

State of California
Natural Resources Agency
California Department of Fish and Wildlife

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

2019 YEAR IN REVIEW



Photo: Red Mountain



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WCB MISSION

WCB protects, restores and enhances California's spectacular natural resources for wildlife and for the public's use and enjoyment, in partnership with conservation groups, government agencies and the people of California.



Photo: Santa Cruz County

WCB VISION

WCB envisions a future in which California's wildlife, biodiversity and wild places are effectively conserved for the benefit of present and future generations. WCB projects and programs maximize return on taxpayer investment in conservation and wildlife-oriented recreation, and empower and inspire current and future generations to protect California's precious habitat and wildlife resources.



Photo: Red Mountain

WCB IN 2019

WCB contributed to more than 93 projects in the 2019 calendar year, allocating approximately \$75.7 million in funding including:

- **\$18.5 Million** for habitat restoration and enhancement of nearly 28,000 acres
- **\$32.9 Million** for purchase or conservation easement on 19,857 acres of wildlife habitat
- **\$12.8 Million** for acquisition, planning and restoration projects that specifically enhance stream flow (Proposition 1)

A YEAR IN REVIEW

Proposition 68

In 2019, WCB for the first time ever, implemented multiple competitive grant solicitations. Most solicitations used a two-step process of a simple pre-application that was reviewed and then applicants that were most closely aligned with the solicitation priorities were asked to submit a full application. These five Proposition 68 programs received over 200 pre-applications requesting over \$260 million. Of the full applications, over half were ultimately recommended for funding – 60 projects totaling over \$54 million.

Table 1: Applications received and recommended per each Proposition 68 program

PROGRAM	# FULL APPS	AMOUNT	RECOMMENDED	AMOUNT
Wildlife Corridor/Fish Passage	21	\$23,802,000	11	\$12,631,563
Sierra Nevada/Cascade Mountains	38	\$53,770,155	21	\$24,366,091
Pacific Flyway	21	\$20,284,649	12	\$9,250,000
Lower American River Conservancy Program	6	\$2,646,613	6	\$2,310,106
Public Access	22	\$12,166,000	10	\$5,814,000
TOTALS	108	\$112,669,417	60	\$54,371,760



Photo: Gray Lodge Wildlife Area

The Year in Monitoring

WCB has continued its commitment to monitoring past projects for compliance for a second year. Our grantees and landowners have a great responsibility and challenge to maintain completed restoration projects for a 25-year commitment and in perpetuity for acquisition projects. Many projects that were monitored this year were completed 10-20 years ago.

With the goal of monitoring roughly 90 past projects per year throughout the State, WCB has exceeded that mark and monitored 126 past projects in 2019.



Photo: Yolo County



Photo: Placer County

Of the projects WCB monitored, our grantees and landowners had a 98.5 percent success rate in maintaining habitat and conservation objectives. The couple infractions that were found were temporary conditions that our grantees are committed to resolving.

WCB will continue to monitor past projects annually, connecting with our grantees and landowners, and ensuring the conservation values of our projects are intact. Per our Strategic Plan Update, WCB has committed to cumulatively monitoring 20 percent of our completed projects in the next five years.

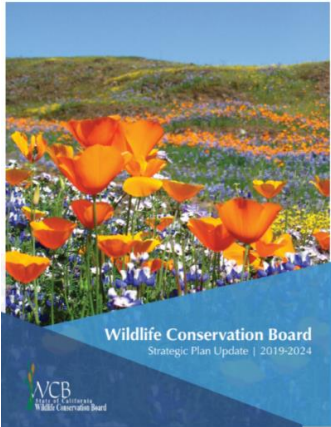


Photo: Solano County



Photo: Siskiyou County

STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVES



The 2014 Strategic Plan has guided WCB activities over the last five years. However, changing wildlife, fisheries and State conservation policies prompted WCB to refresh the Plan's objectives to better deliver new and existing programs in the context of these changes. The 2019 Strategic Plan Update relies on the existing Plan goals while defining more focused objectives tailored to emerging conservation priorities and a strategic path forward. The following eight Strategic Initiatives are highlighted in the 2019 Update:

Climate Change Adaptation, Resiliency, and Mitigation

WCB will invest in projects that mitigate the effects of climate change, provide connectivity among and between intact landscapes, and provide habitat and species resiliency. Specific objectives include supporting wildlife crossings and implementing projects in areas identified as highly resilient to climate change.



Photo: Point St. George

Biodiversity Actions

WCB will focus on conserving California's unparalleled biodiversity. Specific objectives include implementing projects that support targets identified in State and regional conservation plans and supporting projects that meet conservation priorities expressed in the State Wildlife Action Plan.

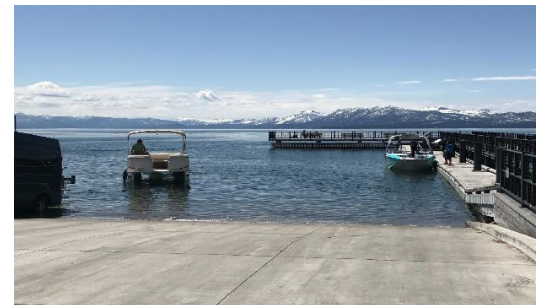


Photo: Lake Forest Boat Ramp

Public Access and Wildlife-Oriented Recreation

WCB will provide public access and wildlife-oriented opportunities for Californians in natural and wild areas. Specific objectives include funding projects which improve access for disadvantaged communities. Additionally, WCB funds projects which improve fishing and hunting access for all Californians, as well as providing opportunities for hiking and bird watching in natural areas. New projects will also focus on funding facilities that enhance access for mobility impaired visitors and/or access compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Partnerships

WCB's conservation work in California is predicated on successful partnerships. WCB will continue to collaborate with partners, maintaining and strengthening existing partnerships while exploring and securing new ones, to ensure continued successful conservation work in California. Specific objectives include additional outreach and increased coordination of grant solicitations.



Photo: Audubon Center at Debs Park

Organization and Transparency

WCB is committed to sound organizational structures and effective operations through more transparency and expanded communication. Specific objectives include making Board meetings accessible online in 2020 and implementing an online application portal for competitive grants.

Natural Resources Conservation Leadership

WCB will provide leadership and facilitate and convene partners to develop statewide conservation priorities. Specific objectives include coordinating priorities among agencies for competitive grant solicitations and continued participation in statewide policy development for topics such as forest management and natural working lands.



Photo: North Table Mountain

Monitoring and Program Evaluation

WCB will continue its monitoring program and develop and deliver a more robust implementation and effectiveness monitoring program. Specific objectives include monitoring over 20 percent of completed projects in the next five years and providing monitoring results annually.

Ecosystem Services

WCB will support projects that also include benefits gained from natural environments and properly functioning ecosystems such as clean water delivered by a healthy upper watershed. Specific objectives include projects in upper watersheds and projects that restore native pollinator habitat.

2019 PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

John Henry Ranch

The Escondido Creek Conservancy received a \$3,200,000 grant to acquire fee title to 282± acres for the protection of habitat consisting of oak and riparian woodlands, grasslands, plants, and chaparral that supports a variety of wildlife including mountain lion and deer, along with other sensitive species. The project is located northeast of the Escondido city limits in San Diego County.



Photo: John Henry Ranch

Mormon Meadows

The Wilderness Land Trust received a \$1,320,000 grant to acquire fee title to 960± acres for the protection of deer, mountain lion, and sage-grouse habitat and to increase protection of regional wildlife habitat corridors. The project is located in the Bodie Hills about eight miles southeast of the town of Bridgeport in Mono County.



Photo: Mormon Meadows

Red Mountain

The Truckee Donner Land Trust received a \$1,400,000 grant to acquire fee title to 633± acres to help preserve alpine forests, wildlife corridors, habitat linkages, and to provide wildlife-oriented, public-use opportunities. The project is located northwest of the town of Truckee, in the Tahoe Donner area in Nevada County.



Photo: Red Mountain

Monarch Butterfly and Pollinator Rescue Program

The Xerces Society received \$612,270 for a cooperative project with the California Department of Parks and Recreation and Cambria Community Service District that will aid in the recovery and sustainability of monarch butterflies and other pollinators by addressing the multiple threats that are leading to their decline in various coastal and central counties.



Photo: Monarch Butterfly

Lower Walnut Creek Restoration Project

The Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District received \$1,250,000 for a cooperative project with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to restore up to 400 acres of coastal wetlands and adjacent habitats at the mouth of Walnut Creek and its tributary, Pacheco Creek, providing climate change adaptation and resilience benefits to ecosystems deemed moderately or highly vulnerable to climate change in Contra Costa County.



Photo: Lower Walnut Creek

Camp Pollock Site Improvement Project

WCB awarded \$176,000 to the Sacramento Valley Conservancy for improvements at Camp Pollock that will install an accessible trail through the 11-acre property, establish native garden beds for enhanced learning opportunities, and create and install interpretive panels that educate visitors about the Parkway's natural resources and processes. Camp Pollock is located north of downtown Sacramento.



Photo: Camp Pollock

San Joaquin River Parkway River Center Public Access Improvements

The San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust received a \$400,000 grant for a cooperative project to improve and construct public recreational and interpretive features, and install solar equipment to reduce the carbon footprint at the Trust's 20-acre Coke Hollowell Center for River Studies in Fresno County.



Photo: San Joaquin River Parkway

Palisades Ranch

The Mojave Desert Land Trust received a \$375,000 planning grant through the California Riparian Habitat Conservation Program to complete design plans and environmental review for habitat restoration and public access on 1,640 acres of land that WCB helped acquire for conservation in 2018. The project will lay the foundation to restore and protect a high priority conservation area of the Mojave River. The Ranch is located in San Bernardino County.



Photo: Palisades Ranch

Lower Perazzo Meadow Restoration

The Truckee River Watershed Council received a \$1,980,504 grant for a cooperative project with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Tahoe National Forest, and Bella Vista Foundation to restore Lower Perazzo Meadow, a 50-acre degraded meadow in Sierra County. The project will enhance late season flows and improve water quality in the Little Truckee River by restoring hydrologic functions within the meadow.



Photo: Lower Perazzo Meadow

2019 BY THE NUMBERS

The majority of WCB's funding continues to come from several large bond initiatives. With authorized funds from earlier bond initiatives diminishing, participation from our project partners is crucial. This year WCB focused on maximizing the expenditure of remaining bond funds as well as implementing our Strategic Plan by placing emphasis on projects with matching funding and long-term partner commitment.

WCB maintains essential partnerships with many other organizations that expanded WCB's capacity by leveraging State funds with other sources of matching funds.

In 2019, approximately \$75.7 million of WCB grant expenditures were matched by nearly \$60.6 million in partner contributions.

Table 2: 2019 Project Partner Funding

Project Partner	Funding Amount
State (non-WCB)	\$23.7 Million
Federal	\$19.3 Million
Local	\$12.8 Million
Non-Profit	\$2.7 Million
Private	\$2.1 Million



Photo: Mule Deer



Photo: Horse Valley Ranch

Table 3: WCB Allocations by Fund Source

Fund Source	Allocation Amount
GF	\$2.2 Million
GGRF	\$5.9 Million
HCF	\$24 Million
P1	\$13.2 Million
P12	\$2.6 Million
P40	\$4.1 Million
P50	\$2.9 Million
P68	\$17.9 Million
P84	\$2.1 Million
WRF	\$750 Thousand

2019 Total Acreage Protected or Restored and WCB Allocation by County

In 2019, WCB protected or restored a total of 48,505 acres with a total allocation of \$75,675,709 covering 39 counties. Counties not listed in the tables below had no projects approved in 2019.

Table 4: Conservation Easements

County	Acres	Allocation
Colusa	2,607	\$764,000
Humboldt	49	\$0
Mariposa	7,161	\$108,944
Plumas	468	\$425,000
San Bernardino	78	\$25,000
San Diego	118	\$71,250
Santa Barbara	118	\$1,966,884
Totals	10,599	\$3,361,078

Table 5: Fee Title

County	Acres	Allocation
Contra Costa	351	\$2,120,000
El Dorado	1,781	\$4,085,000
Kern	1,415	\$1,391,980
Lake	200	\$685,000
Los Angeles	394	\$5,400,000
Mono	1,023	\$1,507,266
Napa	87	\$395,000
Nevada	698	\$1,425,000
Riverside	538	\$1,092,000
San Bernardino	49	\$1,982,100
San Diego	572	\$5,714,200
Shasta	32	\$715,000
Ventura	2,118	\$3,001,605
Totals	9,258	\$29,514,151

Table 6: Stream Flow Enhancement Program*

County	Acres	Allocation
Butte	400	\$1,542,100
Humboldt		\$249,959
Monterey	215	\$2,868,781
San Mateo		\$1,088,450
Santa Barbara		\$45,750
Santa Cruz		\$2,215,000
Sierra	50	\$1,980,504
Siskiyou		\$499,955
Sonoma		\$530,366
Ventura		\$1,783,345
Totals	665	\$12,804,210

*Stream Flow Enhancement Program funds acquisition, planning, studies, and restoration projects that enhance stream flow.

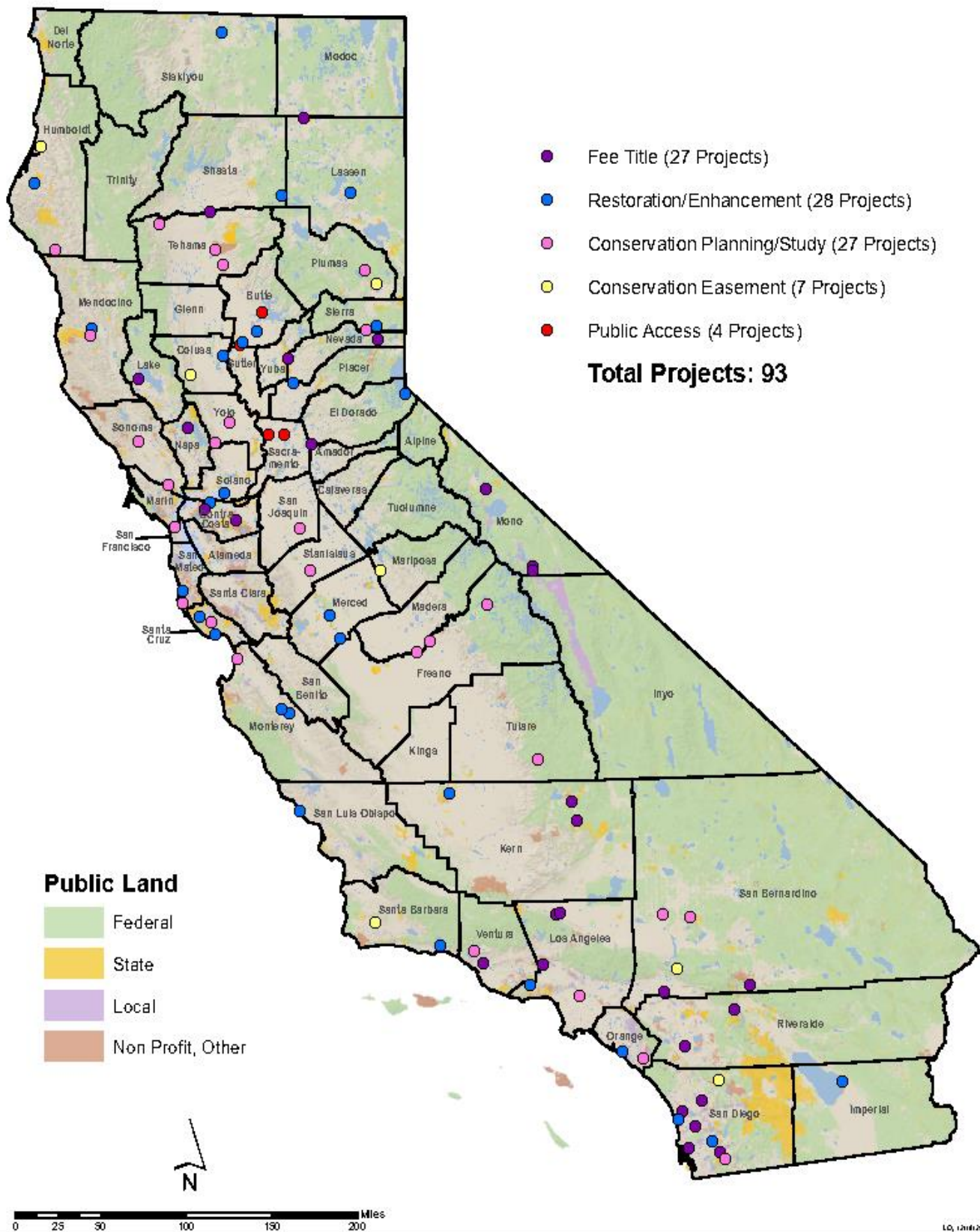
Table 7: Restoration and Enhancement

County	Acres	Allocation
Butte	577	\$1,410,000
Colusa	325	\$505,000
Contra Costa	400	\$1,250,000
El Dorado	261	\$2,980,000
Humboldt	1	\$998,000
Imperial	425	\$950,000
Kern	173	\$719,000
Lassen	2,700	\$216,000
Los Angeles	6	\$390,000
Mendocino	1	\$2,565,000
Merced	19,200	\$501,900
Nevada	3	\$226,000
Orange	15	\$757,000
San Diego	42	\$1,182,000
Santa Cruz	552	\$885,500
Siskiyou	1,609	\$872,000
Solano	1,000	\$721,000
Various	632	\$1,362,270
Totals	27,922	\$18,490,670

Table 8: Public Access, Plans and Studies

County	Acres	Allocation
Butte	2	\$868,000
Del Norte		\$1,036,442
Fresno		\$998,202
Los Angeles		\$2,683,213
Madera		\$430,100
Monterey		\$248,020
Plumas		\$120,000
Sacramento	59	\$675,000
San Bernardino		\$937,210
Santa Barbara		\$32,300
Santa Cruz		\$470,000
Sierra		\$293,000
Sonoma		\$260,000
Statewide		\$856,113
Tehama		\$545,000
Tulare		\$181,000
Various		\$597,000
Yolo		\$275,000
Totals	61	\$11,505,600

WCB Projects Awarded in 2019



THANK YOU

WCB was honored to receive the 2019 Partner of the Year Award from the CA Association of Resource Conservation Districts and we would like to thank our other project partners and organizations who contributed vision, effort, funds, creativity, passion and commitment to the success of projects funded by WCB in 2019. We look forward to future successful partnerships in 2020.

Bear Yuba Land Trust
Bella Vista Foundation
Bowles Farm, Inc.
Cachuma Resource Conservation District
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
California Association of Resource Conservation Districts
California Department of Conservation
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
California Department of Parks and Recreation
California Department of Transportation
California Rangeland Trust, California Sea Grant
California State University, Monterey Bay
California Tahoe Conservancy
California Trout, Inc.
California Waterfowl Association
Center for Natural Lands Management
City of Fortuna
City of Los Angeles
City of Ojai
City of Poway
City of Santa Cruz
Coachella Valley Conservation Commission
Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy
Coastal Conservation and Research, Inc.
Concerned Resource and Environmental Workers
Contra Costa Water District
Council for Watershed Health
County of Sacramento
County of San Diego
Department of Parks and Recreation
Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
E&J Gallo Winery
East Bay Regional Park District
EcoAdapt
Endangered Habitat Conservancy
Environmental Defense Fund
Escondido Creek Conservancy
Feather River Land Trust
Flip Labs

Friends of the Los Angeles River
The Gamble Foundation
Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District
Grassland Water District
Hicks Law
Humboldt County Resource Conservation District
Humboldt State College
James Lawrence and Leonard Paul Lawrence Trust of 1991
John Muir Land Trust
Katz Farms LLC
Kern River Valley Heritage Foundation
Lake County Land Trust
Land Trust of Santa Barbara County
Los Angeles County Parks and Open Space Department
Los Padres ForestWatch
Marin County Resource Conservation District
Meiners Oaks Water District
Mendocino County Resource Conservation District
Mojave Desert Land Trust
Monterey County Agricultural Commissioner
Monterey County Water Resources Agency
Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority
Napa County Resource Conservation District
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Natural Communities Coalition
Natural Resources Conservation Service
North American Wetlands Conservation Act
Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency
Ojai Unified School District
Ojai Valley Inn
Ojai Valley Land Conservancy
Orange County Community Foundation
Pacific Forest Trust
Peninsula Open Space Trust
Point Blue Conservation Science
Pollinator Partnership
The Regents of the University of California
Resource Conservation District of Monterey County
Resources Legacy Fund
River Partners
Rivers & Lands Conservancy
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Sacramento Valley Conservancy
Salmonid Restoration Federation
San Bernardino County Transportation Authority
San Diego Society of Natural History
San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy
San Joaquin River Conservancy

San Mateo County Resource Conservation District
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
Santa Monica Mountains Resource Conservation District
Save The Redwoods League
Sempervirens Fund
Senior Canyon Mutual Water Company
Sierra Foothill Conservancy
Sierra Streams Institute
Sonoma Land Trust
Sonoma Resource Conservation District
Southern California Coastal Water Research Project Authority
Stanislaus County Parks Department
State Coastal Conservancy
State Lands Commission
Stillwater Sciences
Sustainable Conservation
Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency
Tahoe City Public Utility District
Tehama County Resource Conservation District
The Sierra Fund
The Thatcher School
Transition Habitat Conservancy
Trout Unlimited
Truckee Donner Land Trust
Truckee River Watershed Council
Trust for Public Land
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Forest Service
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Davis
University of California, Merced
Ventura County Resource Conservation District
Ventura Land Trust
Ventura River Municipal Water District
Watershed Progressive
Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority
Wilderness Land Trust
Xerces Society, Inc.
Yolo Habitat Conservancy