



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

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

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

*Consistent with Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20, the public and Board members will participate in the meeting via Microsoft Teams Meeting or teleconference. Public comment will be accepted per the agenda.

A recording will be posted after the meeting.

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*If you anticipate commenting during the Public Comment period or on a particular agenda item and would like to register your name ahead of time, please complete this [Speaker Card \(Word\)](#) and email to Mary.Ahern@wildlife.ca.gov prior to the day of the meeting.

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Attachment A – Map of August 2020 Projects

Attachment B – WCB Acronyms

Attachment C – WCB Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives

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, Vice Chair, 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. Public Forum for Items not on this Agenda

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

3. Funding Status

Informational

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

WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND (0447)	\$1,000,000.00
August 2020 Board Meeting Allocation:	0.00
Total Project Development:	0.00
Projected Unallocated Balance:	\$1,000,000.00
HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (0262)	\$77,550,670.41
August 2020 Board Meeting Allocation:	(6,764,749.54)
Total Project Development:	(19,272,250.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	\$51,513,670.87
SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS, CLEAN WATER, CLEAN AIR, AND COASTAL PROTECTION BOND FUND (Proposition 12) (0005)	\$1,076,026.00
August 2020 Board Meeting Allocation:	0.00
Total Project Development:	0.00
Projected Unallocated Balance:	\$1,076,026.00
CALIFORNIA CLEAN WATER, CLEAN AIR, SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS AND COASTAL PROTECTION BOND FUND (Proposition 40) (6029)	\$9,717,073.50
August 2020 Board Meeting Allocation:	(1,365,000.00)
Total Project Development:	(2,163,497.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	\$6,188,576.50
WATER SECURITY, CLEAN DRINKING WATER, COASTAL AND BEACH PROTECTION FUND OF 2002 (Proposition 50) (6031)	\$19,063,870.83
August 2020 Board Meeting Allocation:	(1,083,129.00)
Total Project Development:	(12,020,000.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	\$5,960,741.83

SAFE DRINKING WATER, WATER QUALITY AND SUPPLY, FLOOD CONTROL, RIVER AND COASTAL PROTECTION FUND OF 2006 (Proposition 84) (6051)	\$20,014,773.99
August 2020 Board Meeting Allocation:	(2,487,970.00)
Total Project Development:	(12,997,306.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	\$4,529,497.99
 WATER QUALITY, SUPPLY, AND INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT FUND (Proposition 1) (6083)	 \$61,193,336.38
August 2020 Board Meeting Allocation:	0.00
Total Project Development:	0.00
Projected Unallocated Balance:	\$61,193,336.38
 THE CALIFORNIA DROUGHT, WATER, PARKS, CLIMATE, COASTAL PROTECTION, AND OUTDOOR ACCESS FOR ALL ACT OF 2018 (Proposition 68) (6088)	 \$159,035,171.00
August 2020 Board Meeting Allocation:	(13,618,502.00)
Total Project Development:	(45,844,288.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	\$99,572,381.00
 GENERAL FUND (0001)	 \$10,000,000.00
August 2020 Board Meeting Allocation:	0.00
Total Project Development:	(10,000,000.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	\$0.00
 GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION FUND (3228)	 \$14,051,325.00
August 2020 Board Meeting Allocation:	0.00
Total Project Development:	(6,070,000.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	\$7,981,325.00
 TOTAL – ALL FUNDS	 \$372,702,247.11
Grand Total - August 2020 Board Meeting Allocation:	(25,319,350.54)
Grand Total - Project Development:	(108,367,341.00)
Grand Total Projected Unallocated Balance:	\$239,015,555.57
 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

4. Executive Director's Report

Consent Items

Items 5-18 are part of the Consent Calendar

5. Recovery of Funds

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

Table 1 - Recoveries by Fund

Fund Name	Amount
Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Fund	\$9,088.00
Habitat Conservation Fund	\$230,554.40
California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Fund	\$2,495,637.00
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006	\$38,053.55
Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Fund of 2014	\$22,854.27
The California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018	\$6,892.00
Total Recoveries for All Funds	\$2,803,079.22

Table 2 - Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Fund

Project Name	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Hornitos Ranch	\$108,944.00	\$107,584.00	\$1,360.00
Sierra Valley Conservation Area, Expansion 4 (Grashuis)	\$425,000.00	\$417,272.00	\$7,728.00
Total Recoveries to Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Fund			\$9,088.00

Table 3 - Habitat Conservation Fund

Project Name	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Ash Creek Wildlife Area Land Exchange	\$50,000.00	\$34,755.00	\$15,245.00
Big Valley Wetlands, Expansion 1	\$685,000.00	\$677,600.00	\$7,400.00
Campbell Ranch Conservation Easement	\$1,966,884.00	\$1,963,132.00	\$3,752.00
Cedar Roughs Wildlife Area, Expansion 1	\$395,000.00	\$384,772.00	\$10,228.00
Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area, Expansion 16	\$105,000.00	\$84,901.00	\$20,099.00
Hanning Flat	\$2,316,297.00	\$2,316,297.00	\$0.00
Independence Lake Fisheries Restoration	\$132,000.00	\$132,000.00	\$0.00
McGinty Mountain Ecological Reserve, Exp. 3	\$805,000.00	\$793,635.00	\$11,365.00
Montecito Ranch	\$70,000.00	\$52,304.00	\$17,696.00
Morongo Basin (Chadbourne)	\$90,000.00	\$4,002.00	\$85,998.00
Sycuan Peak Ecological Reserve, Expansion 9 (Sloan Oram)	\$1,746,000.00	\$1,742,071.00	\$3,929.00

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Project Name	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Walker-Hearne Ranch	\$3,001,605.00	\$3,000,806.60	\$798.40
Western Riverside MSHCP (2017) - Anderson	\$129,000.00	\$101,182.00	\$27,818.00
Western Riverside MSHCP (2017) - Rahmati (Parcel 2)	\$80,000.00	\$71,850.00	\$8,150.00
Western Riverside MSHCP (2017) Rahmati (Parcel 1)	\$76,500.00	\$68,498.00	\$8,002.00
Wheeler Ridge, Expansion 10	\$15,000.00	\$4,926.00	\$10,074.00
Total Recoveries to Habitat Conservation Fund			\$230,554.40

Table 4 - California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Fund

Project Name	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Mark West Creek (McCullough II)	\$2,510,000.00	\$14,363.00	\$2,495,637.00
Total Recoveries to California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Fund			\$2,495,637.00

Table 5 - Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006

Project Name	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Lower Yuba River-Excelsior, Phase III	\$15,000.00	\$6,700.00	\$8,300.00
Luchia	\$789,156.00	\$779,156.00	\$10,000.00
Montecito Ranch	\$6,331,310.00	\$6,331,310.00	\$0.00
San Joaquin River Parkway (Madera County)	\$340,000.00	\$325,371.45	\$14,628.55
Santa Cruz Mountains Linkages, Coyote Ridge (NCCP)	\$2,710,000.00	\$2,704,875.00	\$5,125.00
Total Recoveries to Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002			\$38,053.55

Table 6 - Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Fund of 2014

Project Name	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Baseflow Monitoring for Stream Flow Enhancement Project Planning and Evaluation in San Luis Obispo County	\$180,701.00	\$180,701.00	\$0.00
Central Valley Arundo Mapping and Impact Assessment Project	\$438,889.00	\$438,889.00	\$0.00
Domestic and Agricultural Water Efficiency Design Program	\$828,357.00	\$828,352.93	\$4.07
Dominie Creek and Rowdy Creek Fish Passage Improvement Project	\$399,589.00	\$399,589.00	\$0.00
Green Valley Creek Rural Water Conservation Project	\$508,376.00	\$508,358.99	\$17.01
Porter Creek Stream Flow Enhancement Project	\$450,804.00	\$450,785.81	\$18.19

Project Name	Allocated	Expended	Balance
San Joaquin River Parkway, Milburn Pond Habitat Restoration and Public Access Improvements Planning and Design Project	\$438,000.00	\$416,186.09	\$21,813.91
Soquel Creek Stream Flow Stewardship Project	\$211,372.00	\$210,370.91	\$1,001.09
Total Recoveries to Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006			\$22,854.27

Table 7 - The California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018

Project Name	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Red Mountain	\$1,410,000.00	\$1,403,108.00	\$6,892.00
Toro Creek	\$1,750,000.00	\$1,750,000.00	\$0.00
Total Recoveries to The California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018			\$6,892.00

6. San Jacinto Wildlife Area Management Update

Consistent with the Board's request to respond to public comment during the May 20, 2020 meeting, staff of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) will discuss management of, and potential public access to, the San Jacinto Wildlife Area (WA), including the management planning process it undertook to establish the area's Management Plan.

The issues raised during public comment can be found [here](#). CDFW has provided a response that can be found [here](#).

7. Samoa Dunes and Wetlands

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$700,000 from Proposition 40, Public Resources Code Section 5096.650(1) for the grant to Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation Conservation District (District); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Samoa Dunes and Wetlands
Project Type:	Fee (357± acres)
Grantee:	Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District
Amount Recommended:	\$700,000
Funding Partners:	State Coastal Conservancy California Natural Resources Agency
County:	Humboldt
Program:	Land Acquisition Program
Funding:	Proposition 40
Strategic Plan Goals:	A.1, A.4, C.1 Objectives: SI 3.1, 3.2, 3.4
Disadvantaged Community:	Within a severely disadvantaged community

LOCATION

The property (Property) is located in the community of Samoa on the north spit of Humboldt Bay in Humboldt County. The Property is bounded on the west by one mile of Pacific Ocean coastline and on the east by Humboldt Bay. The city of Eureka lies across the Humboldt Bay.

The terrain of the vicinity and Property ranges from mudflats on Humboldt Bay to the wave slope and beaches at sea level to approximately 95 feet above sea level along the stabilized forested dune crest. Above the wave slope, a pronounced dune complex exists that contains many types of dunes including active parabolic dunes.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property is a vacant and irregularly shaped tract of land that consists of 12 assessor parcel numbers. Acquisition of the Property will add to nearly 1,300± acres of contiguous publicly protected dunes along a three-mile stretch of the coast. Habitat found on the Property includes wetlands, open dunes, and coniferous forest. The wetland, riparian, and forest areas provide connectivity between habitat types on the north spit where several rare, threatened, endangered, and protected species are known to occur. These species include the western snowy plover, little willow flycatcher, beach layia, Menzie's wallflower, Humboldt Bay wallflower, California red-legged frog, and Peregrine falcon.

The Property is located along the Pacific Flyway and its riparian and seasonal pond habitats and estuarine wetlands provide important foraging and resting

habitat for migratory bird species. Forested uplands provide nesting and forage habitat for large predatory birds such as bald eagle, osprey, and prairie falcons.

A complex of wetlands and adjacent uplands on the Property and surrounding area provide a large block of complementary coastal habitats that collectively function to serve wildlife. These areas are dominated by herbaceous species, including a mixture of native and non-native plants, forest, and wetlands. Seasonal ponding occurs on the Property during the long rainy season, and the wetlands remain lush late into the spring as a result of the cool, moist climate that extends into the summer months. The Property has several acres of estuarine wetlands along the edge of Humboldt Bay where waterfowl and shorebirds feed and rest during migration.

A large stretch of dunes occurs throughout the western extent of the Property. These dunes include seasonal dune swales, typical of dune complexes on the coast of northern California, which provide wildlife habitat and groundwater recharge.

The mature coastal coniferous forests in the Property's uplands are characterized by stately Sitka spruce trees, beach pines, and stands of Douglas fir. The Property's area is the southern-most extent of threatened and declining beach pine-Sitka spruce forest in the Pacific Northwest. Beach pine-Sitka spruce stands are uncommon along the southern Oregon and northern California coast, and are considered rare in California.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

Following the acquisition, the District will transfer title to the property to the Friends of the Dunes (FOD), the intended steward of the Property. FOD is a non-profit organization based in Humboldt County and is dedicated to conserving the natural diversity of coastal environments, including coastal ecosystem restoration, education programs, and guided walks. FOD will incorporate the parcel into its existing management plan. If approved, the project will preserve a significant bay-to-beach stretch of land between Humboldt Bay and the Pacific Ocean in Humboldt County and protect it in perpetuity for open space, wildlife habitat, recreation, and educational uses.

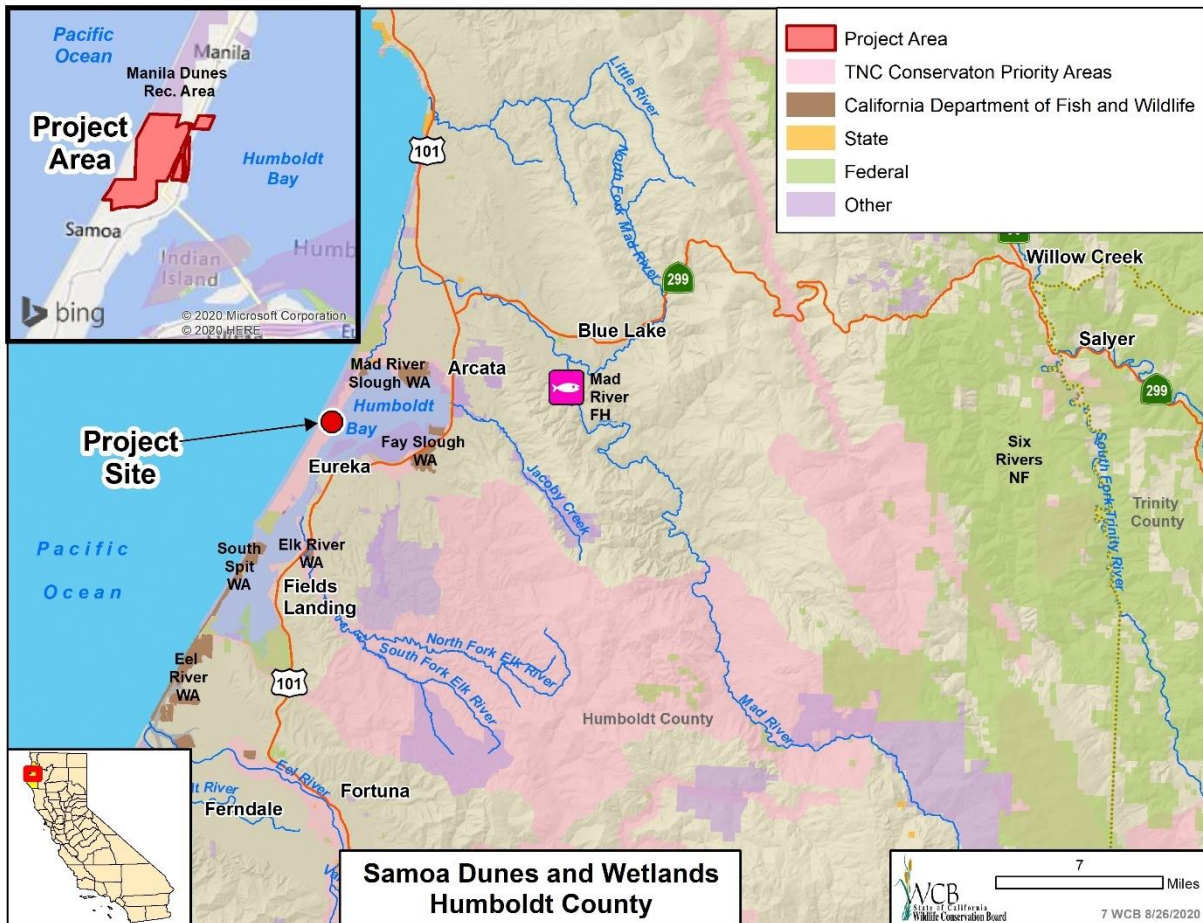
PROJECT FUNDING

The Department of General Services (DGS) approved fair market value is \$1,955,000. The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$700,000
State Coastal Conservancy	\$625,350
California Natural Resources Agency	\$669,650
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$1,955,000

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

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



8. Eel River Wildlife Area, Ocean Ranch Unit, Planning and Design Augmentation

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$150,000 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(d); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Eel River WA, Ocean Ranch Unit, Planning and Design Augmentation
Project Type:	Planning
Applicant/Grantee:	Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
Amount Recommended:	\$150,000
Funding Partners:	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Landowner(s):	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
County:	Humboldt
Program:	Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Program
Funding:	Habitat Conservation Fund
Strategic Plan Goals:	B.1 Objectives: SI 1.3, 2.4
Disadvantaged Community:	Within a disadvantaged community

LOCATION

The Project is located on the Ocean Ranch Unit of the Eel River WA, extending along the north split of the Eel River estuary until it meets Table Bluff at the south end of Humboldt Bay approximately 12 miles southwest of the city of Eureka.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In May 2017, WCB approved a \$750,000 grant to Ducks Unlimited, Inc. for the planning phase of the Ocean Ranch Restoration Project (ORRP). The goal of the planning phase is to complete environmental review, hydrodynamic modeling, wetland delineation, and special-status species surveys; invasive species management, submission of all required permit applications; and final restoration designs, specifications and construction cost estimates necessary to implement the Project. The completion of the planning phase will lead to a shovel-ready project, implementation of which would yield immediate habitat and species benefits.

The proposed augmentation will cover planning costs due to several unanticipated project changes. A hydrodynamic modeling report was completed in 2019, but the results showed potential for scour along McNulty Slough; therefore, additional model runs with additional design variations are needed to ensure that the project design will not have any scour impacts on adjacent lands. Further modeling of Eel River high flow scenarios will also be developed. The goal of the modeling is to demonstrate no impacts to neighboring lands. The additional modeling and design

costs include: model runs, report preparation, coordination meetings, and engineering design and drafting.

The primary goal of the planning phase is to complete planning, design and permitting for future implementation of ORRP to restore 473± acres of functioning tidal wetlands and 329± acres of coastal dunes in the Eel River estuary, to aid in the recovery of listed fish and special-status plant species.

To date, only one large-scale tidal wetland restoration (Salt River Ecosystem Restoration Project, Riverside Ranch, partially funded by WCB) has been implemented on the Eel River estuary. Planning for the ORRP is utilizing the successful tidal restoration efforts at Riverside Ranch, as well as regional invasive species management plans, to guide restoration planning.

Deliverables for the project include:

- Hydrodynamic modeling report;
- 60 percent design plans (all alternatives for environmental compliance);
- Joint CEQA/NEPA document;
- 90 percent and 100 percent design plans, specifications, and cost estimates (preferred alternative); and
- Permit application submittals.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Project Task	Total Cost	WCB Grant	CDFW	WCB Augmentation
Project Management, Meetings, Coordination	\$80,000	\$60,000	---	\$20,000
Engineering Design	\$149,000	\$109,000	---	\$40,000
Hydrodynamic Modeling	\$106,000	\$106,000	---	---
Environmental Compliance	\$542,500	\$402,500	\$50,000	\$90,000
Project Administration	\$67,750	\$67,750	---	---
Contingency	\$4,750	\$4,750	---	---
Total	\$950,000	\$750,000	\$50,000	\$150,000

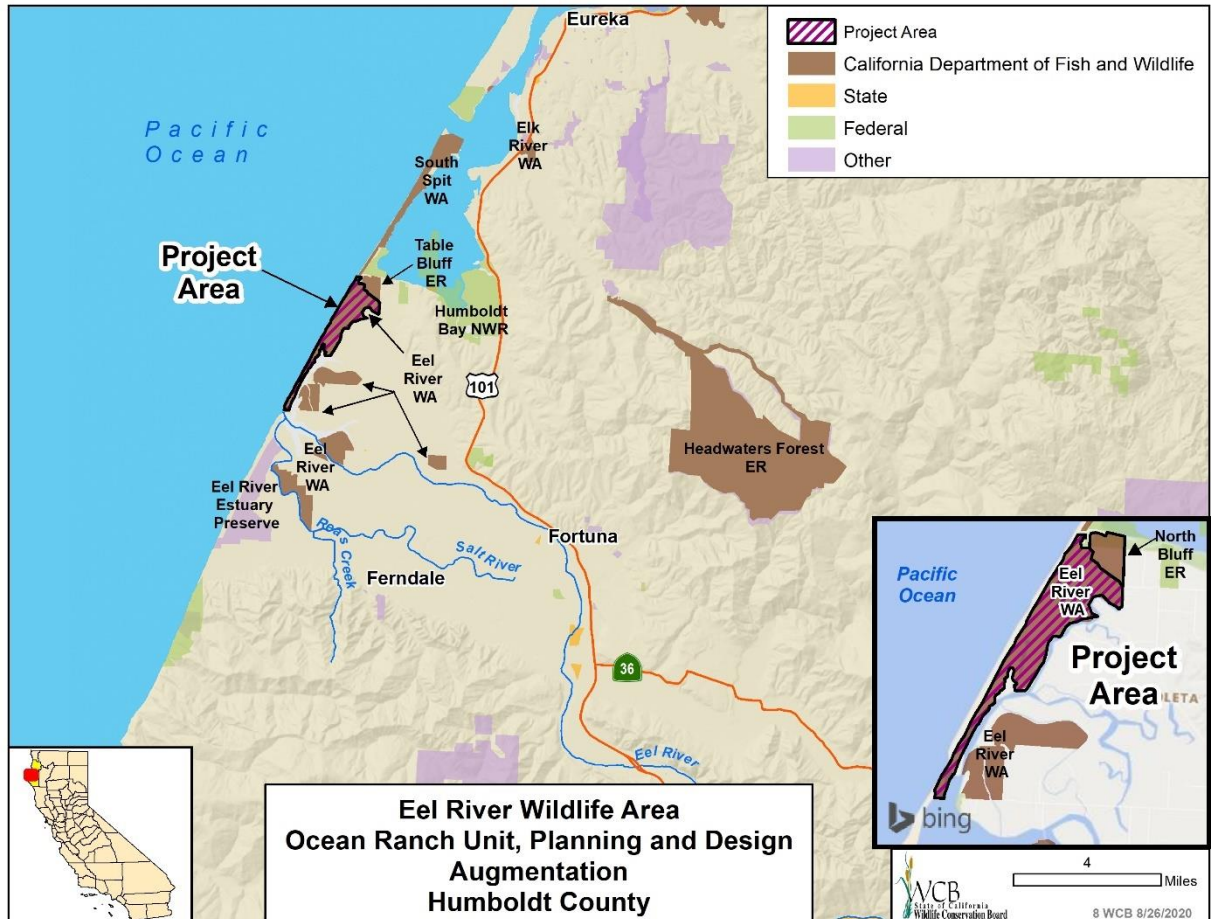
Project costs include:

- Project Management, Meetings, Coordination: Coordination with landowners, Technical Advisory Committee, partners, regulatory agencies; meetings, travel, project, and budgetary oversight, grant administration.
- Engineering Design: Hydrodynamic modeling, design plans and specifications, cost estimates.

- Hydrodynamic Modeling: Prepare hydrodynamic modeling report.
- Environmental Compliance: Complete the environmental review and prepare permit applications.
- Project Administration: Project management, accounting and deliverables.

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.



9. CAL FIRE Mailliard East Ranch Conservation Easement

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; approve the acceptance of a conservation easement (Easement) by CAL FIRE over 3,659± acres; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CAL FIRE to proceed substantially as planned. CAL FIRE is purchasing the Easement under the California Forest Legacy Program Act of 2007, with funding provided by the United States Forest Service.

Project Title:	CAL FIRE Mailliard East Ranch Conservation Easement
Project Type:	Conservation Easement (3,659± acres)
Amount Recommended:	\$0
Funding Partners:	Natural Resources Agency, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and Save the Redwoods League
County:	Mendocino
Program:	California Forest Legacy Program Act of 2007
Disadvantaged Community:	Within a severely disadvantaged community

LOCATION

The property (Property) is located north of Fish Rock County Road, 11 miles inland from the Pacific Coast, and west of State Route 128, approximately 21 miles southwest of the city of Ukiah between the towns of Booneville and Yorkville. WCB participated in funding the protection of the Mailliard West and Middle ranches, collectively 11,239± acres. The Mailliard Redwoods State Natural Reserve is adjacent to the East and Middle ranches to the south and the Garcia River Forest is adjacent to the West Ranch on its western boundary. These already protected lands, including all three Mailliard conservation easement projects, will result in over 85,973± acres of contiguous, permanently protected lands, including the Gualala River Forest, the Buckeye Forest, and conservation easements held by the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District on the Flat Ridge and Cooley ranches.

The Easement will protect some of the last remaining groves of significant old-growth redwood forest and includes 4.5 miles of fish-bearing streams that feed into the Garcia River watershed and expand into the Navarro River watershed.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property consists of 40 APNs consisting of 3,659± acres; if approved, this project will prohibit subdivision of the Property into small ranchettes and vineyards. The terrain varies from flat valley floor to steep canyons to gentle ridgetops with slopes ranging from 0 to 80 percent and the elevations range from 400± feet above sea level along the Rancheria Creek to 2,100± near the center, which allows for species migration, in response to climate change. The Property consists of conifer forest, significant old growth and mature late seral state redwood groves, pristine

riparian habitat, managed forest of mixed redwood and Douglas fir, grasslands, oak woodlands, and chaparral.

The Property is located in the Garcia and Navarro River watersheds, which are designated Critical Coastal Areas by the North Coast Regional Water Quality Board and are important to anadromous fisheries restoration, particularly for the populations of federally endangered coho salmon and steelhead. The Property and its diverse assemblage of high-quality redwood, oak woodland, chaparral, hardwood, and conifer also supports the northern spotted owl. Additionally, this Property supports Townsend's big-eared bats, golden eagles, red tree vole, black-tailed deer, red and yellow-legged frog, northwestern pond turtle, and marbled murrelets, as well as at least 59 native plant species.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The Easement will be owned and managed by CAL FIRE. CAL FIRE will coordinate with Save the Redwoods League and be responsible for enforcing the Easement through detailed baseline conditions documentation, planned annual compliance monitoring, recordkeeping, and regular communication with the landowners. A baseline conditions report, management, and grazing plans have been provided to WCB and CAL FIRE for approval.

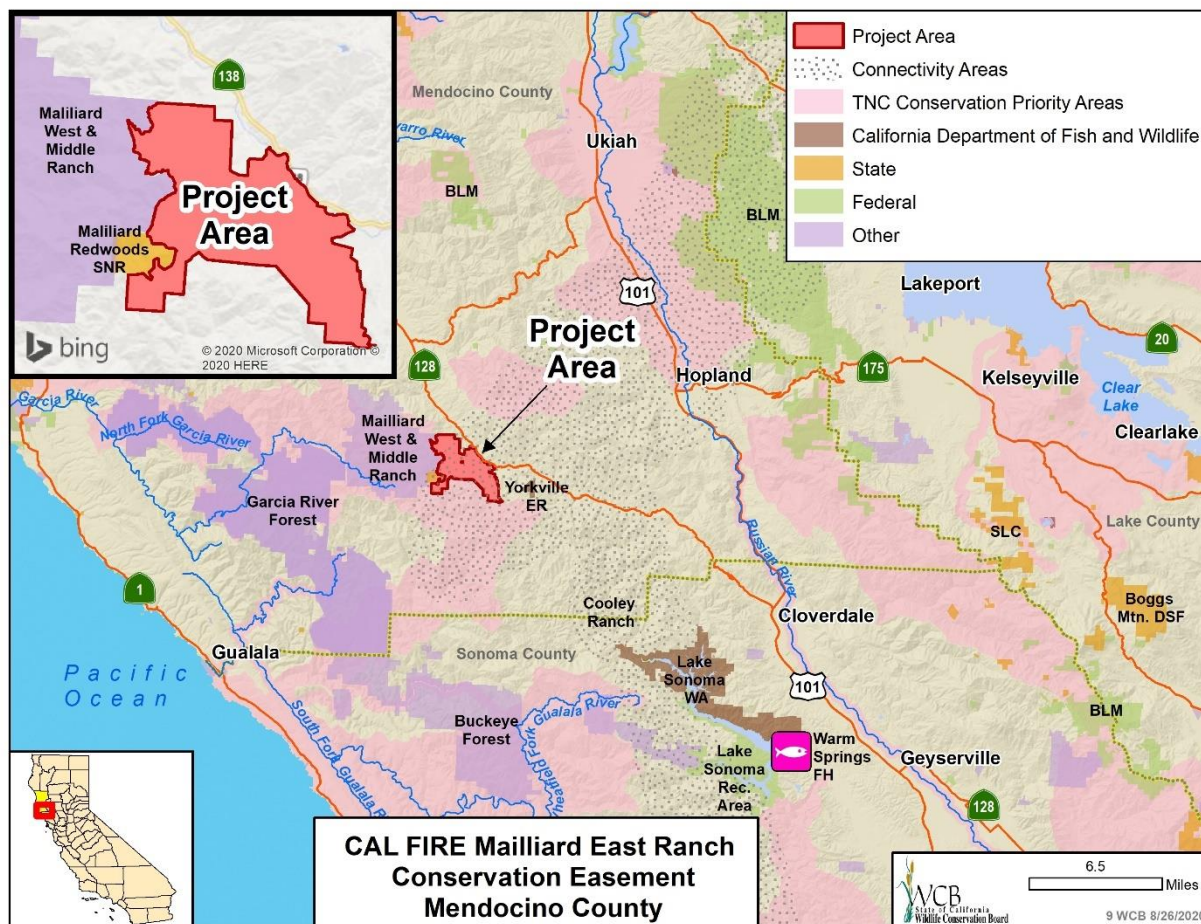
PROJECT FUNDING

The DGS approved fair market value is \$5,675,000. The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$0
Save the Redwoods League	\$668,750
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	\$250,000
Natural Resources Agency	\$500,000
Forest Legacy Program	\$4,256,250
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$5,675,000

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.



10. Crocker Meadows Wildlife Area, Expansion 3

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$369,000 from Proposition 84, Public Resources Code Section 75055(b) 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:	Crocker Meadows Wildlife Area, Expansion 3
Project Type:	CDFW Fee (231± acres)
Amount Recommended:	\$369,000
County:	Plumas
Program:	Land Acquisition Program
Funding:	Proposition 84
Strategic Plan Goals:	A.1, A.4, C.1 Objectives: SI 2.4, 3.2, 3.3
Disadvantaged Community:	Within a disadvantaged community

LOCATION

The proposed acquisition (Property) is north of State Route 70, near the small town of Beckwourth in the Sierra Valley area of Plumas County, approximately 55 miles north of the town of Truckee.

The Property reflects a multi-year effort to protect and conserve a working landscape with important resource and wildlife corridor values in and around Sierra Valley. The Property is almost entirely surrounded by public land and abuts the existing Crocker Meadows Wildlife Area (CMWA) to the east/north and U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to the west/north. The Plumas National Forest is south of the Property.

The Property will build upon over a decade of private and public investments to protect this working lands corridor. WCB has supported a significant number of fee and conservation easement acquisitions within the region, such as the original 1,731± acre CMWA acquisition and the recent 1,066 acre± CMWA acquisition, the 3,904± acre Goodwin and Red Clover Valley ranches conservation easement, the 5,640± acre Antelope Valley WA acquisition, the 13,110± acre Sierra Valley Conservation Area conservation easement, and the 1,455± acre Lemon Canyon Ranch conservation easement.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property is irregular in shape and has gently sloping topography. The Property is zoned for residential and agricultural uses. The Property is adjacent to the existing CMWA, which provides summer, winter, and key fawning habitat for the Loyalton Truckee Deer Herd (LTDH). Further, the area contains holding areas and major migration corridors used by deer as they travel between seasonal ranges. This Property could potentially provide public access for wildlife-based recreation on lands frequented by several game species including mule deer, black bear, gray squirrel, and California quail. The Property also provides habitat for several raptor

species including bald eagles, golden eagles, Swainson's hawks, red-tailed hawks, and rough-legged hawks. Additional species in the area are mountain lions, bobcats, pronghorn, and blue grouse. The Property contains a mix of habitats including montane hardwood/black oak woodland, bitterbrush, and a wetland seep.

The Property also provides a key linkage between existing U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and BLM administered lands.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

CDFW will be the owner in fee simple and will add this Property to the adjacent CMWA. Given the Property's location adjacent to the CMWA, additional management funds for staffing will not be required. Public access to the CMWA is currently provided for low-impact recreational activities, including hiking, wildlife viewing, birdwatching, photography, and hunting.

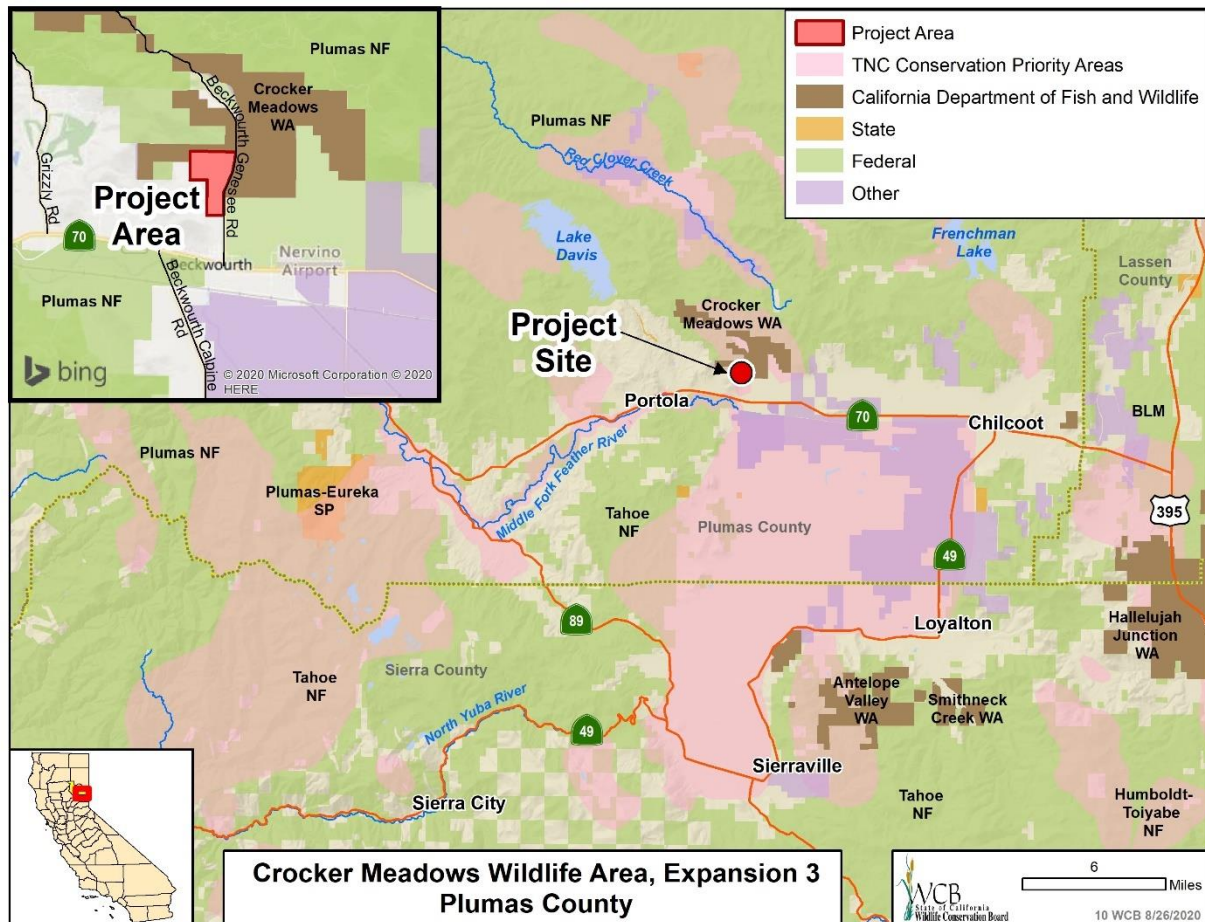
PROJECT FUNDING

The DGS approved fair market value is \$379,000. The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$379,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$379,000

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.



11. Middle Fork of the American River, Chapman Canyon

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$435,000 from Proposition 68, Public Resources Code Section 80132(f) for the grant to the American River Conservancy (ARC); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Middle Fork of the American River, Chapman Canyon
Project Type:	Fee (543± acres)
Grantee:	American River Conservancy
Amount Recommended:	\$435,000
Funding Partners:	N/A
County:	Placer
Program:	Forest Conservation Program
Funding:	Proposition 68
Strategic Plan Goals:	A.1, A.2, C.1 Objectives: SI 1.2, 4.1
Disadvantaged Community:	Not within a disadvantaged community

LOCATION

The property (Property) is located within the Upper American River watershed, approximately 17 miles northeast of the community of Foresthill in Placer County. The area is referred to as Mosquito Ridge and is a rural area similar to many areas in the Sierra Nevada Foothills. The surrounding area is predominately vacant land with limited development. Land uses include recreation, timber harvest and limited residential.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property is rectangular in shape and steeply sloped with some areas having slopes of approximately 50 degrees. The Property contains a variety of habitat types including riverine and mixed-conifer forest. The North Fork of the Middle Fork American River flows through the Property for approximately 2.5 miles. The Middle Fork American River originates in the Granite Chief WA, and is characterized by steep canyons, natural waterfalls and quiet riparian areas. The Upper American River watershed provides the main source of drinking water for Sacramento, Placer, and El Dorado counties.

This is an important river reach for native fish, including rainbow trout, hardhead, Sacramento pikeminnow, Sacramento sucker, riffle sculpin, California roach and speckled dace. The American River also supports a robust and large population of foothill yellow-legged frog, a California Species of Special Concern, and a candidate species for listing under the California Endangered Species Act. The riparian habitat found on the Property is part of an important migration corridor allowing un-interrupted movement from the Tahoe National Forest to Auburn State Recreation Area and other protected lands. Acquisition of the Property will not only

help to protect water supply and quality, but will also protect significant riparian and aquatic resources.

Twenty-three miles of the Middle Fork American River are eligible for National Wild and Scenic River status. The Property is almost entirely surrounded by the North Fork Middle Fork American River roadless area of the Tahoe National Forest. Maintaining contiguity within roadless areas is important from both a habitat protection and forest management perspective. The North Fork of the Middle Fork American River is an unimpaired river with a natural hydrograph. Acquisition of the Property will permanently protect this stretch of the river and associated habitat, ensuring healthy spawning and rearing habitat for native species. The surrounding upland habitat on the Property provide a movement corridor for many native terrestrial species including coyote, mule deer, black bear and mountain lion. Furthermore, the Property will protect a significant amount of upper watershed lands in order to maintain and improve water quality and improve efficiencies associated with forest management activities on a landscape scale.

The Property is zoned Forestry 160 acre minimum, which is intended to designate portions of the mountainous areas of Placer County where the primary land uses relate to the growing and harvesting of timber and other forest products, together with public and commercial recreational uses. The Property is improved with an unpermitted cabin which will be demolished and removed after close of escrow. The Property could be split into three smaller parcels through subdivision. Subdivision of the Property could result in degradation of habitat and water quality due to timber harvest, road construction or high-impact recreational residential infrastructure development associated with properties of this type. Connectivity to an existing national forest trail system could be lost as well if the Property is not protected. Protection of the Property through fee title acquisition will ensure habitat connectivity and trail connectivity, while also ensuring that no future development or habitat degradation will occur.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

Immediately following acquisition, ARC will manage the Property according to its Land Use Policies and grant requirements. In the year following acquisition, ARC will complete a Land Management Plan that provides additional management guidance. Due to the nature of the surrounding land management by Tahoe National Forest, ARC expects to explore the possibility of donating the Property to the USDA Forest Service in order to improve forest management efficiencies on a landscape scale. In the next five years, Tahoe National Forest will be completing their Forest Management Plan, and ARC will be involved in reviewing and commenting on this plan as an engaged stakeholder and conservation partner in the region.

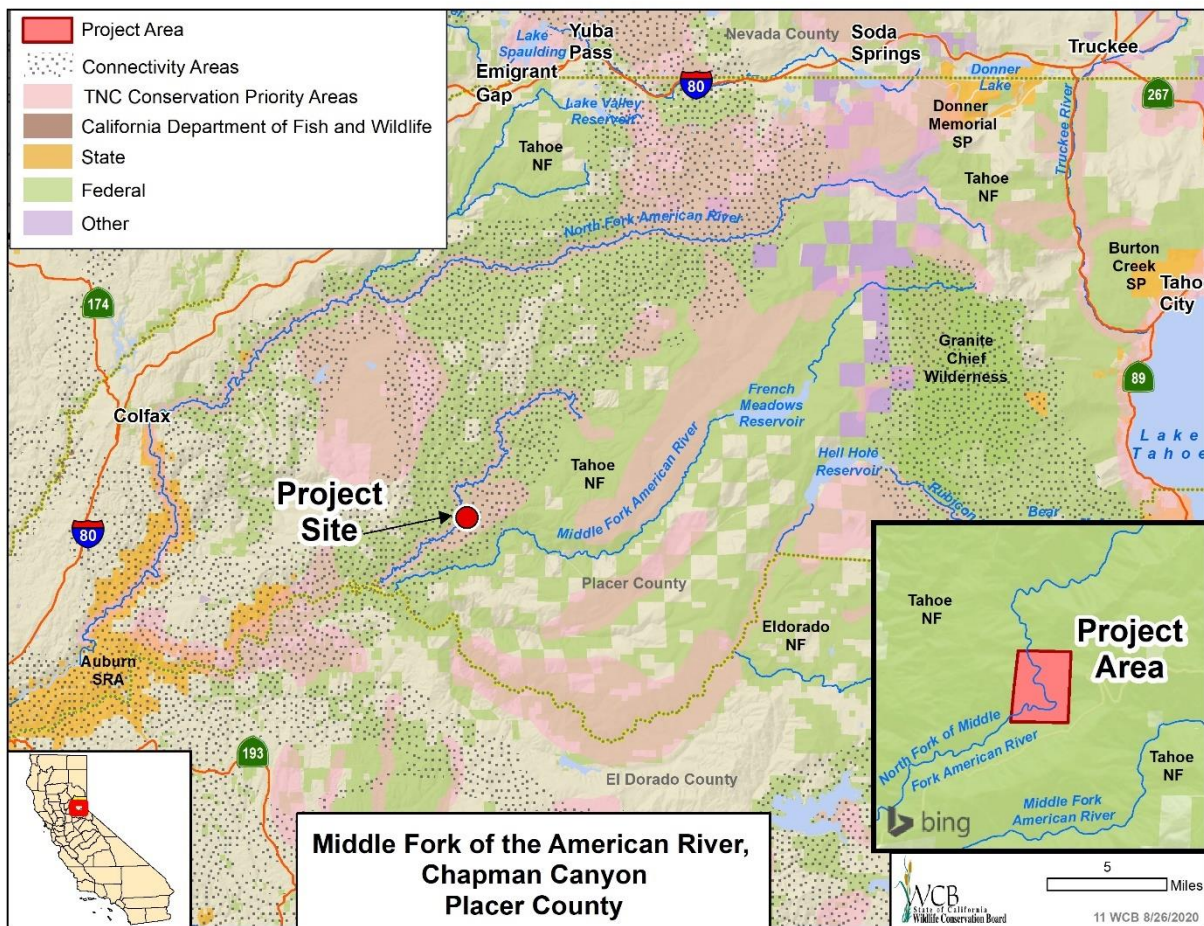
PROJECT FUNDING

The DGS approved fair market value is \$435,000. The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$435,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$435,000

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.



12. Log Meadow Restoration

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$191,472 from 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:	Log Meadow Restoration
Project Type:	Implementation
Applicant/Grantee:	American Rivers
Amount Recommended:	\$191,472
Funding Partners:	American Rivers, CDFW, National Parks Service, and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Landowner(s):	Sequoia National Park
County:	Tulare
Program:	Forest Conservation Program
Funding:	Proposition 68
Strategic Plan Goals:	B.1 Objectives: SI 1.6, 2.3, 2.4, 4.1
Disadvantaged Community:	Not within a disadvantaged community

LOCATION

Log Meadow is located along Crescent Creek, a tributary to the Middle Fork Kaweah River, in Sequoia National Park and approximately 12 miles northeast of Three Rivers. Log Meadow is an 18± acre montane sloping meadow located at an elevation of 6,800 feet within Giant Forest, a 2,312± acre grove of giant sequoia trees.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Starting in 1861, Log Meadow served as a base camp for ranching operations in the Giant Forest. Ditches were excavated to drain portions of the meadow in the interest of improving cattle grazing. Although the meadow is no longer grazed, remnant ditches and gullies impact the meadow's ecological function. For example, these ditches confine and drain flow that would otherwise inundate the larger meadow. As a result of this impaired hydrologic connection between the channel and meadow surface, the water table in the meadow lowered, ecosystem function is impaired (e.g., groundwater recharge), and habitat converted from wet meadow habitat to upland habitat.

The Project will fill the ditches and gullies within a 2± acre area of Log Meadow to allow flow to broadly disperse across the meadow as surface flow, thereby reducing peak flows in the spring, increasing summer stream flow, and improving groundwater recharge. In addition, the Project will utilize biomass bales (e.g., hand-harvested grass and wood material) to explore the effectiveness of "light-handed" meadow restoration instead of placing soil or rock fill material as is common.

The expected results of the proposed project are twofold: 1) return hydrological and ecosystem processes across Log Meadow, and 2) a case study of innovative, light-handed meadow restoration techniques catalyzes meadow restoration at additional locations, such as access-restricted wilderness areas.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

Sequoia National Park adopted a Resource Stewardship Strategy in 2017 that guides management actions for the property, including management of the project area. If at any time during the 25-year life of the Project, American Rivers 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:

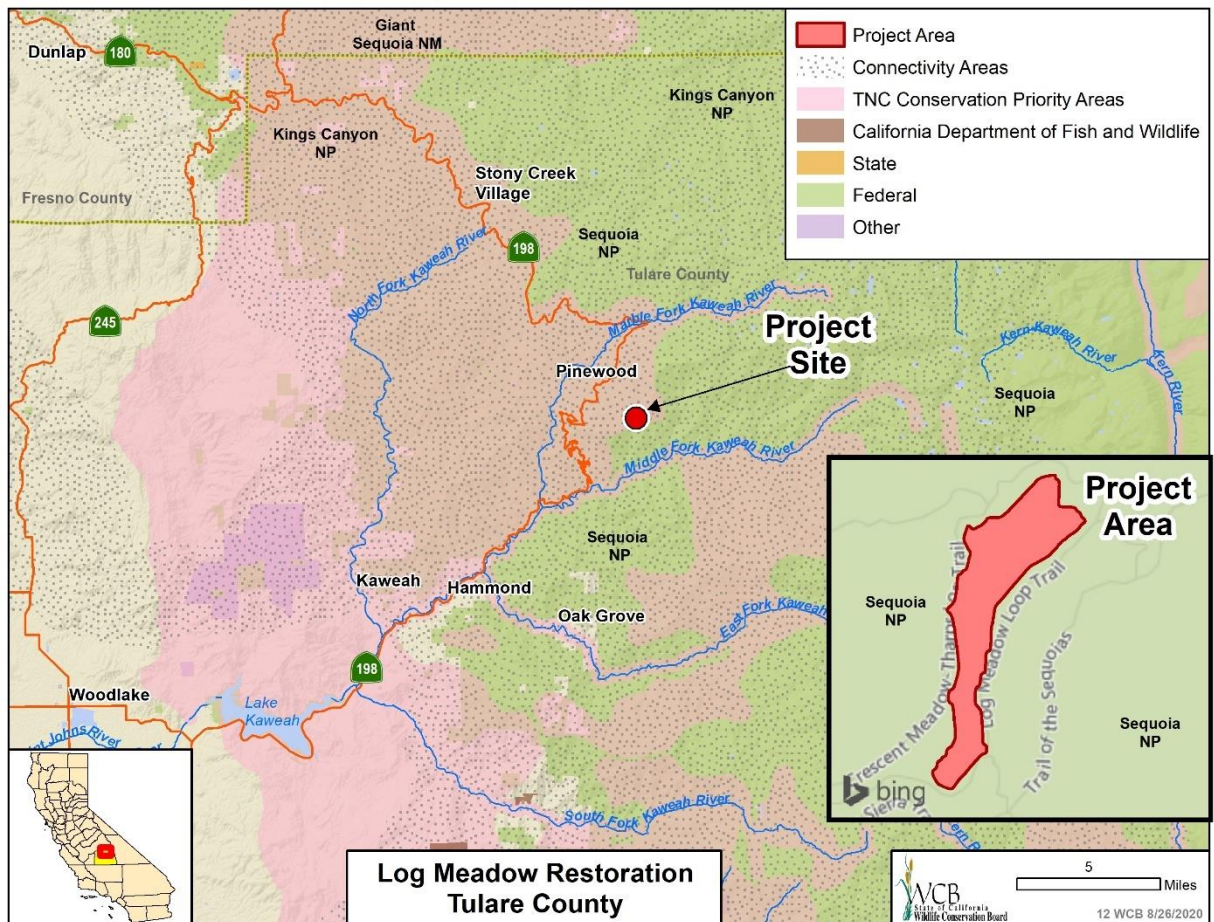
Project Task	Total Cost	WCB	Non-WCB Funds
Project Management	\$42,805	\$21,282	\$21,523
Restoration	\$200,835	\$123,335	\$77,500
Monitoring	\$93,560	\$38,060	\$55,500
Administration	\$22,795	\$8,795	\$14,000
Total	\$359,995	\$191,472	\$168,523

Project costs include:

- Project Management: Project team coordination, stakeholder communications and outreach, and 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, and 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 project is proposed as exempt from CEQA pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3) Section 15333, Class 33, Small Habitat Restoration Projects, as a project not exceeding five acres in size to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of habitat for fish, plants, or wildlife. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.



13. June Mountain Forest Restoration

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$441,000 from 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:	June Mountain Forest Restoration
Project Type:	Implementation
Applicant/Grantee:	California Trout, Inc.
Amount Recommended:	\$441,000
Funding Partners:	California Trout, Inc., Sierra Nevada Conservancy, U.S. Forest Service
Landowner(s):	Inyo National Forest
County:	Mono
Program:	Forest Conservation Program
Funding:	Proposition 68
Strategic Plan Goals:	B.1 Objectives: SI 1.4, 1.6, 2.4, 4.1
Disadvantaged Community:	Within a disadvantaged community

LOCATION

June Mountain Ski Area (JMSA) and the surrounding forest is located in Inyo National Forest, approximately two miles south of June Lake. JMSA operates under a special use permit provided by USFS.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Whitebark pine is a candidate for listing under the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) due to massive declines of whitebark pine forests across their western North American range. JMSA is near the southernmost extent of the species' range.

The historically severe 2012-2016 California drought precipitated an outbreak of mountain pine beetle that killed 80 to 90 percent of whitebark pine in the JMSA and surrounding forest. Before the drought, the nearby town of June Lake already possessed a 'Very High' fire hazard rating according to the County's Wildfire Protection Plan (Mono County 2009). The drought greatly exacerbated the massive amounts of dead and dry fuels within the wildland-urban interface in this area.

The Project is part of a larger landscape-scale effort on private and USFS land in and around the town of June Lake intended to reduce fuels and improve forest health. The Project will implement forest treatments that are designed to mimic the natural fire regime and reduce potential wildfire severity and enhance forest health by: 1) reducing tree density and removing ladder fuels which reduces the risk for intense and fast-moving crown fires, 2) removing disease vectors from the system, and 3) enhancing ecosystem resiliency by creating forest patches that support pine

recruitment. The Project would also thin encroaching conifers from mountain meadows and aspen stands.

Ultimately, the Project will treat 121± acres of a fire-suppressed whitebark and lodgepole pine, mountain pine beetle-killed forest, 20± acres of conifer-encroached mountain meadows, and 24± acres of conifer-encroached quaking aspen stands.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

Inyo National Forest has 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, CalTrout, Inc. 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:

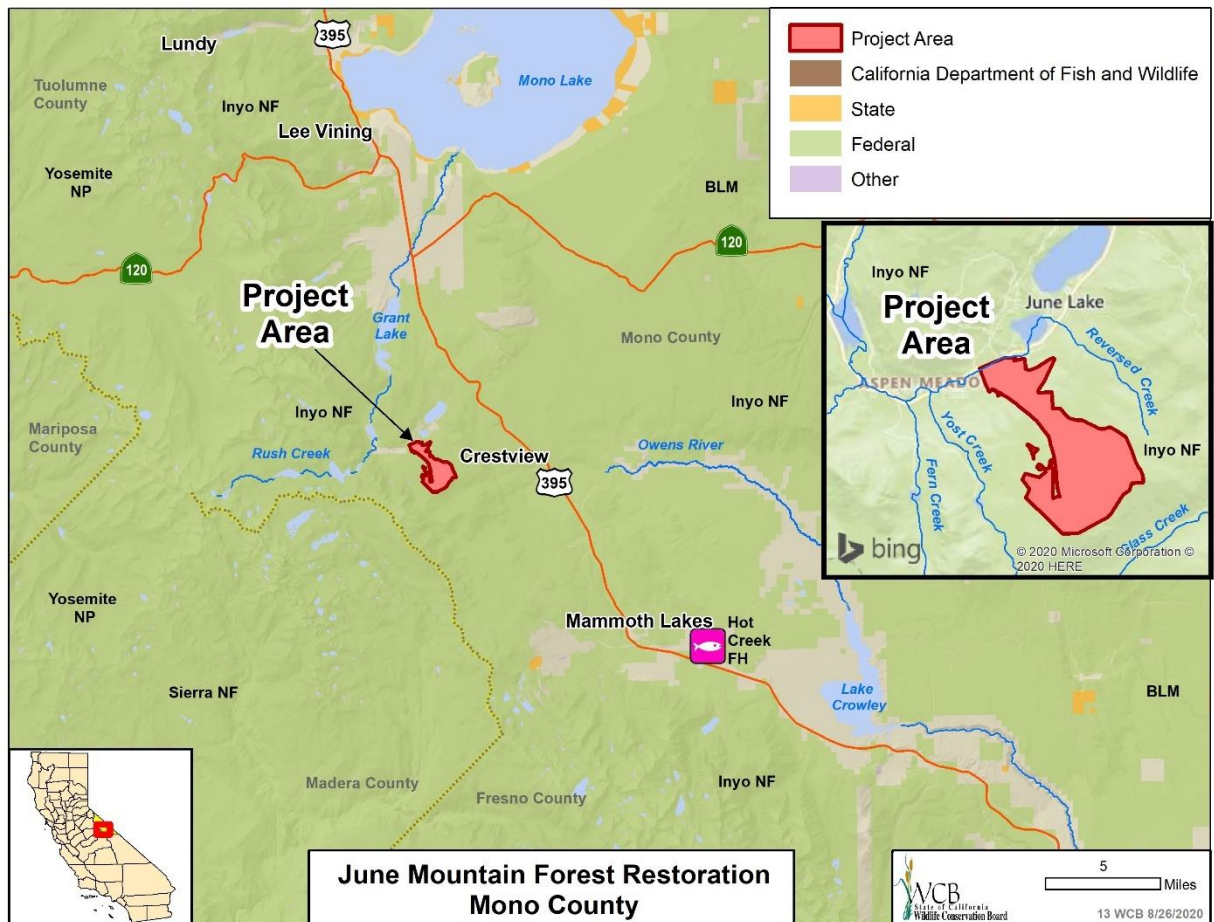
Project Task	Total Cost	WCB	Non-WCB Funds
Project Management	\$99,708	\$43,085	\$56,623
Restoration	\$818,632	\$381,250	\$437,382
Monitoring	\$7,850	\$7,850	---
Administration	\$15,487	\$8,815	\$6,672
Total	\$941,677	\$441,000	\$500,677

Project costs include:

- Project Management: Project team coordination, stakeholder communications and outreach, and 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, and 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.



14. Morongo Basin, Expansion 7

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$89,250 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c) for the grant to Mojave Desert 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:	Morongo Basin, Expansion 7
Project Type:	Fee (29± acres)
Grantee:	Mojave Desert Land Trust
Amount Recommended:	\$89,250
Funding Partners:	Mojave Desert Land Trust
County:	San Bernardino
Program:	Land Acquisition Program
Funding:	Habitat Conservation Fund
Strategic Plan Goals:	A.1, A.4, C.1, C.4 Objectives: SI 1.3, 2.4, 3.1, 3.4
Disadvantaged Community:	Within a severely disadvantaged community

LOCATION

The property (Property) is situated in southwestern San Bernardino County near the desert community of Morongo Valley, in the Morongo Basin just west of Yucca Valley, on the North side of State Route 62. Presently, this region supports semi-rural residential development, and the area is experiencing expansion of rural residential and rural ranchette development on sensitive desert lands that are home to Joshua trees, desert tortoise, and Mojave yucca.

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

The Morongo Basin is a high desert region within the southeast portion of the Mojave Desert, with relatively flat to rolling hill terrain. This desert region is known mainly for the Joshua tree that dominates most of the open space desert habitat areas. The state and federally threatened desert tortoise can also be found in this area and is the focal point of many of the desert conservation efforts that take place in the region. To the south of State Route 62 is Joshua Tree National Park and to the north is the Marine Corp Air Combat Center at Twentynine Palms, both are large landscape size open space/ecosystems. The acquisition will help preserve the Joshua Tree North Linkage that is a linkage to the larger portion of the Joshua Tree-Twentynine Palms habitat linkage connection. The linkage occurs within an ecological transition zone between the Mojave and Sonoran (Colorado) desert eco-regions and connects the Joshua Tree National Park and the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property is an undeveloped, irregularly shaped rectangular tract of land that includes a single assessor parcel number. The Property has been managed as speculation for development, as are many such privately-owned properties located in the Western Morongo Basin.

The Property will preserve habitat and potential habitat for listed and special status species including the state and federally listed desert tortoise, fully protected golden eagle, Species of Special Concern including the American badger, northern harrier hawk, loggerhead shrike, and Le Conte's thrasher, and the CDFW Watch List's prairie falcon. The Property also contains rare and protected native plant species that include Joshua trees and Mojave yucca.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

MDLT will be responsible for the long-term management of the Property. The Property will be added to MDLT's existing holdings in the Morongo Basin and will be managed in accordance with the CAPP as a small piece of a larger wildlife corridor. MDLT generally allows public access for hiking, bird watching, and wildlife viewing. MDLT provides education and outreach experience, and volunteer opportunities for all ages. MDLT does practice active monitoring and restoration efforts on their lands and runs a desert plant nursery that provides their properties with native desert plants.

PROJECT FUNDING

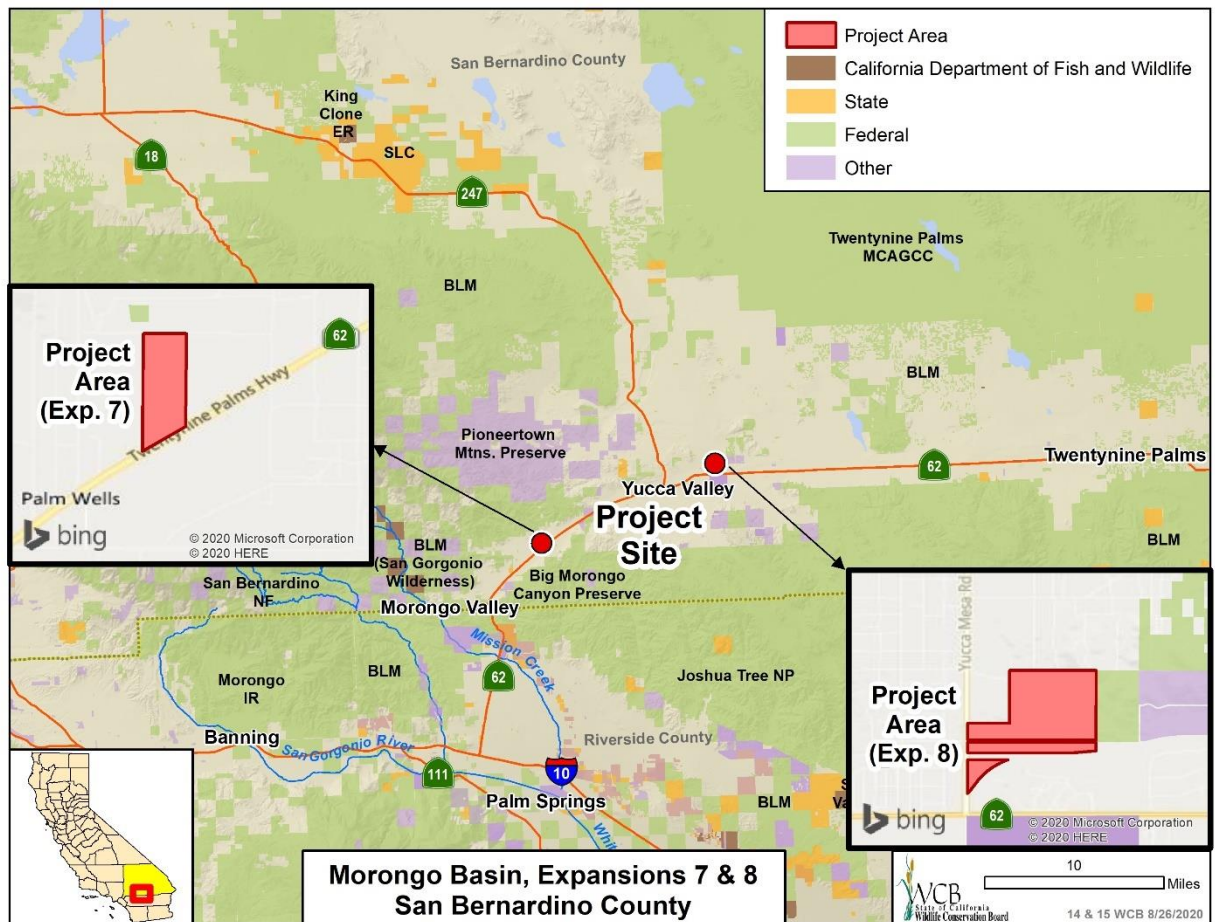
The DGS approved fair market value is \$105,000. The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$89,250
Mojave Desert Land Trust	\$15,750
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$105,000

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.

Wildlife Conservation Board Meeting, August 26, 2020



15. Morongo Basin, Expansion 8

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$663,000 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c) for the grant to Mojave Desert Land Trust (MDLT); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Morongo Basin, Expansion 8
Project Type:	Fee (206± acres)
Grantee:	Mojave Desert Land Trust
Amount Recommended:	\$663,000
Funding Partners:	Mojave Desert Land Trust
County:	San Bernardino
Program:	Land Acquisition Program
Funding:	Habitat Conservation Fund
Strategic Plan Goals:	A.1, A.4, C.1, C.4
Disadvantaged Community:	Objectives: S1 1.3, 2.4, 3.1, 3.4 Within a severely disadvantaged community

LOCATION

The property (Property) is situated in southwestern San Bernardino County near the desert community of Joshua Tree, in the Morongo Basin just east of Yucca Valley, on the North side of State Route 62 and adjacent to MDLT offices and native plant nursery. Presently, this region supports semi-rural residential development, and the area is experiencing expansion of rural residential and rural ranchette development on sensitive desert lands that are home to Joshua trees, desert tortoise, and Mojave yucca.

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

The Morongo Basin is a high desert region within the southeast portion of the Mojave Desert, with relatively flat to rolling hill terrain. This desert region is known mainly for the Joshua tree that dominates most of the open space desert habitat areas. The state and federally threatened desert tortoise can also be found in this area and is the focal point of many of the desert conservation efforts that take place in the region. To the south of State Route 62 is Joshua Tree National Park and to the north is the Marine Corp Air Combat Center at Twentynine Palms, both are large landscape size open space/ecosystems. The acquisition will help preserve the Joshua Tree North Linkage that is a linkage to the larger portion of the Joshua Tree-Twentynine Palms habitat linkage connection. The linkage occurs within an ecological transition zone between the Mojave and Sonoran (Colorado) desert eco-regions and connects the Joshua Tree National Park and the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property is an undeveloped, irregularly shaped rectangular tract of land that includes three assessor's parcels. The Property has been managed as speculation for development, as are many such privately-owned properties located along State Route 62 in this part of the Morongo Basin.

The Property is vacant, lacks topographical change, and is zoned for commercial and residential uses. The surrounding area is characterized by a significant amount of developed rural homesteads, commercial development along State Route 62, and desert scrub landscapes.

The Property will preserve habitat and potential habitat for listed and special status species including the state and federally listed desert tortoise, fully protected golden eagle, Species of Special Concern including the American badger, northern harrier hawk, loggerhead shrike, Le Conte's thrasher, and CDFW Watch List's prairie falcon. The Property also contains rare and protected native plant species that include Joshua trees and Mojave yucca.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

MDLT will be responsible for the long-term management of the Property. The Property will be added to MDLT's existing holdings in the Morongo Basin and will be managed in accordance with the CAPP as a small piece of a larger wildlife corridor. MDLT generally allows public access for hiking, bird watching, and wildlife viewing. MDLT provides education and outreach experience, and volunteer opportunities for all ages. MDLT does practice active monitoring and restoration efforts on their lands and runs a desert plant nursery that provides their properties with native desert plants.

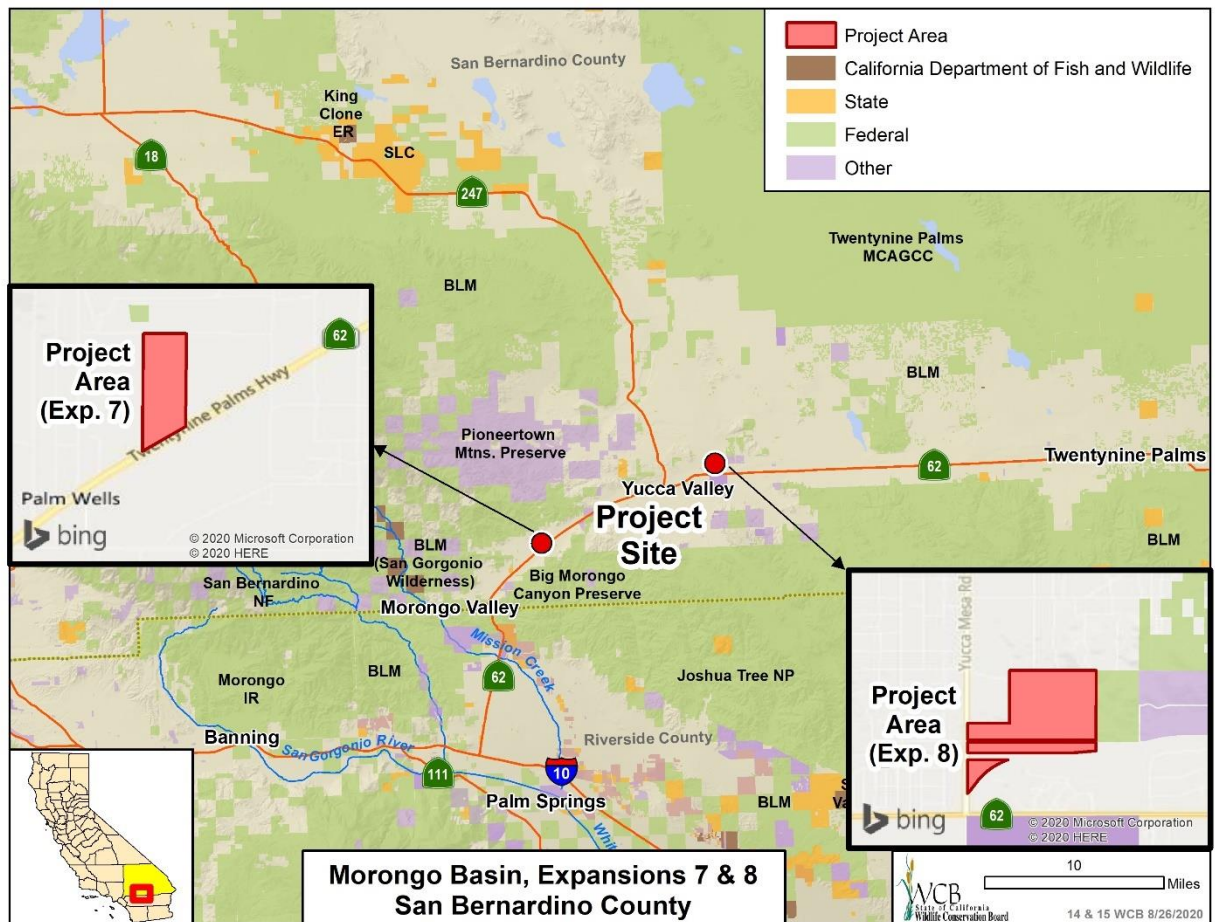
PROJECT FUNDING

The DGS approved fair market value is \$780,000. The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$663,000
Mojave Desert Land Trust	\$117,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$780,000

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.



16. Bolsa Chica Tern Islands Restoration

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$135,000 from Proposition 68, Public Resource 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:	Bolsa Chica Tern Islands Restoration Project
Project Type:	Planning
Applicant/Grantee:	Bolsa Chica Land Trust
Amount Recommended:	\$135,000
Funding Partners:	California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Bolsa Chica Land Trust
Landowner(s):	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
County:	Orange
Program:	Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Program
Funding:	Proposition 68
Strategic Plan Goals:	B.1 Objectives: SI 1.3, 2.4, 3.4
Disadvantaged Community:	Not within a disadvantaged community

LOCATION

Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve (BCER) is an approximately 1,300±-acre coastal estuary, owned and operated by the CDFW. The property was designated as an ecological reserve by the Fish and Game Commission in 1993. Habitats at the reserve include open water, mudflats, salt marsh, coastal dunes, seabird nesting islands, riparian and freshwater marsh. More than 200 avian species have been identified at Bolsa Chica and the reserve is very popular with birders and photographers.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In the 1970s, two seabird nesting islands (North and South) were created from abandoned oil well pads on the southwestern portion of what was later to become the BCER. The North Island was 1.8± acres in size and the South Island was 1.7± acres.

As of August 2019, the North Island, known as North Tern Island (NTI), has slightly increased in size to 1.9± acres. Although its original three mounds are still present, they and the rest of the surface have eroded due to decades of rainfall and tidal action. Most of NTI's outer edges are fringed by pickleweed and other marsh plants. In addition to resident Belding's Savannah sparrows, several migratory tern species nest on NTI during the spring and summer months. These include Caspian, royal, elegant, and Forster's terns and black skimmers. During autumn and winter months, migratory species such as pelicans use the island for resting.

As of August 2019, the South Island, known as South Tern Island (STI) is severely eroded and only 0.6 acres of viable nesting space remains for threatened or endangered species; namely, Western snowy plover and California least tern. STI

hosts a greater variety of marsh plants than NTI and it is also used by resident Belding's Savannah sparrows as well as several additional migratory bird species.

Both seabird nesting islands have experienced erosion to the point that portions of these islands become flooded during high tides, including the spring and summer months when birds are nesting on them. In recent years, California least tern, elegant tern and Caspian tern nest failure has occurred on these islands due to flooding and this problem is expected to worsen as erosion continues and the effects of sea level rise impacts the site. In order to improve the habitat value of these islands for migratory bird species and to guard against the effects of sea level rise, Bolsa Chica Land Trust seeks to increase the surface elevation of both tern islands within Inner Bolsa Bay. The project's goal is to create a restoration plan and acquire the permits to restore critical wildlife habitat used by several listed avian species and make this habitat resilient to sea level rise and climate change.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Project Task	Total Cost	WCB	Non-WCB Funds
Project Administration	\$125,250	\$110,250	\$15,000
Permit Fees	\$10,000	\$10,000	---
General Expenses	\$1,250	\$1,250	---
Indirect Charges	\$13,500	\$13,500	---
Total	\$150,000	\$135,000	\$15,000

Project costs include project management, data collection/review, creation of a restoration plan, creation of a permitting/compliance plan, completion of permitting documentation.

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.



17. Western Riverside MSHCP (2017) Welsh

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$161,000 Proposition 68, Public Resources Code Section 80111(b), for the grant to the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority (WRCRCA); accept the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition grant in the amount of \$299,000 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:	Western Riverside MSHCP (2017) Welsh
Project Type:	Fee (19± acres)
Grantee:	Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority
Amount Recommended:	\$161,000
Funding Partners:	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
County:	Riverside
Program:	Land Acquisition Program
Funding:	Proposition 68
Strategic Plan Goals:	A.1, A.3, A.4 Objectives: SI 1.2, 1.3, 2.2
Disadvantaged Community:	Not within a disadvantaged community

LOCATION

The property (Property) is 19± acres and is located at the northwest corner of Avocado Mesa and Avenida Perla Bonita roads situated 6± miles southwest of the city of Murrieta, in unincorporated western Riverside County.

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.

The general terrain of the Property and the surrounding area 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 ranching and agricultural land uses and 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), 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 on site is gently rolling, to rough, to steep. Elevation varies from 1,822 feet at the northern corner of the parcel rising to 2,222 feet at the southwest corner of the parcel. The Property consists of oak woodland and chaparral vegetation communities. An ephemeral drainage runs along the eastern border of the Property. The Property is zoned R-R rural residential with a ½ acre minimum lot size. Adjacent parcels are vacant open space land, owned almost entirely by WRCRCA.

Important biological resources are found on the Property, including oak woodland 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 listed as federally threatened and a state Species of Special Concern. The coast range newt, grasshopper sparrow, and loggerhead shrike are state Species of Special Concern. The white-tailed kite is a state fully protected species.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

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, WRCRCA retains a reserve manager to ensure that management actions are consistent with the plan. Management costs for parcels acquired under the WRC MSHCP will be provided by WRCRCA's operating funds.

PROJECT FUNDING

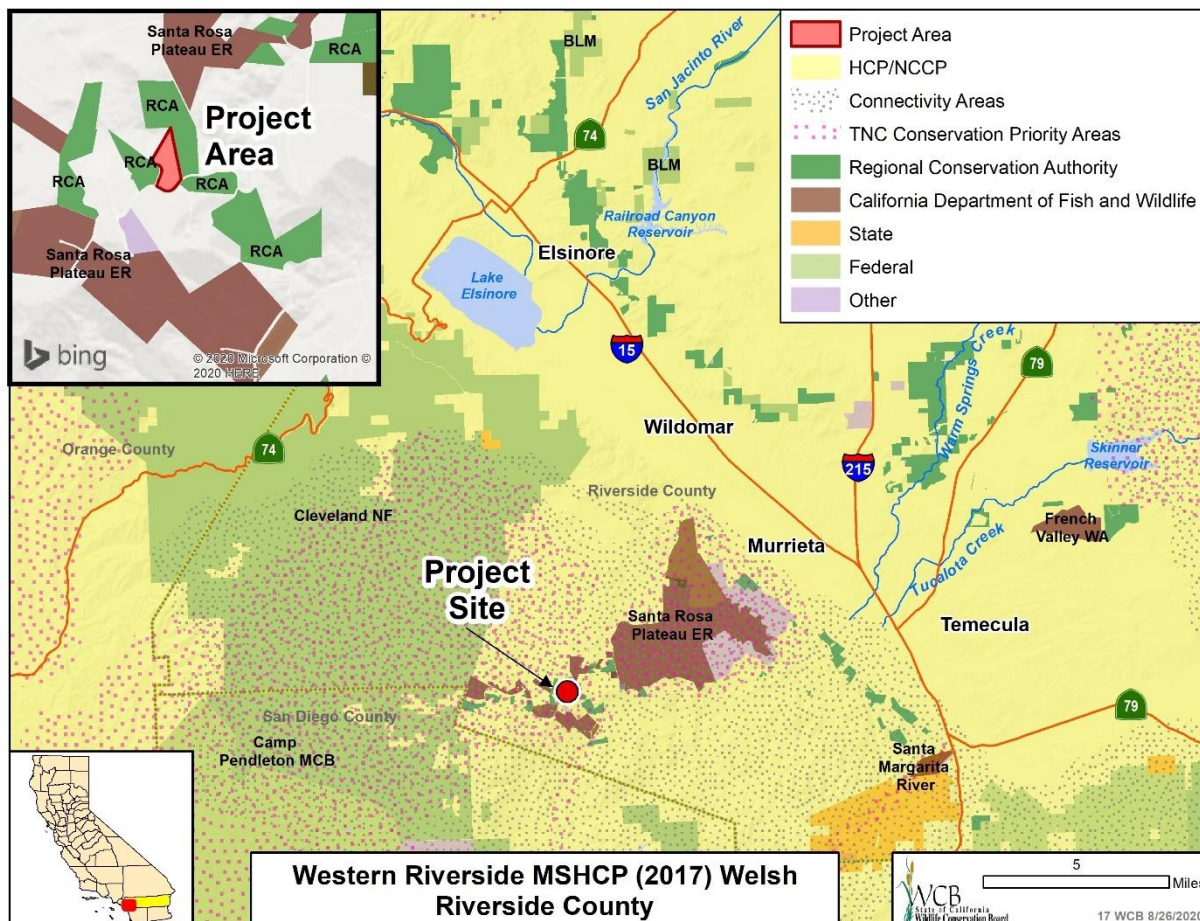
The DGS approved fair market value is \$460,000. The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$161,000
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	\$299,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$460,000

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.



18. Otay Mesa Vernal Pool

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$24,500 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786 (b/c) for the grant to the City of San Diego (City); accept the Recovery Land Acquisition grant from USFWS in the amount of \$45,500 and authorize the subgrant of these federal funds to the City; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Otay Mesa Vernal Pool
Project Type:	Fee (1± acre)
Grantee:	City of San Diego
Amount Recommended:	\$24,500
Funding Partners:	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and City of San Diego
County:	San Diego
Program:	Land Acquisition Program
Funding:	Habitat Conservation Fund
Strategic Plan Goals:	A.1, A.3, A.4 Objectives: SI 1.2, 1.3, 2.2, 5.2
Disadvantaged Community:	Not within a disadvantaged community

LOCATION

The property (Property) is approximately 1± acre in size and is in an area known to consist of vernal pool habitat. The Property is within the community of San Ysidro within the San Diego city limits. The Property is located behind San Ysidro High School off Caliente Avenue on an unnamed dirt road not far from the international border between the United States and Mexico. Commercial, residential, and industrial development is common in this area. These developed areas give way to large open vernal pool habitat properties heading south from the Otay Mesa Freeway and Caliente Avenue.

The general terrain of the vicinity is flat mesa type platform marked by steeply incised arroyos. The mesa tops generally support grasslands and vernal pool wetlands. The surrounding area is characterized by a significant amount of development associated with the San Ysidro area and the greater eastern side of San Diego.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property is vacant and contains a gently sloping drainage throughout and is zoned for residential use. Acquisition of the Property will remove the possibility of development and preserve the viewshed from Otay Mesa Road and San Ysidro High School. The Property will preserve vernal pool habitat and potential habitat for listed species of vernal pool plants and invertebrates.

The Property is located in the City's Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP). The NCCP, which was spearheaded by the City, has identified an urgent

need to protect areas identified in the Recovery Plan for Vernal Pools of Southern California.

The surrounding area around Otay Mesa is a grassland region along the border with Mexico, with relatively flat to rolling hill terrain. This grassland is known mainly for its vernal pool habitat areas. San Diego vernal pools provide essential habitat for six federally endangered species: San Diego mesa mint, Otay Mesa mint, San Diego button-celery, California orcutt grass, Riverside fairy shrimp, and San Diego fairy shrimp. To the east is Pacific Gateway Park, a large landscape, open space ecosystem protecting similar habitat types. The acquisition will help add to the area's protected lands.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The City will be responsible for the long-term management of the Property. The Property will be added to the City's existing holdings in Otay Mesa and will be managed in accordance with the NCCP. The City will generally practice a "hands off" or passive management approach to the management of this Property; therefore, ongoing operations and maintenance costs are expected to be relatively limited.

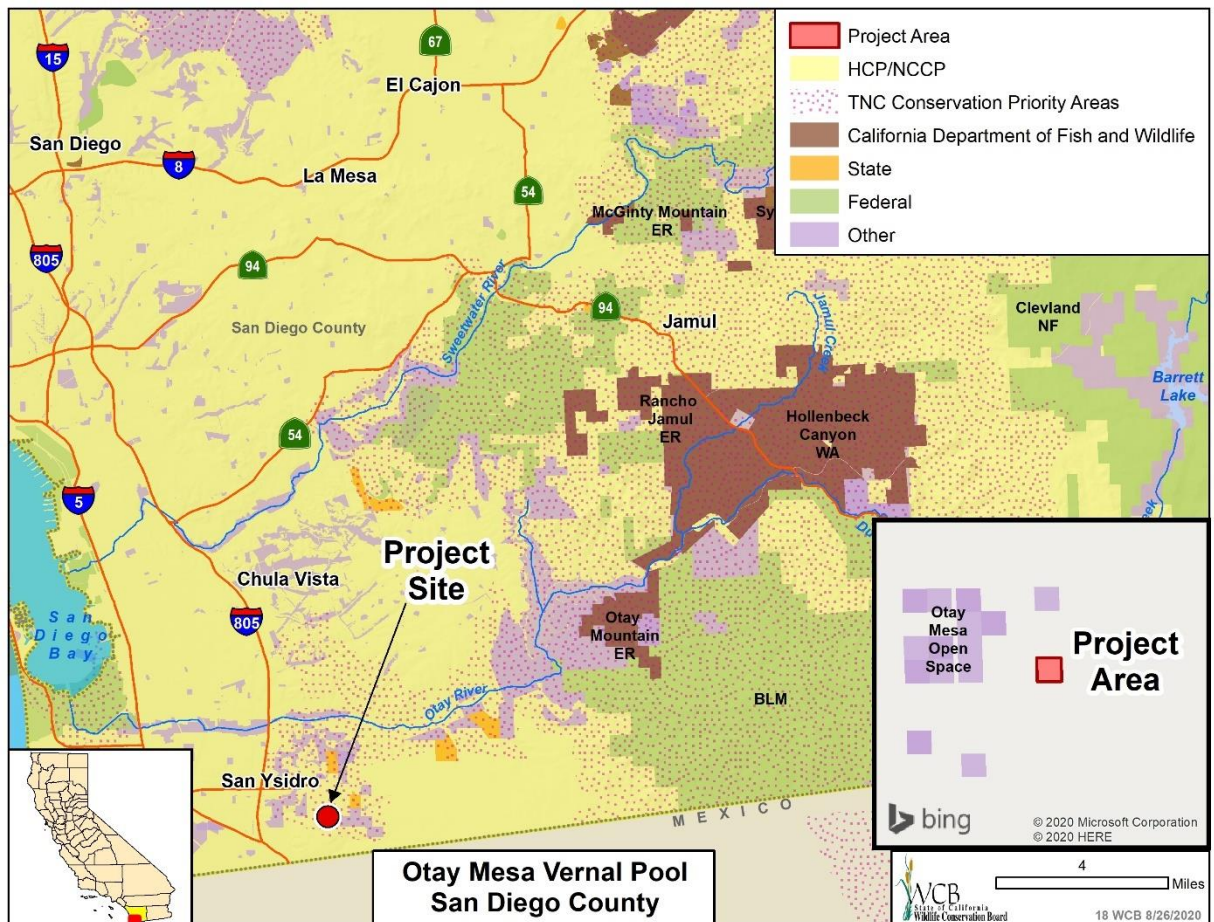
PROJECT FUNDING

The DGS approved fair market value is \$70,000. The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$24,500
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	\$45,500
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$70,000

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.



Proposed Items

19. Rancho Jamul Land Exchange

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB adopt the written findings and approve this project as proposed; approve the exchange of properties between CDFW and GDCI Proctor Valley, L.P., a Delaware limited partnership, (GDCI) per the terms of the land exchange agreement; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Rancho Jamul Land Exchange
Project Type:	Land Exchange
Amount Recommended:	\$0
County:	San Diego
Program:	Land Acquisition Program
Strategic Plan Goals:	A.1, A.3, A.4
Disadvantaged Community:	Not within a disadvantaged community

LOCATION

The exchange properties (Properties), owned by CDFW and GDCI, are in an area known as Proctor Valley (Valley) in southwestern unincorporated San Diego County (County). The Properties are situated approximately 15 miles east of downtown San Diego, 1 mile northeast of the city of Chula Vista, and 1 mile southwest of the community of Jamul. California State Route 125, a County north-south freeway, provides access to the Properties by way of Proctor Valley Road, a County maintained public road.

The Properties are nestled in a rural foothill area and are adjacent to, nearby, or part of the 5,600± acre CDFW Rancho Jamul Ecological Reserve (Reserve). The Properties and the Reserve are identified in the County's San Diego Multiple Species Conservation Program, Subarea Plan (MSCP) which provides a unique framework that balances region-wide conservation efforts with streamlined building regulations and permit processes to support healthy community growth. The MSCP ensures compliance with both the Federal Endangered Species Act, California Endangered Species Act, and State Natural Communities Conservation Planning Act. The Reserve is an important component of the MSCP, supporting a multi-habitat preserve system that supports large areas of coastal sage scrub, annual grasslands, and riparian habitat that benefit sensitive species.

The Reserve is bounded by numerous public ownerships that connect to provide a large core area of conserved land, including the BLM's Otay Mountain Wilderness Area, the USFWS San Diego-Sweetwater National Wildlife Refuge, CDFW's Hollenbeck Canyon Wildlife Area, and various city and County ownerships.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed Land Exchange Agreement is consistent with a Dispute Resolution Agreement (DRA) entered into by CDFW, USFWS, County, and GDCI. The parties entered into the DRA to resolve differences associated with proposed development of GDCI-owned lands in the Valley under the MSCP Subarea Plan. The Parties agreed to an alternative land development plan that requires a land exchange between CDFW and GDCI. In 2003, with the support of two USFWS nontraditional Section 6 grants and approved WCB matching funds, CDFW acquired 1,445± acres of land (CDFW lands) to support its obligation to the MSCP. The CDFW lands are now part of the Reserve with a 219± acre portion (CDFW Exchange Lands) now subject to the proposed exchange for 339± fee title acres currently owned by GDCI along with a 191± acre conservation easement on GDCI land (collectively, the Acquisition Properties). The Acquisition Properties are adjacent to, or in the vicinity, of the Reserve.

The Acquisition Properties proposed for exchanged to CDFW will become part of the Reserve providing a net increase of 120± acres of land that would be owned in fee by CDFW, plus an additional 191± acres of land protected under the conservation easement held by CDFW. The conservation easement is strategically located to provide for a fully viable east-west regional wildlife corridor between other large tracts of conserved lands along with also providing the opportunity to properly monitor the property to prevent excessive public use from trails. In addition, the Acquisition Properties support a superior preserve design configuration creating a broader east-west track of connectivity land between Sweetwater Reservoir/San Miguel Mountain to the west, and eastward through other portions of the Reserve and CDFW's Hollenbeck Canyon Wildlife Area and also improves the north-south linkage between San Miguel Mountain and Otay Lakes. The contiguous connectivity created by the Acquisition Properties provides CDFW with a more uniform Reserve area to manage efficiently. With proper management, the Acquisition Properties' habitat is suitable to, and will benefit, the primary sensitive species: the federally endangered Quino checkerspot butterfly along with the federally threatened coastal California gnatcatcher and western spadefoot toad.

The County has approved a "Current Land Plan" (Plan) that GDCI could implement to the extent it is consistent with the County's MSCP if this exchange does not materialize. The Plan would allow for the development of 468 dwelling units, and supporting recreational parks, a swim club, and open space on the Acquisition Properties. If the Plan were implemented, permanent fragmentation of potential habitat connectivity would occur with severe edge effects of development infringing on the outlying areas of the current Reserve structure. The exchange negotiated in the DRA and proposed here, would avoid the permanent fragmentation by allowing for development of the CDFW Exchange Lands after the exchange, creating a more compact development footprint and significantly reducing the linear edge effects between development and sensitive habitat of the original Plan. If the exchange does not occur, GDCI plans to implement the Plan which would result in 130± acres of the CDFW Exchange Lands becoming surrounded on three sides by

new housing development along with a four-lane road on the fourth side. The biological integrity of the current Reserve structure, including sensitive species habitat and corridors, would also be expected to substantially decline over time.

CDFW, in coordination with WCB, has requested that the USFWS authorize the exchange of the CDFW Exchange Lands for the Acquisition Properties. This request was necessary pursuant to Federal regulations (2 CFR §200.311) that requires USFWS approval to exchange lands acquired with Section 6 funding. As this approval is considered a federal action, USFWS is required to complete environmental compliance including under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and Endangered Species Act (ESA) prior to authorizing the exchange. To meet NEPA requirements, the USFWS posted an Environmental Assessment on their website for 30 days and coordinated with Native American tribes. The USFWS has communicated that the public comment period ends on August 24, 2020. USFWS will respond to any public comments and complete their environmental review before making a decision on WCB's request for the exchange. If USFWS concludes that the exchange is warranted, they will respond with specific disposition instructions. At the conclusion of this process, the encumbrances associated with the section 6 grant acquisitions will be removed from the CDFW Exchange Lands and recorded on the Acquisition Properties. The exchange of land will not occur unless USFWS gives approval for the exchange.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

CDFW will be responsible for the long-term management of the Acquisition Properties as part of the Reserve. The Acquisition Properties will be managed in accordance with the existing Reserve management plan. The proposed exchange is supported by a Land Conversion Evaluation (LCE) prepared by CDFW which concludes that the proposed exchange is biologically superior to that which would result from implementation of the Plan.

TERMS

The Acquisition Properties were appraised as having a fair market value of \$56,485,000. The CDFW Exchange Lands were appraised as having a fair market value of \$31,000,000. Per the terms of the exchange agreement, no compensation will be exchanged between CDFW or GDCI for the difference in value of the CDFW Exchange Lands and the Acquisition Properties. The appraisals covering all the properties have been reviewed and approved by DGS. WCB must review and approve all title documents, appraisals, preliminary title reports, exchange documents, escrow instructions, and instruments of conveyance prior to the exchange.

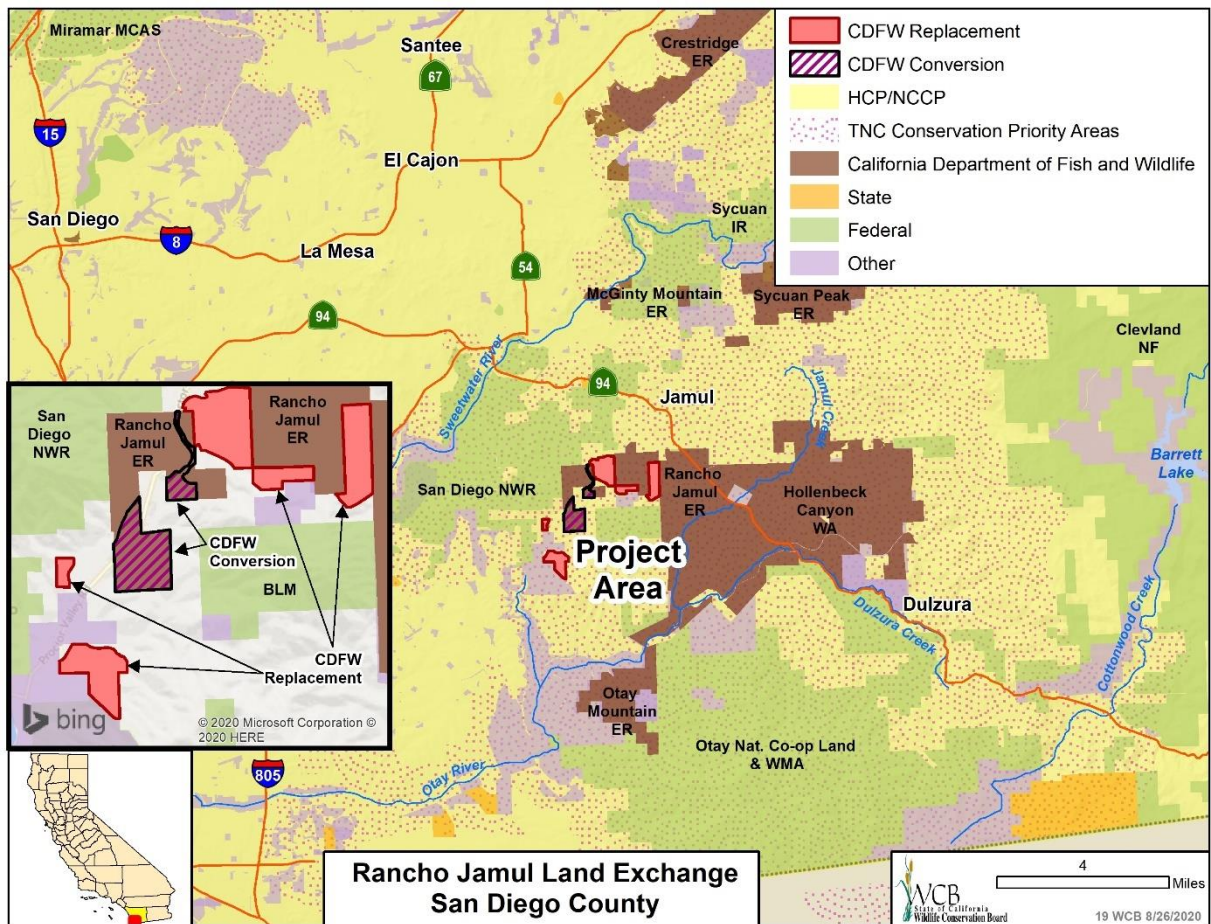
WCB PROGRAM

The proposed exchange is being considered under WCB's Land Acquisition Program (Program). The Program is administered pursuant to the Board's original enabling legislation, "The Wildlife Conservation Law of 1947" (Fish and Game Code Section 1300, et seq.), which authorizes WCB, under Fish and Game Code Section 1348(c)(2), to exchange real property or rights in real property held under

the jurisdiction of CDFW. These activities were carried out in conjunction with CDFW, which prepared a LCE to provide justification for the exchange. The LCE must be approved by subdivisions within CDFW that includes the land acquisition coordinators in the Regional Office, Lands Program, Regional Manager, and Deputy Director for the Wildlife and Fisheries Division. The LCE is then submitted to the Director for final approval and submission to WCB for its consideration and final approval.

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

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



20. Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area Oswit Property

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$1,225,000 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c) and Proposition 68, Public Resources Code Section 80111(b) for the grant to Save Oswit Canyon, Inc. (SOC); accept the USFWS Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition grant in the amount of \$3,700,000 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:	Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area, Oswit Property
Project Type:	Fee (114± acres)
Grantee:	Save Oswit Canyon, Inc.
Amount Recommended:	\$1,225,000
Funding Partners:	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy, Save Oswit Canyon, Inc.
County:	Riverside
Program:	Land Acquisition Program
Funding:	Habitat Conservation Fund and Proposition 68
Strategic Plan Goals:	A1, A.3, A.4, E1 Objective SI 1.2, 1.3, 2.2, 2.4
Disadvantaged Community:	Within a disadvantaged community

LOCATION

The property (Property) is located in the City of Palm Springs (City) in an area known as Oswit Canyon, which is situated against the eastern slopes of the San Jacinto Mountains. The Property resides on the City's central western boundary and is approximately three miles southwest of downtown Palm Springs. California State Route 111 is the main thoroughfare that intersects the City and provides access to the Property by way of South Palm Canyon Drive, a major access road for the highly developed western portion of Palm Springs. Immediately to the west and south of the Property is open space leading up to the San Jacinto and Santa Rosa mountain ranges, while to the east and continuing north, a six-mile contiguous swath of residential and commercial properties occupies the landscape.

The Property is in a region known as the Coachella Valley (Valley), which extends for approximately 45 miles in Riverside County southeast from the San Bernardino Mountains to the northern shore of the Salton Sea. The Valley is bounded by the outlying mountain ranges of the San Jacinto Mountains on the west, the Santa Rosa Mountains on the south, and the Little San Bernardino Mountains on the north and east. Approximately 100 miles east of Los Angeles, the Valley is considered one of the fastest growing areas in the rapidly expanding Riverside County. The Valley's urban and residential development has been growing quickly,

and with a population of nearly 600,000 people, it is part of the Inland Empire, the thirteenth largest metropolitan area in the United States.

The Property is adjacent to and compliments the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area, a designated conservation area within the Coachella Valley Multi Species Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan (CV MSHCP/NCCP) area approved for the Coachella Valley portion of Riverside County. The purpose of the CV MSHCP/NCCP is to provide a regional vision for balanced growth to meet the requirements of federal and state endangered species laws, while promoting enhanced opportunities for recreation and tourism. The CV MSHCP/NCCP aims to conserve an additional 240,000± acres of open space to support the 500,000± acres of pre-existing conservation land for the protection of 27 plant and animal species. With the support of other conservation partners, the state and the federal government have helped conserve approximately 96,000± acres within the CV MSHCP/NCCP.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property consists of four contiguous undeveloped parcels totaling approximately 114± acres, characterized by natural desert terrain consisting mostly of native vegetation, identified as Sonoran creosote bush scrub, as well as important mixed woody habitat, and succulent scrub habitat. The topography is hillside with moderate to severe upslope with nearby alluvial fans that descend from the east, from the higher elevations of the San Jacinto Mountains, supporting several ravines that move water across Oswit Canyon.

Peninsular Bighorn Sheep (PBS), a federally endangered species, inhabit the San Jacinto Mountains and have been historically recorded in Oswit Canyon. One unique aspect of PBS is they frequent lower elevation alluvial fan areas, compared to other desert bighorn sheep species that stay in higher elevations areas. Alluvial fans in the canyon provide nutritious forage that is important to bighorn sheep during lambing season, in drought conditions, and throughout the year. Unfortunately for the PBS, alluvial fans in the Valley also represent some of the more desirable development areas, abutting the mountains and having slightly higher elevations, that places them outside the windier areas of the valley floor and provide superior views. Within the Valley most of the alluvial fan areas have already been impacted by development. Oswit Canyon contains the only remaining large undeveloped alluvial fan in the City that has not been conserved.

The current landowner has filed a proposed tentative map that would allow for the development of 59 residential units, but has agreed to sell the Property for conservation purposes. This acquisition would permanently protect the Property, preventing future development and habitat fragmentation, while providing core habitat linkages and foraging corridors for the PBS. PBS are endangered by widespread habitat loss and degradation, particularly in the San Jacinto and Santa Rosa mountains, which border the rapidly developing City. Conservation of habitat along urban-wildland interfaces is a high priority for PBS conservation. The Property's linkages and corridors that will be connected with other surrounding

protected core habitat areas allows for range shifts and migration of species in light of climate change. Along with the PBS, the acquisition will benefit the federally threatened desert tortoise as well as the at-risk species of Le Conte's thrasher, Gray vireo and southern yellow bat.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

SOC is dedicated to the preservation, restoration and protection of natural open space in the Valley. With the support of volunteers and donations, SOC will manage, monitor and support the implementation of various restoration projects on the Property. The Property will be maintained in conjunction with other properties contained within the CV MSHCP/NCCP. The Property may be considered for future appropriate passive recreational uses.

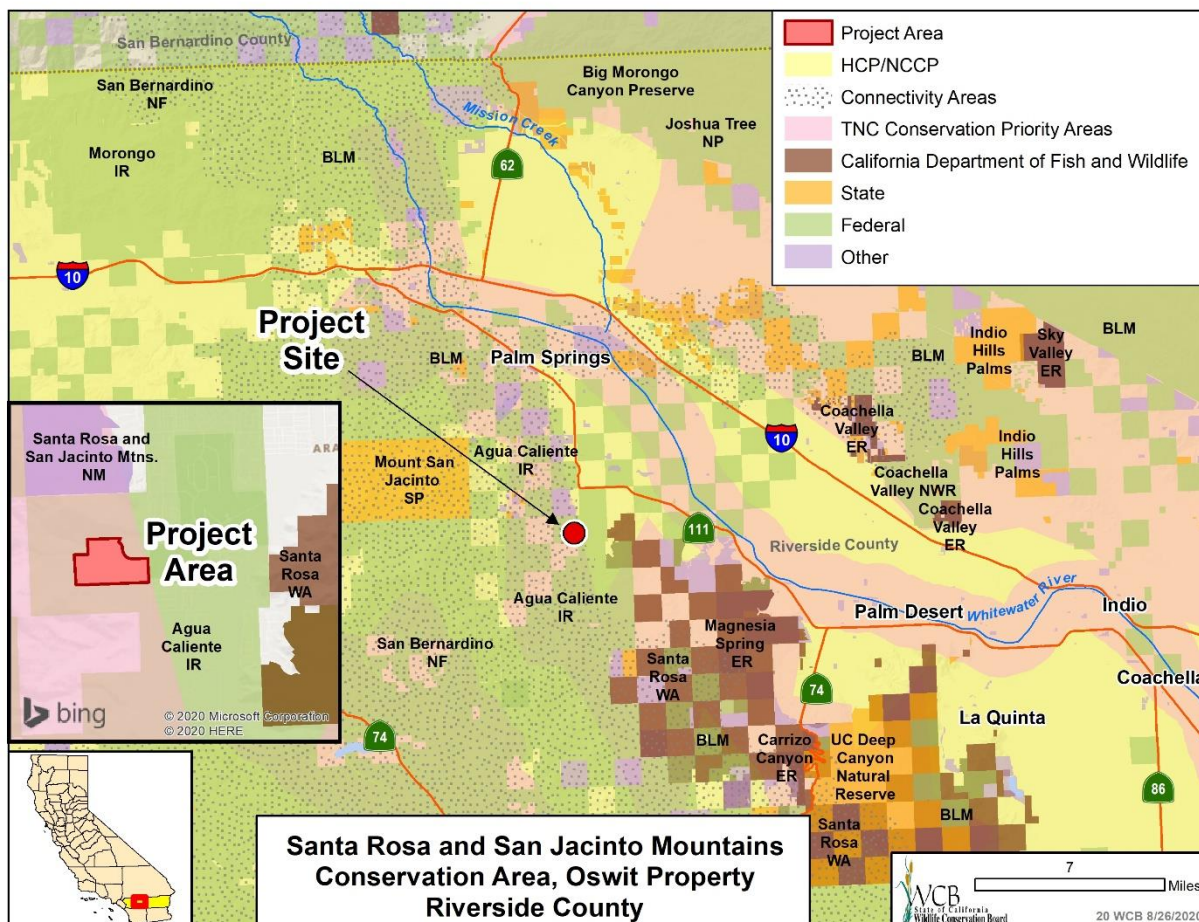
PROJECT FUNDING

The DGS approved fair market value is \$7,150,000. The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

WCB	\$1,225,000
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Section 6 Funds	\$3,700,000
Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy	\$1,225,000
Save Oswit Canyon, Inc.	\$1,000,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$7,150.000

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.



21. Confluence Meadow Restoration

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB adopt the written findings and approve this project as proposed; allocate \$670,000 from 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:	Confluence Meadow Restoration
Project Type:	Implementation
Applicant/Grantee:	American Rivers
Amount Recommended:	\$670,000
Funding Partners:	American Rivers, U.S. Forest Service
Landowner(s):	Lassen National Forest
County:	Lassen
Program:	Forest Conservation Program
Funding:	Proposition 68
Strategic Plan Goals:	B.1 Objectives: SI 1.6, 2.3, 2.4, 4.1
Disadvantaged Community:	Within a disadvantaged community

LOCATION

Confluence Meadow is located in Lassen National Forest in the Pine Creek watershed, approximately 24 miles northwest of Susanville. Confluence Meadow is situated at the confluence of Pine and Little Harvey creeks, approximately 12 miles upstream of Eagle Lake.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Pine Creek is the primary inflow for Eagle Lake, which is the natural spawning habitat for Eagle Lake Rainbow Trout (ELRT), a subspecies of rainbow trout that is endemic to Eagle Lake. Meadow habitat in the Pine Creek watershed has been degraded through past grazing practices (e.g., prior decades of heavy, largely unrestricted grazing) that compromised streambank vegetation and stability, impacted stream channel function, and reduced hydrologic function (e.g., water retention and infiltration). A Conservation Agreement for the ELRT reflects the collaborative effort to recover ELRT by implementing conservation measures like habitat restoration. Confluence Meadow is the top restoration priority identified in a 2015 collaborative assessment of meadows in the watershed and restoration is a priority identified in the Conservation Agreement for ELRT.

The Pine Creek channel passing through Confluence Meadow is channelized and incised, largely disconnecting channel flows from the floodplain. As a result, most of the floodplain has converted from wet meadow vegetation to sagebrush and other upland plants.

The Project will fill the eroded Pine Creek channel so that Pine Creek can reconnect with a network of historic channels on the natural floodplain and restore wet meadow habitat. As a result, 140± acres of wet meadow will be restored by

reconnecting the channel of Pine Creek to its natural floodplain, raising groundwater levels, increasing low (base) flow in a critically dewatered stream, and improving meadow and riparian habitat.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

Lassen National Forest 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, American Rivers 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:

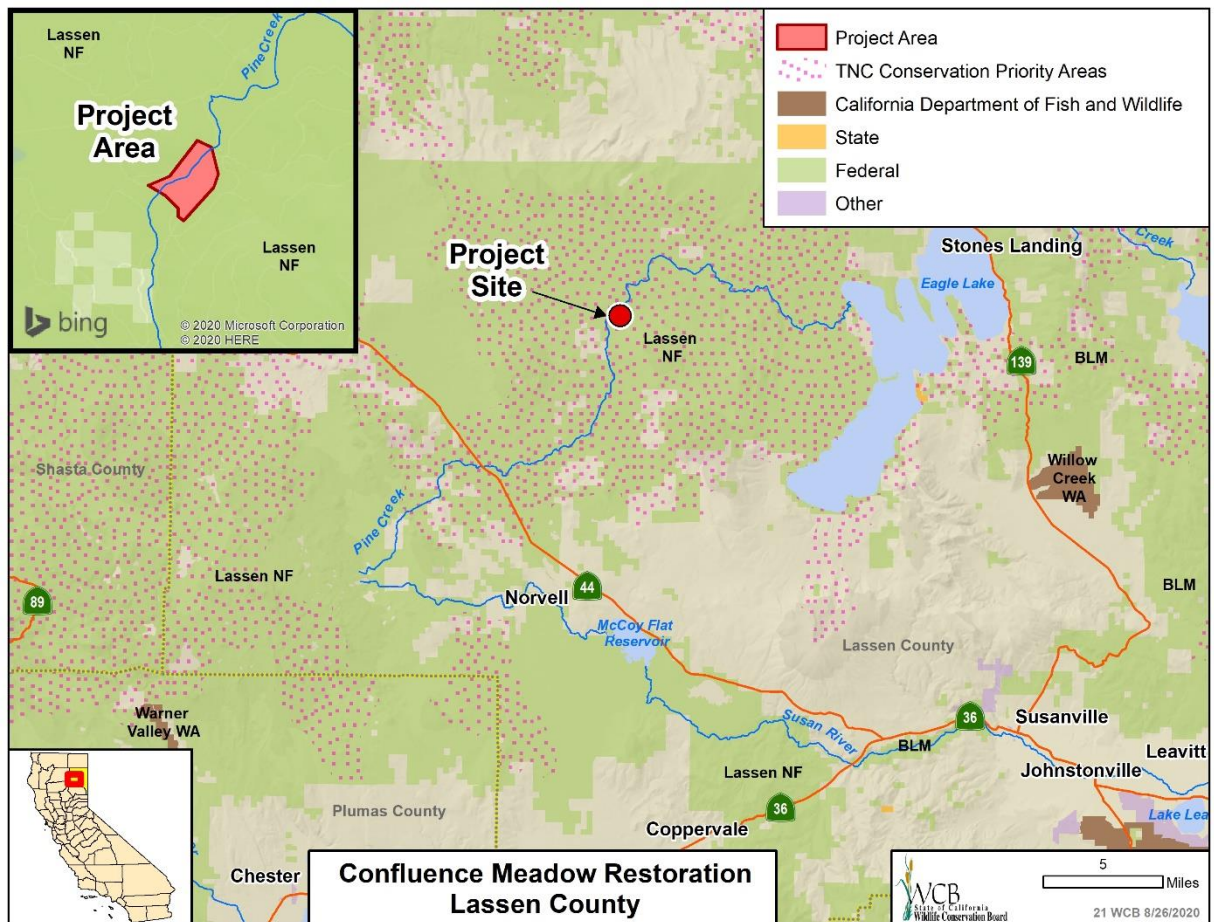
Project Task	Total Cost	WCB	Non-WCB Funds
Project Management	\$34,000	\$34,000	---
Restoration	\$728,620	\$608,620	\$120,000
Administration	\$49,562	\$27,380	\$22,182
Total	\$812,182	\$670,000	\$142,182

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.
- 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 Honey Lake Resource Conservation District, 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 the WCB, the appropriate NOD will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.



22. Neefus Gulch Fish Passage Improvement

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$879,000 from 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:	Neefus Gulch Fish Passage Improvement
Project Type:	Implementation
Applicant/Grantee:	Trout Unlimited
Amount Recommended:	\$879,000
Funding Partners:	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Trout Unlimited, private landowner
Landowner(s):	Rancho Navarro Association, private landowners
County:	Mendocino
Program:	Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Program
Funding:	Proposition 68
Strategic Plan Goals:	B.1 Objectives: SI 1.3, 2.4, 4.1
Disadvantaged Community:	Within a disadvantaged community

LOCATION

The Neefus Gulch watershed is approximately 1.3± square miles and features low-gradient perennial stream reaches that support the listed coho salmon (federal and state endangered) and steelhead trout (federal endangered and state threatened). Land use in the watershed includes timber, rural residential, and a seasonal camp facility. The area was logged in 1907, and sometime after that harvest, the area transitioned into ranching. Today, Neefus Gulch is primarily occupied by rural residential homes. The project site is a culverted stream crossing on Neefus Gulch at Appian Way, near the city of Navarro, which is a total barrier to coho salmon and steelhead trout.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The North Fork Navarro River (NFNR) and its tributaries are identified as a Core Area of Recovery in the 2012 NOAA Recovery Plan for central California coast coho salmon. Annual adult returns suggest that the NFNR basin is the most productive for coho salmon and steelhead trout in the greater Navarro River watershed. Recovery strategies within the plan are focused on ameliorating threats rated as high and medium when the strategy is essential to recovery. Modifying road crossings to provide access to historical habitats is considered a Priority 1 - immediate restoration action for the Navarro River within the recovery plans.

Neefus Gulch is a tributary to the NFNR that provides anadromous fish habitat up to the point where a road crossing at Appian Way forces the stream into a culvert that is a total barrier to coho salmon and steelhead trout. This Project will restore hydraulic conditions for fish passage by constructing a self-sustaining stream simulation channel bed and bank(s) within an embedded culvert crossing and

restore 200 feet of channel that includes nine large wood grade control structures. The crossing is designed to fully span the natural bankfull width of the channel and to convey the 100-year flow, which will promote stable geomorphic processes through the crossing.

This Project will replace the two existing culverts at the Appian Way stream crossing in accordance with the approved design plans and state and federal fish passage design criteria. The Project is necessary to restore access to historical spawning and rearing habitats in a critically important stream for the recovery of coho salmon and steelhead trout. The Project will restore access and hydraulic function to upstream habitat that is characterized by flow, stream gradient, channel bed substrate, pool, riffle, run morphology, and water temperatures within the range suitable for salmonid spawning and rearing.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

A draft long-term maintenance plan will be reviewed and finalized as a component of this Project. The final plan will outline inspection tasks, inspection intervals, and provide adaptive management measures. If at any time during the 25-year life of the Project, Trout Unlimited 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:

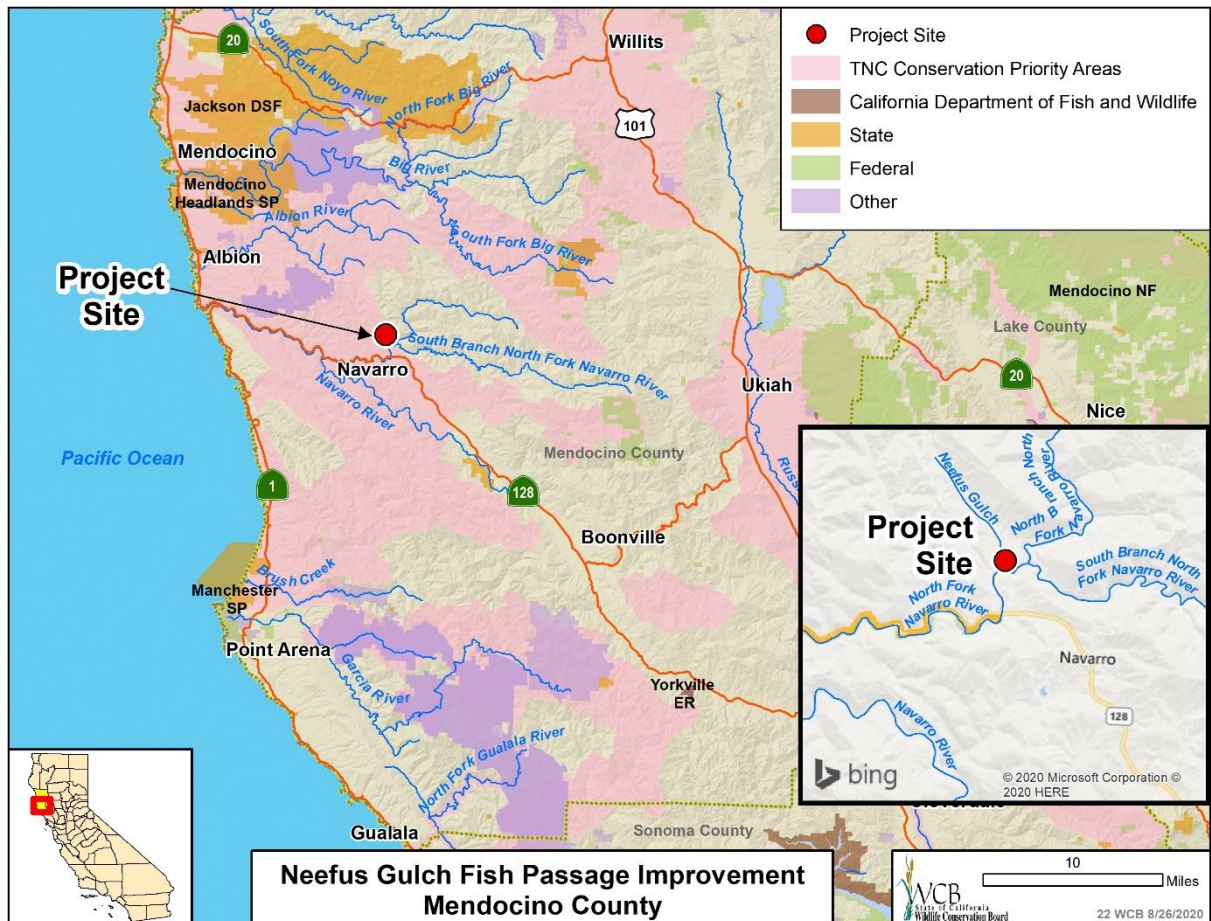
Project Task	Total Cost	WCB	Non-WCB Funds
Project Management	\$67,035	\$41,916	\$25,119
Monitoring and Maintenance	\$194,155	\$120,933	\$73,222
Construction	\$783,946	\$674,235	\$109,711
Outreach	\$67,035	\$41,916	\$25,119
Total	\$1,112,171	\$879,000	\$233,171

Project costs include:

- Project Management will include obtaining permits, securing contracts, scheduling, implementation oversight, invoicing, reporting, and agency communications.
- Monitoring and Maintenance will include preconstruction surveys, fisheries monitoring, and the finalization of the long-term management plan.
- Construction will include site preparation, installation of a new culvert, and revegetation.
- Outreach includes landowner communication.

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, Small Habitat Restoration Projects and Title 14, Chapter 3, Section 15302, Class 2, Replacement or Reconstruction of Existing Structures). Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.



23. Liberty Canyon Wildlife Overpass Crossing

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB adopt the written findings and approve this project as proposed; allocate \$5,000,000 from 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:	Liberty Canyon Wildlife Overpass Crossing
Project Type:	Implementation
Applicant/Grantee:	National Wildlife Federation
Amount Recommended:	\$5,000,000
Funding Partners:	National Wildlife Foundation, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California State Coastal Conservancy, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, National Park Service
Landowner(s):	Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, Caltrans District 7, City of Agoura Hills
County:	Los Angeles
Program:	Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Program
Funding:	Proposition 68
Strategic Plan Goals:	B.1 Objectives: SI 1.1, 1.2, 2.4
Disadvantaged Community:	Not within a disadvantaged community

LOCATION

The Project will consist of creating a wildlife overpass that will span U.S Route 101 (US 101) and Agoura Road near the Liberty Canyon Road exit in Agoura Hills, California. This location is the best remaining connection between undeveloped open space in the Santa Monica Mountains to the south and the Simi Hills and Los Padres National Forest to the north. Due to the purchase of public lands in the vicinity and limited development, this is one of the only remaining stretches of US 101 with undeveloped habitat on both sides of the freeway. At its narrowest point, there is at least a quarter mile of protected land between the nearest suburban development which makes large animal movement to and from the project site feasible.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Santa Monica Mountains is one of the largest and most significant examples of Mediterranean-type ecosystems in the world. The mountains are located in one of just 35 'biodiversity hotspots' worldwide, and the only one in the continental United States. Currently, it is home to over 1,000 plant species in 26 distinct natural communities. These communities provide habitat for nearly 400 species of birds, 35 species of reptiles and amphibians, and numerous mammal species that include bobcats, coyotes, and mountain lions. The Santa Monica Mountains is also home to more than 50 threatened or endangered plants and animals, which is among the highest concentrations of such listed species in the United States.

The Los Angeles freeway system, most critically, US 101 transiting through the Santa Monica Mountains, acts as a significant barrier to genetic movement for mountain lions and all wildlife. Re-connecting the entire region is of significant ecological importance. Along with providing connectivity that will help ensure the sustainability of the overall biodiversity of the region, the most prominent and time-sensitive threat this project addresses is the likely extinction of the local mountain lion population in the Santa Monica Mountains. The permanent loss of the southern California mountain lion would be devastating for conservation, but more importantly for the entire ecosystem because, as apex predators, they play a key role in the health of the landscape.

The Liberty Canyon area, near the city of Agoura Hills, has been identified as the ideal location for a wildlife crossing over US 101. Prime habitat, contiguous with large swaths of protected habitat north and south of this connection, has already been protected on both sides of the freeway. Connecting these areas would give mountain lions and numerous other species living in these highly fragmented habitats the room they need to roam, mate, and thrive.

Decades of local, regional, and statewide scientific study, research projects, and planning have informed the purpose and need for the wildlife crossing at Liberty Canyon. These efforts determined that building a wildlife crossing over the ten lanes of freeway and an access road is the optimal solution to connecting habitat north and south of the freeway. The crossing design has been developed through conceptual design and environmental document phases. It proposes a multi-option crossing zone that leverages the underpass wildlife connectivity restoration funded by a prior WCB grant immediately to the east of the proposed crossing site.

To complement the overpass, Liberty Canyon riparian areas that were channelized by a large dirt fill area placed when the freeway was built will be restored, with the fill being used to create the southern approach landscape. The new topography will allow the riparian corridor to be restored and expanded to the west, directing wildlife passage toward the overpass landscape. The crossing topography will restore the “nose” of the mountain previously lost to the freeway, effectively restoring a portion of the mountain that was removed.

The wildlife crossing will connect native chaparral and coastal sage scrub habitat to the north and south of US 101 by providing restored habitats, without impacting existing riparian areas on the south of the freeway. In addition, the fill from a former development pad will be relocated to restore the former natural mountain slopes over the freeway, allowing a channelized stream to be restored to natural sinuosity within the restored riparian woodland. The remainder of the new topography will be restored as coastal sage scrub and oak savannah habitats, including new habitat that will be constructed over the wildlife bridge itself.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The National Wildlife Federation (NWF), in conjunction with Caltrans, has 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, NWF 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	\$497,598	\$240,000	\$257,598
Environmental Review	\$1,176,000	---	\$1,176,000
Final Designs	\$7,000,000	---	\$7,000,000 ¹
Construction	\$80,119,402	\$4,760,000	\$75,359,402 ²
Total	\$88,793,000	\$5,000,000	\$83,793,000

¹ \$3,600,000 pending

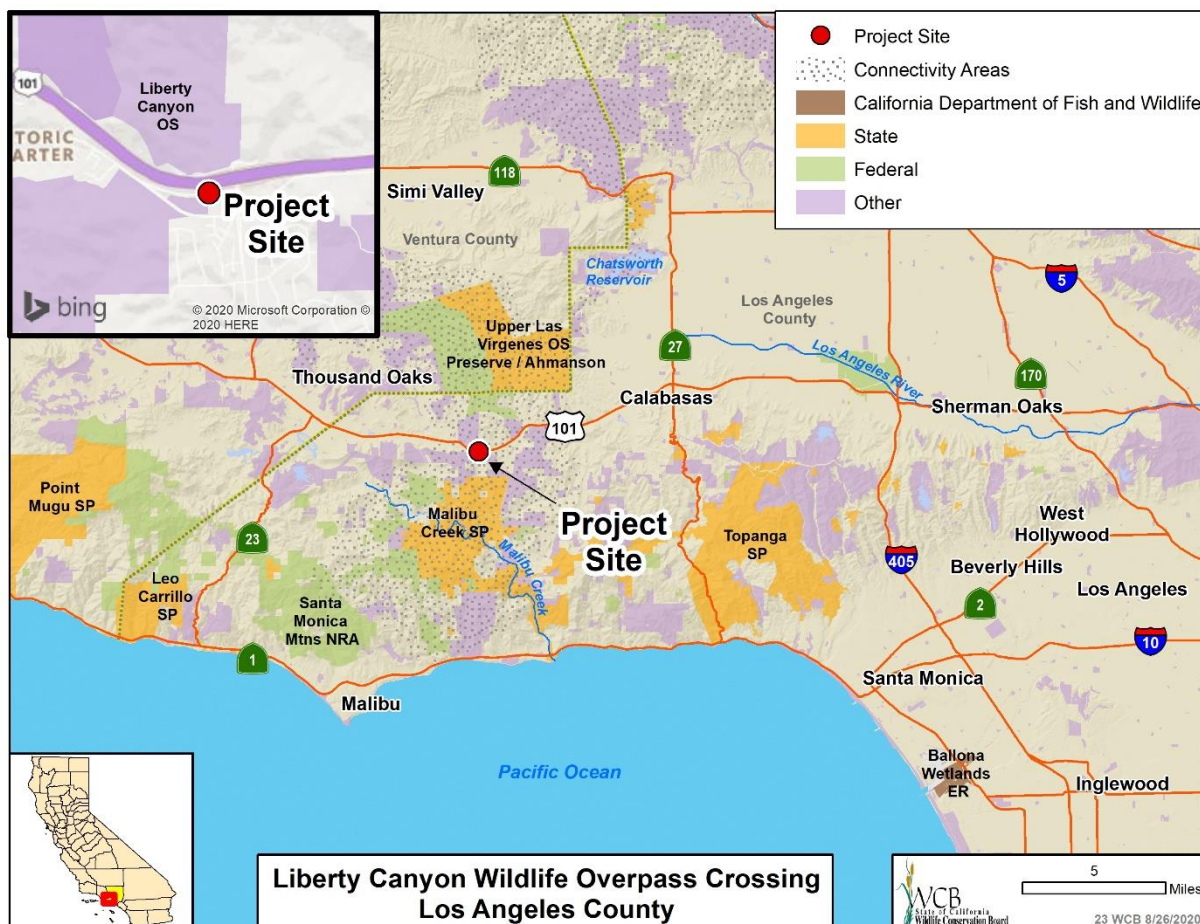
² Funds pending

Project costs associated with WCB funding include:

- Project Management will include implementation oversight, invoicing, reporting, and agency communications.
- Construction will include the building of a wildlife overpass.

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

As lead agency, Caltrans prepared a MND for the project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA. Staff has 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.



24. Kings Beach Pier Replacement and Recreational Access Improvement Planning

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$700,000 from Proposition 68, Public Resources 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:	Kings Beach Pier Replacement and Recreational Access Improvement Planning
Project Type:	Planning
Applicant/Grantee:	California State Parks
Amount Recommended:	\$700,000
Funding Partners:	California Tahoe Conservancy
Landowner(s):	California State Parks
County:	Placer County
Program:	Public Access Program
Funding:	Proposition 68
Strategic Plan Goals:	C.1 Objectives: SI 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4
Disadvantaged Community:	Within a disadvantaged community

LOCATION

The Kings Beach State Recreational Area (KBSRA) is located in downtown Kings Beach, on the north shore of Lake Tahoe. The park is located approximately one mile west of the Nevada state line and is thirteen miles southeast of Truckee. California State Parks owns the property.

KBSRA is a scenic and natural wildlife gem located in the heart of the Sierra Nevada. KBSRA includes approximately 1,000 feet of Lake Tahoe's shoreline and 14± acres of sandy beach and upland area. This site provides access to a Lake Tahoe beachfront park within a short walk or bike ride. Approximately 85,000 visitors come to KBSRA annually to kayak, fish, and swim in the pristine waters of Lake Tahoe.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed Kings Beach Pier Replacement and Recreational Access Improvement Planning (Project) will complete all planning and design efforts to support improvements to public access and replacement of the existing pier. The Project will prepare design, permitting, and construction documents. This includes field studies, surveys, and state and federal environmental compliance permits.

The Project will complete all planning for the rebuilding and relocation of the existing pier, provide a non-motorized lake access ramp, and improve vehicle circulation in the parking lot. In addition, the Project will complete design plans for additional picnic sites, non-motorized watercraft storage, restroom upgrades, visitor contact building, and educational messaging for public safety, environmental

protection, and cultural history. Completion of the current planning and design efforts will result in a shovel-ready project.

Following the completion of planning efforts, the final constructed project will address climate-caused changes in Lake Tahoe water levels by providing boating access at low pool level. A new pier and access ramp will provide improved water access for non-motorized boaters. The implemented project will also provide necessary improvements for mobility-impaired visitors to the pier, restrooms, and project site. Due to significant visitor use at the project site, additional site amenities proposed include picnic areas, walking paths, staff visitor contact building, trash/recycling, and boat storage. When constructed, informational and educational messaging will convey important public safety information, highlight environmental resources, and celebrate cultural stories emphasizing the unique natural resources at Lake Tahoe.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Project Task	Total Cost	WCB	Non-WCB Funds
Project Kick-off	\$48,995	\$5,100	\$43,895
Surveys & Studies	\$133,000	\$13,400	\$119,600
Schematic Design	\$348,550	\$209,900	\$138,650
Design Development	\$611,100	\$353,060	\$258,040
Permits	\$230,056	\$42,620	\$187,436
Certify & Finalize Plans	\$13,050	\$2,000	\$11,050
Indirect Costs	\$186,199	\$73,920	\$112,279
Total	\$1,570,950	\$700,000	\$870,950

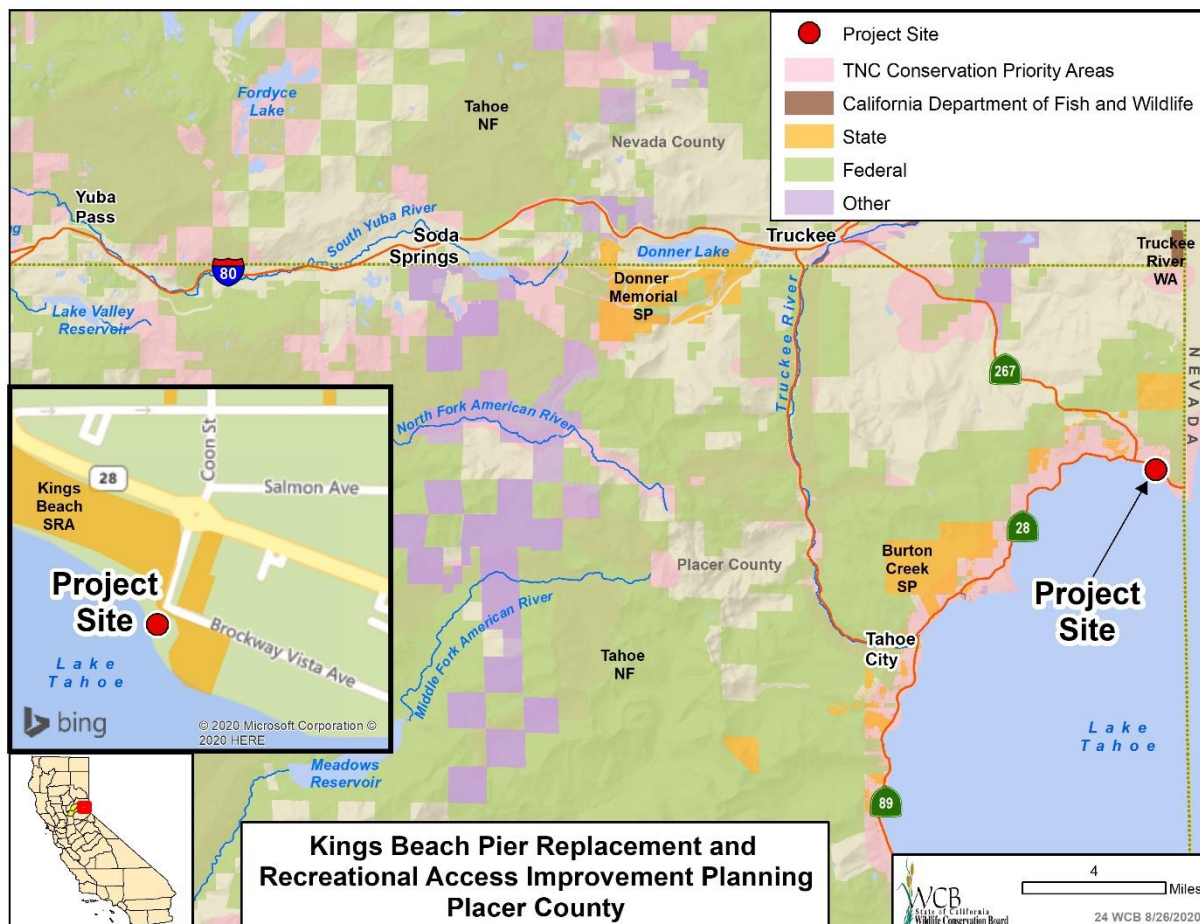
Project costs include:

- Project Kick-off: Set up teams and databases, execute design contracts, and review scope, schedules, and budgets.
- Surveys and Studies: Conduct field studies, compile data, and prepare reports.
- Schematic Design: Use field survey data to inform initial design plans.
- Design Development: Draft final project design including design revisions, and accessibility compliance. Draft preliminary budget and specifications.
- Permits: Prepare applications and finalize needed regulatory permits, incorporating all conditions and best management practices.
- Certify and Finalize Plans: Prepare final construction documents and bid packages.

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 WCB, the appropriate NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.



25. Snake Marsh Restoration

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$665,000 from Proposition 40, Public Resources Code Section 5096.650(a); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Snake Marsh Restoration
Project Type:	Planning
Applicant/Grantee:	Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
Amount Recommended:	\$665,000
Funding Partners:	Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
Landowner(s):	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
County:	Sacramento County
Program:	Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Program
Funding:	Proposition 40
Strategic Plan Goals:	B.1 Objectives: SI 1.3, 2.4, 2.5
Disadvantaged Community:	Within a disadvantaged community

LOCATION

Snake Marsh is located within the Arno Unit of the Cosumnes River Ecological Reserve (CRER), owned and managed by CDFW. Snake Marsh is the primary wetland located within this unit and is located at the confluence of Badger and Willow creeks, approximately 1.5 miles upstream of the Cosumnes River, near Highway 99 between the Arno and Dillard Road interchanges. It is located in the natural floodplain of the Cosumnes River and typically floods during medium and high-water events. The marsh is currently surrounded to the south and east by open grassland dominated by annual grasses and forbs. A remnant valley oak forest is located on the west side of the marsh. To the north is agricultural land that is permanently protected by the Cosumnes River Preserve under an American Farmland Trust conservation easement. No WCB-funded projects have occurred at the site.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Snake Marsh supports a unique population of giant garter snake (GGS), a federally and state threatened species, and one of only nine populations remaining in the State of California. The Cosumnes-Mokelumne GGS population that occurs within Snake Marsh is genetically distinct from other populations throughout the Central Valley. This population would most likely be used for repopulation efforts within the San Joaquin Valley. The population has experienced genetic bottlenecks and possesses a low effective population size. This population of GGS has suffered significant declines during the 2012-2016 drought (decreased to 13 percent of its 2009 abundance estimate), when most of its habitat in Snake Marsh went dry. Habitat conditions within Snake Marsh have been declining for more than ten years due to a reduction in surface flows and the expansion of an invasive species of water primrose.

The Project will complete planning activities to provide a long-term source of perennial water, add infrastructure to improve water supply reliability, restore a complex interspersion of seasonal, semi-permanent and permanent wetlands, control water primrose, and increase emergent cover for GGS and other wetland dependent species within the CRER.

Once constructed, the habitat restoration in Snake Marsh will provide stable, secure, high-quality wetland habitat, which is essential to supporting the long-term success and expansion of this unique population of GGS. Restoration of this wetland complex will allow the population to rebuild after a recent decline, increase long-term body condition by providing a more stable and abundant prey base, and help expand its range.

The Project will include the development of engineering plans, permit applications, environmental documents, baseline surveys and studies leading to implementation. Additionally, this proposal includes funding for an adaptive management plan, monitoring plan and baseline monitoring surveys as well as assessment of existing pump stations.

PROJECT FUNDING

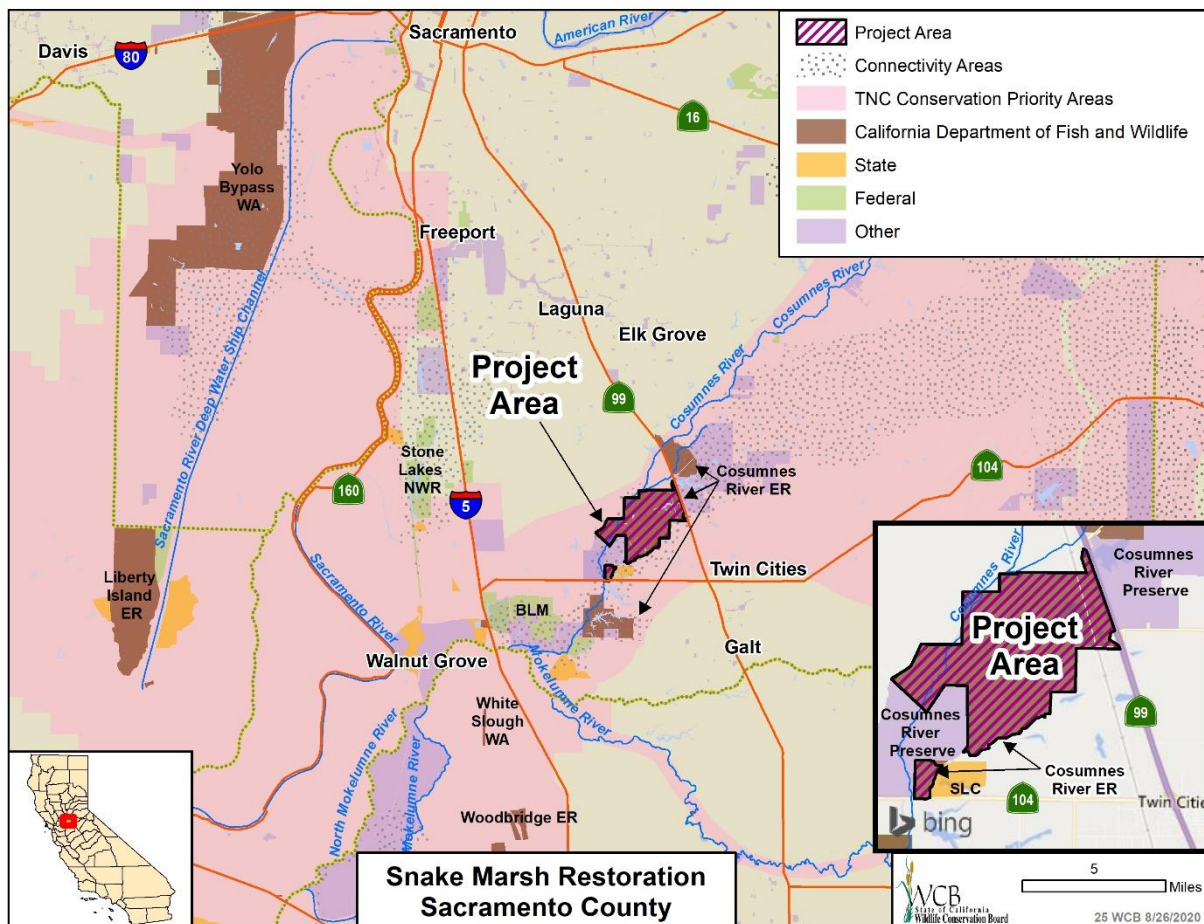
The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Project Task	Total Cost	WCB	Non-WCB Funds
Project Management	\$63,087	\$63,087	---
Restoration Design	\$140,546	\$140,546	---
Permitting	\$306,597	\$306,597	---
Adaptive Management Plan & Monitoring	\$105,527	\$105,527	---
Indirect Costs	\$91,715	\$49,243	\$42,472
Total	\$707,472	\$665,000	\$42,472

Project costs include project management/administration/reporting, engineering design, completion of environmental/permitting documents, creation of adaptive management plan, baseline monitoring, and creation of a long-term management plan.

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.



26. Los Angeles River Habitat Enhancement and Stormwater Capture

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$350,000 from Proposition 68, Public Resource 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:	Los Angeles River Habitat Enhancement and Stormwater Capture
Project Type:	Planning
Applicant/Grantee:	The Nature Conservancy
Amount Recommended:	\$350,000
Funding Partners:	The Nature Conservancy, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
Landowner(s):	California Department of Parks and Recreation
County:	Los Angeles County
Program:	Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Program
Funding:	Proposition 68
Strategic Plan Goals:	B.1, B.5 Objectives: SI 1.3, 3.1, 3.4, 4.3
Disadvantaged Community:	Within a disadvantaged community

LOCATION

The Project is located within the Glendale Narrows stretch of the Los Angeles (LA) River, on the California State Parks “Bowtie” Parcel. The Bowtie Parcel was previously part of Taylor Yard, a Southern Pacific Railroad service railway station and classification yard. Southern Pacific closed the facilities in the late 1980s and State Parks purchased the site in 2003 with the intention of turning the site into a public park. Due to lack of funding, the Bowtie Parcel primarily remains as a post-industrial landscape, partially covered with concrete, contaminated soil, and a mixture of native and invasive vegetation. Currently, residents from nearby communities visit the Bowtie Parcel to walk their dogs, run, and birdwatch.

The Taylor Yards G2 property is located south of the Bowtie Parcel. In two separate WCB approvals in 2017 and 2018, WCB approved \$25,000,000 to purchase conservation easements on the Taylor Yards G2 property for the purposes of public access development and river restoration. Additionally, in May 2020 WCB approved \$250,000 to complete planning and designs for an educational and nature programming facility, as well as parking, pathways, and access to nature viewing at the Taylor Yards G2 property.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Project will complete a suite of planning activities to ultimately daylight a storm drain and restore multiple habitat types including: arroyo, riparian, intermittent wetlands, and coastal sage scrub.

Once the proposed planning project is complete, the implementation phase will daylight a storm drain, creating a natural arroyo and spreading basin to enhance

native habitat for resident and migratory birds and other wildlife and manage wet and dry weather runoff at the LA River. The stormwater capture and reuse element will help to address extended drought periods caused by climate change by capturing water onsite so that it is available to wildlife for a longer period of time between dry spells, thereby locally reducing drought severity. The increased vegetation and addition of trees on site will increase shade, reduce urban heat impacts, and improve air and water quality, making the site and surrounding areas more resilient to climate change.

These restored habitats will also enhance feeding, resting, and breeding opportunities for Costa's hummingbird and a suite of bird species prioritized for conservation by the Sonoran Joint Venture (SJV). The WCB-funded portion of the Project will include site assessments, geotechnical reports, soil contamination remediation planning, engineering designs, permitting, and community outreach and engagement.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Project Task	Total Cost	WCB	Non-WCB Funds
Project Management	\$76,256	\$41,667	\$34,589
Permitting Fees	\$30,000	\$30,000	---
Permit Subcontractor	\$35,000	\$35,000	---
Engineering Subcontractor	\$410,062	\$209,000	\$201,062
Community Engagement Subcontractor	\$20,000	\$20,000	---
Indirect Costs	\$25,862	\$14,333	\$11,529
Total	\$597,180	\$350,000	\$247,180

Project costs include project management, site assessments, geotechnical reports, soil contamination remediation planning, engineering designs, permitting, and community outreach and engagement.

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.



27. Tilton Ranch

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate a total of \$4,000,000, \$496,440 from Proposition 84, Public Resources Code Section 75005(c) and \$3,503,560 from Proposition 68, Public Resources Code Section 80111(b) for the grant to the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency (SCVHA); approve the acceptance of two Recovery Land Acquisition grants from USFWS in the amount of \$5,914,428 and approve the subgrant of the federal funds to SCVHA; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Tilton Ranch
Project Type:	Fee (1,741± acres)
Grantee:	Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency
Amount Recommended:	\$4,000,000
Funding Partners:	Peninsula Open Space Trust, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority, Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency, Santa Clara County Parks (SCCP), MTC Priority Conservation Area Grant
County:	Santa Clara
Program:	Land Acquisition
Funding:	Propositions 84 and 68
Strategic Plan Goals:	A.1, A.3, C.1, E.1 Objective: SI 1.2, 1.3, 2.2, 2.4
Disadvantaged Community:	Not within a disadvantaged community

LOCATION

The property (Property) is located in south central unincorporated Santa Clara County, adjacent to the city of Morgan Hill, west of Highway 101. Hale Avenue and Willow Springs Road provide access to the Property. Adjacent protected lands include the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority's (OSA) 348± acre Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve to the northwest and SCVHA's recently acquired 698± acre Baird/Davidson acquisition immediately south of the Property. Most of the remaining adjacent lands are residential small land holdings to the north and east, with larger private land holdings to the south.

Coyote Valley is identified as a unique opportunity to connect the biodiversity of the Santa Cruz Mountains and the Diablo Range which form a segment of the California Coastal Ranges. The Santa Clara Valley Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan (Habitat Plan) adopted in 2013, states that linking the Santa Cruz Mountains and Diablo Range via the Santa Clara Valley is one of its main landscape-level goals to ensure long-term protection of wildlife and rare and endangered species. The California State Wildlife Action Plan states that establishing connectivity among these ecosystems is a "key ecological attribute" for all conservation targets within the Bay Delta and Central Coast

Province. Additionally, the Property was identified as a top conservation priority in CDFW's Santa Cruz Mountains Conceptual Area Protection Plan.

Acquisition of the before mentioned Baird/Davidson property contributed significantly to meeting the conservation requirements of the Habitat Plan, including the protection of the Plan Area-endemic shrub, Coyote ceanothus. The acquisition secured the protection of one of three occurrences of Coyote ceanothus, protection of which is essential for the recovery of the species and the success of the Habitat Plan.

As the most narrow and undeveloped space between the Santa Cruz Mountains and the Diablo Range, Coyote Valley serves as the critical linkage both for the movement of wildlife and for species adaptation to climate change. Scientific experts identified Coyote Valley as crucial for the long-term protection of biodiversity in the entire region. Protecting the Coyote Valley landscape linkage is necessary to protect over \$3.5 billion of investment in conserved habitat throughout the Peninsula and South Bay from Rancho Corral de Tierra near Pacifica, south to the Sierra Azul near Los Gatos, and east to Coyote Ridge, Henry Coe State Park, and beyond.

Coyote Valley contains rare valley floor habitats and is home to Santa Clara County's largest freshwater wetland, the Laguna Seca. Patches of valley oak savannahs and freshwater marshes host a dozen species of threatened plants and animals, such as the burrowing owl and California tiger salamander. Native habitats intermingle with agricultural fields to create a hot spot for bird diversity, with over 242 bird species documented in the valley, including a breeding pair of Swainson's hawks. As part of the Coyote Creek watershed and Santa Clara groundwater basin, Coyote Valley provides much needed stormwater retention and infiltration and groundwater recharge for the city of San Jose. It contains 5,600± acres of prime farmland and a source of locally grown food. Conservation of Coyote Valley helps provide the many diverse communities within urban San Jose and Morgan Hill new opportunities for healthy outdoor recreation to connect with nature.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property is in the southern portion of Coyote Valley and is part of a wildlife corridor that allows animals to pass through the valley floor and foothills between the Santa Cruz Mountains and the Diablo Range. The Property is used for cattle grazing, hay farming, and recreation. The Property is moderate to steeply sloping, with the overall average slope being approximately 31 percent. Elevations on the Property range from 300 to 400 feet on the floor of Coyote Valley and San Bruno Canyon, to approximately 1,150 feet on Laurel Hill in the northwestern portion of the Property. With approximately 6 miles of unnamed seasonal tributaries, the Property provides suitable habitat for California red legged frog, California tiger salamander, Bay checkerspot butterfly, tri-colored blackbird, American badger, and burrowing owl.

The grasslands, riparian, aquatic, and oak woodland habitats on the Property are of particular importance as they have exceptionally high wildlife values, providing water, thermal cover, migration corridors, and diverse nesting and breeding opportunities for wildlife species. Specifically, the site contains habitat for eight Habitat Plan covered animal species and six covered plant species including three known occurrences of Santa Clara Valley dudleya, two each of most beautiful jewelflower and smooth lessingia.

The Property is also part of a greater Coyote Valley wildlife corridor and recreational open space project. The Property contributes to Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan Linkage 11. This 32-mile linkage, which runs from the headwaters of Llagas Creek to the confluence with the Pajaro River, provides access in wet years from Pajaro River to current and historic spawning and rearing habitat for resident and anadromous fish. The Property also provides a regional linkage for riparian birds into the area from the south and the west and may also provide local linkages for native amphibians and aquatic reptiles.

The Property provides opportunities for enhancement and restoration consistent with the Habitat Plan conservation strategy to benefit the natural communities and covered species. It is expected that grazing will be the primary management tool. Currently, the Property is grazed by cattle which would continue with the aim to maintain the sensitive serpentine habitat, ponds, and riparian areas, while also reducing grassland fuel loads in this sensitive wildland-urban interface. There are also opportunities for invasive species control and floodplain enhancement.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

Title to the Property will initially be held by the SCVHA. However, after a period of time, and with the recordation of a conservation easement, title will be transferred to OSA. Prior to the transfer, SCVHA will grant a trail easement to SCCP as a condition of its funding participation. Once transferred, SCVHA will actively monitor the Property at least annually to ensure that the conservation easement grant terms are being honored. The monitoring report will note any significant changes to the resources or any compliance issues. If corrective actions are identified by SCVHA, OSA will be required to implement such actions.

PROJECT FUNDING

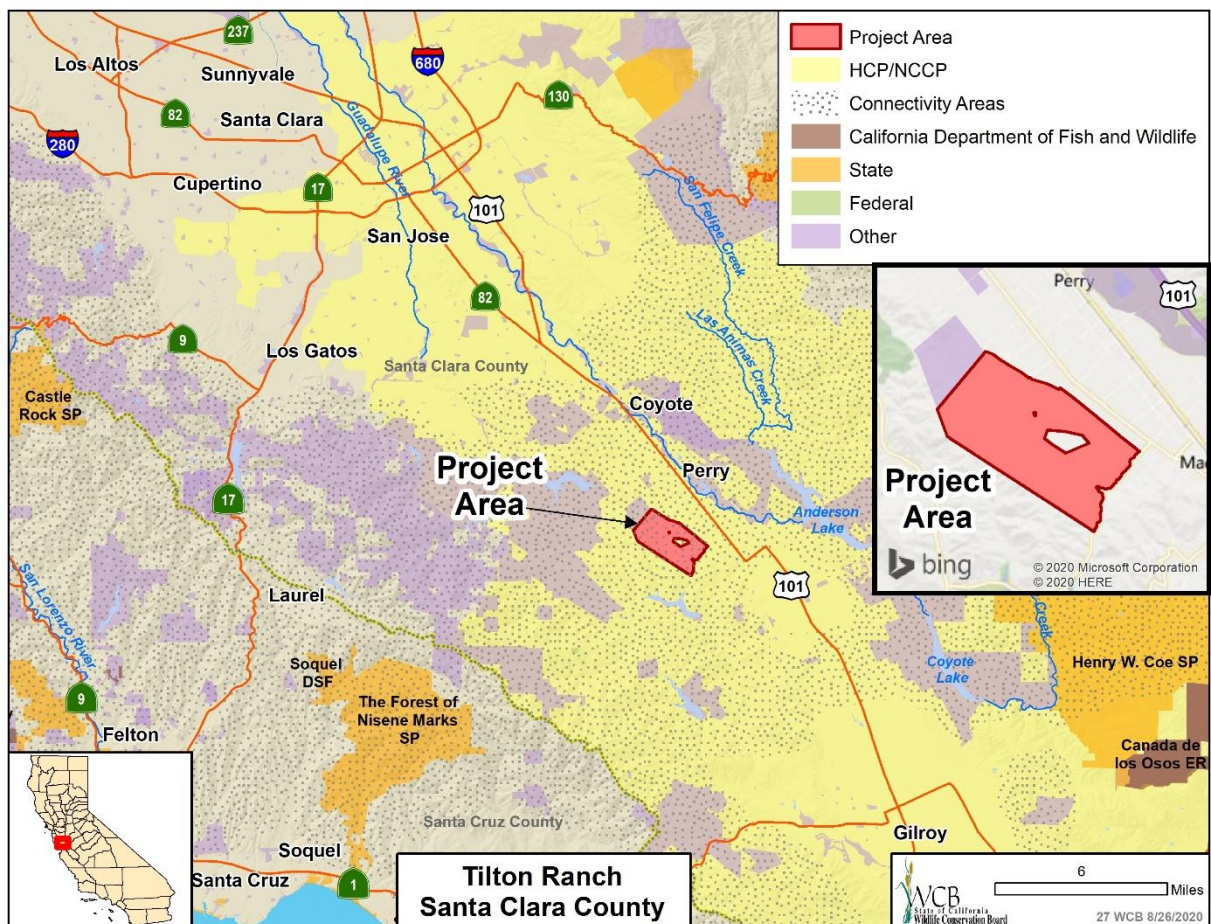
The DGS approved fair market value is \$15,080,000. The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$4,000,000
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	\$5,914,428
Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency	\$165,572
Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation	\$2,000,000
Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority	\$500,000

Partners	Amount
Santa Clara County Parks	\$1,000,000
MTC Priority Conservation Area Grant	\$1,000,000
Peninsula Open Space Trust	\$500,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$15,080,000

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.



28. Rancho Caleta

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$608,000 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(a/b/c) (Proposition 1E) for the grant to River Partners (Partners); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Rancho Caleta
Project Type:	Fee (38± acres)
Grantee:	River Partners
Amount Recommended:	\$608,000
County:	Colusa County
Program:	Land Acquisition Program
Funding:	Habitat Conservation Fund 1E
Strategic Plan Goals:	A.2, A.4, C.1
Disadvantaged Community:	Within a disadvantaged community

LOCATION

The property (Property) is located southeast of Colusa, on the east side of the Sacramento River, on Butte Slough Road, south and east of River Road, in an area primarily devoted to agricultural use in Colusa County.

The Property is located within the Sacramento River watershed, along a meandering stretch of river known as the Colusa Subreach. It lies on the east bank of the Sacramento River within and to the west of the eastern Sacramento River levee. The Property is in a wildlife corridor that includes federal, state, and privately-owned lands dedicated to the protection and enhancement of habitat for wildlife species.

To the north of the Property is Partners' 162± acre Willow Bend Preserve (Preserve). CDFW's Sacramento River Wildlife Area (SRWA) Stegeman and Princeton units are located to the north of the Property. The initial portion of SRWA was acquired in 1958. In 1978, two more properties were acquired, and the area was designated as a wildlife area by the Fish and Game Commission. Four properties were acquired in 1986-1987, and additional properties purchased between 1989 and 1995. The most recent CDFW acquisition within the SRWA occurred in 2005 when 257± acres was acquired as an expansion of the Princeton Unit.

Upstream of the Property is the Drumheller Slough Unit of the USFWS' Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge). The Refuge, which is located along an 80-mile stretch of the Sacramento River between Princeton and the city of Red Bluff, totals 10,353± acres.

The Property falls under the purview of the Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum (SRCAF). SRCAF is a non-profit organization that evolved from legislation

in 1986 (SB 1086) which called for a management plan to protect, restore, and enhance the fisheries and riparian habitat along the Sacramento River from Keswick Dam down river to Verona. SRCAF involves both private and public landowners along the Sacramento River, including representatives from seven counties and state and federal resource agencies. SRCAF promotes and coordinates restoration related activities along the Sacramento River and develops and implements site-specific and sub-specific plans for areas within the Conservation Area.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property is an undeveloped, irregularly shaped tract of land. The Property has been managed as agricultural property producing a walnut crop for many years. The topography of the Property is generally flat, sloping up and away from the water. The majority of the Property has no structural improvements and is planted with mature walnuts. The western 8± acres, adjacent to the Sacramento River, includes a riparian corridor composed of native shrubs and grasses. Walnuts on the Property are still productive but nearing the end of their useful life. The Property has the potential to support migratory salmonids as well as multiple avian and terrestrial species reliant on riparian corridors for migration.

This acquisition is part of a larger effort to protect and restore the Sacramento River and floodplain ecosystem from channelization, conversion, encroachment, and other actions that may impact the river's riparian habitat areas and floodplain processes. Eventually, if plans are approved for restoration of the site, the Property may be restored to native riparian vegetation.

Based upon wildlife surveys and observations on nearby lands, it is expected that wildlife such as least Bell's vireo, willow flycatcher, loggerhead shrike, tricolored blackbird, yellow warbler, Swainson's hawk, and fall and spring-run Chinook salmon will benefit from the protection and restoration of the Property. Deer, bobcat, coyote, and rabbit are known to use the Property as well.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

Partners will manage the Property. It intends to lease the walnut orchard and use the rental income to facilitate management and the potential future restoration of the Willow Bend Preserve. As soon as funding and permitting allow, Partners plans to restore the Property back to riparian habitat. There are no plans for public use of the Property while under Partners ownership.

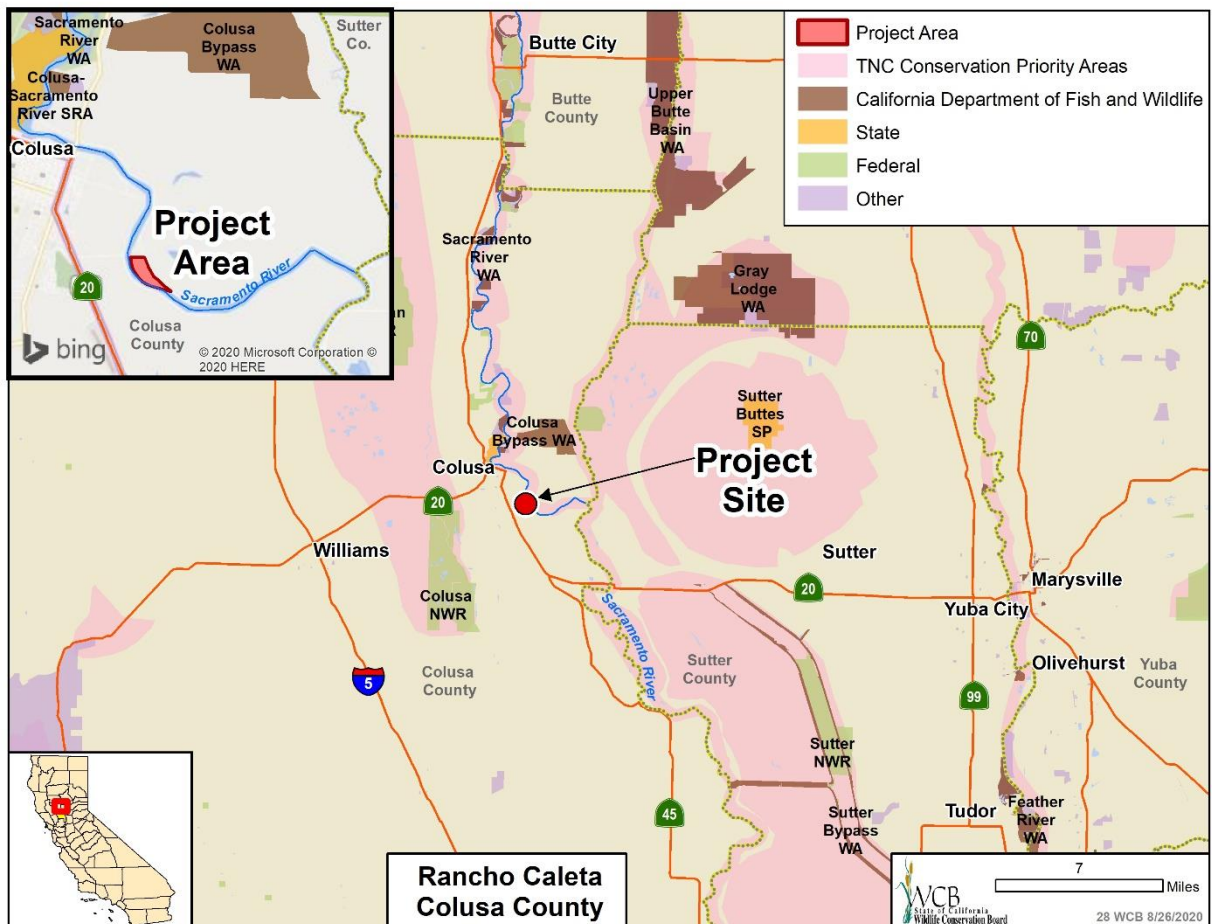
PROJECT FUNDING

The DGS approved fair market value is \$608,000. The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$608,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$608,000

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.



29. Temescal Ranch

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate up to \$818,518 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(a) for the grant to the Trust for Public Land (TPL); accept the Recovery Land Acquisition grant from USFWS in the amount of \$480,000 and approve the subgrant of the federal funds to 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:	Temescal Ranch
Project Type:	Fee (1,171± acres)
Grantee:	Trust for Public Land
Subgrantee:	Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority
Amount Recommended:	\$818,518
Funding Partners:	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
County:	Los Angeles
Program:	Land Acquisition Program
Funding:	Habitat Conservation Fund
Strategic Plan Goals:	A.1, A.2, A.3, A.4 Objectives: SI 1.3, 2.1, 3.4
Disadvantaged Community:	Not within a disadvantaged community

LOCATION

The property (Property) is situated in northern Los Angeles County west of Hasley Canyon Road, East of Lake Piru near Castaic, California. Presently, this region supports semi-rural residential development, and the area is experiencing expansion of rural residential and rural ranchette development on lands historically used solely for grazing.

The Property is part of the Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act, Recovery Land Acquisition Program. The Property and vicinity have well-documented use by the federally endangered California condor. Protection of the Property will complement, but not replace, any local state or federal mitigation requirements, and will prevent incompatible development of the Property in an area with rapid conversion to housing.

The Property and vicinity lies in a critical east to west linkage between the San Gabriel and Sierra Madre mountains as well as a north to south linkage between the Sierra Madre and Santa Susanna mountains, both highlighted in the South Coast Missing Linkages Project, which is a comprehensive plan for a regional network that would maintain and restore critical habitat linkages between existing reserves. These linkages form the backbone of a conservation strategy for southern California.

The Property also lies within CDFW's Upper Santa Clara River Conceptual Area Protection Plan (CAPP) and is ranked as a Tier 1 priority within the CAPP.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

TPL will acquire the 1,171± acre Phase 2 portion of Temescal Ranch, adding to the 1,230± acres previously purchased, bringing the total protected acres to 2,401± of this 6,006± acre ranch – one of the largest in greater Los Angeles. The Property will then ultimately be owned and managed by the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA).

Boasting one of the largest intact stands of coastal sage scrub and chaparral in southern California, the Property supports a wide variety of special status species, the most critical being the California condor and Southern California steelhead. Condor foraging has been confirmed by dozens of ground-level GPS locations, largely due to the site's proximity to the Sespe Condor Sanctuary. The Property is also vital for maintaining mountain lion movement and genetic diversity throughout Southern California.

Additionally, this Phase contains the headwaters of two creeks, including one perennial spring, that ultimately feed steelhead habitat downstream in Piru Creek and the Santa Clara River.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

TPL will transfer the land to MRCA, who owns and manages the Phase 1 portion. The Property will be operated and maintained by MRCA and will be incorporated into the assemblage of previously protected lands. MRCA will own and operate the Property as part of its extensive land holdings in Los Angeles and Ventura counties. MRCA is a joint powers authority and receives continuous appropriations from the State for ongoing management and stewardship. MRCA owns thousands of acres of open space across the region and has many years of experience in managing similar properties. Once the Property is acquired, MRCA will create a stewardship plan for the Property. The primary management objectives will be to protect and enhance existing natural communities, water resources, and the multiple species of plants and animals these habitats support.

PROJECT FUNDING

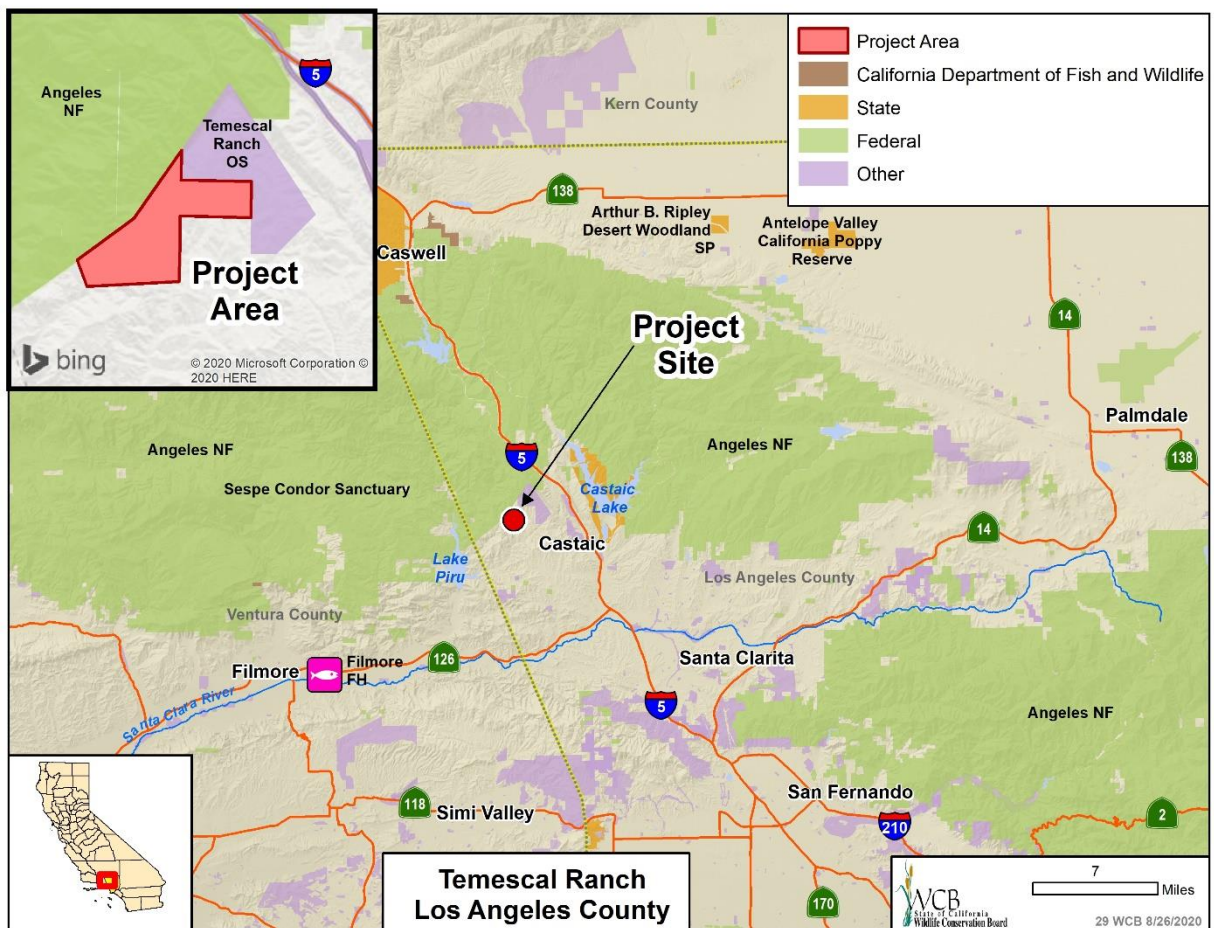
The DGS approved fair market value is \$1,600,000. At the time of this writing, two funding scenarios are possible depending upon whether a pending Section 6 grant amendment is approved for this grant to increase the federal share. The two funding scenarios for the project are as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$818,518
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	\$281,482
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	\$500,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$1,600,000

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$620,000
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	\$480,000
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	\$500,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$1,600,000

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.



30. Grinsell Ranch

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$1,030,000 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117) Fish and Game Code Section 2786(a) for the grant to the Land Trust of Napa County (LTNC); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Grinsell Ranch
Project Type:	Fee (1,278± acres)
Grantee:	The Land Trust of Napa County
Amount Recommended:	\$1,030,000
Funding Partners:	Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation
County:	Napa
Program:	Land Acquisition Program
Funding:	Habitat Conservation Fund
Strategic Plan Goals:	A.1, A.4, C.1
Disadvantaged Community:	Not within a disadvantaged community

LOCATION

The property (Property) is located to the northwest of Lake Berryessa near the Napa/Lake county line. There are two access points to the Property. The first access is from Butts Canyon Road, the second access is from Snell Valley Road. The surrounding neighborhood is comprised of a wide range of parcel sizes with terrain varying from moderately to strongly sloping hill-lands to some areas of gentle valley floor terrain. The majority of the surrounding parcels are undeveloped. The predominant use in the area is for rural residential and open space occasionally combined with agriculture uses such as grazing or equestrian.

Nearby protected lands include 273± acres owned by LTNC and a 4,125±-acre complex owned by Napa Open Space District (2,763± acres), BLM (1,097± acres), and Bureau of Reclamation (265± acres).

The Bay Area Critical Linkages Project (85 organizations participated) identified key linkages between existing protected wildlands that are necessary for maintaining landscape-level ecosystem processes, including movements of such wide-ranging species as mountain lion. Protection of these key wildlife corridors would ensure that the Bay Area is connected to the larger landscapes to the north and south. The priority corridor crossing the North Bay extends from Point Reyes National Seashore in Marin to the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument in Napa. The Property lies within a critical unprotected gap in this corridor and is one of the largest properties in that gap.

The Property is within CDFW's Blue Ridge-Berryessa Conceptual Area Protection Plan (CAPP). The main objectives of the CAPP are to conserve and enhance migration corridors, restore habitat, and protect lands that will likely increase or enhance nature-based recreational opportunities. The conservation strategy also

seeks to connect the over 303,000± acres of protected public lands within the CAPP.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property has varied topography, including some very steep sections that rise to high peaks. This elevational gradient will further provide the opportunity for refugia during climate change, the opportunity for animals and plants to move upwards as well as along the larger corridor. In addition, the Property includes the headwaters of a stream that flows into Putah Creek, which supplies Lake Berryessa. This watershed provides significant ecosystem services – Lake Berryessa is a major source of water for Solano County (providing benefits to disadvantaged communities) and it provides recreational values for the hundreds of thousands of visitors who come to Lake Beryessa each year.

The area is dominated by serpentine soils, which have the highest concentration of rare plants of any soil type statewide. At the adjacent Snell Valley Preserve, 226 species have been documented, including 10 special status species, in a 60±-acre meadow. The Fernandes property located less than one mile away is also owned by LTNC. A botanical survey here found 17 special status species on 254± acres.

The Property abuts over 5,000± acres of existing protected land and ranks very highly for biodiversity. Adding to these lands, eliminating the threat of development and fragmentation, and managing it to address the threats posed by invasive species is critical for this area's long-term resiliency.

The Property also provides habitat for deer, mountain lion, bears, Olive-sided flycatcher, and other sensitive species.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

LTNC is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization whose mission is to preserve the character of Napa County by permanently protecting land. Operating since 1976, LTNC has an established track record of working successfully with landowners to complete more than 200 real estate projects. LTNC holds and monitors 145 conservation easements and owns 10,000± acres of Permanent Preserves. In total, LTNC has helped protect over 70,000± acres, more than 14 percent of Napa County. In the last four years, LTNC has worked with a wide range of partners and funders, including WCB, SCC, CNRA, Moore Foundation, DOC, and CDFW to protect 20,000± acres.

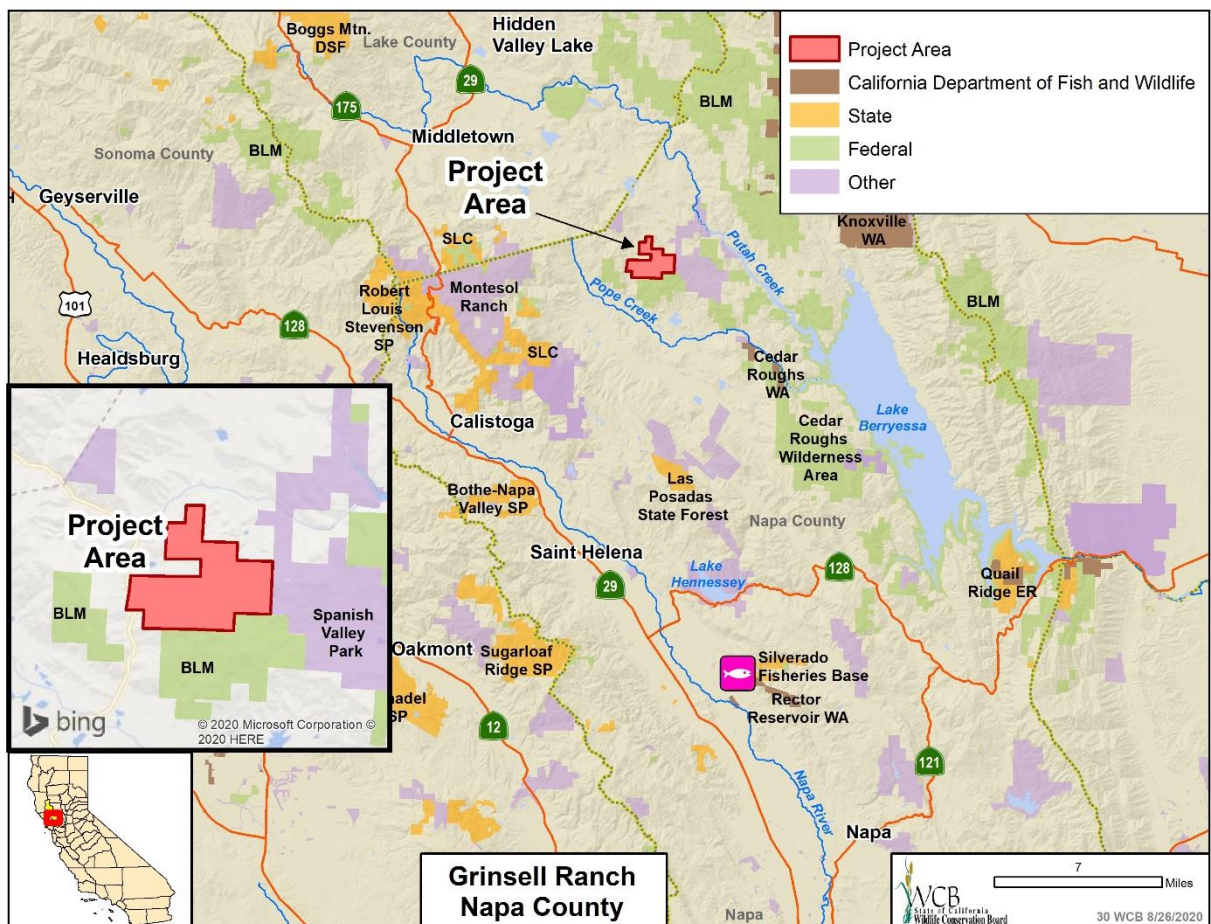
PROJECT FUNDING

The DGS approved fair market value is \$1,280,000. The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$1,030,000
Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation	\$250,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$1,280,000

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.



31. Carrizo Plains Ecological Reserve, Expansion 6

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$1,400,000 from Proposition 84, Public Resources Code Section 75055(b) 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:	Carrizo Plains Ecological Reserve, Expansion 6
Project Type:	CDFW Fee (624± acres)
Amount Recommended:	\$1,400,000
County:	San Luis Obispo
Program:	Land Acquisition Program
Funding:	Proposition 84
Strategic Plan Goals:	A.4, C.1 Objectives: SI 1.2, 2.1, 2.5, 3.3, 3.4
Disadvantaged Community:	Within a disadvantaged community

LOCATION

The property (Property) is located in eastern San Luis Obispo County, approximately 18 miles southwest of the community of McKittrick. Natural landmarks near the Property include the La Panza Range, the Caliente Range, and Soda Lake. The northern, eastern, and southern boundaries of the Property are adjacent CDFW's Carrizo Plains Ecological Reserve (Reserve), while the western edge is bordered by Sprague Hill Road.

The general terrain of the vicinity and the Property consists of annual grassland, multi-age stands of blue oak woodlands, alkali desert scrub, and coastal scrub habitats. Presently, this region is comprised of larger farming and grazing units with smaller rural residential and recreational property influences and publicly owned lands.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property is a square shaped parcel and is vacant and unimproved. Access to the site is via Sprague Hill Road. The elevation of the Property varies from approximately 2,300 to 2,400 feet above sea level and the topography ranges from near level and undulating in areas to gently rolling. There is one tree, no brush, and no significant rock outcroppings. The land use designation of the Property is agriculture and is not within the sphere of influence of any city or semi-rural community. Current agricultural use of the Property is as a dry pasture.

Acquisition of the Property and its subsequent incorporation into the Reserve will lead to the protection of threatened and endangered species, including the San Joaquin kit fox and tricolored blackbird, as well as numerous sensitive species including burrowing owl, American badger, grasshopper sparrow, San Joaquin coachwhip, northern harrier, and western spadefoot toad. Tule elk and pronghorn have been routinely observed on the Property.

The Reserve is approximately 38,900± acres and includes the American Ranch, North Chimineas, and South Chimineas units. The Carrizo Plain is a diverse complex of scrub and woodland. The lowest elevations are dominated by spiny saltbush and iodine bush, with numerous vernal pools. Immediately upslope is either extensive non-native annual grassland or active drainages dominated by common saltbush. In the hills, several shrub communities are well represented including bush lupine, buckwheat, scrub oaks, and junipers. Numerous bird species occur, as well as carnivores, ungulates, rodents, bats, snakes, lizards, and other species.

CDFW rates the acquisition of the Property as a very high priority since it will conserve, restore, and protect declining sensitive species and their associated habitats while maintaining habitat connectivity between the federal land within the Los Padres National Forest and the Carrizo Plain National Monument. It will also provide compatible wildlife-dependent recreational and educational opportunities to the public.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

Following the acquisition, CDFW will own and manage the Property as an addition to the American Ranch Unit within the Reserve. Costs associated with managing the Property will be minimal as the main purpose of the acquisition is to retain the site in its natural state. Management goals include maintaining, enhancing, and restoring the habitats and wildlife corridors on or in the vicinity of the Property, preventing the introduction and spread of invasive non-native plants, and offering compatible wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities such as hunting, day hiking, and wildlife viewing.

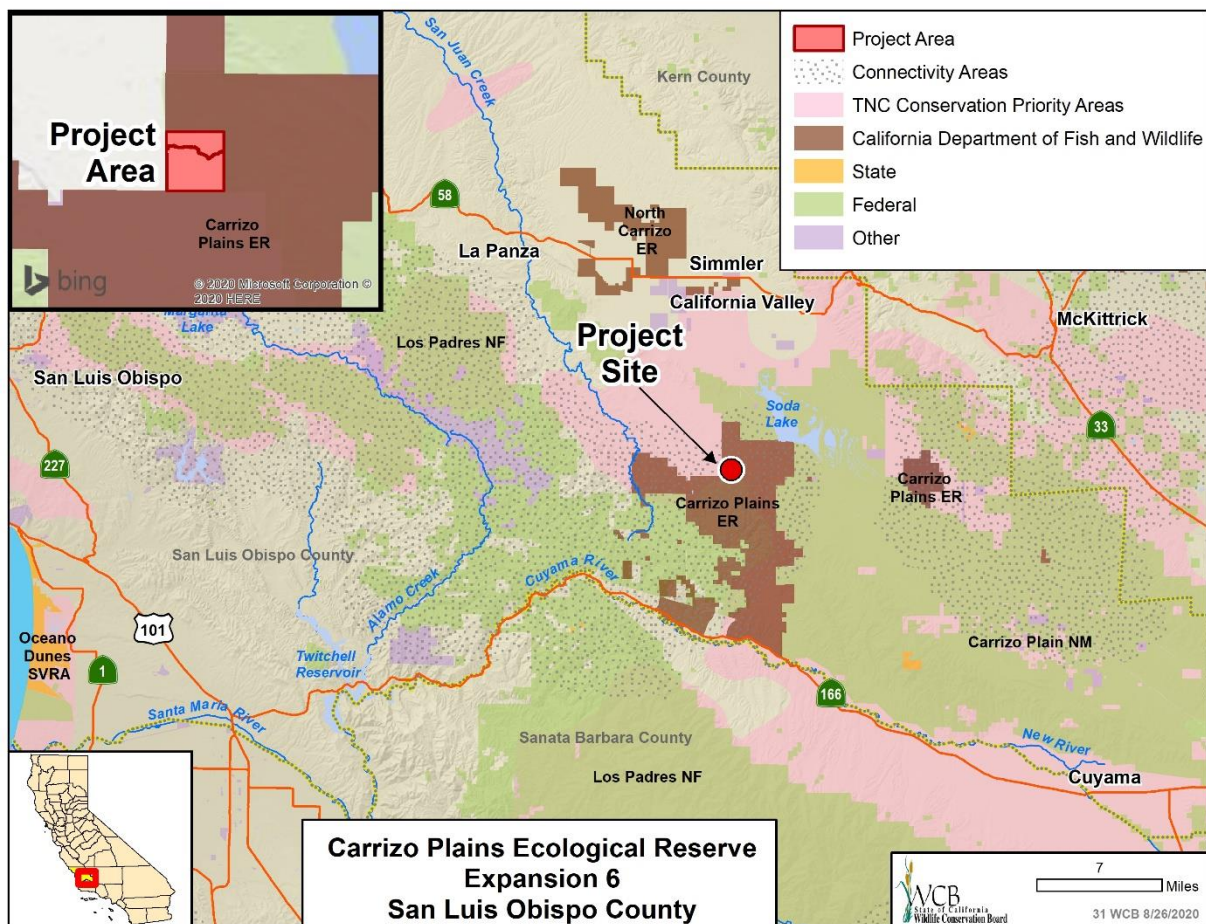
PROJECT FUNDING

The DGS approved fair market value is \$1,400,000. The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$1,400,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$1,400,000

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.



32. Tehachapi–Bear Mountain

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$3,500,000 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117) Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c) for the grant to The Nature Conservancy (TNC); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Tehachapi–Bear Mountain
Project Type:	Fee (3,148± acres)
Grantee:	The Nature Conservancy
Amount Recommended:	\$3,500,000
Funding Partners:	None
County:	Kern
Program:	Land Acquisition Program
Funding:	Habitat Conservation Fund
Strategic Plan Goals:	A.1, A.4, C.1
Disadvantaged Community:	Not within a disadvantaged community

LOCATION

The property (Property) is located at the end of Bear Mountain Road, south of State Route 58, about 24 miles southeast of Bakersfield, in central Kern County.

The Tehachapi region has been identified as a critically important conservation landscape based on a multitude of factors. The 50-mile long wildlife linkage is located at the convergence of four terrestrial ecoregions. For biota that cannot traverse intensive agriculture, urban areas, or desert, the linkage provides a vital connection between California's coastal grasslands, scrublands, and woodlands. Because this broad linkage encompasses multiple ecological gradients, it offers connectivity for a great variety of species.

The intact lands that make up the Tehachapi linkage allows species to move between two major mountain ranges, the Sierra Nevada and Sierra Madre. The importance and influence of the Tehachapi linkage extends far beyond the connectivity between these ranges as it provides the only remaining connection between the California coast ranges and inland mountains. The significance of this linkage results from the Central and South Coast ranges generally existing as ecological islands. Many of the plants and animals found in the coast ranges south of San Francisco Bay are essentially isolated from the rest of the continent by the Mojave and Sonoran deserts to the southwest and intensive human land uses in the Bay Area and Central Valley. The system of passes and valleys separating the Tehachapi and Sierra Nevada mountains also provides the greatest connectivity opportunity for species occupying low lying areas of the Central Valley and Mojave Desert.

Additionally, a recent genetic study of Western U.S. mountain lion populations identified the Tehachapi region as vital for maintaining mountain lion movement

and genetic diversity throughout California (Gustafson et al., 2018). In the Sierra Nevada Mountains, the populations of mountain lions are healthy and well connected, however the South and Central Coast regions contain six sub-populations of mountain lions with poor connectivity and low genetic diversity. The protection of the Tehachapi linkage is necessary to allow mountain lion gene flow into the South and Central Coast regions and is an important “connectivity hub” for animals to move to, from, and through the area as they respond to threats, look for mates, and adapt to a changing climate. Therefore, it is imperative that the connectivity, biodiversity, and ecological integrity of this region be upheld, for both the mountain lion and for the full suite of species impacted by habitat loss and fragmentation in the South and Central Coast regions.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property (Bear Mountain) is a predominant landmark as it towers over the surrounding areas. The terrain of the Property juts sharply upward from the 3,400-foot elevation along Hart Flat and the northern property line to the summit of Bear Mountain at 6,940 feet above sea level. From the summit, the ranch terrain drops down to about 2,400 feet above sea level near the southern property line and the Bear Valley Springs community.

The Property is listed as a Tier 1 property for protection in CDFW’s Tehachapi Conceptual Area Protection Plan (CAPP) as a result of being a key component of the Tehachapi linkage and supporting high-elevation oak and coniferous forest in this hot and dry region. The high-elevation habitat of Bear Mountain allows the property to serve as an important component of a network of climate resilient open space lands that connect low elevation habitats to the region’s highest mountain peaks. The Property is a critical component of the Tehachapi Mountain’s network of high-elevation peaks or sky-islands that help maintain connectivity between foothill and montane habitat on public lands to the north and south. Bear Mountain is the northern most peak or sky-island in the Tehachapi Mountains as the range converges with the southern Sierra Nevada Mountains immediately south of the Tehachapi Pass.

The presence of high-elevation coniferous forest on Bear Mountain provides strong evidence for its ability to be a critical component of climate resilient network of open space in the region. The Property is contiguous with intact San Joaquin Valley floor habitat on Tejon Ranch. This should facilitate species movement up slope in response to the warming temperatures predicted for the region. Because of its importance in climate adaptation for multiple species, the protection of Bear Mountain enables testing and implementation of climate adaptation strategies if climate change models predicting loss of coniferous forest in the region are accurate.

The Bear Mountain property also supports important and seasonally occupied habitat for the endangered California condor. The presence of this species allows for conservation opportunities to ensure the continued recovery of this iconic species.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

TNC will manage the property to support high-elevation oak and coniferous forest habitats and species such as condors and mountain lion. At this time, no restoration is planned due to the relatively high-quality habitat present on the property. USFWS has ongoing condor research in the area, and in the past has expressed interest in locating a research center in the vicinity of Bear Mountain. Following acquisition of the property, TNC will explore this opportunity with USFWS. The property will provide TNC with an excellent living laboratory to test and implement climate adaption strategies if climate change models predicting loss of coniferous forest in the region are accurate. TNC can manage community transition to suitable future native habitats based on the best available science using species distribution models and genetic tools. Models and genetic tools will be used to identify heat and drought tolerant native species and genotypes suitable to establish and persist on the property until at least the end of the century. Once appropriate plant stock is identified, proven on-the-ground native plant propagation techniques will be used to establish or expand the populations of climatically suitable species and genotypes. Livestock grazing will be conducted in a manner compatible with TNC's conservation management goals.

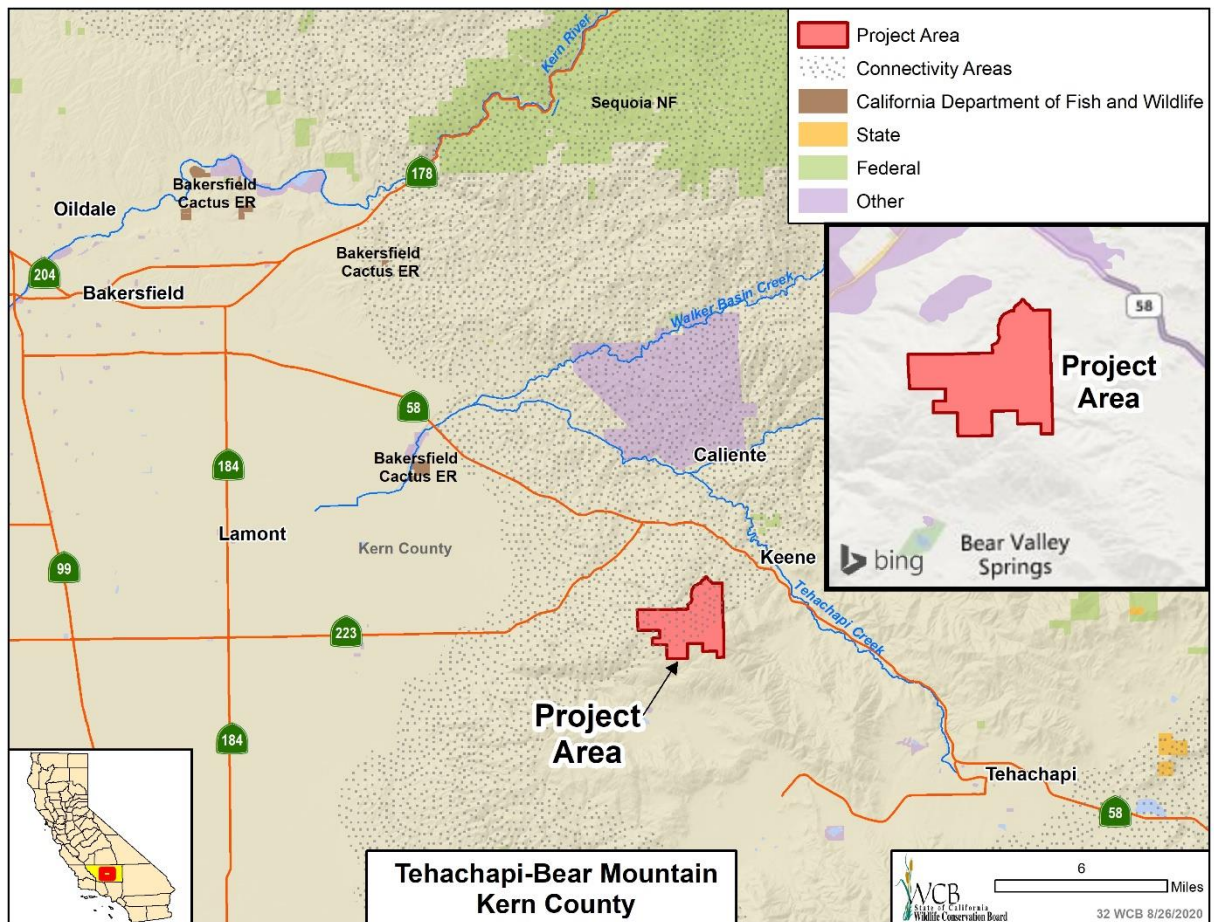
PROJECT FUNDING

The DGS approved fair market value is \$3,500,000. The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$3,500,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$3,500,000

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. Newland Marsh

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$1,083,129 from Proposition 50, Water Code Section 79572(a) for the grant to the State Coastal Conservancy (SCC); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Newland Marsh
Project Type:	Fee (44± acres)
Grantee:	State Coastal Conservancy
Successor Grantee:	Huntington Beach Wetlands Conservancy
Amount Recommended:	\$1,083,129
Funding Partners:	State Coastal Conservancy and US Fish and Wildlife Service
County:	Orange
Program:	Land Acquisition Program
Funding:	Proposition 50
Strategic Plan Goals:	A.1, A.2 Objectives: SI 1.3, 2.2, 2.5, 3.2, 3.4
Disadvantaged Community:	Not within a disadvantaged community

LOCATION

The property (Property) consists of approximately 44± acres. One parcel is located on the east side of Beach Boulevard, just north of its intersection with the Pacific Coast Highway 1, and three parcels are located west of Newland Street, adjacent to the intersection of Newland Street and Hamilton Avenue, within the city of Huntington Beach in Orange County.

Newland Marsh is a degraded salt marsh and one of the four major components of the Huntington Beach Wetlands Complex (Wetlands Complex), a 191±-acre wetlands complex located on the west side of the Santa Ana River consisting of Talbert, Brookhurst, Magnolia, and Newland marshes. The Wetlands Complex is all that is left of an almost 3,000±-acre wetland that once existed at the mouth of the Santa Ana River. All the other marshes except Newland Marsh have been acquired and restored by the Huntington Beach Wetlands Conservancy (HBWC). The restored wetlands consist of a mix of pickleweed salt marsh, mudflat, subtidal zones, and a small amount of coastal dune habitat. The Wetlands Complex is part of the Orange Coast River Park, 1000± acres of open space wildlife habitat at the mouth of the Santa Ana River.

The Property was designated as wetlands by CDFW in the mid-1970s. The Wetlands Complex is part of the coastal wetland system originally formed by the meandering Santa Ana River. This wetland system covered 2,950± acres prior to the introduction of agricultural and urban development into the area. Most of this vast wetland has been destroyed through draining and filling for urban growth. Much of the remaining wetland has been isolated through the construction of the

Pacific Coast Highway, channelization of the Santa Ana River, and construction of flood control channels. Today, only a fraction of the Santa Ana River coastal wetland system remains, and much of this is highly degraded due to isolation from tides, neglect, encroachment, unauthorized access, and oil exploration.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property is currently owned by Caltrans. Per Caltrans, before any excess real property, except surplus residential property as defined in Government Code Section 54236, is offered for sale to the public, it must be offered for sale or lease to local public agencies, housing authorities, or redevelopment agencies within whose jurisdiction the property is located. (See Streets & Highways Code Section 118(a)(2).) Caltrans has deemed the Property surplus because it no longer needs it for operational purposes. Caltrans is requiring that SCC pay fair market value for the purchase and is seeking to dispose of the Property as part of its excess lands program. If SCC does not purchase the Property, it would then be made available for purchase by the public. SCC has been working with HBWC to acquire and restore the Property for the long-term protection of coastal wetlands.

The Property and the surrounding Wetlands Complex provides habitat for more than 80 species of birds, including several rare or endangered species. These rare and endangered species include Belding's Savannah sparrow (state endangered), California brown pelican (state and federal endangered), California least tern (state and federal endangered), and Western snowy plover (federal threatened). The wetlands are also home to two endangered plant species, the coast woolly-head and salt marsh bird's beak plant species.

The Property is currently isolated from tides by flood control levees along its northern and western boundary. It currently supports degraded seasonal wetlands during the rainy season. However, after restoration, it will support tidal wetlands with high value fish and wildlife habitat. This Property is identified on the Southern California Coastal Wetlands Recovery Project Work Plan.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

In 2006, with funding from the SCC, HBWC completed a Conceptual Restoration Plan for the Wetlands Complex from Beach Boulevard to the Santa Ana River. The Plan evaluated the engineering, ecological, and the economic feasibility of wetland restoration alternatives within the Huntington Beach Wetlands and developed a framework for a coordinated restoration program. The supporting studies characterized the existing conditions, identified potential restoration alternatives based on the opportunities and constraints, and then identified preferred alternatives for further planning. These alternatives included restoration and public access components. Development of the plan was overseen by a multi-agency team of federal, state, and local partners. HBWC has been working to acquire and restore the Wetlands Complex for the purposes of improving coastal habitat and providing educational and recreational opportunities along the coast. In 2016, HBWC enlisted the firm Moffatt & Nichol to revise the 2006 plan to include: 1) rising sea level, 2) levee height surrounding the planned restoration on all parcels,

and 3) further developing public access. Through the years, HBWC has taken on increasingly complex projects and demonstrated a leadership role in the restoration, preservation, and educational interpretation of the Wetlands Complex. The plan is for SCC to transfer the Property to HBWC and the Property will be added to HBWC's existing holdings and will be managed accordingly. HBWC will be responsible for the long-term management of the Property.

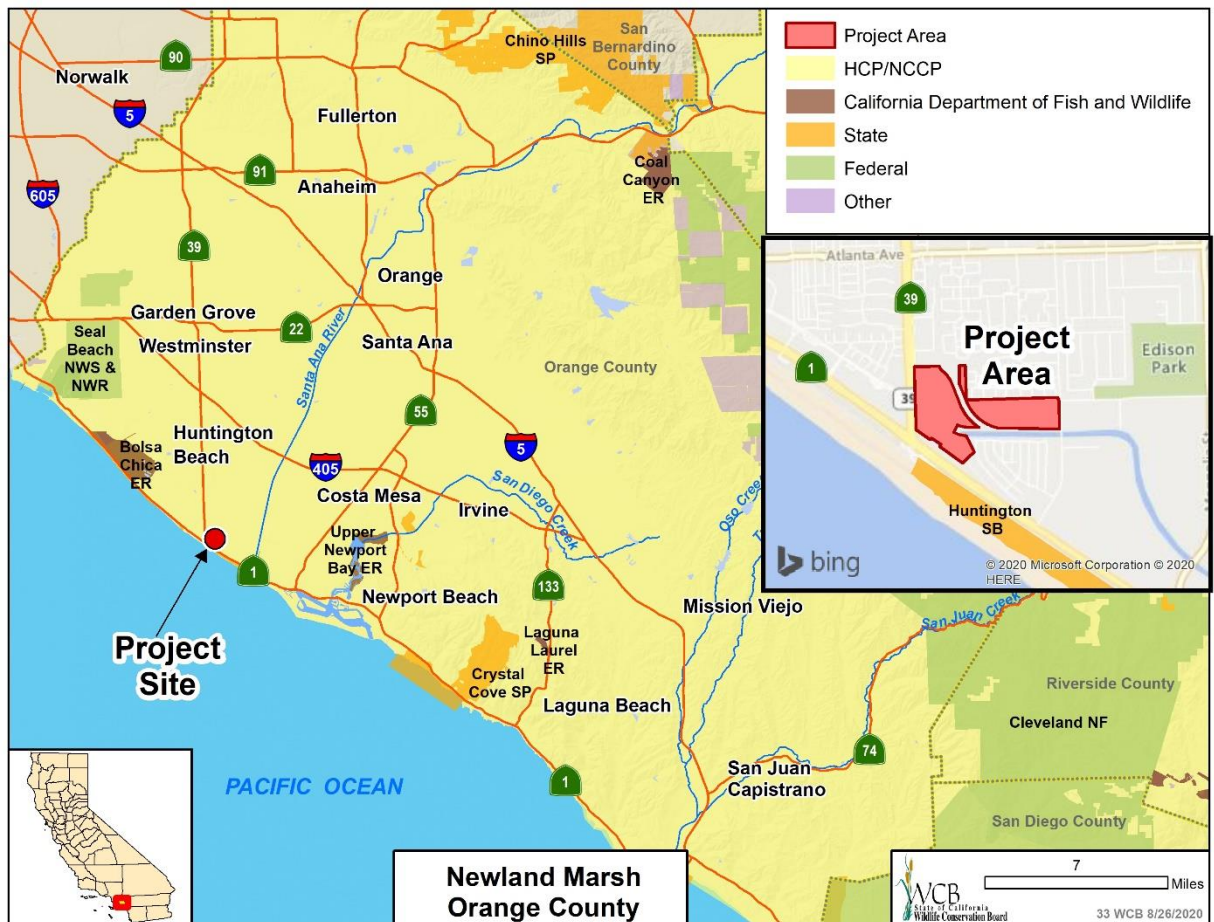
PROJECT FUNDING

The DGS approved fair market value is \$2,460,000. The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$1,083,129
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Coastal Grant	\$980,000
State Coastal Conservancy	\$396,871
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$2,460,000

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.

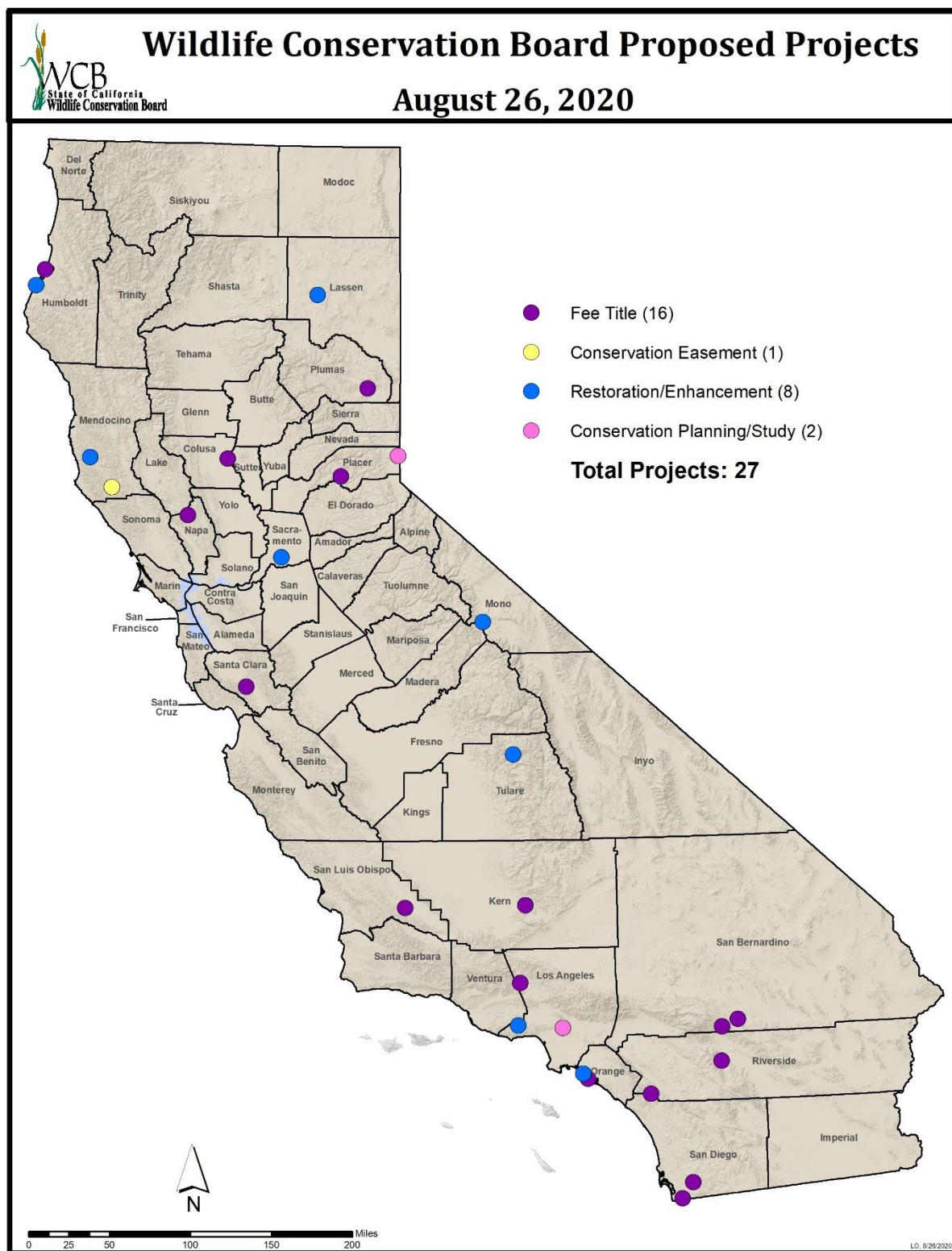


34. Executive Session (Not Open to the Public)

The Board may meet in closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 11126(e)(2)(C) to confer regarding Sonoma Land Trust v. Thompson, et al., Sonoma County Superior Court, Case No. SCV 258010. After closed session, the Board will reconvene in public session, which may include announcements about actions taken during closed session.

Adjourn

ATTACHMENT A – MAP OF AUGUST 2020 PROJECTS



ATTACHMENT B – WCB DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS

DEFINITIONS

Disadvantaged Community – a community with a median household income less than 80 percent of the statewide average (PRC § 80002[e]).

Severely Disadvantaged Community - a community with a median household income less than 60 percent of the statewide average (PRC § 80002[n]).

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
Disadvantaged Community	DAC
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
Severely Disadvantaged Community	SDAC
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 C – 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.

GOAL E. Fiscal and Organizational Effectiveness

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

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 TRANSPARENCY (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.