Funding:	Proposition 68
Strategic Plan Goals:	C.1 Objectives: SI 3.1, 3.2, 3.3

LOCATION

The project site is the Watsonville Slough Farm, a 500±-acre working ranch owned by the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County (LTSCC). The site is next to Watsonville and the Pajaro Valley High School. In 2009, LTSCC protected the property with funding from WCB and the State Coastal Conservancy. Since acquiring the property, LTSCC has made progress on extensive habitat restoration and sustainable and wildlife-friendly agriculture. About 80± acres of farmed wetlands and highly erodible hillslopes have been retired from production, while the highest value farmland has been kept in agriculture. About 40± acres of formerly farmed coastal prairie grasslands, riparian forest, oak woodlands, and coastal freshwater wetlands have been restored to date.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project will complete the planning process to produce five miles of trails and amenities on the 500±-acre property. LTSCC expects 100,000 visitors each year upon full build out. There is a significant need in the community for access to safe outdoor recreation and nature connection.

The project will plan trails for nature walks and agri-tourism which highlight spectacular birding opportunities and demonstrate wildlife-friendly farming practices. Wetland boardwalks and fishing platforms will invite close up experiences of vibrant inland waterways, as there are currently no official public trails to the water's edge. Other amenities include restrooms, drinking water, and picnic areas.

The planned project will include considerations for climate resiliency and maintaining as small a carbon footprint as possible. The project emphasizes sustainable features and, because of the close proximity to an urban area, enables short distance visits with a small carbon footprint. Bioswales will be incorporated to capture and dissipate stormwater runoff. LTSCC plans to include

bike racks and electric vehicle charging stations to accommodate sustainable modes of transportation.

In addition, the Watsonville Slough Farm Trails are located in a low-income community outside of Watsonville and will benefit disadvantaged and severely disadvantaged communities. The project encourages enjoyment from all, but it emphasizes local urban community access to natural areas since the trailhead is 2000 feet from city limits and the Pajaro Valley High School campus. Also, cost and language will not be barriers to participation as the LTSCC will ensure free access and multi-lingual signage.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

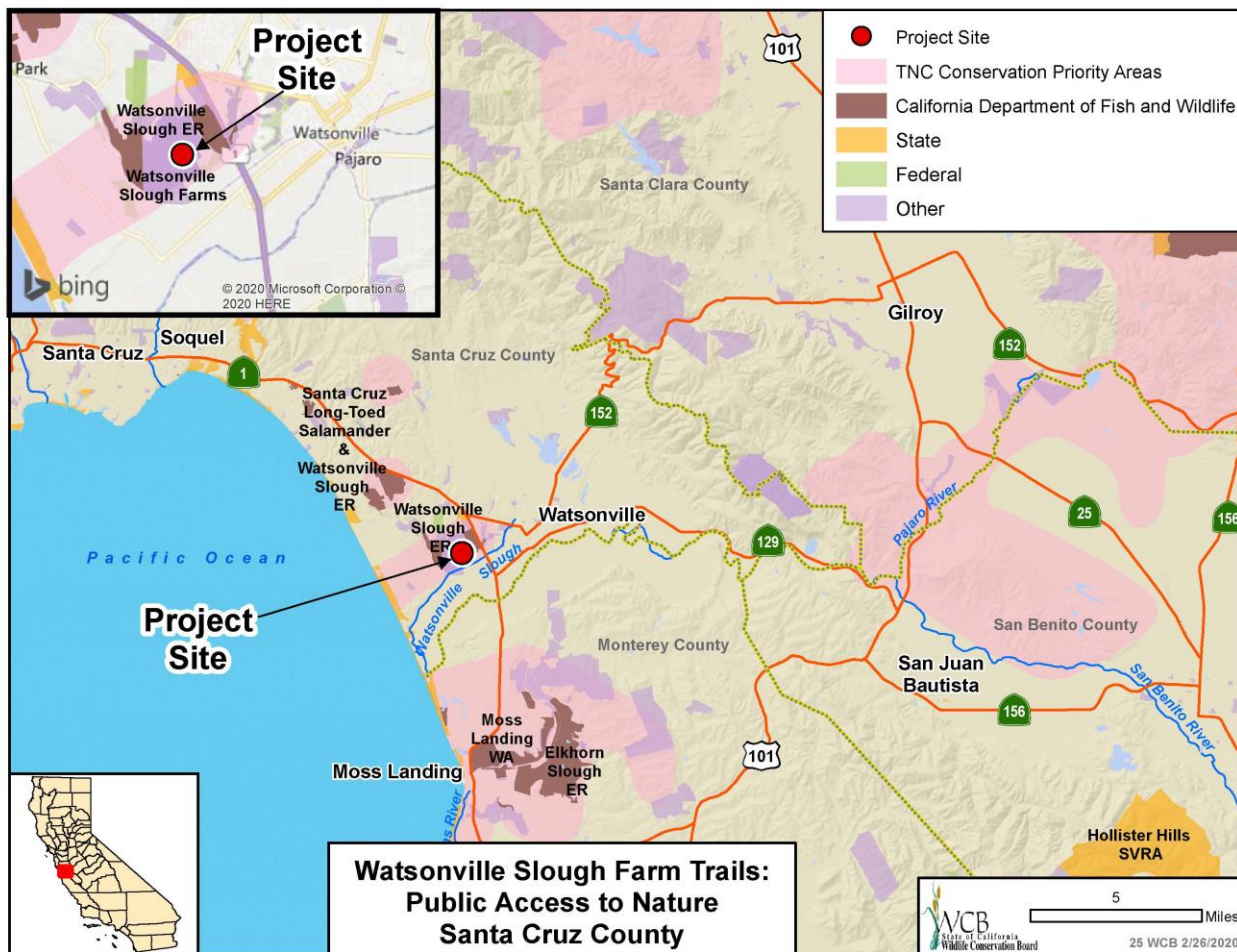
Project Task	Total Cost	WCB	Non-WCB Funds
Project Management	\$150,000	---	\$150,000
Community Outreach	\$100,000	---	\$100,000
Public Access Plan	\$150,000	---	\$150,000
Engineering Plans	\$180,000	\$100,000	\$80,000
CEQA and Permits	\$200,000	\$200,000	---
Total	\$780,000	\$300,000	\$480,000

Project costs include:

- Project Management – Project team meetings and coordination, administration
- Community Outreach – Community Advisory Team, design engagement process, and community engagement
- Public Access Plan – Opportunities and constraints analysis, biological resources assessment, cultural resources assessment, and public access plan
- Engineering Plans – Engineering feasibility analysis, conceptual designs, preliminary designs, and construction plans
- CEQA and Permits – Environmental document and permits, county permits, and state and federal regulatory authorizations

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

The project is statutorily exempt from CEQA pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3) Section 15262, Feasibility and Planning Studies, as it involves only feasibility and planning studies for possible future actions.



26. San Joaquin River Parkway, E Pond Habitat Enhancement

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$588,000 from the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Fund (Proposition 40) Public Resources Code Section 5096.650(b)(5); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	San Joaquin River Parkway, E Pond Habitat Enhancement Project
Project Type:	Implementation
Applicant/Grantee:	San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust
Amount Recommended:	\$588,000
Funding Partners:	None
Landowner(s):	San Joaquin River Conservancy
County:	Fresno
Program:	Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Program
Funding:	Proposition 40
Strategic Plan Goals:	B.1 Objectives: SI 1.2, 1.3, 2.1

LOCATION

The San Joaquin River Parkway (Parkway) is defined by state law as approximately 5,900± acres on both sides of a twenty-two-mile-long reach of the San Joaquin River (River) from just downstream of Friant Dam to State Route (SR) 99, in Fresno and Madera counties (Public Resources Code Section 32510). The San Joaquin River Conservancy (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 includes providing public access and restoring habitat within the Parkway.

The 23±-acre E Pond Habitat Enhancement Project (Project) site is a relatively flat area of non-native annual grassland located within the SJRC's approximately 291±-acre River West Fresno property. The River and E Pond, a former gravel pit named for its shape, are situated to the west of the Project site, while elevated bluffs and residential neighborhoods border the site to the east. The Project site is approximately one mile downstream of the SR 41 bridge within Fresno city limits and Fresno County.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Throughout much of the twentieth century, River West Fresno, including the Project site, was under private ownership and underwent significant changes as substrate mining replaced cultivated fields and rangeland. Mining operations excavated large portions of the River for sand and gravel, leaving a severely altered River system. E Pond and several other ponds closest to the Project site were created by mining in the 1970's and 1980's, resulting in disturbed geomorphology and leaving the area devoid of riparian vegetation.

The Project will result in the revegetation of native riparian and upland habitat on 23± acres in close proximity to E Pond, the River, and two previous WCB-funded habitat

restoration projects within the Parkway. The Project will enhance habitat connectivity by contributing to wildlife corridors along the River and will increase habitat for sensitive species such as Swainson’s hawk through the restoration of riparian habitat.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust (Trust) has adopted a Management Plan that guides management actions for the property, including management of the 23±-acre E Pond Habitat Enhancement site. If the Trust fails to manage and maintain the project improvements at any time during the 25-year life of the Project, the Grant Agreement requires that the Trust 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:

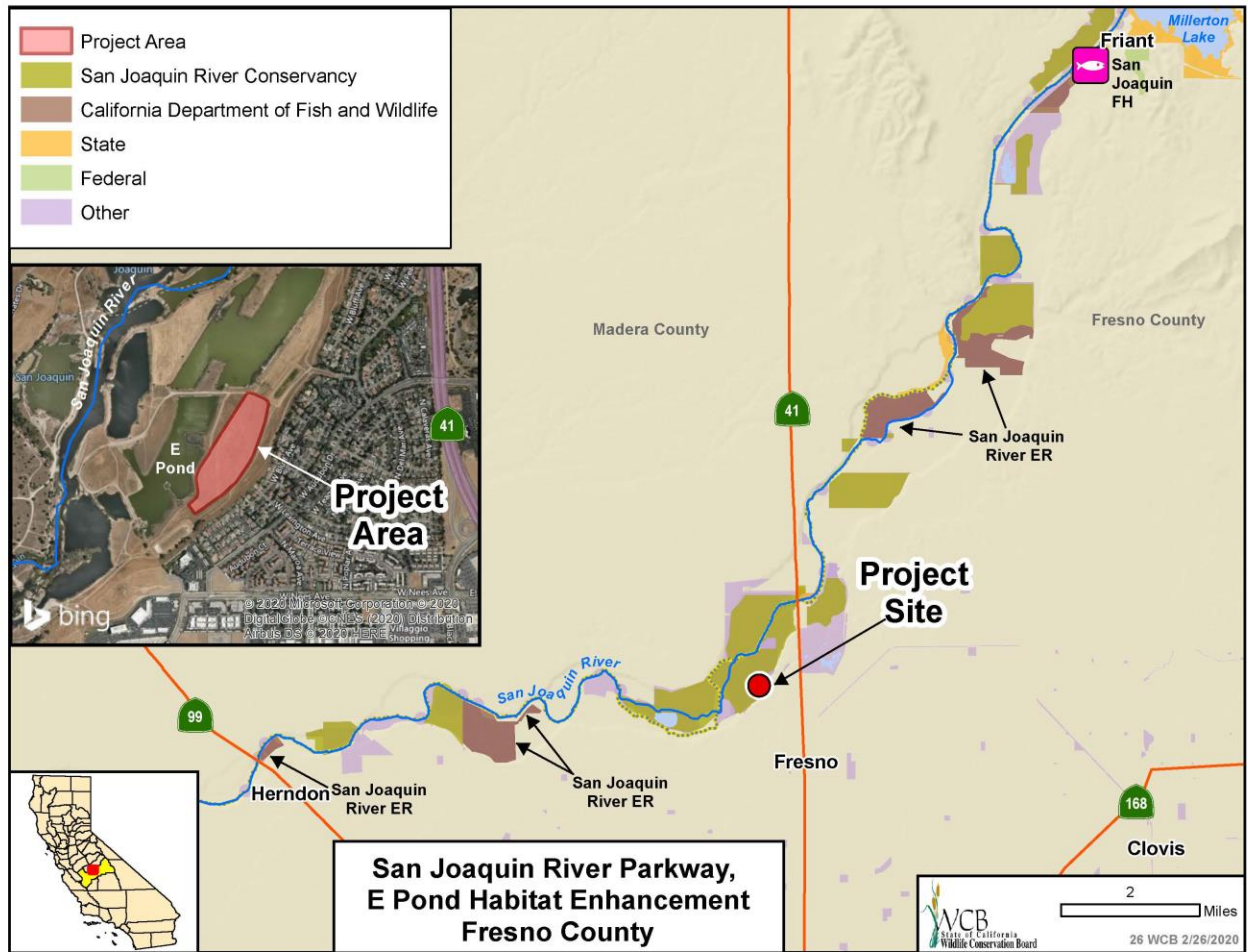
Project Task	Total Cost	WCB	Non-WCB Funds
Project Management	\$46,641	---	\$46,641
Planning, Site Preparation, Environmental Monitoring	\$125,600	---	\$125,600
Planting	\$133,000	\$8,000	\$141,000
Plant Establishment	\$206,500	---	\$206,500
Contingency (10%)	\$46,641	---	\$46,641
Indirect Costs	\$29,618	---	\$29,618
Total	\$588,000	\$8,000	\$596,000

Project costs include:

- Project Management will include grant administration and oversight.
- Planning, Site Preparation, Environmental Monitoring will include completion of site-specific studies, development of irrigation system design and planting plans, site preparation, installing the irrigation system, and environmental monitoring.
- Planting will include plant installation and coordination of community volunteers in organized planting events. The Trust will provide community volunteer coordination as cost share.
- Plant Establishment will include weed management and irrigation, and maintenance of protective cages and irrigation systems.

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

The Project is proposed as exempt from the CEQA pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3) Section 15304, Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land, as a minor alteration in the condition of land which does not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.



27. Dry Meadow Restoration

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB adopt the written findings and approve this project as proposed; allocate \$550,000 from the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68), Public Resources Code Section 80132(f); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Dry Meadow Restoration
Project Type:	Implementation
Applicant/Grantee:	Plumas Corporation
Amount Recommended:	\$550,000
Funding Partners:	U.S. Forest Service, California State University, Sacramento, and Trout Unlimited
Landowner(s):	U.S. Forest Service, Sequoia National Forest
County:	Tulare
Program:	Forest Conservation Program
Funding:	Proposition 68
Strategic Plan Goals:	B.1 Objectives: SI 1.6, 2.3, 2.4, 4.1

LOCATION

Dry Meadow is a 55±-acre montane meadow entirely on public lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) as part of the Sequoia National Forest, Western Divide Ranger District, eight miles northwest of Kernville in Tulare County.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Dry Meadow is part of a meadow complex in the headwaters of Bull Run Creek, a tributary to the North Fork Kern River. Much of the Dry Meadow watershed suffered a stand-replacing fire in the 1990 Stormy Fire and burned again in the 2016 Cedar Fire. A history of logging, fire suppression, grazing, and water diversions in Dry Meadow has resulted in stream channel incision and subsequent disconnection from naturally-evolved floodplains. As a result, groundwater levels are lower and meadow habitat has converted to more xeric vegetation. Additionally, channel incision and instability (accelerated erosion) has disrupted instream habitat and diminished water quality.

The Dry Meadow Restoration Project (Project) will restore the ecological function of the meadow (e.g., extended seasonal base flow) by reconnecting the stream channels to their naturally-evolved floodplains using a partial channel fill (pond-and-plug) treatment. The Project calls for 18 soil borrow sites, with two located off-channel. To minimize risk of erosion, plugs and soil borrow locations are sited and configured to accommodate surface and subsurface flows as well as adjacent hillslope-generated surface and subsurface flows.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The USFS has adopted a Management Plan that guides management actions for public lands under its jurisdiction, including management of the project area. If at any time during the 25-year life of the Project, Plumas Corporation does not manage and maintain the Project improvements, the Grant Agreement requires that it refund to the

state of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the Project life.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

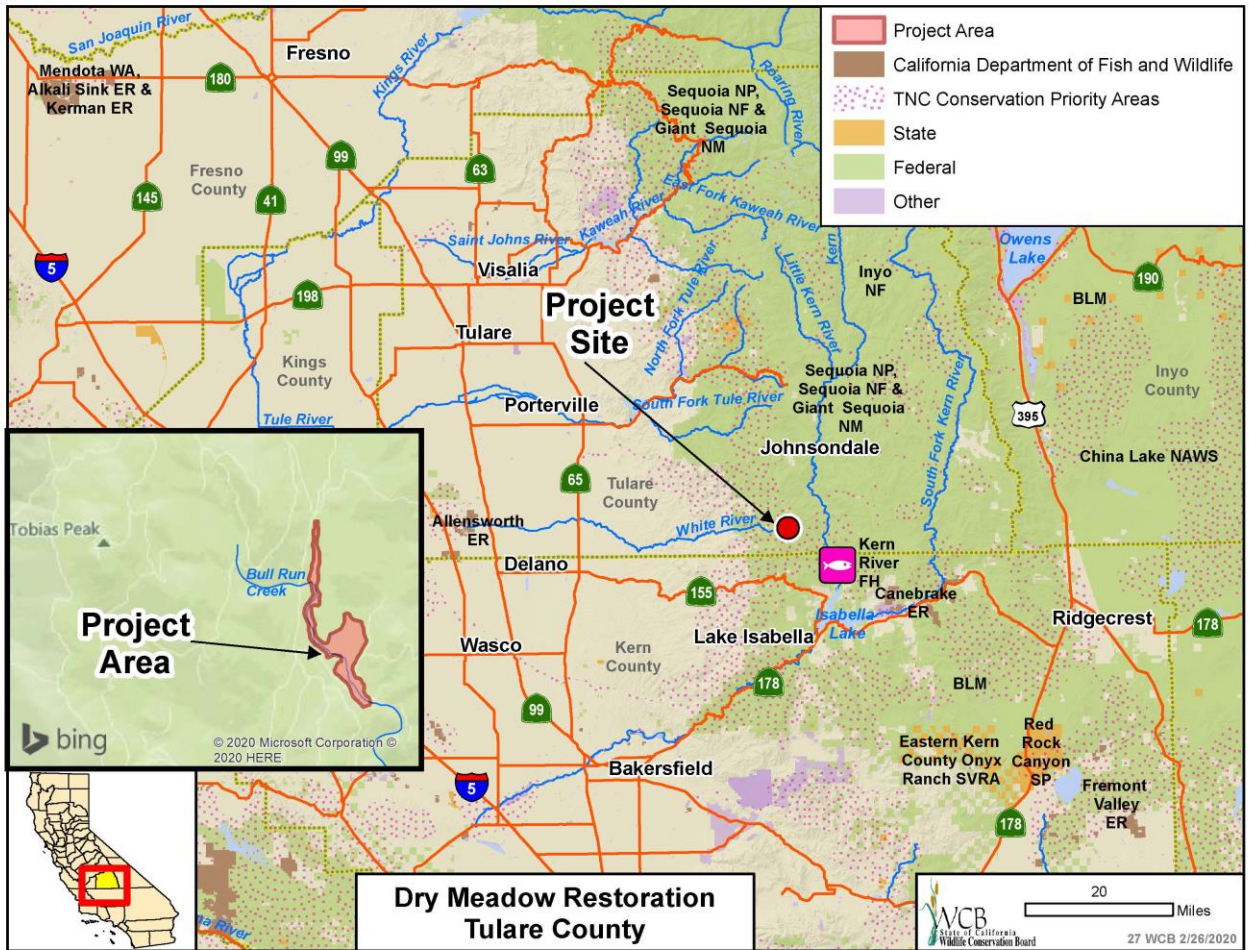
Project Task	Total Cost	WCB	Non-WCB Funds
Project Management	\$65,680	\$58,680	\$7,000
Restoration	\$389,010	\$354,960	\$34,050
Monitoring	\$143,275	\$128,800	\$14,475
Administration	\$24,014	\$7,560	\$16,454
Total	\$621,979	\$550,000	\$71,979

Project costs include:

- Project Management: Project team coordination, stakeholder communications and outreach, permit and grant reporting. Develop a long-term management strategy for Dry Meadow.
- Restoration: Project implementation per design plans and oversight of restoration activities.
- Monitoring: Pre- and post-project monitoring (e.g., geomorphology, hydrology, water quality, oxygen isotope sampling, wildlife, vegetation).
- Administration: Incidental or indirect costs not to exceed 20 percent of the total direct WCB award, minus subcontractor and equipment costs.

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, as lead agency, relied upon an Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact in lieu of a Negative Declaration for the Project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA. Staff considered the Environmental Assessment/Finding of No Significant Impact and has prepared proposed written findings documenting WCB’s compliance with CEQA. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate Notice of Determination (NOD) will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.



28. Kaweah Subbasin Regional Conservation Investment Strategy

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$515,330 from the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018, Section 80111(a); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Kaweah Subbasin Regional Conservation Investment Strategy	
Project Type:	Planning	
Applicant/Grantee:	East Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency	
Amount Recommended:	\$515,330	
Funding Partners:	New Current Water and Land, Environmental Defense Fund	
County:	Tulare and Kings	
Program:	Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Program	
Funding:	Proposition 68	
Strategic Plan Goals:	B.1	Objectives: SI 2.2

LOCATION

The project is located in the region known as the Kaweah Groundwater Subbasin. Most of this groundwater basin lies within Tulare and Kings counties, and includes Visalia and several smaller municipalities. The proposed region is within three Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) boundaries: East Kaweah, Greater Kaweah, and Mid-Kaweah.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Kaweah Subbasin Regional Conservation Investment Strategy (RCIS) will overlap with three important groundwater sustainability planning regions, and proposes a collaborative development effort among water agencies, GSAs, Central Valley agricultural groups and growers, local communities, local conservation organizations, and more. The Kaweah Subbasin RCIS will create conservation benefits that are aligned with and complement the strategies identified within regional Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSP). The Kaweah Subbasin RCIS will empower and incentivize important projects that result in groundwater savings and measurable conservation uplift, prioritizing land following in areas that would provide the greatest conservation and community co-benefits. This RCIS will serve as a replicable model for other regions concerned with land use changes and potential following under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and looking to support the transition to a more sustainable water management regime.

The Kaweah Subbasin RCIS will focus on encouraging habitat creation and enhancement on private lands, primarily farms in the region. It will help guide investments, both conservation and mitigation-driven, to support farmers, ranchers, and landowners in the region if they decide to pursue habitat projects. Mitigation demand in this RCIS region is largely driven by transportation infrastructure and other development pressures. Further, this RCIS will help to direct conservation funding,

such as future state or local grant funding, toward defined regional priorities that are measured and tracked over time.

The Kaweah Subbasin RCIS will promote conservation and enhancement of focal species' habitat in the region. The focal species will be chosen through a well-documented Steering Committee process and will include species that are required by CDFW Guidelines.

The plan will proactively address future issues in the region through multi-faceted conservation planning. The Kaweah Subbasin RCIS plan development will rely on meaningful stakeholder engagement to create a common vision for regional landscape-level and species-specific conservation. East Kaweah GSA will take on the responsibility of long-term plan management. Agencies and local conservation groups will ensure that the Kaweah Subbasin RCIS complements other state and regional conservation initiatives. Farmers and disadvantaged community representatives involved will help ensure that the Kaweah Subbasin RCIS plan aligns with working lands strategies and considers the needs of local communities.

Anticipated outcomes from RCIS creation include identification of wildlife and habitat conservation priorities, recommendations for conservation and enhancement actions that reduce water use and improve ecological conditions in the region, and a strategy for effectively targeting conservation investments in the region that are aligned with GSPs.

East Kaweah GSA will use all awarded funds to draft an RCIS plan and go through the full approval process with CDFW. This includes submitting drafts to CDFW for both completeness and adequacy review, and ultimately, final approval.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Project Task	Total Cost	WCB	Non-WCB Funds
Task 1 – Project Management	\$199,350	\$139,950	\$59,400
Task 2 – Plan Development	\$412,480	\$289,280	\$123,200
Task 3 – RCIS Implementation	\$44,400	\$31,200	\$13,200
Task 4 – Public Outreach	\$79,100	\$54,900	\$24,200
Total	\$735,330	\$515,330	\$220,000

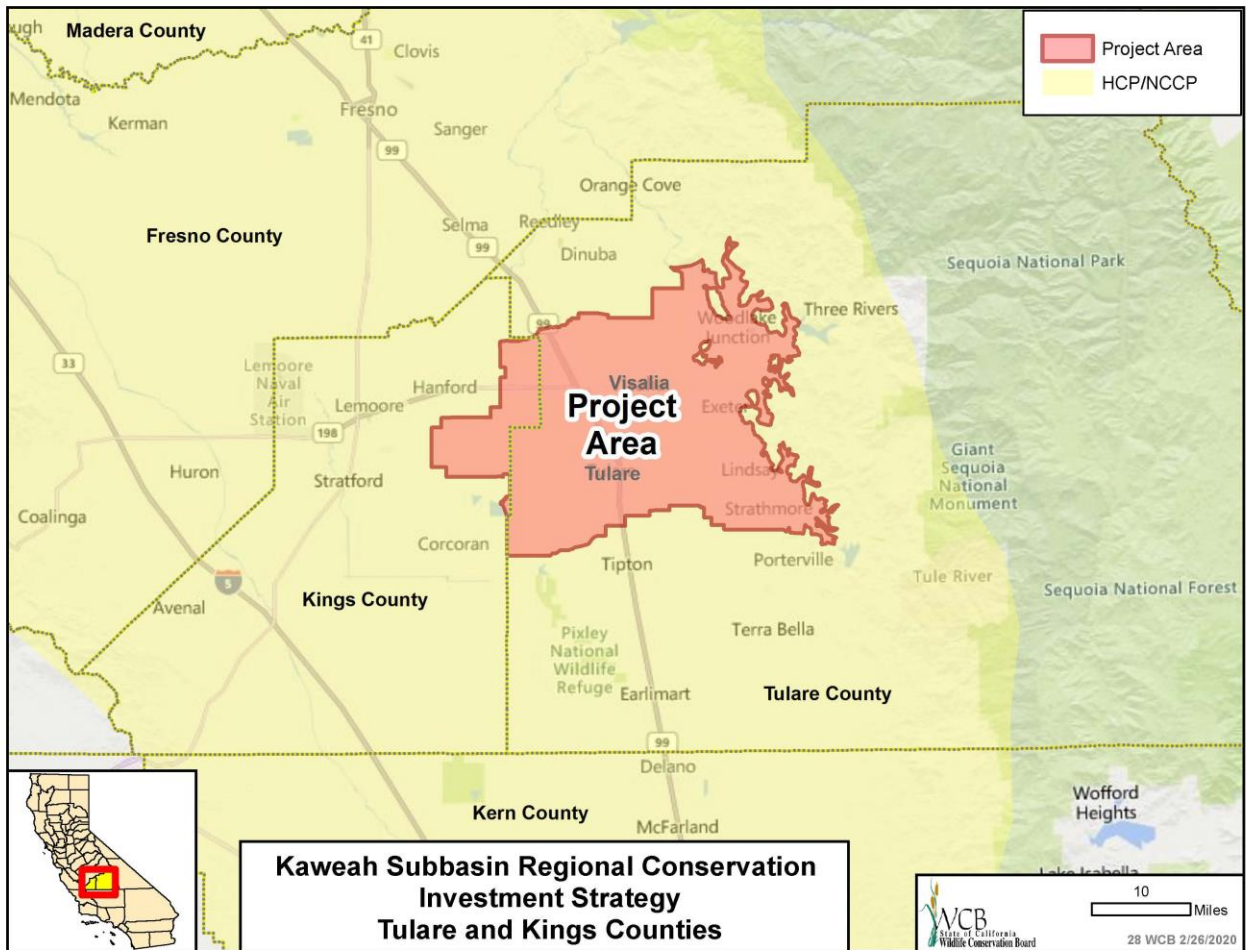
Project costs include:

- Task 1: Includes creation and coordination of the Steering Committee and grant management.
- Task 2: Includes developing an outline of the RCIS, developing administrative draft, full draft and final draft and submission for approvals.
- Task 3: Includes creating a comprehensive understanding of near and long-term regional mitigation needs. This task will also include specific outreach to engage potential funders.

- Task 4: Includes public meetings and notification of RCIS development, newsletter article development and other media and online outreach.

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

The project is statutorily exempt from CEQA pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3) Section 15262, Feasibility and Planning Studies, as it involves only feasibility and planning studies for possible future actions. Subject to approval of this proposal by the WCB, the appropriate NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.



29. Marple Canyon Wildlife Crossing Enhancement

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$245,500 from the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68), Public Resource Code Section 80132(e)(1); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Marple Canyon Wildlife Crossing Enhancement	
Project Type:	Implementation	
Applicant/Grantee:	Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority	
Amount Recommended:	\$245,500	
Funding Partners:	Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority	
Landowner(s):	Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority	
County:	Los Angeles	
Program:	Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Program	
Funding:	Proposition 68	
Strategic Plan Goals:	B.1, B.5	Objectives: SI 1.1, 1.2, 2.4

LOCATION

The project is located on three± acres of habitat containing a single-lane box culvert under the separated southbound Interstate 5 (I-5) to facilitate wildlife movement between Marple and Grasshopper canyons, located in Los Angeles County. The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) owns 245± acres that adjoin the west tunnel opening and approximately 6± acres that adjoin the east tunnel opening. The project area and tunnel are part of the South Coast Wildland's Sierra Madre-Castaic Connection.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project proposes to restore and enhance approximately three± acres of degraded habitat on both the west and east approaches to a single-lane tunnel under southbound I-5 that provides connectivity between Marple and Grasshopper canyons. This tunnel is only one of two such freeway crossing structures along a ten-mile-long section of I-5 between Templin Highway and Castaic Creek.

The South Coast Missing Linkages Project (SCMLP) identifies Marple Canyon as the southerly portion of the Sierra Madre-Castaic Connection's least-cost corridor for the Pacific kangaroo rat, mule deer, and mountain lion, among other species of concern. The SCMLP further recognizes that enhancing connectivity and linking natural landscapes is the single most important adaptation strategy to conserve biodiversity during climate change. The Sierra Madre-Castaic Connection represents a unique transitional ecosystem linkage amongst: the Los Padres National Forest, Carrizo Plain National Monument, Bitter Creek National Wildlife Refuge, Hungry Valley State Vehicular Recreation Area, and Wind Wolves Preserve to the west and northwest; the Tehachapi Mountains and further Sierra Nevada range to the north and northeast; and the Castaic Lake State Recreation Area, Angeles National Forest and San Gabriel Mountains to the east and southeast.

The project’s objective is to maximize the quality, density and diversity of native vegetation near the two tunnel openings to facilitate increased wildlife usage of the freeway undercrossing. The restoration effort will employ tall woody vegetation to buffer highway noise and light, and to provide shade and general cover. The project will also involve removal of invasive plant species and accumulated trash and waste.

Annual monitoring reports will document project progress by assessing the percentage of coverage of native versus non-native vegetation species. Wildlife cameras will monitor wildlife utilization of the crossing structure throughout the duration of the project and will continue with MRCA’s long-term management of the property.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

MRCA has adopted a Management Plan that guides management actions for the property. If at any time during the 25-year life of the project, MRCA does not manage and maintain the project improvements, the Grant Agreement requires that it refund to the state of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the project life.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Project Task	Total Cost	WCB	Non-WCB Funds
Task 1 – Project Management	\$26,000	\$23,000	\$3,000
Task 2 – Biological Survey	\$1,500	\$1,500	---
Task 3 – Wildlife Cameras	\$15,000	---	\$15,000
Task 4 – Non-Native Eradication	\$30,000	\$30,000	---
Task 5 – Native Plant Installation	\$112,000	\$112,000	---
Task 6 – Monitoring and Reporting	\$18,000	\$18,000	---
Task 7 – Maintenance	\$61,000	\$61,000	---
Task 8 – Long Term Maintenance	\$8,000	---	\$8,000
Total	\$271,500	\$245,500	\$26,000

Project costs include:

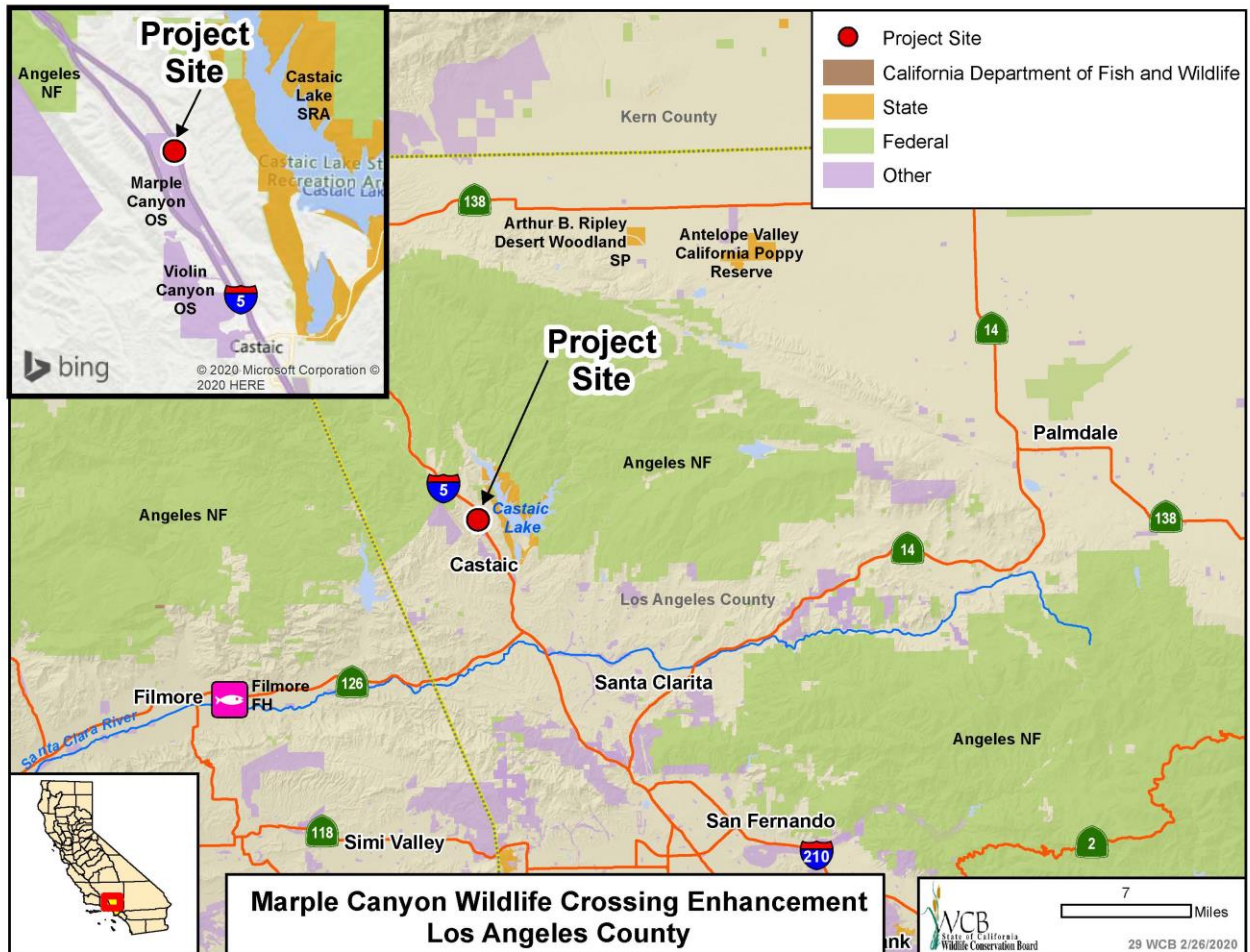
- Task 1: Technical and administrative services associated with performing and completing the work for this project.
- Task 2: A rare plant survey to assure no damage to sensitive resources will occur upon initiation of non-native control activities.
- Task 3: MRCA will purchase and install wildlife cameras to begin a limited baseline monitoring of the proposed wildlife crossing.
- Task 4: Weed whips will be used to clear non-native vegetation and California buckwheat seeds will be hand broadcasted.

Wildlife Conservation Board Meeting, February 26, 2020

- Task 5: Native plant installation (one-gallon and five-gallon containers and cuttings) will occur in Fall 2020 or early Winter 2020-21. Hand broadcasting of ripe, desired native seed gathered from MRCA's 250±-acre property will occur throughout the life of the project.
- Task 6: The restoration areas will be monitored by MRCA for the duration of the monitoring period.
- Task 7: Project monitoring and active maintenance will continue until the end of 2022.
- Task 8: MRCA will continue monitoring and maintenance for wildlife usage post-installation to inform any adaptive management actions necessary to facilitate wildlife utilization of the undercrossing.

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

The project is proposed as exempt from CEQA pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, Section 15301, Class 1, as the repair or minor alteration of existing facilities involving negligible or no expansion of use; and Section 15304, Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land). Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.



30. Aliso Creek Habitat Restoration and Enhancement

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$709,000 from the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68), Public Resources Code Section 80111(b); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Aliso Creek Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Project		
Project Type:	Implementation		
Applicant/Grantee:	Laguna Canyon Foundation		
Amount Recommended:	\$709,000		
Funding Partners:	Warne Family Charitable Foundation, Orange County Department of Parks, and the City of Aliso Viejo		
Landowner(s):	Orange County Department of Parks		
County:	Orange		
Program:	Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Program		
Funding:	Proposition 68		
Strategic Plan Goals:	B.1	Objectives:	SI 1.3, 2.1, 2.2, 2.4

LOCATION

The project is in Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park, located in Orange County. The park is one of the most sensitive and ecologically important areas of the Aliso Creek watershed and is part of a major wildlife corridor that provides important connectivity between major Orange County wilderness preserves. The project site is located in the northeastern extension of the park and is bordered by Pacific Park Drive to the north and Alicia Parkway to the east.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project will restore 8.5± acres of riparian transitional (RT) and 12.5± acres of coastal sage scrub (CSS) habitat which is required by multiple sensitive species that are found in the Aliso Creek watershed. The newly restored habitat will benefit several at-risk species, including the endangered least Bell's vireo (LBVI) and a regionally important population of the southwestern pond turtle (SWPT).

The SWPT is a native turtle found in both seasonal and permanent aquatic habitats such as ponds, creeks and rivers and was historically distributed throughout the major watercourses of southern California. Throughout California, SWPT populations have experienced significant decline as a result of habitat loss and alteration, population fragmentation, increased predation, increased presence of invasive species, and drought. Extensive statewide surveys were conducted in 1988-91 and identified only seven viable populations, containing at least 30 adult turtles, south of Ventura County. This dramatic decline led to the SWPT being designated by CDFW as a Species of Special Concern.

Focused SWPT monitoring was conducted in the area adjacent to the proposed project site in order to collect relevant population abundance and structure assessment data. A total of 17 SWPTs (seven adults and ten juveniles) were captured, measured, and released during the 2019 trapping sessions. The large proportion of captured juveniles indicate successful breeding, and if this trend

continues the site should contain new breeding adults within five years. This finding makes this a critical moment to further enhance RT and CSS habitat where SWPT nest.

The LBVI is a state and federally listed endangered bird species that was once common and widespread in riparian habitats throughout southern California. Habitat loss is the driving force for the decline of this species, due to the elimination of native vegetation, invasive plant encroachment, brood parasitism from brown-headed cowbirds, and an increase in human disturbance in riparian areas.

The ideal breeding habitat for the LBVI consists of low, shrubby dense understory vegetation as well as adjacent early successional and CSS habitats with an open understory and scattered plants. Multiple vegetation communities with a mix of annual and perennial plant species including grasses, forbs, shrubs and trees are preferred for foraging. By taking a landscape-level approach and expanding restoration efforts into upland CSS habitat, the project will help ensure the long-term sustainability of the riparian zone and the wildlife that depend on it for survival.

In addition, the proposed restoration efforts will work towards achieving the goals and objectives outlined in the Orange County Transportation Authority Natural Communities Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan (NCCP/HCP) for broader conservation of natural communities, ecological functions, habitat connectivity, and local biodiversity by creating 21± acres of high-quality native habitat in the Aliso Creek watershed. This work will significantly improve conditions for wildlife, and work to strengthen the long-term sustainability of riparian conservation efforts in this ecologically important area.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The project site is part of a State-approved NCCP/HCP. The landowner will firmly follow the NCCP/HCP guidelines as well as the strategies outlined in the Resource Management Plan for Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park. If at any time during the 25-year life of the project, the Laguna Canyon Foundation does not manage and maintain the project improvements, the Grant Agreement requires that it refund to the state of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the project life.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Project Task	Total Cost	WCB	Non-WCB Funds
Plant Establishment	\$815,625	\$648,125	\$167,500
Monitoring	\$34,125	\$9,125	\$25,000
Outreach	\$7,500	---	\$7,500
Project Management	\$76,750	\$51,750	\$25,000
Total	\$934,000	\$709,000	\$225,000

Project costs include:

- Plant Establishment includes removal on non-native invasive plant species and the planting and establishment of riparian and coastal sage scrub habitat.
- Monitoring includes baseline monitoring, project effectiveness monitoring, and adaptive management monitoring.
- Project Management includes administration, management and reporting activities.

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

The project has been reviewed for compliance with CEQA requirements and is proposed as exempt under CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3) Section 15304, Class 4, as a minor alteration to land, water and/or vegetation which does not involve the removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.



31. Western Riverside MSHCP (2017) - Anderson

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$119,000 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c) for the grant to the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority (WRCRCA); accept the USFWS Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition grant in the amount of \$221,000 and authorize the subgrant of these federal funds; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Western Riverside MSHCP (2017) Anderson
Project Type:	Fee (19± acres)
Grantee:	Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority
Amount Recommended:	\$119,000
Funding Partners:	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
County:	Riverside
Program:	Land Acquisition Program
Funding:	Habitat Conservation Fund
Strategic Plan Goals:	A.1, A.3, A.4 Objectives: SI 1.3, 2.2

LOCATION

The property (Property) is 19± acres and is located on the southeast corner of Avenida Matorral and Calle Roble roads situated in southwestern Riverside County in the unincorporated community of Tenaja, six miles southwest of the Murrieta. The intersection of Interstate 15 and Interstate 215 is approximately 8.5 miles to the west. Access is provided from Tenaja Road via Calle Roble, an unpaved road.

The Property is positioned at the southern base of the Santa Ana Mountains, due west of the Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve. Surrounding public and quasi-public conserved lands in the vicinity are gradually connecting and expanding into the Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve. Two additional properties in the region near the Property are being considered as part of this agenda. The proposed Rahmati parcels (Parcels 1 and 2) are adjacent to each other and 1± mile to the south of the Property. The Property is within Santa Margarita watershed, which drains water into the Santa Margarita River and ultimately into the Santa Margarita Lagoon at the Pacific Ocean.

The general terrain of the vicinity and the Property is rural mountains with gentle-to-moderately sloping hills supporting chaparral, native grassland, and woodland forest habitat types. The surrounding area is characterized by scattered rural low-density residential development as well as other ranching, and agricultural land uses surrounded by open space vacant land. The subject area is in proximity to essential residential services and possesses the necessary elements to experience continued residential growth.

The Property is located within the Western Riverside County Western Riverside Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan (WRC MSHCP/NCCP) a comprehensive, multi-jurisdictional habitat conservation plan

focusing on conservation of species and their associated habitats in Western Riverside County.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property is a single undeveloped, irregularly shaped parcel of land. Topography of the Property varies from 2144 to 2244 feet above sea level with gently to moderately sloping terrain containing grassland and woodland forests. The Property is zoned R-A-5, Residential Agricultural – 5±-acre minimum parcel size. Most adjacent parcels are vacant open space land, but one to the north is improved with a single-family residence.

The Property has high conservation value that contains approximately ten± acres of mature chaparral with chamise, black sage, and scrub oak; as well as about nine± acres of oak savannah habitat with live oaks and dozens of Englemann oak adults, as well as seedlings, and saplings. Grasslands are comprised primarily of native bunch grasses and avena. A small watercourse traverses the southern portion of the Property.

Species likely to benefit from its protection include the costal California gnatcatcher, California red-legged frog, coast range newt, Bell's sage sparrow, Cooper's hawk, grasshopper sparrow, loggerhead shrike, white-tailed kite, yellow warbler, mountain quail, bobcat and mountain lion. The California red-legged frog is both a State Species of Special Concern and federally Threatened. The coast range newt, the grasshopper sparrow, and the loggerhead shrike are State Species of Special Concern. The white-tailed kite is a State Fully Protected Species.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The WRCRCA will manage the Property as part of the WRC MSHCP reserve system, which serves to provide permanent habitat protection for populations of federal and state-listed endangered and threatened species that occupy the reserve and to increase regional wildlife habitat cores and linkages that will connect existing habitat reserve areas throughout western Riverside County. As part of its obligation under the WRC MSHCP, the WRCRCA retains a reserve manager to ensure that management actions are consistent with the plan. Management costs for parcels acquired under the WRC MSHCP/NCCP will be provided by the WRCRCA's operating funds.

PROJECT FUNDING

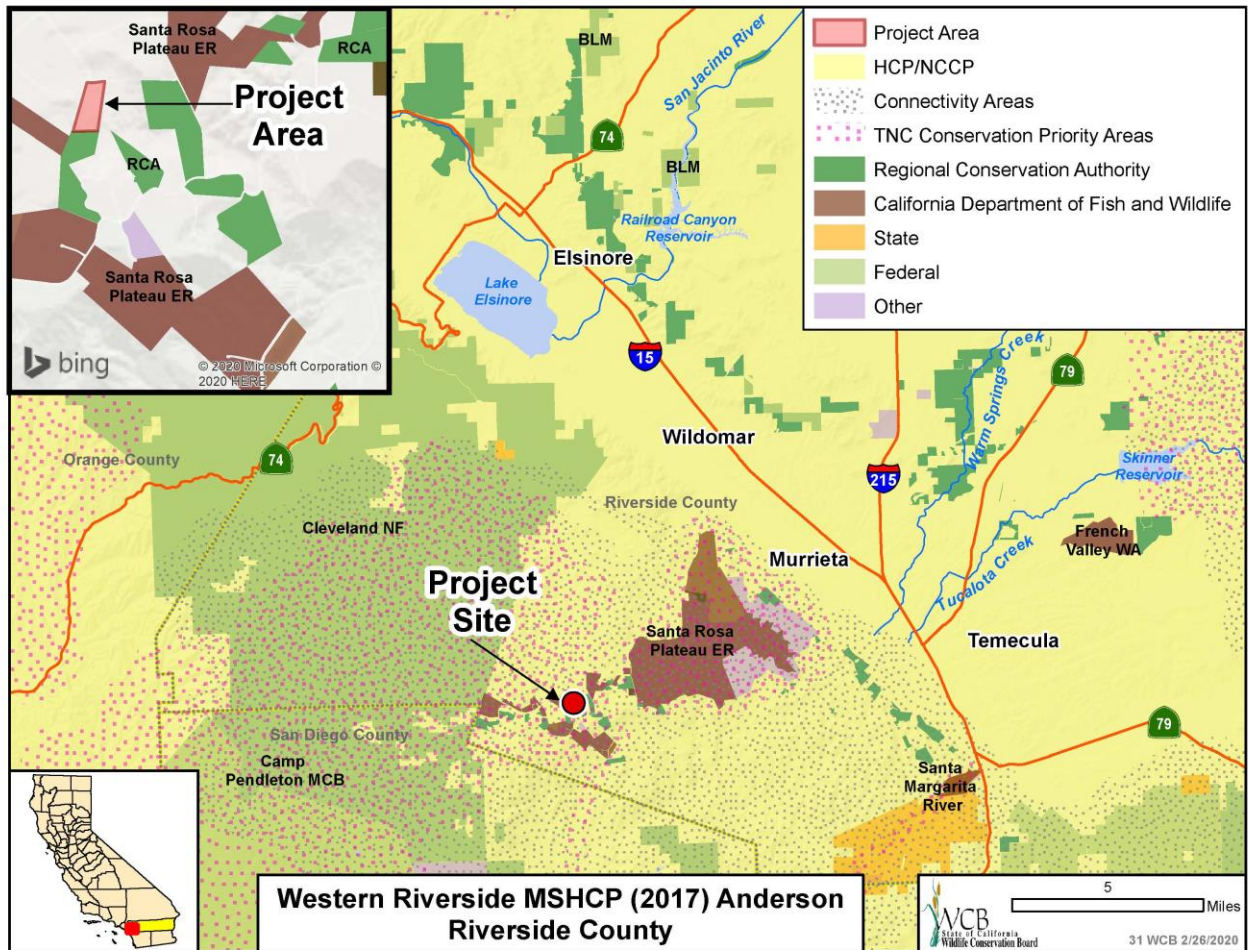
DGS' approved fair market value is \$340,000. The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$119,000
United States Fish and Wildlife Service	\$221,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$340,000

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

The project has been reviewed for compliance with 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 WCB, a NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.



32. Western Riverside MSHCP (2017) - Rahmati (Parcel 1)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$66,500 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c) for the grant to the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority (WRCRCA); accept the USFWS Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition grant in the amount of \$123,500 and authorize the subgrant of these funds; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Western Riverside MSHCP (2017) Rahmati (Parcel 1)
Project Type:	Fee (20± acres)
Grantee:	Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority
Amount Recommended:	\$66,500
Funding Partners:	USFWS
County:	Riverside
Program:	Land Acquisition Program
Funding:	Habitat Conservation Fund
Strategic Plan Goals:	A.1, A.3, A.4 Objectives: SI 1.3, 2.2

LOCATION

The property (Property) is 20± acres located north of Calle Pena Huerta and west of Tortuga Road situated in southwestern Riverside County in the unincorporated community of Tenaja, about six miles southwest of Murrieta. The intersection of Interstate 15 and Interstate 215 is approximately 8.5 miles to the west. Access is provided from Calle Pena Huerta, an unpaved road.

The Property is positioned at the southern base of the Santa Ana Mountains, due west of the Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve. Surrounding public and quasi-public conserved lands in the vicinity are gradually connecting and expanding into the Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve. Two additional properties in the region near the Property are being considered as part of this agenda. The proposed Rahmati parcel (Parcel 2) is adjacent to the Property to the east, and the proposed Anderson parcel is 1± mile to the north. The Property is within the Santa Margarita watershed, which drains water into the Santa Margarita River and ultimately into the Santa Margarita Lagoon at the Pacific Ocean.

The general terrain of the vicinity and the Property is rural mountains with gentle-to-moderately sloping hills supporting chaparral, native grassland, and woodland forest habitat types. The surrounding area is characterized by scattered rural low-density residential development as well as other ranching and agricultural land uses surrounded by open space vacant land. The subject area is in proximity to essential residential services and possesses the necessary elements to experience continued residential growth.

The Property is located within the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan (WRC MSHCP/NCCP), a comprehensive, multi-jurisdictional habitat conservation plan focusing on conservation of species and their associated habitats in Western Riverside County.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property is a single undeveloped, irregularly shaped parcel of land. Topography of the Property varies from 1,284 to 1,656 feet above sea level from rolling, to rough, to steep terrain containing coastal sage scrub, and riparian scrub woodland forest habitat types. The Property is zoned R-A-10, Residential Agricultural – 10±-acre minimum parcel size. Most adjacent parcels are vacant open space land, but two adjacent properties to the north are improved with single-family developments and one parcel to the south is an orchard.

The Property consists of coastal sage scrub, healthy chaparral and riparian habitat that includes a stretch of De Luz Creek and also contains some oak woodland. A watercourse bisects the Property.

Species likely to benefit from the Property’s protection include the costal California gnatcatcher, California red-legged frog, Bell’s sage sparrow, Cooper’s hawk, grasshopper sparrow, loggerhead shrike, coast range newt, white-tailed kite, yellow warbler, mountain quail, bobcat and mountain lion. The California red-legged frog is both a State Species of Special Concern and federally Threatened. The coast range newt, the grasshopper sparrow, and the loggerhead shrike are State Species of Special Concern. The white-tailed kite is a State Fully Protected Species.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The WRCRCA will manage the Property as part of the WRC MSHCP/NCCP reserve system, which serves to provide permanent habitat protection for populations of federal and state-listed endangered and threatened species that occupy the reserve and to increase regional wildlife habitat cores and linkages that will connect existing habitat reserve areas throughout western Riverside County. As part of its obligation under the WRC MSHCP/NCCP, the WRCRCA retains a reserve manager to ensure that management actions are consistent with the plan. Management costs for parcels acquired under the WRC MSHCP/NCCP will be provided by the WRCRCA’s operating funds.

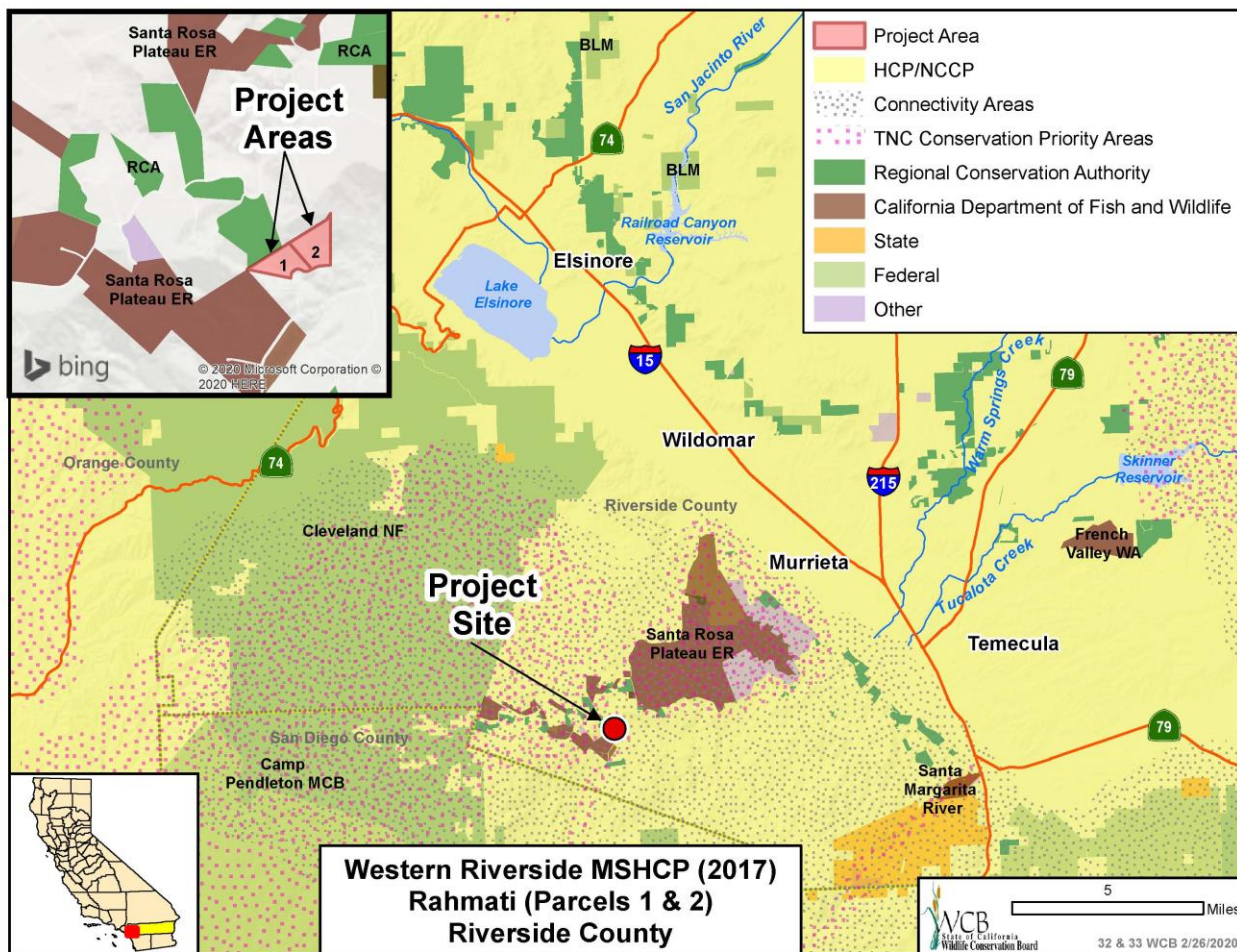
PROJECT FUNDING

DGS’ approved fair market value is \$190,000. The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$66,500
United States Fish and Wildlife Service	\$123,500
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$190,000

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

The project has been reviewed for compliance with 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 WCB, a NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.



33. Western Riverside MSHCP (2017) - Rahmati (Parcel 2)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$70,000 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c) for the grant to the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority (WRCRCA); accept the USFWS Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition grant in the amount of \$130,000 and authorize the subgrant of these funds to the WRCRCA; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Western Riverside MSHCP (2017) Rahmati (Parcel 2)
Project Type:	Fee (24± acres)
Grantee:	Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority
Amount Recommended:	\$70,000
Funding Partners:	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
County:	Riverside
Program:	Land Acquisition Program
Funding:	Habitat Conservation Fund
Strategic Plan Goals:	A.1, A.3, A.4 Objectives: S1 1.3, 2.2

LOCATION

The property (Property) is 24± acres located north of Calle Pena Huerta and west of Tortuga Road situated in southwestern Riverside County in the unincorporated community of Tenaja, about six miles southwest of Murrieta. The intersection of Interstate 15 and Interstate 215 is approximately 8.5 miles to the west. Access is provided from Calle Pena Huerta, an unpaved road.

The Property is positioned at the southern base of the Santa Ana Mountains, due west of the Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve. Surrounding public and quasi-public conserved lands in the vicinity are gradually connecting and expanding into the Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve. Two additional properties in the region are being considered as part of this agenda. The proposed Rahmati (Parcel 1) is adjacent to the Property to the west, the Anderson parcel is 1± mile to the north. The Property is within Santa Margarita watershed which drains water into the Santa Margarita River and ultimately into the Santa Margarita Lagoon at the Pacific Ocean.

The general terrain of the vicinity and the Property is rural mountains with gentle to moderately sloping hills supporting chaparral, native grassland, and woodland forest habitat types. The surrounding area is characterized by scattered rural low-density residential development as well as other ranching and agricultural land uses surrounded by open space vacant land. The subject area is in proximity to essential residential services and possesses the necessary elements to experience continued residential growth.

The Property is located within the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan (WRC MSHCP/NCCP), a comprehensive, multi-jurisdictional habitat conservation plan focusing on conservation of species and their associated habitats in Western Riverside County.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property is a single undeveloped, irregularly shaped parcel of land. Topography of the Property varies from 1,328 to 1,868 feet above sea level from rolling, to rough, to steep terrain containing coastal sage scrub, riparian scrub woodland forest habitat types. The Property is zoned R-A-10, Residential Agricultural – 10±-acre minimum parcel size. Most properties immediately surrounding the Property are vacant land except two adjacent properties to the north are improved with single family development and one parcel to the south is an orchard.

The Property contains important biological resources, including coastal sage scrub and healthy chaparral. Species likely to benefit from the Property’s protection include the coastal California gnatcatcher, California red-legged frog, Bell’s sage sparrow, Cooper’s hawk, grasshopper sparrow, loggerhead shrike, coast range newt, white-tailed kite, yellow warbler, mountain quail, bobcat and mountain lion. The California red-legged frog is both a State Species of Special Concern and federally Threatened. The coast range newt, the grasshopper sparrow, and the loggerhead shrike are State Species of Special Concern. The white-tailed kite is a State Fully Protected Species.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The WRCRCA will manage the Property as part of the WRC MSHCP/NCCP reserve system, which serves to provide permanent habitat protection for populations of federal and state-listed endangered and threatened species that occupy the reserve and to increase regional wildlife habitat cores and linkages that will connect existing habitat reserve areas throughout western Riverside County. As part of its obligation under the WRC MSHCP/NCCP, the Authority retains a Reserve Manager to ensure that management actions are consistent with the plan. Management costs for parcels acquired under the WRC MSHCP/NCCP will be provided by the WRC’s operating funds.

PROJECT FUNDING

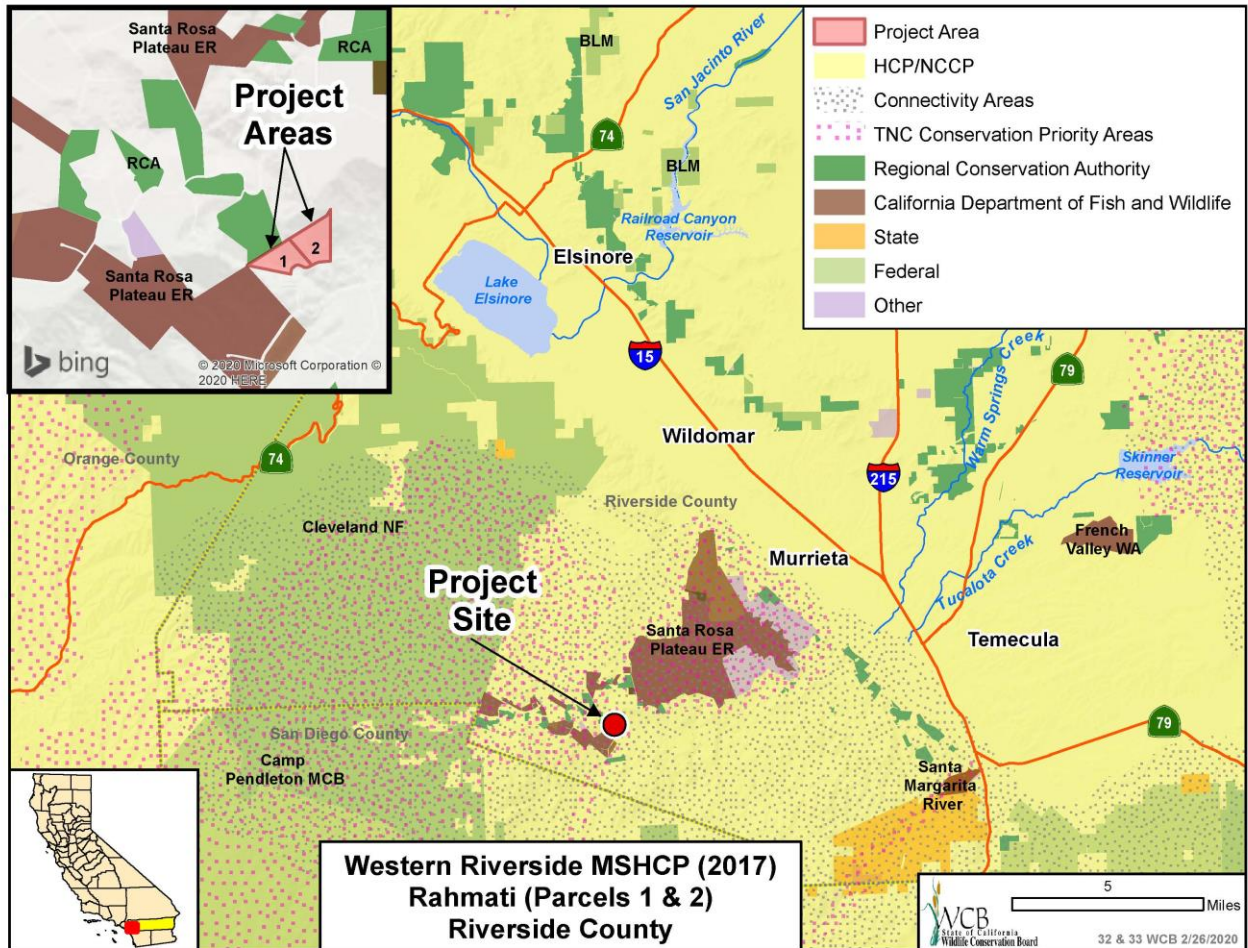
DGS’ approved fair market value is \$200,000. The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$70,000
USFWS Section 6	\$130,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$200,000

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

The project has been reviewed for compliance with 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 WCB, a NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.



34. Luchia

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$779,156 from the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75055(c) for the grant to the Center for Natural Lands Management (CNLM); accept the USFWS Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition Grant in the amount of \$1,447,004 and authorize the subgrant of these federal funds; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Luchia
Project Type:	Fee (39± acres)
Grantee:	Center for Natural Lands Management
Amount Recommended:	\$779,156
Funding Partners:	United States Fish and Wildlife Service, City of Carlsbad
County:	San Diego
Program:	Land Acquisition Program
Funding:	Proposition 84
Strategic Plan Goals:	A.1, A.3, A.4 Objectives: SI 1.3, 2.2

LOCATION

The property (Property) is 39± acres located in the southwest portion of San Marcos near Lake San Marcos. The Property is south of State Route 78, approximately 15 miles east of Carlsbad. More specifically, the Property is located on the east side of Rancho Santa Fe Road, north of Boulderidge Drive.

Three adjacent 20±-acre parcels to the east and south are owned and managed by CNLM. One of the CNLM-owned parcels to the east has two inholdings in the middle owned by the Vallecitos Water District that house a small water tank facility. Further to the east, large vacant parcels both public and privately-owned, form a corridor of open space that intersect with the Rancho La Costa 1,650± acre Preserve that serves as a regional corridor connecting Batiquitos Lagoon and Lake Hodges. To the south of the Property is a multi-family residential development. To the north, large-lot, single-family residential parcels blend slowly into smaller, single-family tract-style development. The community of San Marcos is comprised primarily of single-family residential lots.

The Property is within CDFW's Escondido Creek CAPP. The CAPP is extremely important for the coastal California gnatcatcher (gnatcatcher) as it supports the second largest population in northern San Diego County. The area covered by the CAPP serves as a core breeding area and critical regional wildlife movement corridor supporting a large intact block of coastal sage scrub habitat along with some chaparral and riparian elements.

The Property is also within the Multiple Habitat Conservation Program (MHCP) gnatcatcher core area identified within the City of Carlsbad-Habitat Management Plan (HMP). Acquisition of the Property will help advance the HMP by securing key wildlife linkages and preserving core areas of habitat. The City of Carlsbad HMP subarea plan was permitted in November 2004 and provides coverage for 54 species,

including 19 species federally listed as endangered or threatened and 35 unlisted species. The HMP commits to preserve an area of 4,441± acres.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property is an irregularly shaped parcel that is vacant and unimproved. Access to the Property is from Rancho Santa Fe Road and from CNLM properties to the east and south. The Property features mostly rugged hillside terrain with a level area of about four± acres. The predominant vegetation on the Property is southern mixed chaparral intermixed with Diegan coastal sage scrub. The Property is zoned R-1-20, Estate; 4± acres L-I, Light Industrial.

The Property is situated among Carlsbad’s existing mitigation land within the MHCP gnatcatcher core area. Conserving this area and the gnatcatchers that breed in this core population center is critical to the long-term viability of the population in San Diego County. The proposed acquisition and the adjacent protected lands provide core and linkage habitat for species such as gnatcatcher, rufous crowned sparrow, Bell’s sage sparrow, and coast horned lizard, among other species. The wide swath of coastal sage scrub in this area is the highest quality habitat remaining in north San Diego County for the California gnatcatcher and numerous other sensitive sage scrub-dependent species.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

CNLM currently manages 1,650± acres of conservation lands adjacent and south of the Property. CNLM will manage and monitor this property consistent with its management of its other properties, and pursuant to the Rancho La Costa Habitat Conservation Area Management Plan. This resource management plan is updated roughly every five years. The management objectives include habitat assessments, plant and animal monitoring, habitat maintenance (such as nonnative invasive species control), erosion control and public services (such as patrolling, site protection, signing and outreach). There will be no public access to this property.

PROJECT FUNDING

DGS’ approved fair market value is \$2,575,000. The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$779,156
United States Fish and Wildlife Service (Section 6)	\$1,447,004
City of Carlsbad	\$348,840
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$2,575,000

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

The project has been reviewed for compliance with 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

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natural conditions, including plant or animal habitats. Subject to authorization by WCB, a NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.



35. Robinhood Ridge Vernal Pool Restoration

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$394,000 from the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018, Public Resources Code Section 80111(d) (Proposition 68); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Robinhood Ridge Vernal Pool Restoration Project	
Project Type:	Implementation	
Applicant/Grantee:	City of San Diego	
Amount Recommended:	\$394,000	
Funding Partners:	City of San Diego	
Landowner(s):	City of San Diego	
County:	San Diego	
Program:	Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Program	
Funding:	Proposition 68	
Strategic Plan Goals:	B.1	Objectives: SI 1.3, 2.1, 2.2, 2.4

LOCATION

The Robinhood Ridge Vernal Pool Complex is a City-owned 14±-acre area containing 83 vernal pool basins and is covered by the City of San Diego's Vernal Pool Habitat Conservation Plan (VPHCP), adopted by the City of San Diego on January 31, 2018. This Recovery Plan for Vernal Pools of Southern California (USFWS, 1998) identified the site as necessary to stabilize populations of San Diego button celery, Otay Mesa mint, spreading navarretia, San Diego fairy shrimp, and Riverside fairy shrimp. The property is located along the eastern edge of Denner Canyon near Vista San Isidro in Otay Mesa.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Recent monitoring results have shown that nonnative and invasive species are significant threats to habitat function and to the persistence of VPHCP covered species at the site. Several species identified by the San Diego Weed Management Area (SDWMA) as noxious and invasive weeds have colonized the site, including Ward's weed. Ward's weed is native to parts of Europe's Mediterranean region and has become highly invasive in similar climates in Australia. In San Diego County it prefers disturbed areas, but readily invades between and under shrubs in coastal sage scrub, maritime chaparral, and grassland habitats. Currently there are only five known populations in North America, all occurring in San Diego County. If untreated, it is likely to displace sensitive coastal plant communities throughout Southern California and beyond.

The objective of this project is to stabilize habitat conditions and covered species populations at the Robinhood Ridge site by implementing active habitat restoration. Restoration activities will include targeted weed control in vernal pools and upland buffer with a focus on eradicating all Ward's weed at this location. Native container

plant installation and seed dispersal will follow weed control efforts to fill in areas of the upland buffer where weeds are removed. In addition, a seed collection/bulking program for spreading navarretia will be implemented in partnership with the San Diego Zoo Native Seed Bank.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The management objectives for this project are covered in the San Diego VPHCP framework to protect, enhance, and restore vernal pool resources within the City of San Diego, while improving and streamlining the environmental permitting process for impacts to threatened and endangered species associated with vernal pools. If at any time during the 25-year life of the project, the City of San Diego does not manage and maintain the project improvements, the Grant Agreement requires that it refund to the state of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the project life.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Project Task	Total	WCB	City of San Diego
Project Management and Coordination	\$20,119	---	\$20,119
Baseline Monitoring	\$15,040	---	\$15,040
Seed Collection, Banking, Bulking	\$19,500	\$19,500	---
Monitoring	\$21,921	---	\$21,921
Restoration Implementation	\$374,500	\$374,500	---
Reporting	\$23,400	---	\$23,400
Total	\$474,480	\$394,000	\$80,480

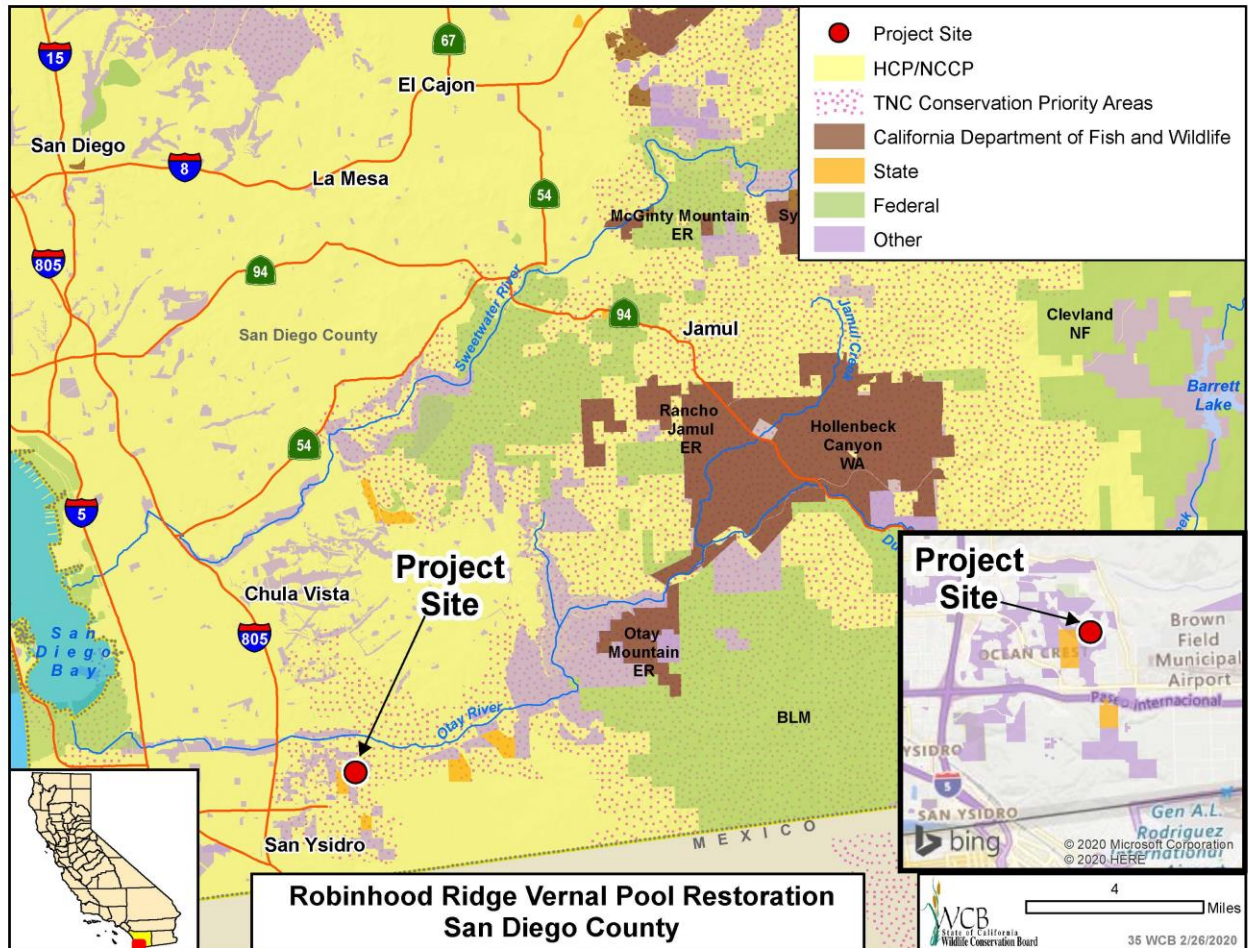
Project costs include:

- Setting up accounts, preparing purchase orders and administering contracts and task orders.
- Completing a baseline monitoring survey, establishing photo monitoring points, and mapping locations of invasive species.
- San Diego Zoo Global Native Seed Bank will collect, bank and bulk seed from spreading navarretia.
- Conducting three qualitative maintenance monitoring surveys per year as well as annual quantitative monitoring of VPHCP covered vernal pool plant species.
- Restoration activities to be performed include weed control and invasive species eradication, native seed dispersal, installation of native container plants, and supplemental watering of installed container plants.

- Completion of annual progress reports, in addition to a final report at the time of project completion.

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

The project has been reviewed for compliance with CEQA requirements and is proposed as exempt under CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3) Section 15304, Class 4, as a minor alteration to land, water and/or vegetation which does not involve the removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.



Proposed Items

36. Shasta Valley Wildlife Area Steamboat Lake Pipeline

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$196,000 from the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68), Public Resources Code Section 80132(c); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Shasta Valley Wildlife Area Steamboat Lake Pipeline Project	
Project Type:	Implementation	
Applicant/Grantee:	Ducks Unlimited, Inc.	
Amount Recommended:	\$196,000	
Funding Partners:	Ducks Unlimited, Inc., USFWS	
Landowner(s):	CDFW	
County:	Siskiyou	
Program:	Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Program	
Funding:	Proposition 68	
Strategic Plan Goals:	B.1	Objectives: SI 2.4, 2.5

LOCATION

Shasta Valley Wildlife Area (SVWA) is located approximately eight miles east of Yreka in Siskiyou County. SVWA is a state-owned wildlife area composed of approximately 4,700± acres of Great Basin juniper woodland, riparian forest, seasonal wetlands, and crop lands, with Mt. Shasta as a backdrop. WCB approved funding for CDFW's acquisition of the approximately 4,700±-acre SVWA in November 1990 to provide habitat for waterfowl, threatened and endangered species, and species of management concern, and to provide recreational opportunities for the public. Recreational opportunities at SVWA include hunting, fishing, hiking, wildlife viewing and birdwatching.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

CDFW holds adjudicated water rights on the Little Shasta River that have been used for management of various wetland and upland units on SVWA. The existing pump station on the Little Shasta River is reaching the end of its useful life and is undersized for the amount of water SVWA is allowed to pump out of the river. To remedy this situation, Ducks Unlimited, Inc. (DU) secured North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) funds to design and construct a new pump station to pump water to SVWA. Currently, water pumped out of the Little Shasta River feeds into an open, earthen ditch making its way to Steamboat Lake. With this increase in water flow from the new pump station, the existing ditch will be fully inundated and will have difficulty supporting the increase in capacity. This will result in damage to the ditch and increased maintenance costs. This in conjunction with the porous soils of the earthen ditch, which reduce the holding capacity and result in water losses, make it more difficult for managers to effectively use their water conveyance infrastructure to provide quality habitat on the wildlife area. Therefore, there is a need

to design and construct an approximately 2,350-foot pipeline from the new pump station to feed into Steamboat Lake.

The new pump station will provide SVWA the ability to pump adjudicated water from the Little Shasta River through the project pipeline into Steamboat Lake, a large, shallow, semi-permanent wetland. Water in Steamboat Lake is then gravity-flowed to many managed wetland and upland units throughout SVWA. The key is to pump as much water as possible into Steamboat Lake in late fall and winter, when water is available in the river, to set up SVWA for its spring and summer habitat management operations that include maintaining quality wetland and upland habitats, providing brood water, and growing waterfowl foods. Constructing the proposed pump station and pipeline will allow SVWA staff to better utilize its limited available water supply to most effectively manage wetlands and associated upland habitats for the tens of thousands of wetland-associated migratory birds that rely on these habitats annually. Proposed work from the pump station and pipeline will enhance 382± acres of palustrine emergent wetlands, 174± acres of lacustrine wetlands, and 137± acres of managed wetland-associated uplands on the SVWA.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

Management of this project area will be incorporated into the existing Management Plan of the SVWA that guides management actions for the Wildlife Area, including management of the project area. If at any time during the 25-year life of the project, Grantee does not manage and maintain the project improvements, the Grant Agreement requires that it refund to the state of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the project life.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Total Cost
Project Management	\$16,135	\$21,635	\$37,770
Engineering Survey & Design	\$11,486	\$13,439	\$24,925
Pump Station Construction	---	\$155,251	\$155,251
Pipeline Construction	\$148,060	---	\$148,060
Administration	\$5,513	\$19,675	\$25,188
Contingencies	\$14,806	---	\$14,806
Total	\$196,000	\$210,000	\$406,000

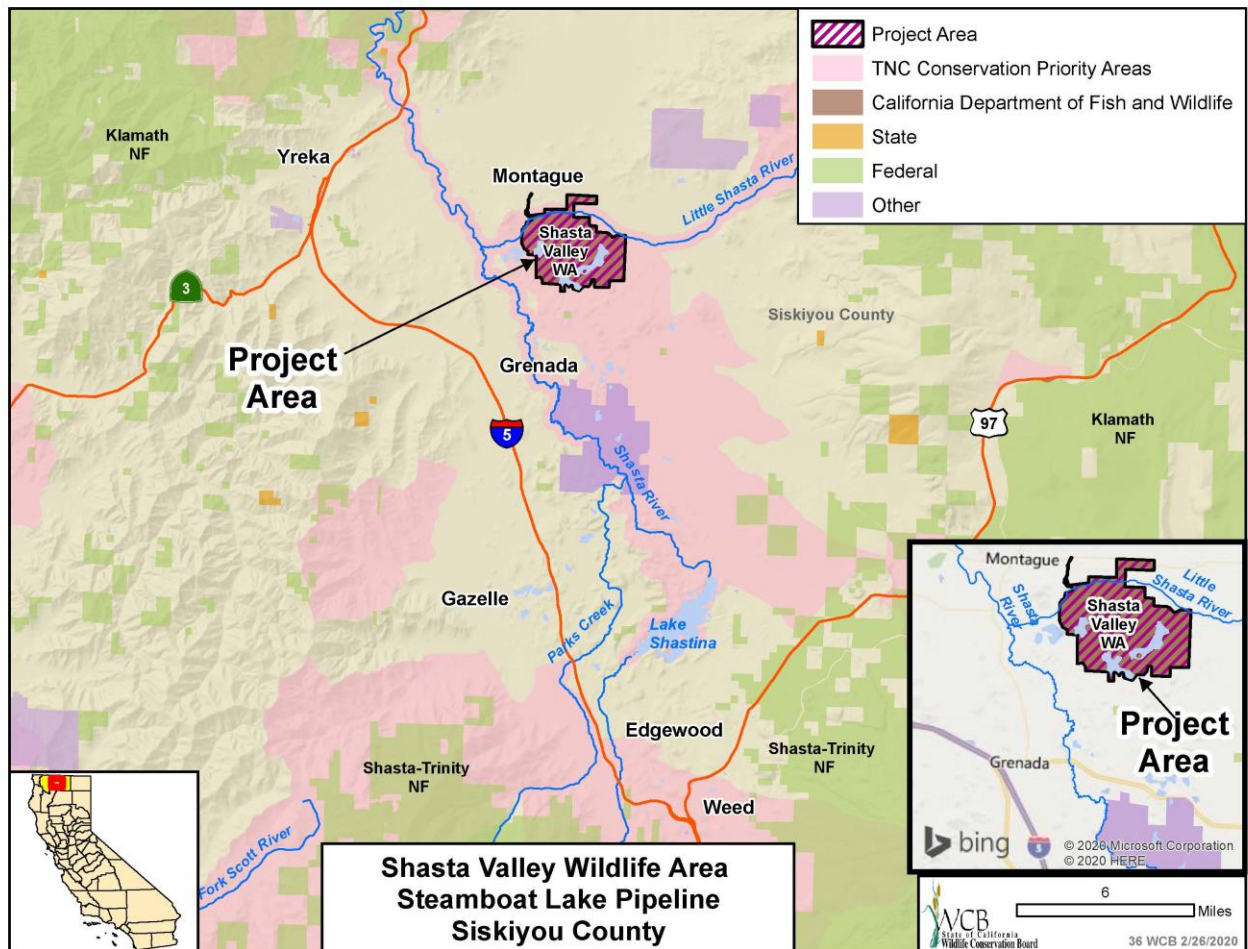
Project costs include:

- Project Management: administer grant, secure and manage subcontracts, invoicing, installation of project signage, preparation of progress reports.
- Engineering Survey & Design: topographic survey and engineering design of pipeline construction route.

- Pump Station Construction: manage subcontractor to ensure pump station purchase and installation conforms to engineering design.
- Pipeline Construction: manage subcontractor to ensure pipeline purchase and installation conforms to engineering design.
- Administration: overhead costs.
- Contingencies: 7 percent contingency fund use must be approved by WCB.

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

The Project is proposed as exempt from CEQA pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, Section 15304, Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.



37. Central Valley Monarch Butterfly Habitat Enhancement

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$1,210,000 from the General Fund, Budget Act of 2018, Chapter 29; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Central Valley Monarch Habitat Enhancement
Project Type:	Implementation
Applicant/Grantee:	River Partners
Amount Recommended:	\$1,210,000
Funding Partners:	Environmental Defense Fund
Landowner(s):	River Partners and CDFW
County:	Various Counties
Program:	Monarch Butterfly and Pollinator Program
Funding:	General Fund, Budget Act of 2018, Chapter 29
Strategic Plan Goals:	B.1 Objectives: SI 4.2

LOCATION

The Central Valley Monarch Habitat Enhancement Project (Project) will restore 595± acres of habitat for monarchs and other pollinators across the state of California through strategic insertion of pollinator-friendly native plant species at restoration sites in the Sacramento Valley, San Joaquin Valley, and San Diego region. The Project will include three types of restoration methods that are dependent on the site type where plants will be installed. Sites include Oroville Wildlife Area (WA) in Butte County, North Grasslands WA in Merced County, Dos Rios Ranch in Stanislaus County, Panorama Vista Preserve in Kern County, Rancho Jamul Ecological Reserve (ER) in San Diego County, Upper Butte Basin WA in Glenn County, Yolo Bypass WA in Yolo County, and Feather River WA (Abbot Lake) in Sutter County.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The western monarch population has declined about 98 percent since the late 1980s, when the population was estimated at 4.5 million. Last winter, the overwintering population of western monarchs declined 86 percent from the previous year, with fewer than 30,000 counted at overwintering sites.

Primary threats to monarchs include loss and degradation of overwintering habitat, loss of breeding habitat (including loss of milkweed), pesticide exposure, and climate change. Models of monarch and milkweed habitat suitability show that California, and particularly the Central Valley, is a key part of the western monarch's range. Therefore, restoring habitat at the proposed Project sites is an important step in monarch conservation.

The Project will restore monarch breeding habitat across California, with a focus in the Sacramento Valley, San Joaquin Valley, and San Diego region. This habitat will benefit monarch butterflies by providing milkweed, which is the hostplant for monarch larvae, as well as additional nectar-rich plants. Adult monarchs are generalists that will take nectar from a variety of plant species. Nectar plants that are available in early spring and late fall may be especially important for supporting monarchs during

their migration. These nectar-rich plants, in addition to milkweed, provide floral resources for other pollinators, including native bees.

River Partners will determine which site and which method of installation/irrigation is appropriate to meet restoration objectives at each project location through the planning and design task. These methods will be tailored to each site to produce the highest potential survivorship in addition to the most valuable monitoring data that will contribute to the existing body of knowledge regarding monarch butterfly and pollinator habitat needs in three major regions of California.

The Project will include three types of restoration methods that are dependent on the site type where plants will be installed. The three methods and site types are described as follows:

Type 1: At sites where full-scale restoration is already funded and underway, River Partners will implement restoration method #1, which will include insertion of milkweed and nectar-rich forbs to enhance pre-designed habitat so that it will benefit monarch and pollinator species. This method will irrigate plants using whatever irrigation method is underway as part of existing restoration efforts (either drip or flood, dependent on the site type). Sites designated as Type 1 include Oroville WA, North Grasslands WA, Dos Rios Ranch, Panorama Vista Preserve, and Rancho Jamul ER.

Type 2: At sites that include formerly flood irrigated fields or floodable wetlands, River Partners' operations staff will clear the site of weeds, prepare earth for planting, and install native plants to be irrigated on existing flood irrigation infrastructure. These sites will include restoration to benefit monarch and pollinator species without an existing restoration effort ongoing and therefore require full funding from this project proposal to conduct all tasks associated with this restoration. Sites designated as Type 2 include Upper Butte Basin WA and Yolo Bypass WA.

Type 3: At CDFW-managed WAs that do not include any existing irrigation infrastructure, River Partners will enhance the site by planting rhizomes directly into existing native grasslands. The number of rhizomes per acre is yet to be determined through the planning and design process. Rhizomes will be planted in the fall to benefit from a full season of rainfall. These are areas where irrigation is not an economically feasible option and rhizomes have shown good survival and establishment without supplemental irrigation. The locations chosen will be relatively free of exotic weed pressure (i.e. dominated by native grasses) and no further weed control will be required. Sites designated as Type 3 include Feather River WA (Abbot Lake).

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

River Partners has adopted a Management Plan that guides management actions for the property, including management of the properties listed in the Project Description. If at any time during the 25-year life of the Project, River Partners does not manage and maintain the project improvements, the Grant Agreement requires that it refund to the state of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the Project life.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

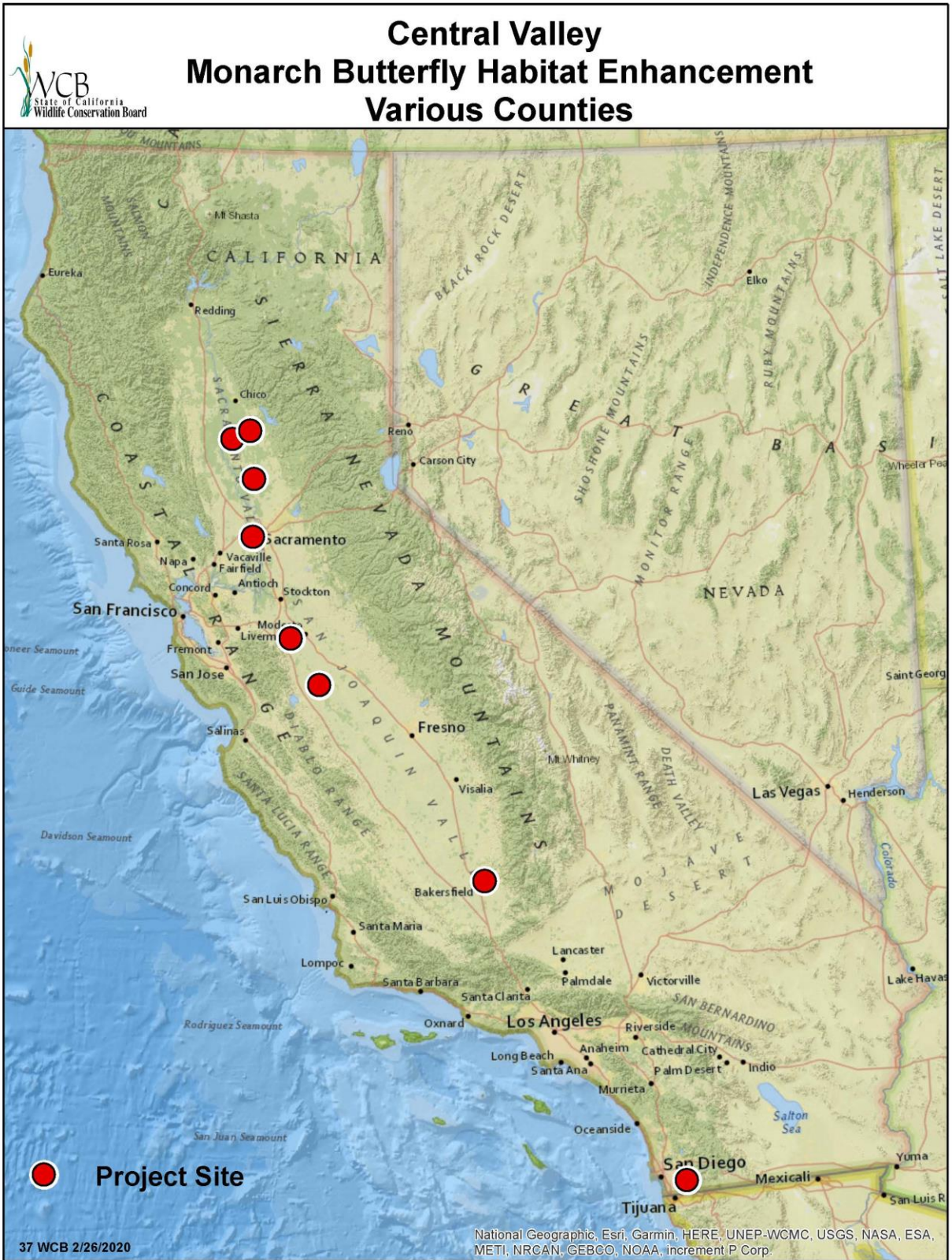
Project Task	Total Cost	WCB	Non-WCB Funds
Task 1 – Project Management	\$40,852	\$40,842	---
Task 2 – Planning and Design	\$65,259	\$65,259	---
Task 3 – Field Preparation	\$38,984	\$38,984	---
Task 4 – Planting	\$314,583	\$299,583	\$15,000
Task 5 – Maintenance	\$591,260	\$421,260	\$170,000
Task 6 – Monitoring	\$197,307	\$197,307	---
Indirect	\$146,755	\$146,755	---
Total	\$1,395,000	\$1,210,000	\$185,000

Project costs include:

- Project Management - Accounting and administrative staff preparing invoices and reports.
- Planning and Design - Complete project design including planting palette determination, irrigation strategy, plant type, and long-term management.
- Field Preparation - Prepare earth for planting as needed through use of heavy machinery to enhance field topography with swales and/or as prescribed.
- Planting - Install plants, plugs and rhizomes using hand tools. Broadcast seeding of a milkweed and forb mix.
- Maintenance - Includes mowing, herbicide application and hand removal of invasive plants.
- Field Monitoring - Collecting field data regarding survivorship of plantings.

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

The Project is proposed as exempt from CEQA pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14 Chapter 3) Section 15304, Class 4, as a minor alteration to land which does not involve the removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.



Wildlife Conservation Board Meeting, February 26, 2020

38. Neefus Gulch Fish Passage Improvement Project

This item has been withdrawn from consideration at this time.

39. Sardine Meadow Restoration

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB adopt the written findings and approve this project as proposed; allocate \$2,086,000 from the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68), Public Resources Code Section 80132(f); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Sardine Meadow Restoration
Project Type:	Implementation
Applicant/Grantee:	Truckee River Watershed Council
Amount Recommended:	\$2,086,000
Funding Partners:	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Bella Vista Foundation, and Trust for Public Land
Landowner(s):	Trust for Public Land
County:	Sierra
Program:	Forest Conservation Program
Funding:	Proposition 68
Strategic Plan Goals:	B.1 Objectives: SI 1.6, 2.3, 2.4, 4.1

LOCATION

Sardine Meadow is a privately-owned 900±-acre property located in the Davies Creek watershed, approximately 12.5 miles north of Truckee and 6 miles west of the Nevada border. Stampede and Boca reservoirs are south of the project site and downstream of Davies Creek.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Davies Creek basin, including Sardine Meadow, has been impacted by grazing practices, spur railroads for logging, historic and current-era logging, and other modifications within the floodplain. These uses have resulted in stream channelization and meadow degradation. The diversion of Davies Creek into artificially straightened channels has caused significant down-cutting, erosion, and loss of stream length.

Stream channel incision in Sardine Meadow has directly led to habitat conversion from wet meadow habitat to grass- and shrub-lands. The incised channel drains the adjoining meadow, thereby reducing water storage early in the season when spring runoff occurs. During the growing season, the water table recedes more than a meter below ground surface, well below the level needed to support meadow plants. In addition, instream habitat is poor and riparian vegetation is minimally developed.

The Sardine Meadow Project (Project) will restore Davies Creek to its natural channel system, which persists as numerous remnant channels throughout the meadow. These natural channels are less incised and meander more than the current active channel. Flow will be returned to the remnant channel system by filling the existing incised channel. The filled area will be graded to match the elevation of the surrounding meadow and the disturbed area will be revegetated with meadow species. Activating the remnant natural channels and enhancing their connection with

the floodplain will re-establish shallow groundwater, thereby supporting wetland vegetation and restoring the meadow’s ecological function.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The landowner will manage the property and the Truckee River Watershed Council (TRWC) is obligated to maintain the Project improvements. If at any time during the 25-year life of the Project, TRWC does not manage and maintain the Project improvements, the Grant Agreement requires that it refund to the state of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the Project life.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

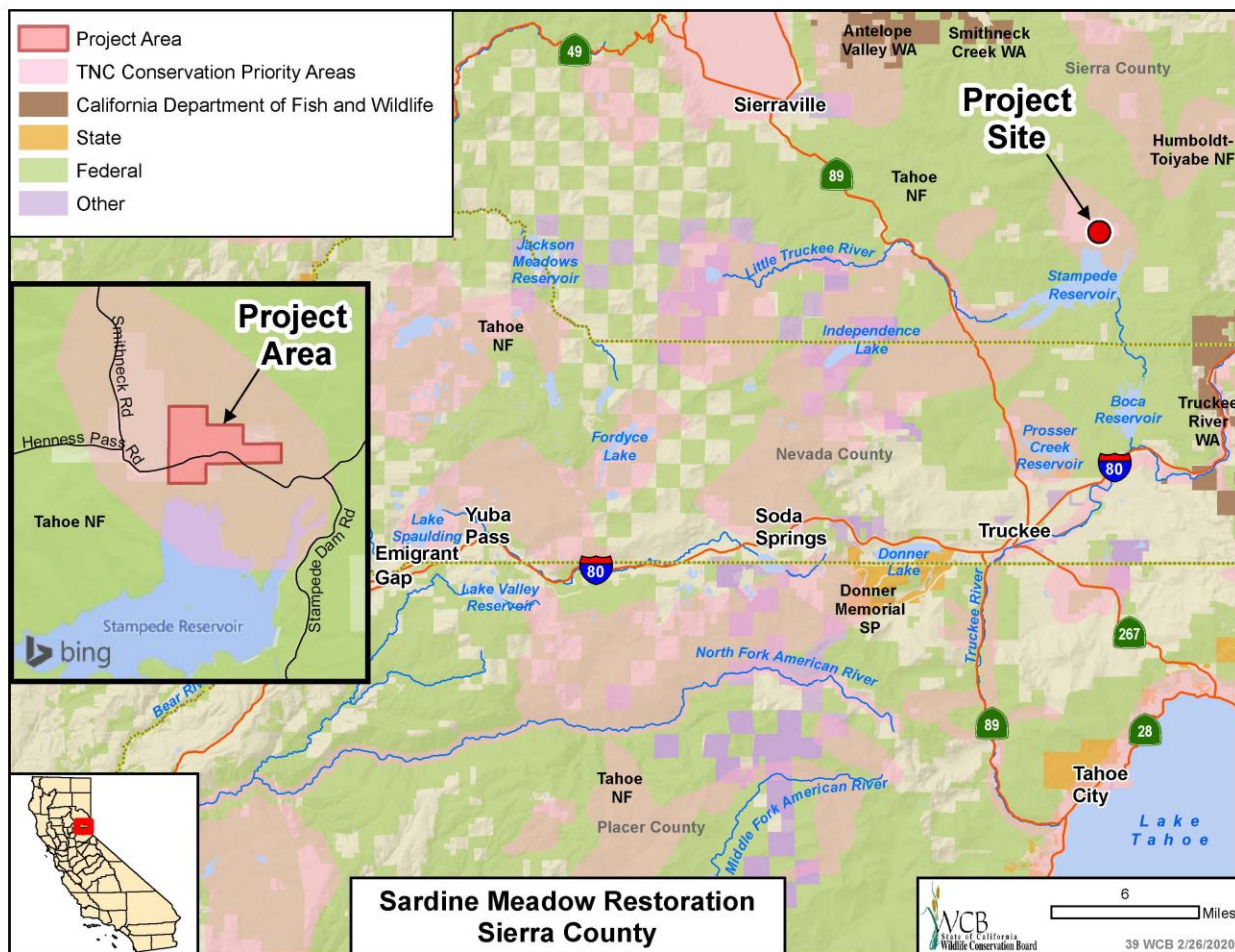
Project Task	Total Cost	WCB	Non-WCB Funds
Project Management	\$115,446	\$105,450	\$9,996
Restoration	\$1,883,617	\$1,787,020	\$96,597
Monitoring	\$149,148	\$135,000	\$14,148
Administration	\$58,530	\$58,530	---
Total	\$2,206,741	\$2,086,000	\$120,741

Project costs include:

- Project Management: Project team coordination, stakeholder communications and outreach, permit and grant reporting.
- Restoration: Project implementation per design plans and oversight of restoration activities.
- Monitoring: Pre- and post-Project monitoring (e.g., soil carbon and root biomass, photo-points, groundwater, aquatic habitat, vegetation).
- Administration: Incidental or indirect costs not to exceed 20 percent of the total direct WCB award, minus subcontractor and equipment costs.

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

The Regional Water Quality Control Board, Region 6 (Lahontan), as lead agency, prepared an MND for the Project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA. Staff considered the MND and has prepared proposed written findings documenting WCB’s compliance with CEQA. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOD will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.



40. Discovery Park Picnic Shelters and Interpretation

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$942,000 from the General Fund, Budget Act, Chapter 14, Statutes of 2017, and the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68), Public Resources Code sections 80100(a)(3); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Discovery Park Picnic Shelters and Interpretation
Project Type:	Implementation
Applicant/Grantee:	Sacramento County Department of Regional Parks
Amount Recommended:	\$942,000
Funding Partners:	Sacramento County Department of Regional Parks
Landowner(s):	Sacramento County
County:	Sacramento
Program:	Lower American River Conservancy Program
Funding:	General Fund and Proposition 68
Strategic Plan Goals:	B.1 Objective: SI 3.1

LOCATION

Discovery Park is entirely within the American River Parkway (Parkway), approximately four miles north of the California State Capitol Park and includes 559± acres of open space for developed recreation, limited recreation, and nature study areas. It contributes to over 4,800± acres of open space that make up the Parkway and runs along both sides of the lower American River from Nimbus Dam to the confluence with the Sacramento River. The area is close to downtown Sacramento and the Sacramento River, making it a popular spot for boating, fishing, picnicking, and other water-dependent recreational activities.

A six-lane boat access ramp and parking area, information kiosk, restrooms, and fish cleaning facility occupy the western end of the park. A large turfed picnic area for families and groups, with parking and restrooms, occupies the central portion. The boat ramp is the only off-channel launch facility in the area and is exceedingly popular. A field archery range and target archery range are situated towards the easterly end of the park along with an equestrian staging area. The site offers a further variety of opportunities for recreating including a natural wildlife area and direct access to the Jedediah Smith Memorial Bicycle Trail, and an equestrian/hiking trail that continue to Folsom Lake.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Discovery Park is substantially developed and is one of the most intensively used areas of the Parkway, absorbing a large share of the 8 million visitor-days of recreation the Parkway provides each year.

A popular facility at Discovery Park includes four picnic shelters that are available for picnicking and reservation for organized family and community events. These shelters are over 33 years old and are decayed and structurally unsound due to their wooden design and the fact that Discovery Park floods annually, experiencing standing water for weeks at a time.

The project will replace and enhance two heavily visited picnic shelters, simultaneously improving public access, recreational areas and recreational facilities. It will also add five new interpretive signs using the shelter replacements as an opportunity to engage users about wildlife and human use of the American River floodplain.

The project will demolish two wooden picnic shelters and construct two new shelters using a concrete and steel design that can withstand annual flood inundation. The new shelters will retain pre-existing capacity at each site without enlarging the footprint. Additionally, five new interpretive panels will be installed within one-quarter mile radius of each picnic shelter that provoke curiosity about the nature and further exploration of Discovery Park and the Parkway. The interpretive panels will be ADA accessible and will include significance of the site for Native American tribes.

The project was recommended by the Lower American River Conservancy Program Advisory Committee, whose role is to evaluate and recommend projects to be considered by WCB. The project was recommended for submittal to WCB by the Advisory Committee on October 17, 2019. American River Parkway Compliance Analysis was completed for the project at the December 12, 2019, Recreation and Parks Commission meeting, in accordance with Public Resources Code Section 5845.5. The project was determined to be consistent with the American River Parkway Plan.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

Sacramento County Department of Regional Parks has adopted a Management Plan that guides management actions for the property, including management of the reconstructed shelters and installed interpretive panels. If at any time during the 25-year life of the project, Regional Parks does not manage and maintain the project improvements, the Grant Agreement requires that it refund to the state of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the project life.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Project Task	Total Cost	WCB	Non-WCB Funds
Planning and Designs	\$80,500	\$75,000	\$5,500
Construction	\$902,000	\$867,000	\$35,000
Total	\$982,500	\$942,000	\$40,500

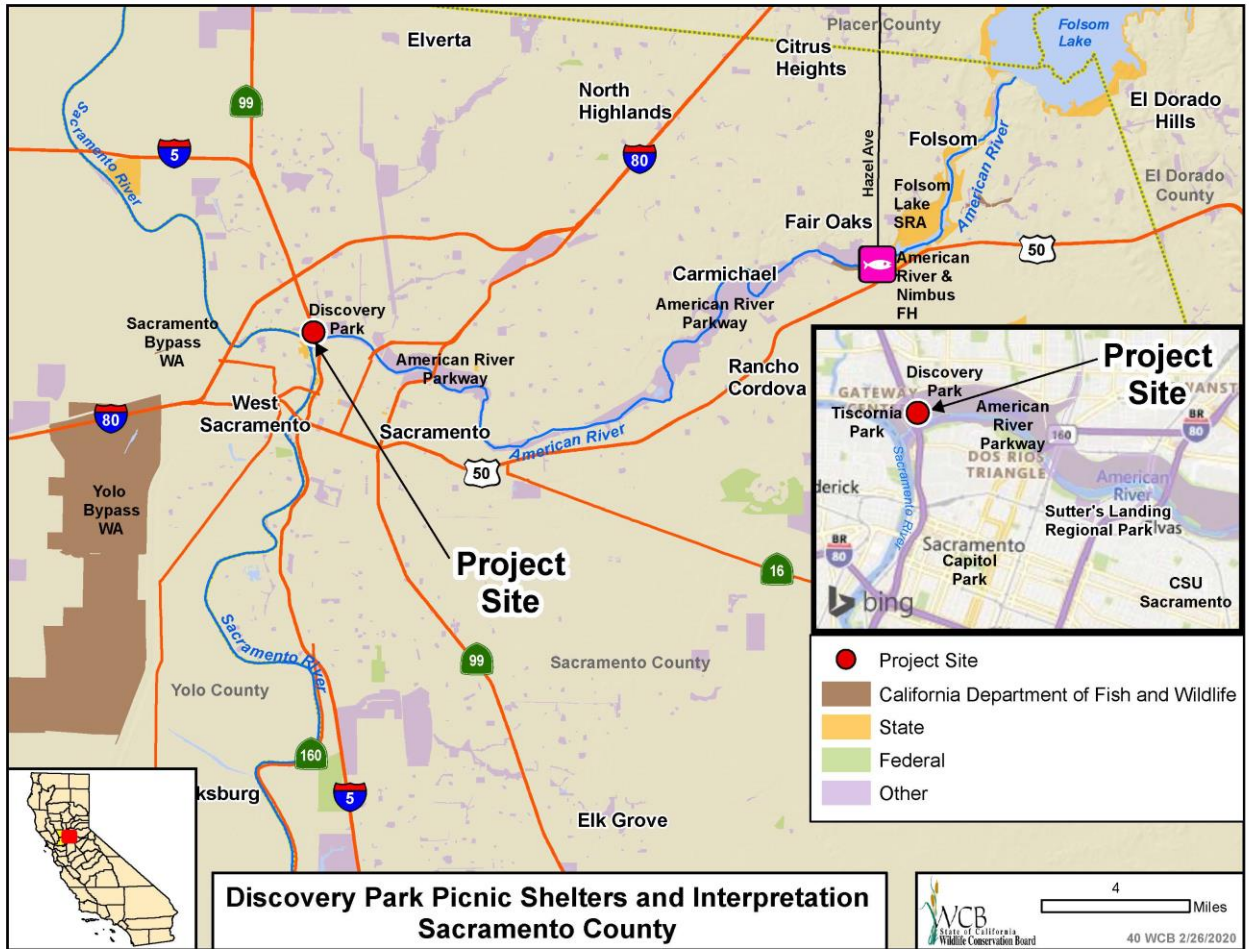
Project costs include:

- Task 1: Completion of 100 percent designs for shelters and panels, environmental review, and construction permits.
- Task 2: Demolish wooden shelters, construct two concrete picnic shelters, fabricate and signs, and record as-builts.

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

The project is proposed as exempt from CEQA pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, Section 15302, Class 2, Replacement or Reconstruction, and Section 15304, Minor Alterations to

Land. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.



41. Upper Mokelumne Forest Restoration

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$1,932,000 from the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68), Public Resources Code Section 80132(f); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Upper Mokelumne Forest Restoration		
Project Type:	Implementation		
Applicant/Grantee:	Calaveras Healthy Impact Product Solutions		
Amount Recommended:	\$1,932,000		
Funding Partners:	U.S. Forest Service, Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority		
Landowner(s):	U.S. Forest Service		
County:	Amador		
Program:	Forest Conservation Program		
Funding:	Proposition 68		
Strategic Plan Goals:	B.1	Objectives:	SI 1.4, 2.4, 4.1

LOCATION

The 1,915±-acre project area is situated entirely on public lands in the Mokelumne River watershed and is managed by Eldorado National Forest, Amador Ranger District, approximately 17 miles east of Pioneer in Amador County.

The Mokelumne River watershed is a major drainage on the western slope of the Sierra Nevada and contains extensive forestlands. The watershed supplies water to 1.4 million users and provides water for recreation, hydropower generation, tourism, agriculture, and species of significance. Within the North Fork Mokelumne River watershed, steep topography, dense vegetation, easterly dry, hot fall winds, and a Mediterranean climate create conditions capable of producing high-intensity, catastrophic wildfires driven west toward at-risk communities, as evidenced by CAL FIRE's "Very High Fire Hazard Severity" designation.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Upper Mokelumne River watershed has been subject to catastrophic wildfire over the past two decades, including the 2004 Power Fire, which burned approximately 17,005± acres on the Eldorado National Forest and private timberlands. Nearly half of the Power Fire area burned at high intensity, killing 75-100 percent of the trees and burning duff and litter that protected the soil, significantly degrading thousands of acres of critical wildlife habitat. Forest habitat surrounding the Power Fire burn area is further threatened by insect attack, historic logging practices, and a lack of area mills that led to even-aged, unnaturally dense forest stands that are especially vulnerable during drought conditions. Without reforestation and thinning intervention, post-fire mixed conifer forests within the Power Fire area may convert to chaparral habitat, which burns at high intensity, further inhibiting conifer regeneration.

The Upper Mokelumne Forest Restoration Project will reforest fire-scarred areas, improve wildlife habitat, and reduce severity of future fires through selective thinning and planting activities. This project is part of a larger reforestation and fire recovery effort under the Power Fire Reforestation Project Environmental Impact Statement, Power Fire Road Maintenance Categorical Exclusion, Power Fire Road Hazard Tree Categorical Exclusion, Power Fire Pre-commercial Thinning Project Categorical Exclusion, and the View 88 Fuels Reduction and Forest Health Project Environmental Assessment. The USFS will implement additional reforestation and fuels reduction activities within and adjacent to the project area via the Cole Creek, Panther Creek and View 88 projects.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The USFS has developed the Sierra Forest Plan Amendment Environmental Impact Statement, which outlines management goals and objectives for the public lands under its jurisdiction, including management of the project area. If at any time during the 25-year life of the project, Calaveras Healthy Impact Product Solutions does not manage and maintain the project improvements, the Grant Agreement requires that it refund to the state of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the project life.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Project Task	Total Cost	WCB	Non-WCB Funds
Project Management	\$88,704	\$88,704	---
Restoration	\$3,973,395	\$1,761,895	\$2,211,500
Monitoring	\$78,320	\$63,660	\$14,660
Administration	\$17,741	\$17,741	---
Total	\$4,158,160	\$1,932,000	\$2,226,160

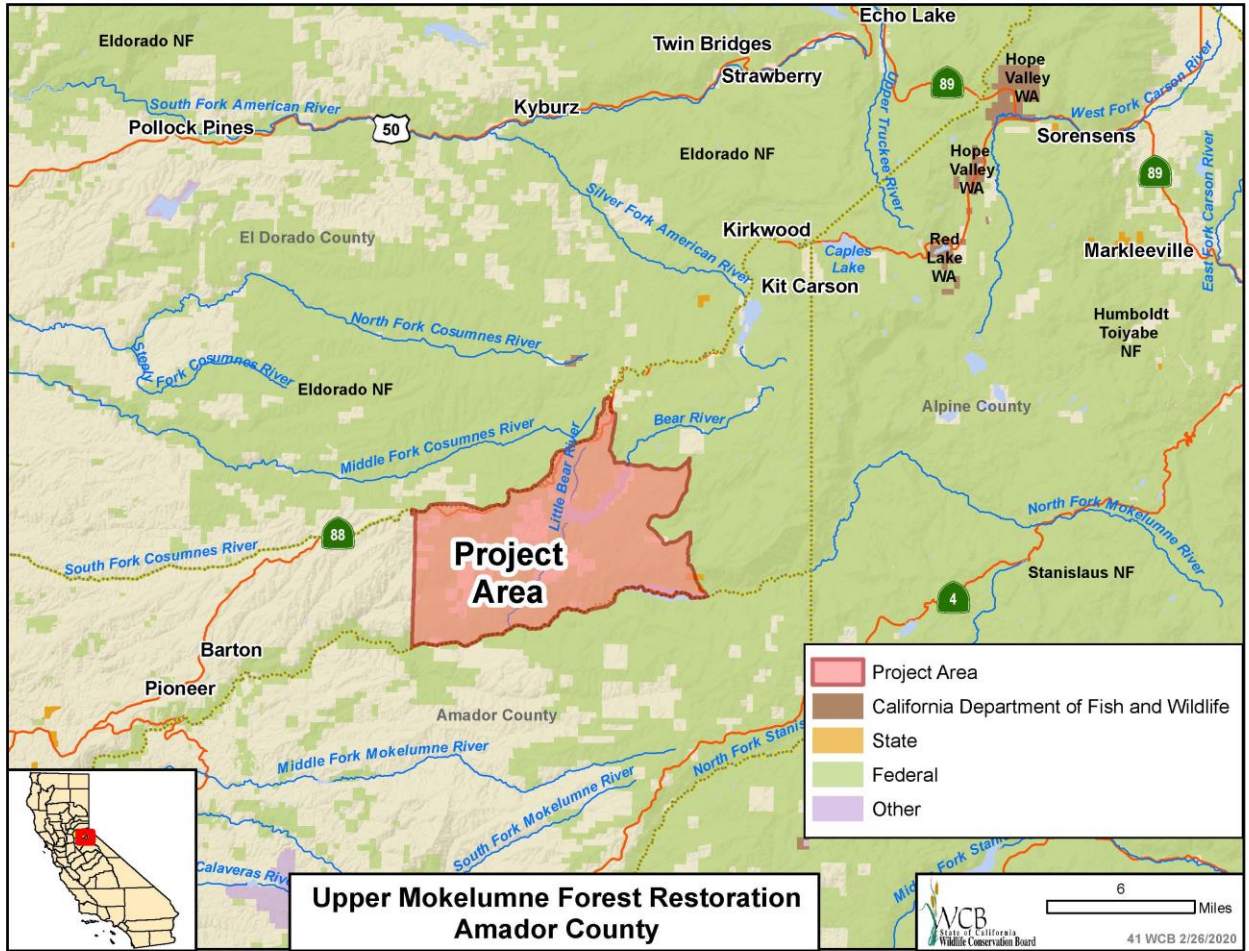
Project costs include:

- Project Management: Project team coordination, stakeholders communications and outreach, permit and grant reporting.
- Restoration: Project implementation per design plans and oversight of restoration activities.
- Monitoring: Pre- and post-project monitoring (e.g., geomorphology, hydrology, water quality, wildlife, vegetation).
- Administration: Incidental or indirect costs not to exceed 20 percent of the total direct WCB award, minus subcontractor and equipment costs.

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

Governor Jerry Brown signed Senate Bill 901, on September 21, 2018 which addressed a number of wildfire-related items including the creation of Public Resources Code 4799.05 (d)(1) Division 13 (Commencing with Section 21000), which provides that CEQA does not apply to projects that include prescribed fire, thinning, or fuel reduction actions undertaken on federal lands to reduce the risk of high-severity wildfire that have been reviewed under the federal National

Environmental Policy Act of 1969. The Secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency has determined that the project is eligible to be conducted under this section.



42. Yosemite Area Forest Restoration

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$1,362,000 from the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68), Public Resources Code Section 80132(f); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Yosemite Area Forest Restoration	
Project Type:	Implementation	
Applicant/Grantee:	Mariposa County Resource Conservation District	
Amount Recommended:	\$1,362,000	
Funding Partners:	CAL FIRE	
Landowner(s):	USFS and U.S. National Park Service	
County:	Madera and Mariposa	
Program:	Forest Conservation Program	
Funding:	Proposition 68	
Strategic Plan Goals:	B.1	Objectives: SI 1.4, 2.4, 4.1

LOCATION

The 1,000±-acre project area is situated entirely on public lands managed by Yosemite National Park and Sierra National Forest in Madera and Mariposa counties. The town of Fish Camp is adjacent to the southern portion of the project area and the town of Wawona lies approximately four miles northwest of the project area.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project area is characterized as mixed conifer forest with high fuel loads and massive drought-driven tree mortality. Recent fires in the area have been deadly, destructive, and incredibly expensive. The project area is surrounded by high-severity fire scars that contrast with tens of thousands of acres that have not burned in a century.

The Yosemite Area Forest Restoration Project (Project) will implement selective thinning, prescribed fire, and replanting activities to enhance forest health and reduce hazardous fuels on 1,000± acres of mixed conifer forest. The Project builds on other hazardous fuels reduction efforts in the area and will help protect the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias, the Highway 41 corridor, and the disadvantaged communities of Wawona and Fish Camp.

Without post-fire recovery efforts, herbaceous cover and shrubs will soon dominate high-severity fire scars, degrading the watershed and dramatically reducing future carbon sequestration. Reforestation on these areas will help improve water quality for downstream users, increase carbon sequestration, and protect valuable wildlife habitat and connectivity.

This work is crucial to protect forest health in the face of climate change and increased frequency of catastrophic wildfires that threaten not only wildlife, critical habitat, and water quality in the area, but also threaten the economic viability of communities that rely on tourism for survival.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The USFS and U.S. National Park Service have adopted Management Plans that guide management actions for public lands under their jurisdiction, including management of the Project area. If at any time during the 25-year life of the Project, Mariposa County Resource Conservation District does not manage and maintain the Project improvements, the Grant Agreement requires that it refund to the state of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the Project life.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

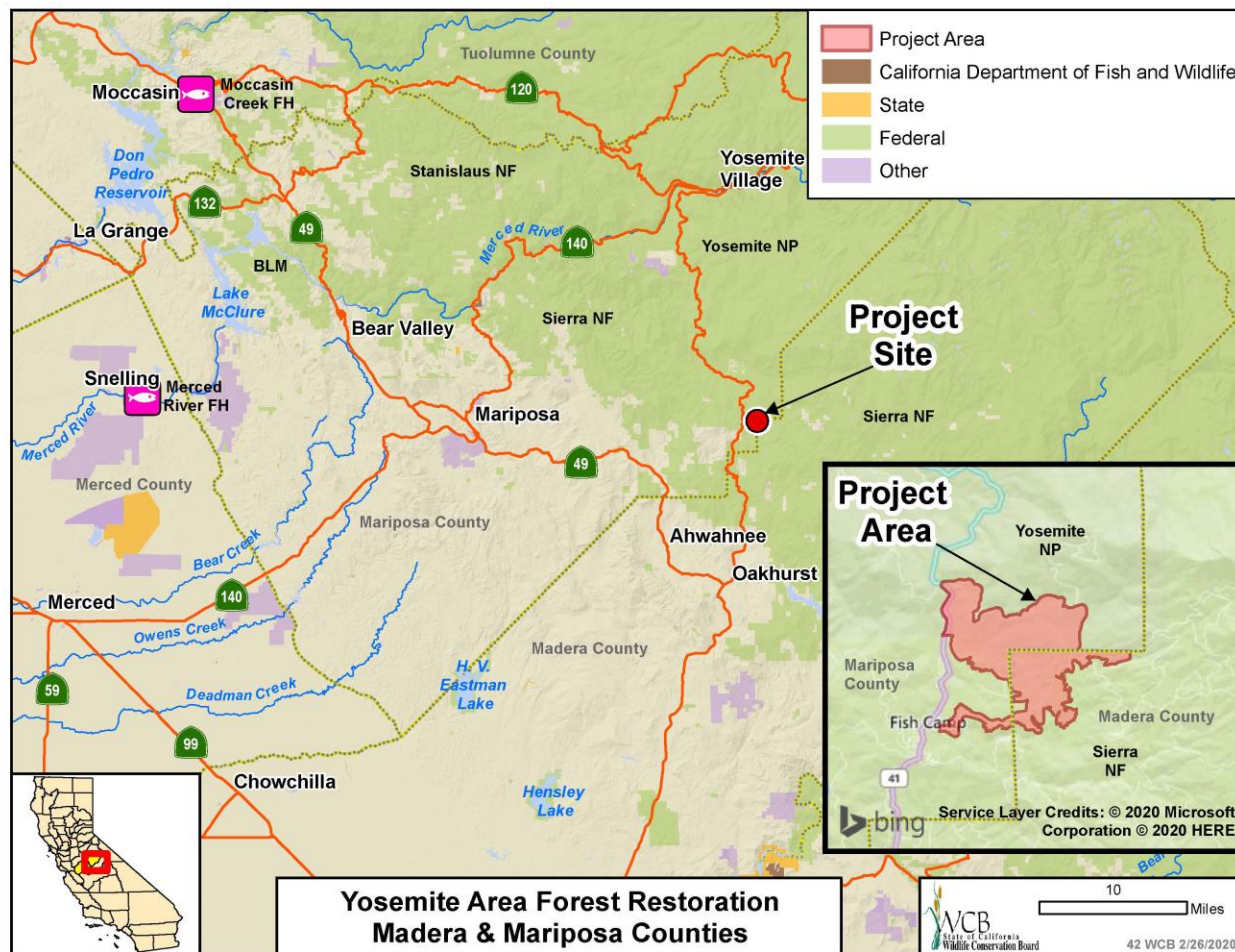
Project Task	Total Cost	WCB	Non-WCB Funds
Project Management	\$96,242	\$96,242	---
Restoration	\$2,332,544	\$1,202,544	\$1,130,000
Monitoring	\$43,705	\$43,705	---
Administration	\$19,509	\$19,509	---
Total	\$2,492,000	\$1,362,000	\$1,130,000

Project costs include:

- Project Management: Project team coordination, stakeholders communications and outreach, permit and grant reporting.
- Restoration: Project implementation per design plans and oversight of restoration activities.
- Monitoring: Pre- and post-project monitoring (e.g., geomorphology, hydrology, water quality, wildlife, vegetation).
- Administration: Incidental or indirect costs not to exceed 20 percent of the total direct WCB award, minus subcontractor and equipment costs.

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

Governor Jerry Brown signed Senate Bill 901 on September 21, 2018 which addressed a number of wildfire-related items including the creation of Public Resources Code 4799.05(d)(1) Division 13 (Commencing with Section 21000), which provides that CEQA does not apply to projects that include prescribed fire, thinning, or fuel reduction actions undertaken on federal lands to reduce the risk of high-severity wildfire that have been reviewed under the federal National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. The Secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency has determined that the Project is eligible to be conducted under this section.



43. San Vicente Redwoods Public Access Trail

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB adopt the written findings and approve this project (Project) as proposed; allocate \$1,000,000 from the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68), Public Resource Code Section 80132(a); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this Project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	San Vicente Redwood Trails
Project Type:	Implementation
Applicant/Grantee:	Land Trust of Santa Cruz County
Amount Recommended:	\$1,000,000
Funding Partners:	Land Trust of Santa Cruz County
Landowner(s):	Peninsula Open Space Trust, Sempervirens Fund
County:	Santa Cruz
Program:	Public Access Program
Funding:	Proposition 68
Strategic Plan Goals:	C.1 Objectives: SI 3.4

LOCATION

San Vicente Redwoods is a privately-owned, mixed-use open space, approximately 15 miles from Santa Cruz. It protects 8,500± acres of coast redwood, hardwood forest, and chaparral in the heart of the Santa Cruz Mountains. This property includes portions of four coastal watersheds, including Laguna Creek and San Vicente Creek. In 2011, WCB granted \$10,060,000 to Save the Redwoods League for purchase of a conservation easement over San Vicente Redwoods. The trail network on the property spans an elevation from 2600 feet to 600 feet over 12 trail miles and 6 miles as the crow flies. The property includes coastal watersheds that are a water supply, salmonid streams, rare and endangered species, and productive forestland.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Three and a half million people live within 40 miles of the planned trailhead at San Vicente Redwoods. The proposed Project provides needed public access to nature, while protecting ecosystems and working lands.

The Project will build the first 10 miles of 38 trail miles planned for long-term completion, including an accessible trail, trail bridges, interpretive and wayfinding signage, a gravel-surfaced parking area, and restrooms. In addition, the Project includes emergency services upgrades.

The ten miles of planned trails will provide numerous opportunities for viewing wildlife while emphasizing their protection. The property is well known as an active area for large and medium mammals including breeding mountain lion and bobcat. Visitors will have the opportunity to view and study the abundant sign, including scrapes and other markings of these impressive and secretive animals. The trail layout and management approach were carefully designed through extensive collaboration with wildlife biologists to protect the wildlife resource while providing access. For example, over 90 percent of the property will remain closed to the public to preserve areas used for mountain lion denning and other sensitive wildlife activities. Interpretive

panels and visitor engagement by staff and volunteers will explain how wildlife habitat was protected first through land conservation, second by the science-based approach to trail design, and lastly by visitors, through honoring rules and regulations. The trail plan has been called a model for the co-management of public access and wildlife habitat. Visitors will have the opportunity to travel the same trails as mountain lions, deer, and bobcats. Abundant wildlife sign, prey species and forage (such as thousands of woodrat nests and copious acorns) will impress on the visitor that this forest supports a vibrant wildlife community. The trail design will protect these habitats, and associated interpretive materials will describe the roles of science, management, and the visitors themselves in protecting these wildlife resources. At build out, nearly 100,000 visitors per year are expected to come to the San Vicente Redwoods Trails.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The Grantee adopted a 2018 Management Framework for Public Access that guides management of the property. If at any time during the 25-year life of the Project, Grantee does not manage and maintain the project improvements, the Grant Agreement requires that it refund to the state of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the Project life.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

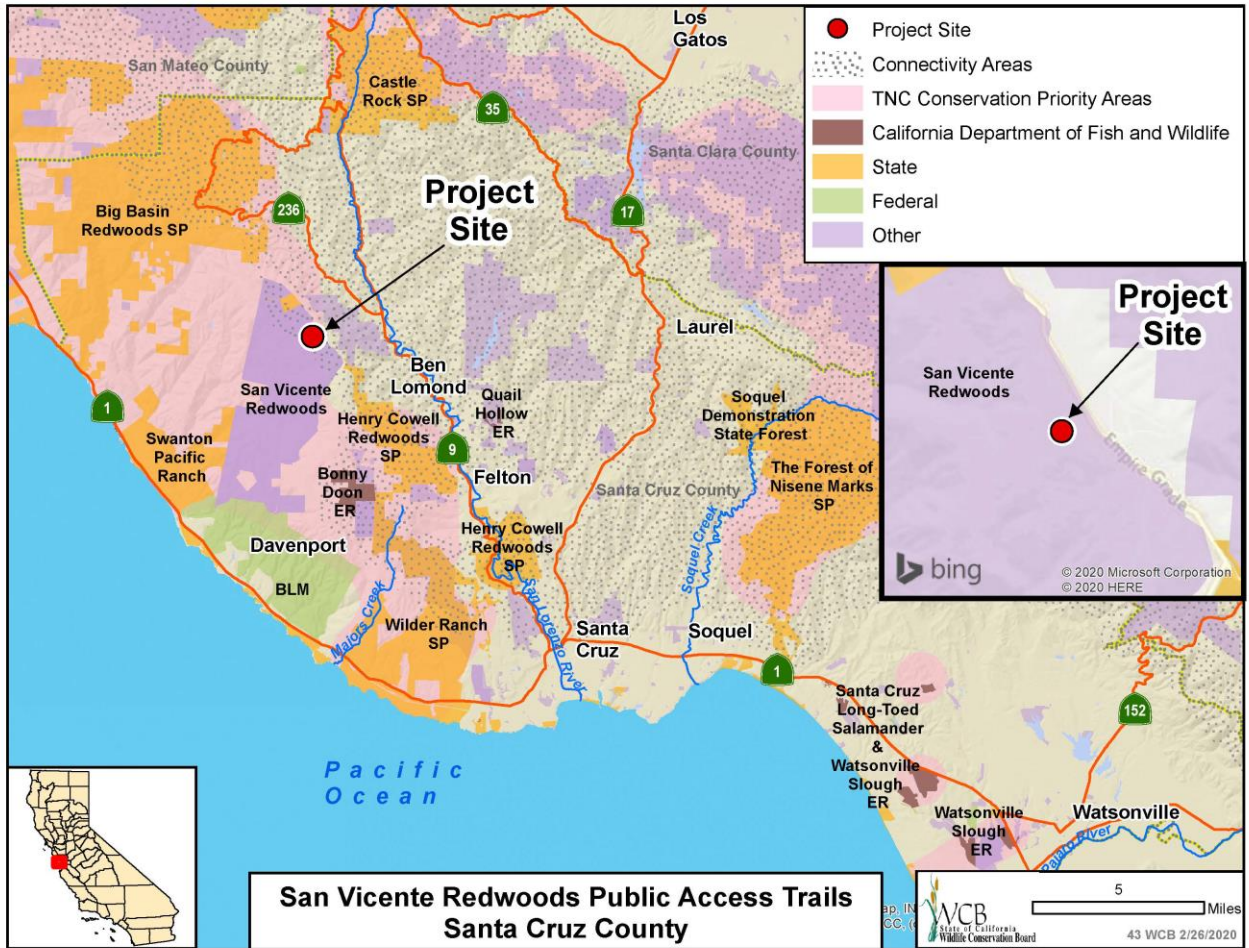
Project Task	Total Cost	WCB	Non-WCB Funds
Parking Area	\$1,511,838	\$320,000	\$1,211,838
Phase 1 Trails	\$1,424,176	\$300,000	\$1,124,176
Laguna Tract Trails	\$184,440	\$30,000	\$154,440
Access Facilities	\$550,000	\$200,000	\$ 330,000
Project Coordination	\$340,000	\$80,000	\$260,000
Project Management	\$200,000	\$50,000	\$150,000
Conservation Corps	\$20,000	\$20,000	---
Total	\$4,230,454	\$ 1,000,000	\$3,230,454

Project costs include:

- Parking Areas: Grade and surface parking area and install concrete surfacing for ADA parking and a vault restroom
- Phase 1 Trails: Construct 8.5 miles of trail on the main property and construct bridges to span streams
- Laguna Tract Trails: Construct 1.5 miles on Laguna Tract, including an accessible trail, and low bridges
- Access Facilities: Install firefighting water tanks, main access gates, and improvements to the fire road
- Project Coordination: Project team coordination
- Project Management: Grant administration
- Conservation Corps: Trail and erosion control

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

The County of Santa Cruz, as lead agency, prepared an MND for the project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA. Staff considered the MND and has prepared proposed, written findings documenting WCB's compliance with CEQA. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOD will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.



44. Carmel River Floodplain Restoration and Enhancement

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB adopt the written findings and approve this project as proposed; allocate \$2,500,000 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Fish and Game Code sections 2786e/f); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Carmel River Floodplain Restoration and Enhancement
Project Type:	Implementation
Applicant/Grantee:	Monterey County Resource Management Agency
Amount Recommended:	\$2,500,000
Funding Partners:	Department of Water Resources, State Coastal Conservancy, Department of Transportation, and Big Sur Land Trust
Landowners:	Big Sur Land Trust, California State Parks, Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District
County:	Monterey
Program:	California Riparian Habitat Conservation
Funding:	Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117)
Strategic Plan Goals:	B.1 Objectives: SI 1.1, 1.2, 2.4, 2.5, 4.3

LOCATION

The project site is located at the northern terminus of a large complex of over 19,400± acres of protected open space lands conserved by the Big Sur Land Trust (BSLT), California Department of Parks and Recreation, and Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District. The project is situated in the California Coastal Zone on the southern side of the lower Carmel River between river mile 0.5 and river mile 1.5 in Monterey County, CA. The 135±-acre project area flanks both sides of State Route 1 (SR-1) immediately upstream of the Carmel River Lagoon and river mouth at Stewart's Cove, south of Carmel Bay. The project area is approximately one mile south of Carmel-by-the-Sea. In 2010, WCB contributed approximately \$718,000 to BSLT for the planning and environmental review for the project.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Historical land use and development in proximity to the lower Carmel River, along with levee construction and the elevated embankment supporting SR-1, have limited the river's ability to flow across its natural floodplain in the lower watershed. This has dramatically altered the hydrologic function of the floodplain, restricting the movement of water, reducing critical coastal habitat connectivity, and increased the risk of severe flooding to residents and businesses north of the river's channel.

The goals of the project are to restore hydrologic connectivity between the river's channel, floodplain and coastal lagoon, reduce flood risks, restore coastal riparian habitat and wildlife movement corridors, and improve climate resiliency in the lower Carmel River watershed.

The project proposes to meet these goals by removing sections of the south bank levee to redirect flood flows into the adjoining floodplain, reconnecting the south bank floodplain with the Carmel River Lagoon by allowing water to flow through a new

causeway along SR-1, and restoring more than 100± acres of floodplain habitat in former agricultural fields where ruderal vegetation now dominates.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The Monterey County Resource Management Agency has adopted a Restoration and Management Plan that guides management actions for the property, including management of the restored floodplain and plant communities, including willow and cottonwood riparian forest, mixed riparian forest, riparian scrub, coastal scrub, and grassland. If at any time during the 25-year life of the project, Monterey County Resource Management Agency does not manage and maintain the project improvements, the Grant Agreement requires that it refund to the state of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the project life.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

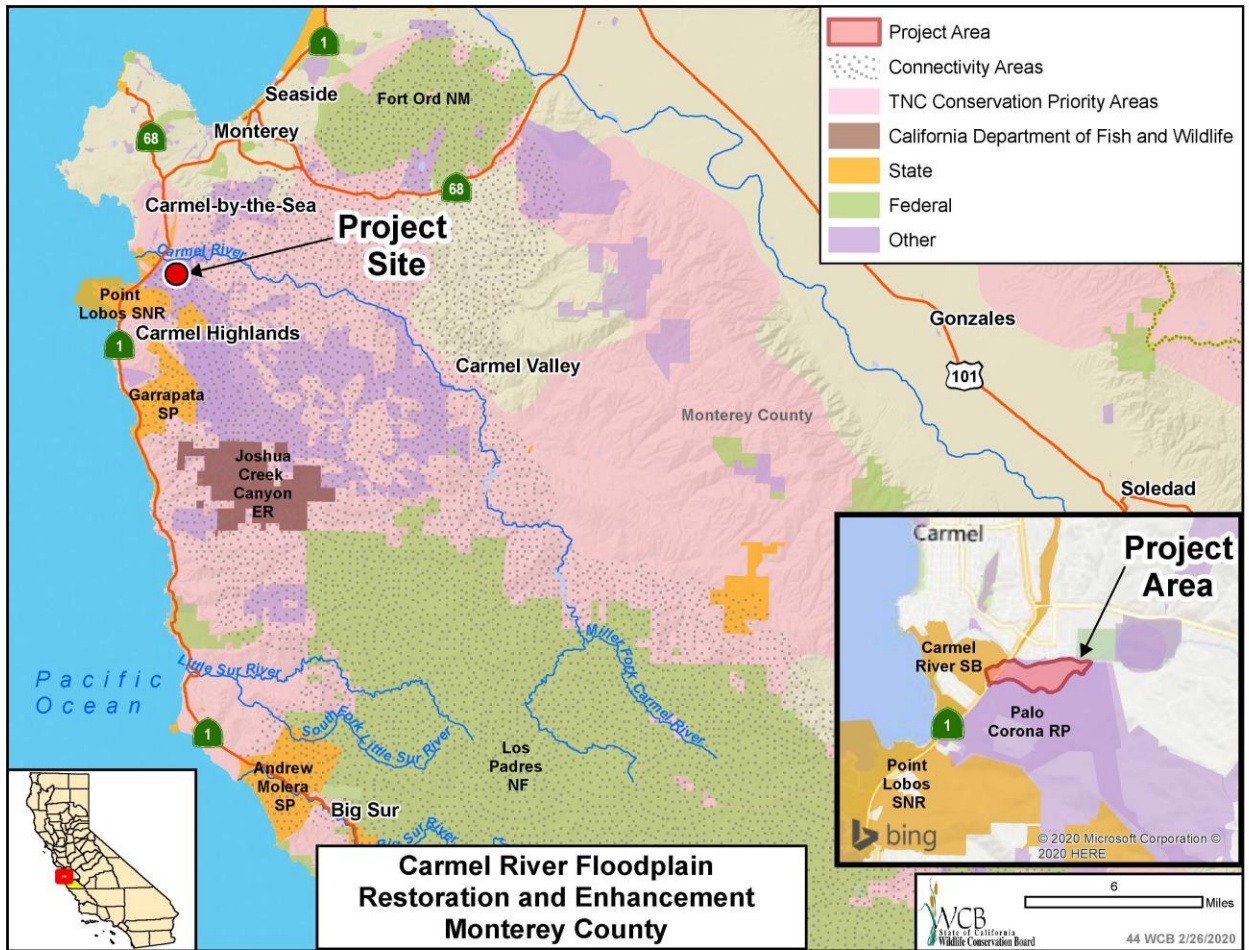
Project Task	Total Cost	WCB	Non-WCB Funds
1. Project Management	\$47,491	---	\$47,491
2. Floodplain Designs	\$357,443	\$357,443	---
3. Floodplain Construction	\$7,181,076	\$1,655,507	\$5,525,569
4. Habitat Restoration	\$1,387,000	\$487,050	\$899,950
Total	\$8,973,010	\$2,500,000	\$6,473,010

Project costs include:

- Project Management: Manage all consultant and construction contracts, prepare quarterly progress reports and reimbursement requests, and prepare final report.
- Designs: Complete 100 percent designs, construction plans, specifications, and estimates for floodplain restoration construction.
- Construction: Grading and excavation of the historic floodplain. Approximately 100± acres of fallow farmland will be graded to create the topographic characteristics necessary to restore hydraulic connectivity and native floodplain habitats, along with an elevated 23±-acre agricultural preserve.
- Restoration: Prepare habitat management plan for at least 80± acres of revegetation. Install native plants the floodplain east of SR-1 to accelerate vegetation establishment. Install an irrigation system, implement weed control and maintenance.

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

The County of Monterey as lead agency, prepared an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA. Staff considered the EIR and has prepared proposed, written findings documenting WCB’s compliance with CEQA. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOD will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.



45. Toro Creek

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$1,750,000 from the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68), Public Resources Code Section 80111(d) for the grant to San Luis Obispo County (County); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Toro Creek
Project Type:	Fee (258± acres)
Grantee:	San Luis Obispo County
Amount Recommended:	\$1,750,000
Funding Partners:	Natural Resources Agency Environmental Enhancement Mitigation, State Coastal Conservancy
County:	San Luis Obispo
Program:	Land Acquisition Program
Funding:	Proposition 68
Strategic Plan Goals:	A.2, A.4, C.4 Objectives: SI 2.1, 3.4

LOCATION

The property (Property), containing 258± acres, is situated in central coastal San Luis Obispo County overlooking the scenic Pacific Ocean. Furthermore, the Property is located on the Cabrillo Highway, also known as State Route 1, between Morro Bay and Cayucos at the intersection with Toro Creek Road. The Cabrillo Highway separates the Property into a large hilly grassland parcel (eastside) and a long narrow beach access parcel (westside). Presently, this region supports coastal residential and vacation development, and the area is experiencing expansion of rural residential and rural ranchette development on lands historically used solely for grazing.

The general terrain of the vicinity and the Property is rolling hills supporting the Toro Creek riparian corridor, coastal grasslands, and coastal scrub habitat types. The surrounding area is characterized by a significant amount of development associated with the communities of Morro Bay and Cayucos.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property is an undeveloped, irregularly shaped rectangular tract of land that includes a single assessor parcel number 073-092-052. The Property, for many years, has been managed as rangeland and as a recreational beach access point. The topography of the Property varies from 0 to 650 feet above sea level with rolling to steeply sloping terrain and is predominantly grasslands.

The Property is of ecological significance for these coastal scrublands, grasslands, and the Toro Creek riparian corridor. A Land Acquisition Evaluation (LAE) was completed for the Property. This LAE recommends acquisition of the Property to protect the terrestrial coastal scrub and aquatic species utilizing Toro Creek and the beach.

The special status species observed on the Property that will benefit from its protection include the following: central coast steelhead, tidewater goby and the California red-legged frog. Deer, coyote, and rabbit are known to use the Property as well.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The County, as the fee-title owner and grantee, will be responsible for the long-term management of the Property. The Property will be added to the existing County park holdings. The Property is currently owned by the Chevron Corporation, but the public has utilized the beach as a dog friendly recreation area for many years. In addition to hiking, the beach will be open for fishing, surfing, and general beach uses. The County has been planning to construct a pedestrian and bicycle connector trail between Cayucos and Morro Bay; the purchase of this property will allow the county to move forward with the planned trail. Ongoing operations and maintenance costs are expected to be relatively limited and will be incorporated into the County's park maintenance budget.

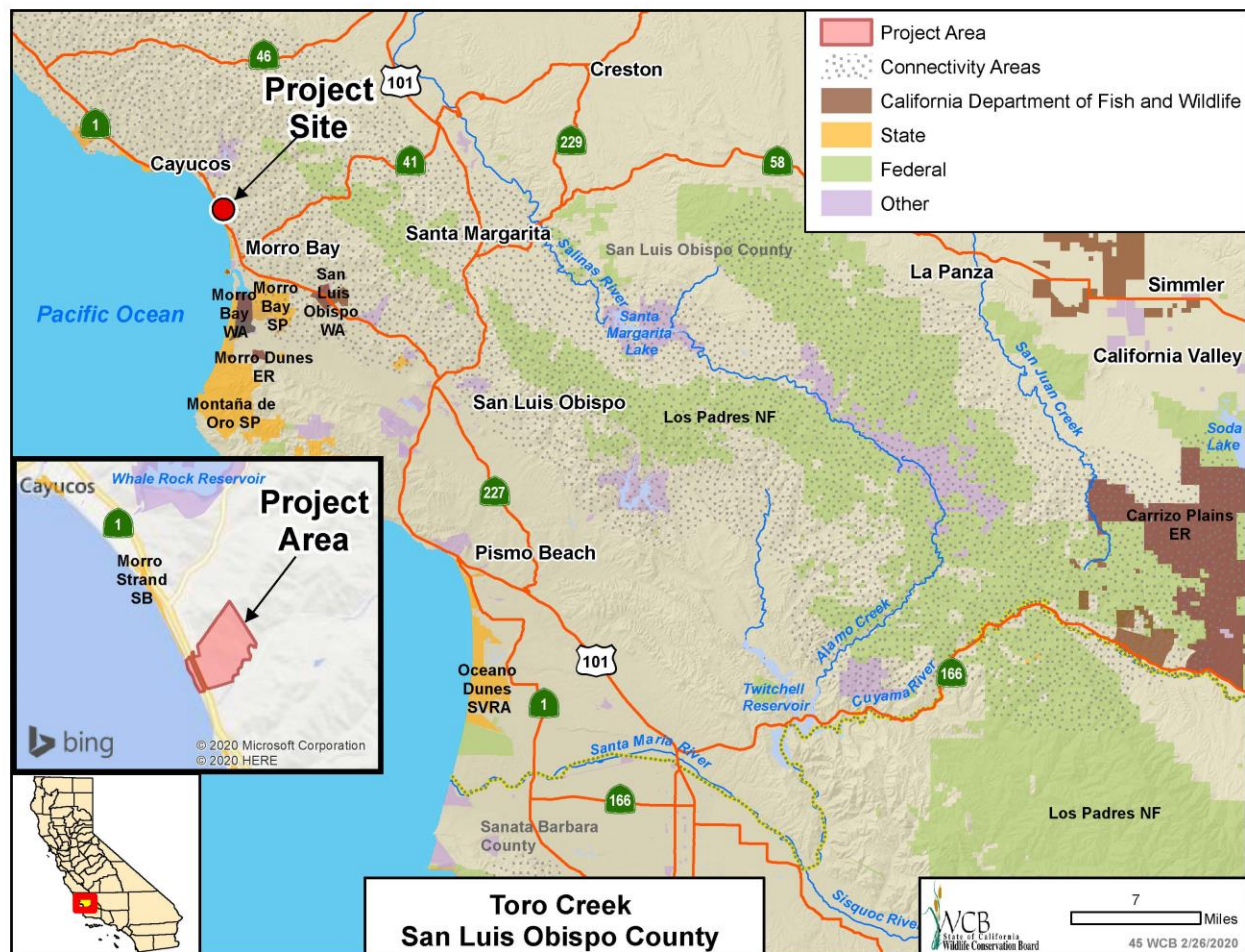
PROJECT FUNDING

DGS' approved fair market value is \$4,165,000. The landowner has agreed to sell the Property for \$3,750,000. The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$1,750,000
State Coastal Conservancy	\$1,000,000
California Natural Resources Agency EEM	\$1,000,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$3,750,000

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

The project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to Public Resources Code 21080.28, Acquisition of an Interest in Land by a Public Agency, as a grant by a public agency for an acquisition of an interest in land by a public agency for preservation of natural conditions existing at the time of transfer, including plant and animal habitats. Subject to Board approval of the project, staff will file the appropriate NOE with the State Clearinghouse and the county clerk.



46. Hanning Flat

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$2,316,297 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c), for the grant to the Trust for Public Land (TPL); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Hanning Flat
Project Type:	Fee (3,804± acres)
Grantee:	The Trust for Public Land
Amount Recommended:	\$2,316,297
Funding Partners:	Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program (EEMP), National Audubon Society, Sierra Nevada Conservancy, and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
County:	Kern
Program:	Land Acquisition Program
Funding:	Habitat Conservation Fund
Strategic Plan Goals:	A.1, A.4, C.1, C.4 Objectives: SI 1.3, 3.4

LOCATION

The property (Property) is situated three miles northwest of the community of Weldon in northeastern Kern County. It is near the southern terminus of the Sierra Nevada mountain range.

Situated at the juncture of three ecologically important regions, and rich in biodiversity, the Property is recognized as a Tier 1 acquisition priority within CDFW's Canebrake CAPP. The primary purpose of the Canebrake CAPP is to protect riparian and wetland habitat, threatened and endangered species habitat, adjoining buffer areas, and wildlife corridors to create a viable and sustainable protection landscape in central Kern County. Public uses, education, and interpretation are secondary, but important, purposes as well.

The Property is bounded by more than 1,000± acres of previously protected public and private lands, including the Canebrake Ecological Reserve managed by CDFW; Audubon-California's Kern River Preserve, a globally-Important Bird Area; the USFS's South Fork Wildlife Area; and BLM's Cyrus Canyon Area of Critical Environmental Concern, which overlaps with portions of the subject property.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property is an undeveloped, irregularly shaped tract of land that includes thirteen assessor parcel numbers. The Property has been used for cattle grazing for many years. The topography of the Property varies from 2,700 to 4,850 feet above sea level with lower elevations comprised of a large, flat expanse that is gradually sloping, which is framed on three sides by hills and steep canyons.

The project will achieve several public benefit objectives: leverage longstanding efforts by multiple public agencies and conservation organizations to protect high-value lands in the South Fork Kern River valley, enhance wildlife habitat and wildlife corridors threatened by development, improve the health of the Fay Creek and South

Fork Kern River watersheds, protect working lands and land-based jobs, expand recreational opportunities for visitors and nearby disadvantaged communities, provide critical resilience to climate change and wildfire, and demonstrate and disseminate the lessons of a fire- and climate-resilient approach to land conservation and management.

In its 2,150 feet of elevation gain, the Property supports a variety of intact plant communities, including grasslands; chaparral, scrub, and sagebrush habitats, and woodlands of blue oak-foothill pine, juniper, and montane hardwood. It contains at least three springs with year-round surface water, several intermittent stream corridors, including portions of the Fay Creek watershed, and a wide gently sloping pervious alluvial plain. These habitats provide essential habitat for many species, most notably birds utilizing Audubon's adjacent Kern River Preserve - a Globally Important Bird Area.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

Once acquired, TPL will transfer title to the property to the Kern River Valley Heritage Foundation (KRVHF), the intended long-term steward of the Property. KRVHF, a growing regional land trust in the area, protects, manages, and preserves land in the Kern River Valley area. KRVHF will incorporate the parcel into its existing management plan. Intermediate grazing and public access will be permitted on the Property.

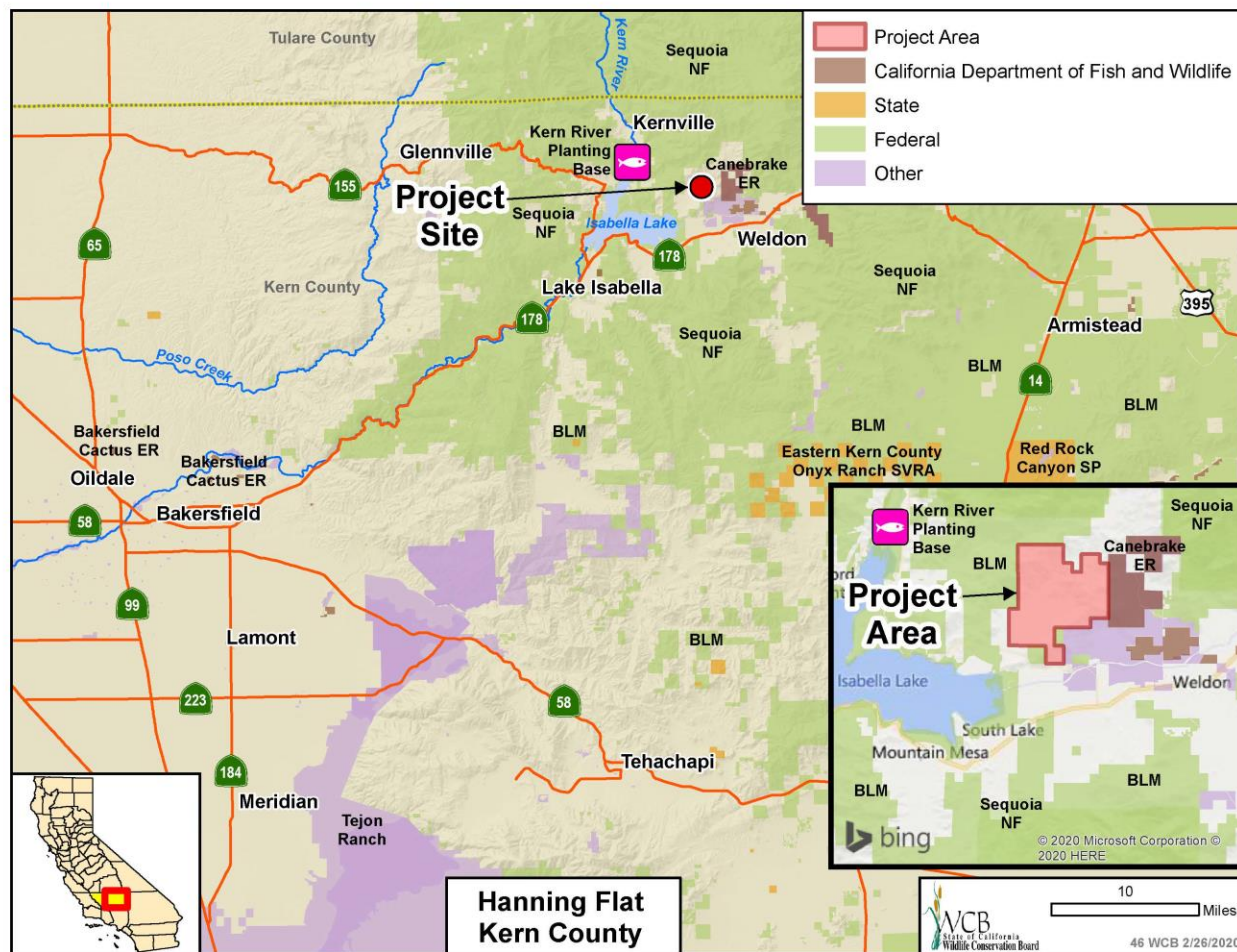
PROJECT FUNDING

DGS' approved fair market value is \$4,564,000. The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$2,316,297
EEMP	\$947,703
National Audubon Society	\$100,000
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	\$200,000
Sierra Nevada Conservancy	\$1,000,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$4,564,000

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

The project has been reviewed for compliance with 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 WCB, a NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.



47. Tricolored Blackbird Wetland Habitat Enhancement

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$719,000 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(d), Inland Wetlands Conservation Program; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Tricolored Blackbird Wetland Habitat Enhancement Project
Project Type:	Implementation
Applicant/Grantee:	Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
Amount Recommended:	\$719,000
Funding Partners:	Ducks Unlimited, Inc., United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Audubon California, private landowners
Landowner(s):	James Lawrence and Leonard Paul Lawrence Trust of 1991
County:	Kern
Program:	Inland Wetlands Conservation Program
Funding:	Habitat Conservation Fund
Strategic Plan Goals:	B.1 Objectives: SI 1.3, 2.5

LOCATION

The project is located within the Lawrence Duck Club (LCD), which is composed of two properties in Kern County: Lawrence-East (LE) – 130± acres, approximately 2.25 miles east of Kern National Wildlife Refuge (KNWR), and Lawrence-DeLorenzo (LD) – 43± acres, adjacent to KNWR. Both tracts are managed as seasonal wetlands, hunted, and have semi-permanent emergent wetlands that are utilized by waterfowl and their broods.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Tricolored Blackbird (TRBL) are nearly endemic to the state of California, with the majority of the breeding population occurring in the Central Valley. Habitat loss, including wetland habitat and grassland habitat important to foraging, has led to long-term population declines across the Central Valley. TRBL numbered in the millions in the 1930s and nested in colonies of up to 250,000 adults. In 2017, the statewide survey documented approximately 178,000 TRBL, down from approximately 395,000 in 2008. In 2018, TRBL was designated as a threatened species under the California Endangered Species Act.

This project will increase seasonal and semi-permanent wetlands in the Tulare Basin for the benefit of TRBL and breeding waterfowl, two target groups/species in the Central Valley Joint Venture’s (CVJV) Implementation Plan, by restoring and enhancing wetland habitat to encourage TRBL to nest on the duck clubs instead of on nearby agricultural fields. KNWR and nearby duck clubs manage their seasonal wetlands to attract wintering waterfowl, but drawdown most of their wetland units in spring to encourage growth of annual grasses and sedges. These drawdowns benefit migrating shorebirds and other waterbirds but are not ideal for nesting TRBL or breeding waterfowl. Nesting TRBL and waterfowl utilize semi-permanent wetlands

that are flooded into July. This project will provide water from February through July to grow cattails and softstem bulrush, which are known to support TRBL colonies. By targeting duck clubs with existing brood ponds and improving water infrastructure, managers can provide habitat for both breeding waterfowl and TRBL. While the enhancement projects will be designed to target TRBL and breeding waterfowl, a suite of species is expected to benefit, including yellow-headed blackbird, white-faced ibis, least bittern, northern harrier, and western pond turtle.

The proposed project has two primary objectives: 1) provide spring TRBL nesting habitat, and 2) provide breeding waterfowl habitat on private wetlands in Kern County through water infrastructure improvements and installation of solar arrays. For the wetland enhancement at LD, a solar array will be installed at a pre-selected site. A sump will be constructed to collect all irrigation and drainage water. Water from the sump will be pumped out and re-circulated with a new tailwater pump. Re-circulated water will be pumped back into the existing semi-permanent wetland (brood pond) and into a newly constructed brood pond. The new brood pond will expand the wetland footprint by three± acres. A solar array and re-circulation system will provide irrigation during the summer months providing high quality wetland habitat.

Vegetation management on the LD property will involve controlling non-native, invasive salt cedar through mechanical and/or chemical methods. Snags will be left to provide structure while the planted native plants grow to maturity. Woody vegetation such as cottonwoods, black willow, and buttonwillow will be planted.

The LE wetland enhancement will create a 58.5±-acre semi-permanent emergent wetland adjacent to Poso Creek. Water will be supplied by a new pipeline from an existing well.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The Grantee and landowners have adopted a Management Plan that guides management actions for the property, including management of the property. If at any time during the 25-year life of the project, Grantee does not manage and maintain the project improvements, the Grant Agreement requires that it refund to the state of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the project life.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

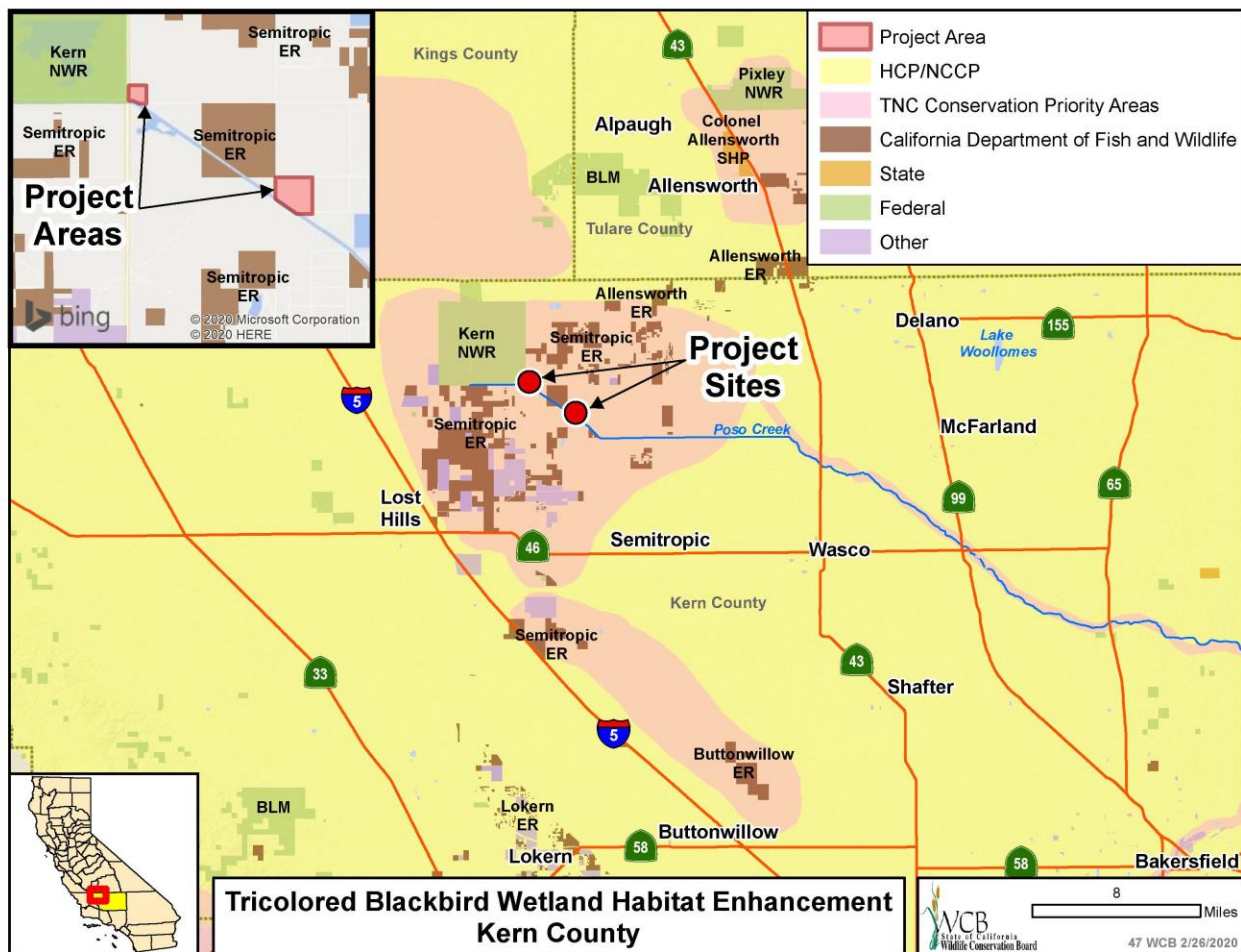
Project Task	Total Cost	WCB	Non-WCB Funds
Project Management	\$222,729	\$163,776	\$58,953
Site Prep	\$52,146	\$52,416	---
Construction	\$657,389	\$440,093	\$217,296
Contingencies	\$62,715	\$62,715	---
Total	\$995,249	\$719,000	\$276,249

Project costs include:

- Project Management - Administer grant, secure and manage sub-contracts, prepare progress reports, data management, stakeholder coordination, permit acquisition, surveys, restoration design, monitoring.
- Site Prep - Removal of old structures, including construction of staging areas and access points for construction equipment.
- Construction - Earthmoving, purchase and installation of water control structures, purchase and installation of lift pump and associated pipe/valves, removal of invasive plants, revegetation, solar panel array installation.
- Contingencies - Approximately 8 percent of WCB grant funds held in contingency to be used only through WCB written approval.

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

The project is proposed as exempt from CEQA pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, Section 15304, Class 4, as a minor alteration to land, water and/or vegetation which does not involve the removal of scenic trees. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.



48. Chino Hills (Eastbridge)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$1,024,000 from the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75055(c) for the grant to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA; accept the USFWS Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition grant in the amount of \$1,536,000 and authorize the subgrant of these funds; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Chino Hills (Eastbridge)
Project Type:	Fee Acquisition (320± acres)
Grantee:	Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority
Amount Recommended:	\$1,024,000
Funding Partners:	USFWS
County:	San Bernardino
Program:	Land Acquisition Program
Funding:	Proposition 84
Strategic Plan Goals:	A.1, A.3, A.4 Objectives: SI 1.3, 2.2, 3.4

LOCATION

The property (Property) is 320± acres located one-quarter of a mile east of Lower Aliso Canyon Trail and a half mile north of the Santa Ana River Trail at the southern boundary of Chino Hills in San Bernardino County. The intersection of State Route 91 and State Route 71 and the Prado Dam are both located two miles southeast. Access is provided by an unimproved road on the west side of State Route 71 north of the 91 Freeway interchange.

Located in the Chino Hills, the Property is bounded to the east, south, and northwest by open space land that is part of the Chino Hills State Park. Privately owned and predominantly undeveloped land is to the north and southwest of the Property. Seasonal drainage flows from the north to the southwest through the western portion of the Property and to the south before joining the Santa Ana River, which flows to the southwest to the Pacific Ocean. The surrounding rural and mountainous area is primarily designated for open space and recreational uses.

The Property is located within the Chino/Puente Hills area. The acquisition of the Property will complement the Shell Oil Company/Metropolitan Water District Habitat Conservation Plan (Shell/MWD HCP) and the regional Orange County Central/Coastal NCCP/HCP. Conservation of the Property is anticipated to support connectivity between populations of the coastal California gnatcatcher and coastal cactus wren in the Chino/Puente Hills, as well as isolated populations further north in the San Gabriel and Santa Susana mountains. Moreover, the acquisition is important for maintaining a gnatcatcher population within the northern range of the species, because little open space remains in northern Orange and Los Angeles counties.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property is comprised of two contiguous undeveloped regular shaped parcels of land. Topography of the Property ranges in elevation from 550 to 950 feet above sea level, characterized by rolling-to-moderately and steeply-sloping hillside.

The Property is mostly comprised of grasslands. Coastal sage scrub, coast live oak woodland, mulefat scrub, and southern cottonwood willow riparian forest are also found on the Property. The Property provides a crucial connection between the Chino Hills State Park (14,100± acres) and the Prado Wetland (4,000± acres). Wildlife movement from this area has been well-documented by the US Geological Survey. Fencing to guide wildlife under Highway 71 is in place.

Species likely to benefit from protection of the Property include costal California gnatcatcher, northern harrier, coastal cactus wren and other sensitive species. In addition, special status plant species likely to occur include chaparral sandverbena, Braunton's milk-vetch, intermediate mariposa-lily, Robinson's peppergrass, and white rabbit-tobacco.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The Property will be owned, managed, and maintained by MRCA and will be incorporated into the assemblage of existing protected lands. MRCA will own and operate the Property as part of its extensive land holdings in San Bernardino, Los Angeles, and Ventura counties. MRCA is a joint powers authority and owns thousands of acres of open space across the region and has many years of experience in managing similar properties. The acquisition of the Property will provide an opportunity for MRCA to protect and preserve the Property's open space and natural resource values, and potentially afford recreational opportunities to the public such as hiking, photography, biking, and wildlife viewing.

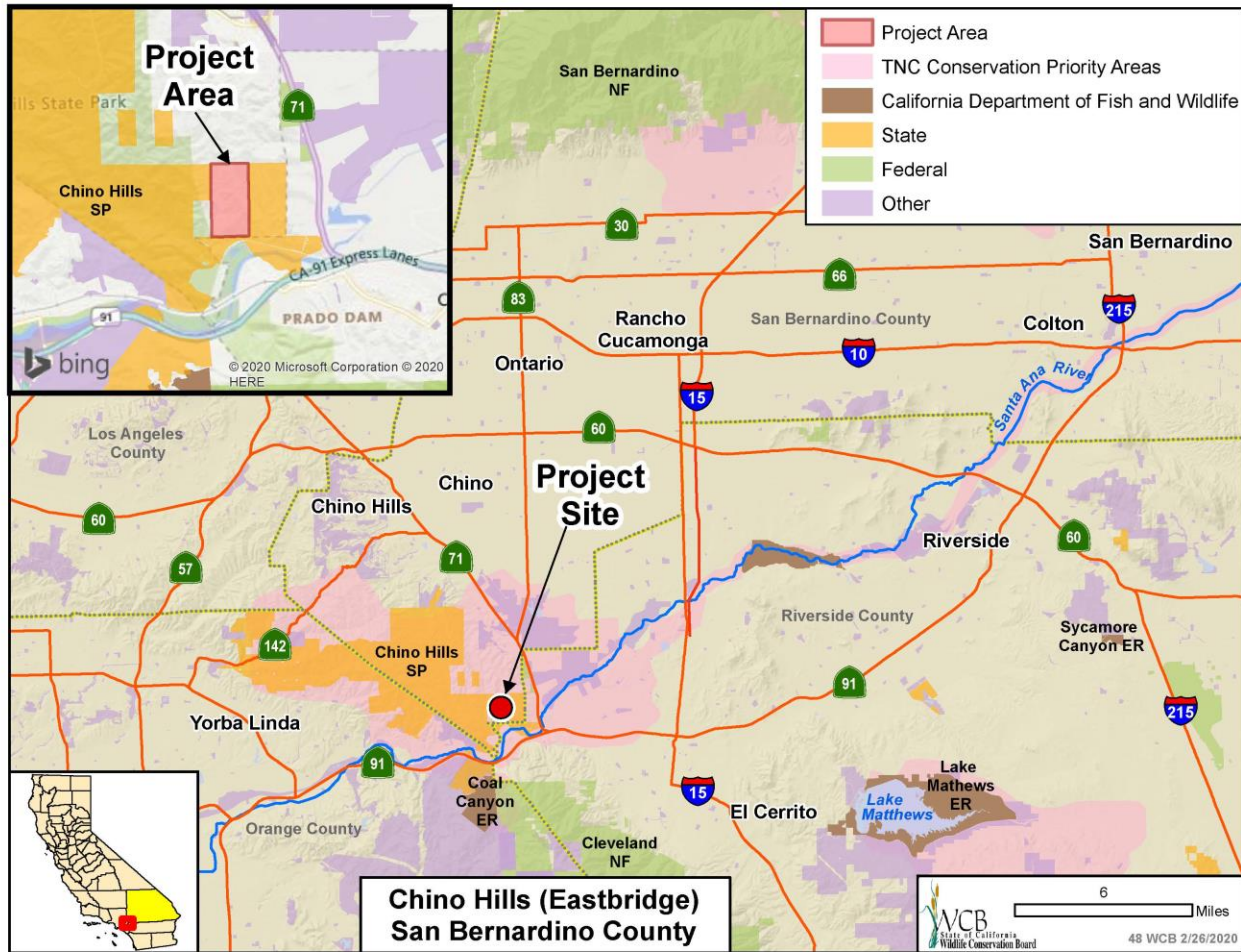
PROJECT FUNDING

DGS' approved fair market value is \$2,560,000. The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$1,024,000
USFWS Section 6	\$1,536,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$2,560,000

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

The project has been reviewed for compliance with 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 WCB, a NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.



49. Montecito Ranch

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$6,331,310 from the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 84) 75055(c) for the grant to the Endangered Habitats Conservancy (EHC); accept the USFWS Habitat Conservation Planning Land Acquisition Grant in the amount of \$2,668,690 and authorize the subgrant of these federal funds; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; authorize CDFW to accept the potential transfer of the project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Montecito Ranch
Project Type:	Fee (955± acres)
Grantee:	Endangered Habitats Conservancy
Amount Recommended:	\$6,331,310
Funding Partners:	U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Department of Navy
County:	San Diego
Program:	Land Acquisition Program
Funding:	Proposition 84
Strategic Plan Goals:	A.3, A.4, C.1, E1 Objectives: SI: 1.3, 2.1, 2.2, 3.4

LOCATION

The property (Property), known as Montecito Ranch, is located on the northwest side of the unincorporated community of Ramona in north San Diego County, 20 miles inland from the Pacific Ocean and 37 miles northeast of downtown San Diego. Ramona is situated in the Cucaracha Mountain Range, elevated above most surrounding communities at 1,500 feet above sea level. The Ramona Valley is bordered by Poway and Rancho Bernardo to the west, Escondido to the northwest, and portions of the Cleveland National Forest to the northeast and south. Primary access to the area is provided by State Routes 67 and 78, the major highways in northern San Diego County.

Ramona is rural in nature, but has an established residential, farming and ranch community. Over the last 35 years, widespread residential development, including multiple family housing projects have occurred. The immediate outlying area of the Property has been subject to both suburban and rural residential development that is gradually encroaching from all directions. This Property is identified as a priority for protection in the San Diego County Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) plans in conjunction with the CDFW's Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP) program. The goals of these plans are to manage balanced growth while also identifying and preserving intact core wildlife linkages and key populations of sensitive species.

In 2003, grant funds provided by WCB supported the establishment of the 3,500± acre Ramona Grasslands Preserve (Preserve) that abuts a portion of the Property's southern boundary. The Preserve is part of the MSCP and NCCP plans and contains habitat that is similar to the subject Property. Numerous plants and wildlife inhabit the Preserve including the graceful tarplant, Engelmann Oak, the federally threatened

and endangered Stephen's kangaroo rat, federally endangered arroyo southwestern toad, federally endangered San Diego fairy shrimp, and federally threatened coastal California gnatcatcher.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property involves forty-nine contiguous parcels totaling 955± acres that form an irregular shaped tract of land. The majority of the Property is characterized by gently rolling topography, as well as some moderate and steep sloping terrain with elevation gradients that vary from 1,200 feet near the northern most point to approximately 1,800 feet at the top of a peak on the south side. Most of the Property is comprised of undeveloped vacant land with the exception of an older residential home located near the southern boundary. The Property is currently zoned as a specific plan area and is subject to an approved tentative subdivision map that allows for the development of 417 homesites. Water, electrical power, cable and sewer lines are readily available from local utility providers if the Property is developed. The Property is directly accessible from multiple entry points by public paved roadways.

The Property is characterized by habitat consisting mostly of native and non-native grassland, coastal sage scrub, southern mixed chaparral, oak woodland and vernal pools. This diverse habitat supports a variety of plant and wildlife including the federally threatened and endangered species of Stephen's kangaroo rat, coastal California gnatcatcher, arroyo southwestern toad, San Diego fairy shrimp and the federal and state endangered least Bell's Vireo and encinitas bacharris. Other species that benefit from the Property's habitat include the bald eagle, golden eagle and the ferruginous hawk.

As a condition of the Navy's funding, a restrictive use easement (Easement) will encumber a portion of the Property. The purpose of the Easement is to preserve the Property for the benefit of the Stephen's kangaroo rat and California gnatcatcher while also providing the Navy mitigation credits for the impacts of nearby Camp Pendleton military exercises. This proposed acquisition will contribute to the success of both the MSCP and NCCP plans and permanently protect the Property from development fragmentation and support the preservation of intact core habitat and corridor linkages with the adjacent protected lands.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The EHC is dedicated to the preservation, restoration and protection of the natural open space within the southern California region and currently manages over 4,000± acres. With a management endowment provided by the Navy, EHC, in cooperation with CDFW, will manage, monitor and support the implementation of various restoration projects on the Property. Potential restoration projects include the removal of invasive species along with enhancing and properly protecting the existing vernal pools. Without harming the conservation values of the Property, EHC will consider low impact recreational activities in the form hiking and birding along with the sponsorship of scientific research studies. Future consideration for the Property is the fee transfer by EHC to CDFW for long term management. CDFW supports this transfer and will consider dedicating the Property as a CDFW ecological reserve.

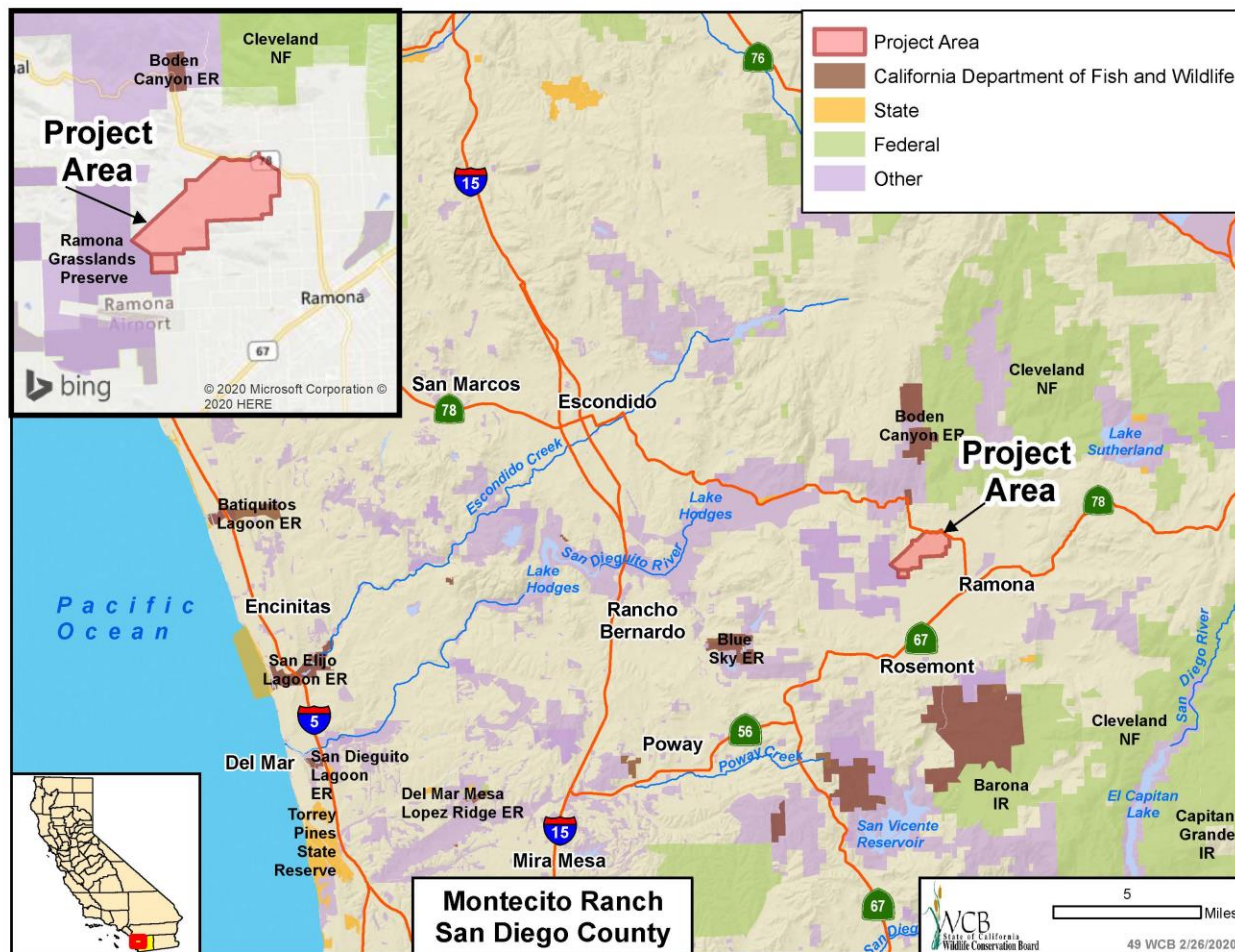
PROJECT FUNDING

The appraisal has been reviewed by WCB staff, reviewed and approved by an independent appraiser hired by WCB staff, and reviewed and approved by DGS. The independent appraisal review was posted on WCB’s website on January 24, 2020. DGS’ approved fair market value is \$18,000,000. The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

WCB	\$6,331,310
UFWS Section 6 Funds	\$2,668,690
United States of America, Department of Navy – Readiness and Environmental Integration Program Funds	\$9,000,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$18,000,000

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

The project has been reviewed for compliance with 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 WCB, a NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.



50. Sycuan Peak Ecological Reserve, Expansion 9 (Sloan Oram)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$1,716,000 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c) for the acquisition; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Sycuan Peak Ecological Reserve, Expansion 9
Project Type:	CDFW Fee (163± acres)
Amount Recommended:	\$1,716,000
County:	San Diego
Program:	Land Acquisition Program
Funding:	Habitat Conservation Fund
Strategic Plan Goals:	A.1, A.3, A.4 Objectives: SI 1.3, 2.2

LOCATION

The property (Property) is located in the community of Dehesa in San Diego County and is contiguous on three sides to conserved habitat including the 2,300±-acre CDFW Sycuan Peak Ecological Reserve (Reserve) to the east and south. Seventeen hundred feet of the Sweetwater River flows through the southern portion of the Property and eventually feeds into the Sweetwater Reservoir southwest of the Reserve.

Other protected lands in the vicinity of the Property include: the Sycuan Indian Reserve located directly to the north and west of the Property; McGinty Mountain Ecological Reserve located several miles to the west; and Hollenbeck Canyon Wildlife Area located further to the south.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property is undeveloped and irregular in shape and includes two assessor parcel numbers totaling 163± acres with access from Sloane Canyon Road. Elevation varies from about 860 feet at the riverbed to the south to a 1,608-foot peak along the eastern property line. The general terrain includes southern coast live oak riparian forest in the riverbed, chaparral to the north and south of the river, and Diegan coastal sage scrub in the north. Habitat is suitable for the federally endangered arroyo toad and Quino checkerspot butterfly.

The proposed acquisition focuses on land that will augment the San Diego Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP), a comprehensive long-term habitat conservation plan addressing the needs of multiple species and the preservation of natural vegetation communities in San Diego County. The MSCP addresses the potential impacts of urban growth, natural habitat loss, and species endangerment and creates a plan to mitigate for the potential loss of covered species and their habitat due to the direct impacts of future development of both public and private lands within the MSCP area. In addition, the southern portion of the Property is a priority for habitat mitigation within a Pre-Approved Mitigation Area (PAMA). The Property is also within the County of San Diego Biological Resource Core Area (BRCA) and acquisition of the Property will contribute to the San Diego Regional Natural Community Conservation Planning Program.

Protecting this Property will prevent further development encroachment that could result in a fragmented landscape and restricted connectivity between existing protected areas. Acquisition of the Property will also secure key regional wildlife linkages and preserve core resource areas of habitat.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

CDFW will manage the Property as part of the Sycuan Peak Ecological Reserve. CDFW expects minimal, if any, additional expenses as a result of this acquisition. Possible future public use opportunities that may be considered include hiking, photography, and bird watching.

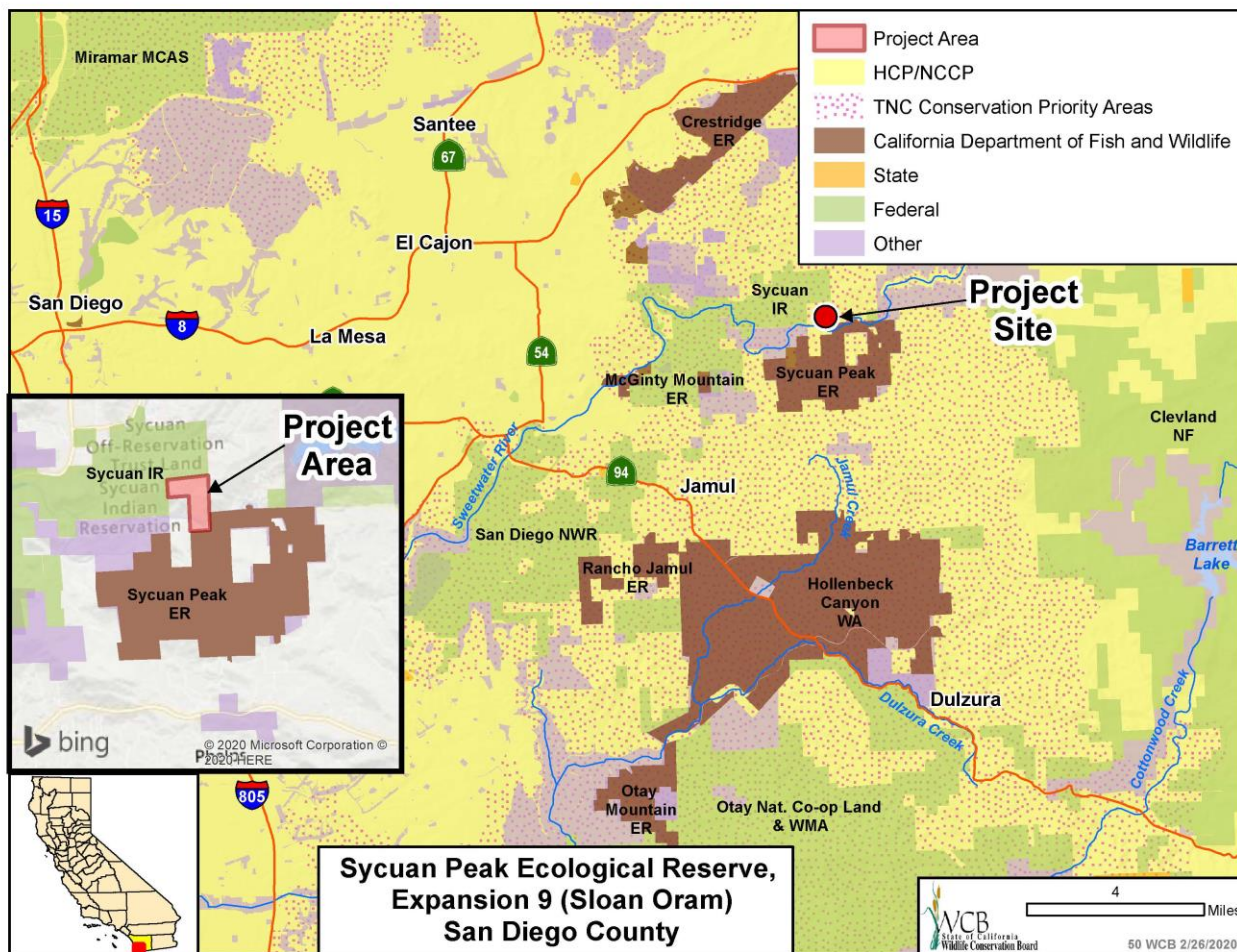
PROJECT FUNDING

DGS' approved fair market value is \$1,716,000. The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$1,716,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$1,716,000

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

The project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to Public Resources Code 21080.28, Acquisition of an Interest in Land by a Public Agency, as an acquisition of an interest in land by a public agency for preservation of natural conditions existing at the time of transfer, including plant and animal habitats. Subject to Board approval of the project, staff will file the appropriate NOE with the State Clearinghouse and the county clerk.



51. Executive Director's Report

Receive an update from the Executive Director on 2019 Year in Review, 2020 program solicitation timelines, legislation, and other information.

52. Executive Session (Not Open to the Public)

The Board may meet in closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 11126(a)(1) to discuss the appointment, employment, evaluation of performance, or dismissal of a public employee. After closed session, the Board will reconvene in public session, which may include announcements about actions taken during closed session.

Adjourn

ATTACHMENT A – WCB LIST OF ACRONYMS

Americans with Disabilities Act	ADA
Bureau of Land Management	BLM
California Department of Fish and Wildlife	CDFW
California Department of Finance	DOF
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection	CAL FIRE
California Department of General Services	DGS
California Department of Transportation	Caltrans
California Department of Water Resources	DWR
California Endangered Species Act	CESA
California Environmental Quality Act	CEQA
California Fish and Game Commission	FGC
California Natural Resources Agency	CNRA
Conceptual Area Protection Plan	CAPP
Habitat Conservation Plan	HCP
National Environmental Policy Act	NEPA
National Marine Fisheries Service	NMFS
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	NOAA
Natural Community Conservation Plan	NCCP
Notice of Exemption	NOE
Resource Conservation District	RCD
Resource Conservation Investment Strategy	RCIS
Sierra Nevada Conservancy	SNC
State Coastal Conservancy	SCC
Sustainable Groundwater Management Act	SGMA
Tahoe National Forest	TNF
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	USFWS
U.S. Forest Service	USFS
Wildlife Conservation Board	WCB

ATTACHMENT B – WCB STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

GOAL A. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION

Acquire and invest in wildlife habitat and natural areas, and work towards long-term, landscape level conservation, habitat quality and connectivity, and the success of wildlife species and populations.

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

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

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

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

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

A.6 Coordinate acquisition application processes to ensure that WCB project evaluation is unified across programs to the fullest possible extent.

GOAL B. ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENT

Work with partners to restore and enhance natural areas, create viable habitat on working lands, manage adaptively, and ensure long-term ecosystem health.

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.

B.2 Strengthen the grant application process to further highlight the importance of the following factors in project design and selection: robustness and resilience to extreme weather events, ecosystem services (e.g. groundwater recharge, flood reduction, fire prevention, etc.), water quality and quantity, and compatible public use and access.

B.3 Improve transparency and efficiency of WCB and CDFW project evaluation and recommendations to approve or deny applications.

B.4 Expand project monitoring and evaluation of restoration activities to assess long-term project success, moving beyond compliance monitoring.

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

GOAL C. PUBLIC USE AND RECREATION

Leverage WCB investments in programs and projects by expanding opportunities for outdoor wildlife-oriented recreational activities that are compatible with conservation goals.

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.

C.2 Document and describe the current public access project evaluation and selection processes and explore the option of establishing a competitive grant making cycle for the Public Access Program.

C.3 Standardize existing project monitoring protocols to facilitate consistent reporting and improved performance management.

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

SI 1: CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION, RESILIENCY, AND MITIGATION (PLAN GOALS A, B, AND C)

OBJECTIVE SI 1.1 Invest in at least three wildlife under-or over-crossings each year for the next three years (2019 - 2021), in locations deemed high priority by both transportation and fish and wildlife agencies.

OBJECTIVE SI 1.2 Invest in at least five projects that contribute to connectivity as highlighted in the California Terrestrial Connectivity Map, or linkages as mapped in regional assessments.

OBJECTIVE SI 1.3 Ensure 40 percent of all acquisition and restoration projects are in areas identified as habitat for vulnerable species or as highly resilient to climate change.

OBJECTIVE SI 1.4 Invest in at least five projects that provide long-term measurable carbon sequestration benefits.

OBJECTIVE SI 1.5 Collaboratively develop and publish criteria for addressing catastrophic natural resource events like extreme fire and prolonged drought, for inclusion as priorities in future solicitations.

OBJECTIVE SI 1.6 Collaboratively identify and fund five upper watershed improvement projects each year that have a primary or secondary purpose of providing resilience to climate change

SI 2: BIODIVERSITY ACTIONS (PLAN GOALS A AND B)

OBJECTIVE SI 2.1 Increase habitat for sensitive species to support biodiversity through statewide protection or restoration of oak woodlands, riparian habitat, rangeland, grazing land, and grassland habitat by funding at least 10 projects in each of these WCB programs with at least 25 percent of restoration projects on conserved lands.

OBJECTIVE SI 2.2 Each year, invest in at least three acquisitions and two restoration grants that advance habitat and natural community targets embodied in RCIS, NCCPs, or regional conservation plans.

OBJECTIVE SI 2.3 Implement at least 10 projects each year that enhance stream flow, increase water resiliency and meet priorities in the California Water Action Plan.

OBJECTIVE SI 2.4 Ensure 75 percent of all approved projects meet one or more conservation priorities expressed in the SWAP.

OBJECTIVE SI 2.5 Protect or restore at least 1,000 acres each of riparian, wetlands, and grassland habitats in priority areas as defined in the SWAP.

SI 3: PUBLIC ACCESS AND WILDLIFE-ORIENTED RECREATION (PLAN GOAL C)

OBJECTIVE SI 3.1 Invest in at least five projects providing public access for disadvantaged or severely disadvantaged communities.

OBJECTIVE SI 3.2 Invest in at least five projects providing boating/fishing/hunting access to disadvantaged communities and providing additional facilities for mobility-impaired visitors and/or access compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

OBJECTIVE SI 3.3 Invest in at least 10 projects that provide hunting or fishing opportunities (at least five each).

OBJECTIVE SI 3.4 Invest in at least 10 projects that have a primary or secondary purpose of non-consumptive wildlife recreation, such as bird watching or hiking.

OBJECTIVE SI 3.5 Attend or conduct at least two meetings per year that provide outreach, workshops, and materials to increase visibility of the WCB Public Access Program. At least one should be in a disadvantaged community.

SI 4: ECOSYSTEM SERVICES (PLAN GOAL A, B AND D)

OBJECTIVE SI 4.1 Each year, invest in at least five acquisition or restoration projects that have a demonstrated and measurable upper watershed ecosystem services benefit.

OBJECTIVE SI 4.2 Each year, invest in at least three projects that have a primary purpose of conserving or restoring native pollinator habitat in locations that provide a measurable ecosystem services benefit.

OBJECTIVE SI 4.3 Invest in at least five projects that provide tangible ecosystem services benefits to local lower watershed (urban or rural) communities, and document that benefit.

SI 5: PARTNERSHIPS (PLAN GOALS A, B, C, AND D)

OBJECTIVE SI 5.1 Invest in at least three projects that support state or federal Safe Harbor programs.

OBJECTIVE SI 5.2 Conduct outreach, including meetings or field visits to five new partners per year.

OBJECTIVE SI 5.3 Implement at least three competitive grant solicitations over the next five years that have been coordinated among multiple organizations and are directed at a high priority habitat per WCB program priorities.

OBJECTIVE SI 5.4 Per the USFWS Urban Wildlife Conservation Program, establish a new partnership with one urban community each year to support nature and wildlife connections consistent with WCB programs.

SI 6: WCB ORGANIZATION AND TRANSPAREN-CY (PLAN GOALS D AND E)

OBJECTIVE SI 6.1 By the end of 2020, implement a system to make WCB meetings accessible online.

OBJECTIVE SI 6.2 By the end of 2020, make substantial progress in standardizing solicitation content, criteria, and process, and develop an online application portal for competitive grants.

OBJECTIVE SI 6.3 By the end of 2020, update the WCB website to include current goals, targets, metrics, and conservation priorities for each WCB Program.

OBJECTIVE SI 6.4 By the end of 2020, develop and make mapped data that illustrates WCB projects and their relationship to program conservation objectives available to the public.

OBJECTIVE SI 6.5 Each year, hold at least one conservation partner workshop in a different part of the state, to discuss competitive grant programs and receive feedback.

OBJECTIVE SI 6.6 Sponsor at least five conferences or workshops each year throughout the state and distribute outreach materials about WCB programs.

SI 7: NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP (PLAN GOALS D AND E)

OBJECTIVE SI 7.1 Take the lead to coordinate among the state conservancies and other agencies, regarding habitat-based priorities for upcoming competitive grant solicitations.

OBJECTIVE SI 7.2 Participate in the development and implementation of the natural working lands elements of the State Safeguarding and Scoping Plans.

OBJECTIVE SI 7.3 With CDFW, complete a unified, simplified process to identify CDFW's acquisition investment priorities and obtain CDFW's review and endorsement of WCB projects

OBJECTIVE SI 7.4 Participate in statewide policy development efforts to improve fire resiliency and forest management through natural resource protection and restoration.

OBJECTIVE SI 7.5 Refine priority conservation areas for each WCB program (consistent with overall WCB goals), and report progress toward program-specific goals annually or biannually

SI 8: MONITORING AND PROGRAM EVALUATION (PLAN GOAL E)

OBJECTIVE SI 8.1 By 2021, define criteria for effectiveness monitoring by program, habitat or geography.

OBJECTIVE SI 8.2 Through continued implementation of the annual monitoring program, by 2024, cumulatively monitor 20 percent of completed projects, summarize the project compliance results, and post on the WCB website.

OBJECTIVE SI 8.3 By 2024, make the monitoring survey platform accessible on the WCB website for use by project partners.

OBJECTIVE SI 8.4 Include monitoring data in each WCB annual report and list projects by county and by SWAP habitat type.

OBJECTIVE SI 8.5 By 2022, update the WCB 60-year assessment—for WCB’s 75th anniversary—to highlight program accomplishments, including the acreage of habitat type preserved and restored.