



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

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

November 18, 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.

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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 November 2020 Projects

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PERSONS WITH DISABILITES

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1. Roll Call

Wildlife Conservation Board Members

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

Joint Legislative Advisory Committee

Senator Andreas Borgeas
Senator Nancy Skinner
Senator Henry Stern
Assemblymember Laura Friedman
Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi – Alternate
Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia
Assemblymember Miguel Santiago – Alternate
Assemblymember Monique Limon
Assemblymember Marc Levine – Alternate

Executive Director

John P. Donnelly

2. 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
November 2020 Board Meeting Allocation:	0.00
Total Project Development:	0.00
Projected Unallocated Balance:	\$1,000,000.00
HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (0262)	\$71,203,409.91
November 2020 Board Meeting Allocation:	(8,289,658.00)
Total Project Development:	(13,527,130.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	\$49,386,621.91
SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS, CLEAN WATER, CLEAN AIR, AND COASTAL PROTECTION BOND FUND (Proposition 12) (0005)	\$1,085,114.00
November 2020 Board Meeting Allocation:	0.00
Total Project Development:	(539,750.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	\$545,364.00
CALIFORNIA CLEAN WATER, CLEAN AIR, SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS AND COASTAL PROTECTION BOND FUND (Proposition 40) (6029)	\$10,847,710.66
November 2020 Board Meeting Allocation:	0.00
Total Project Development:	(6,697,370.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	\$4,150,340.66
WATER SECURITY, CLEAN DRINKING WATER, COASTAL AND BEACH PROTECTION FUND OF 2002 (Proposition 50) (6031)	\$17,980,741.83
November 2020 Board Meeting Allocation:	0.00
Total Project Development:	(12,235,840.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	\$5,744,901.83

SAFE DRINKING WATER, WATER QUALITY AND SUPPLY, FLOOD CONTROL, RIVER AND COASTAL PROTECTION FUND OF 2006 (Proposition 84) (6051)	\$17,533,814.19
November 2020 Board Meeting Allocation:	(1,255,000.00)
Total Project Development:	(14,366,628.93)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	\$1,912,185.26
WATER QUALITY, SUPPLY, AND INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT FUND (Proposition 1) (6083)	\$61,176,190.65
November 2020 Board Meeting Allocation:	0.00
Total Project Development:	0.00
Projected Unallocated Balance:	\$61,176,190.65
THE CALIFORNIA DROUGHT, WATER, PARKS, CLIMATE, COASTAL PROTECTION, AND OUTDOOR ACCESS FOR ALL ACT OF 2018 (Proposition 68) (6088)	\$145,423,561.00
November 2020 Board Meeting Allocation:	(30,854,805.00)
Total Project Development:	(36,990,599.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	\$77,578,157.00
GENERAL FUND (0001)	\$10,000,000.00
November 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
November 2020 Board Meeting Allocation:	(5,599,815.00)
Total Project Development:	(5,214,000.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	\$3,237,510.00
TOTAL – ALL FUNDS	\$350,301,867.24
Grand Total - November 2020 Board Meeting Allocation:	(45,999,278.00)
Grand Total - Project Development:	(99,571,317.93)
Grand Total Projected Unallocated Balance:	\$204,731,271.31
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

Strategic Plan Update

WCB implemented a Strategic Plan in 2014 and completed a public process to update the plan that was approved in August 2019. The 2019 Strategic Plan update relies on the 2014 Strategic Plan goals while defining more focused

objectives tailored to emerging conservation priorities and a strategic path forward. The goals for WCB include:

- **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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **Goal D. Public Awareness and Education** - Raise public awareness of key conservation issues and goals, and educate and support local resource agencies and private landowners in protecting and enhancing habitat.
- **Goal E. Fiscal and Organizational Effectiveness** - Ensure effective internal systems and organization and ensure that WCB has sufficient resources to achieve its long-term vision.

The following eight Strategic Initiatives are the focus of our work through 2024. Each Initiative identifies three to six specific measurable objectives to accomplish over a specified timeframe. Some objectives are over the five-year timeframe of the plan, other objectives are annual, and a few have a specific completion date. For each project brought to the Board for approval, staff are responsible to determine which objectives have been met. Below are the Strategic Initiatives with reporting on how objectives were met over the last year (meetings from November 2019 – August 2020). Overall, over 50 percent of the objectives were met including all the annual objectives and most of the five-year objectives. The remaining objectives are in progress and on track. Figures below show the data for objectives in different ways. Refer to Appendix C for a full description of each objective.

Climate Change Adaptation, Resiliency, and Mitigation: WCB is investing in projects that mitigate the effects of climate change, provide connectivity among and between intact landscapes, and provide habitat and species resiliency. All objectives in this initiative have been met including 28 projects that support wildlife connectivity with 4 projects specific to wildlife crossings. About 40 percent of the projects funded in the last year are in areas identified as habitat for vulnerable species or as highly resilient to climate change. WCB also funded 4 projects with long-term carbon sequestration benefits and funded 14 upper watershed improvement projects that also provide resilience to climate change.

Biodiversity Actions: WCB continues to focus on conserving California's unparalleled biodiversity and is supporting state biodiversity priorities as highlighted in the recent Executive Order N-82-20. WCB supported protection or restoration of oak woodlands, riparian habitat and rangeland, grazing land, and grasslands through 27 different projects including many that support natural

working lands. WCB also supported 24 projects that meet targets identified in state and regional conservation plans and over 80 projects that meet conservation priorities expressed in the State Wildlife Action Plan. In addition, WCB supported protection or restoration of over 12,000 acres of riparian, wetland, and grassland habitat and 28 projects that specifically enhance stream flow and increase water resiliency.

Public Access and Wildlife-oriented Recreation: WCB funded 18 projects that provide access and wildlife-oriented opportunities for disadvantaged communities to experience natural and wild areas. Sixteen projects support hunting or fishing opportunities, and 11 projects provide boating, hunting, and fishing for disadvantaged communities and or facilities for mobility-impaired visitors. Forty-five projects included non-consumptive wildlife recreation such as bird watching and hiking.

Ecosystem Services: WCB supported 23 projects that also include benefits gained from natural environments and properly functioning ecosystems such as clean water delivered by a healthy upper watershed. Specific objectives met include 16 projects in upper watersheds that provide ecosystem services and 4 projects that restore native pollinator habitat.

Partnerships: WCB's conservation work in California is predicated on successful partnerships. WCB continued to collaborate with partners, maintaining and strengthening existing partnerships while creating new ones. In particular, WCB met or worked with at least five new partners in the last year including new partners in more urban areas, and we continue to coordinate with other agencies and conservancies to identify the highest priorities for our competitive grant programs. In the last year, five competitive solicitations were completed as well as project development through our continuous programs. WCB also provided funding to activities that support state or federal Safe Harbor Programs.

Organization and Transparency: WCB is committed to sound organizational structures and effective operations through more transparency and expanded communication. Specific objectives met include moving Board meetings online beginning in February 2020 and streamlining of internal processes including transition of all electronic development of grants using DocuSign. We have been unable to fully implement an online application system and additional improvements to our webpage and mapping capabilities due to budget cuts and staff capacity. WCB has continued meeting with partners to get feedback on grant programs and WCB sponsored five conferences, several of which went virtual due to COVID-19.

Natural Resources Conservation Leadership: WCB continues to provide leadership and facilitate and convene partners to develop to provide conservation priorities. Specific objectives met include participations in statewide policy development for topics such as forest management and biodiversity as well as the Cutting the Green Tape Initiative. WCB continues to refine goals as defined by statewide goals such as climate change and fire recovery and emphasizes those in competitive solicitations.

Monitoring and Program Evaluation: WCB's monitoring program is now in its third year where five percent of closed projects are selected to be monitored annually. We had identified 100 projects to monitor this last year but were unable to conduct field visits beginning in March due to COVID-19. We continue to improve our survey criteria to gather data to allow for better determination of project effectiveness.

This initial reporting includes projects approved by the Board from November 2019 through August 2020. Moving forward, progress on these objectives will be reported for each calendar year through our Year in Review. Overall, the Board is doing extremely well in meeting the objectives as outlined in its Strategic Plan Update of 2019.

Figure 1. This graphic shows the status of all objectives reported since November 2019. Objectives include project related objectives and staff activities.

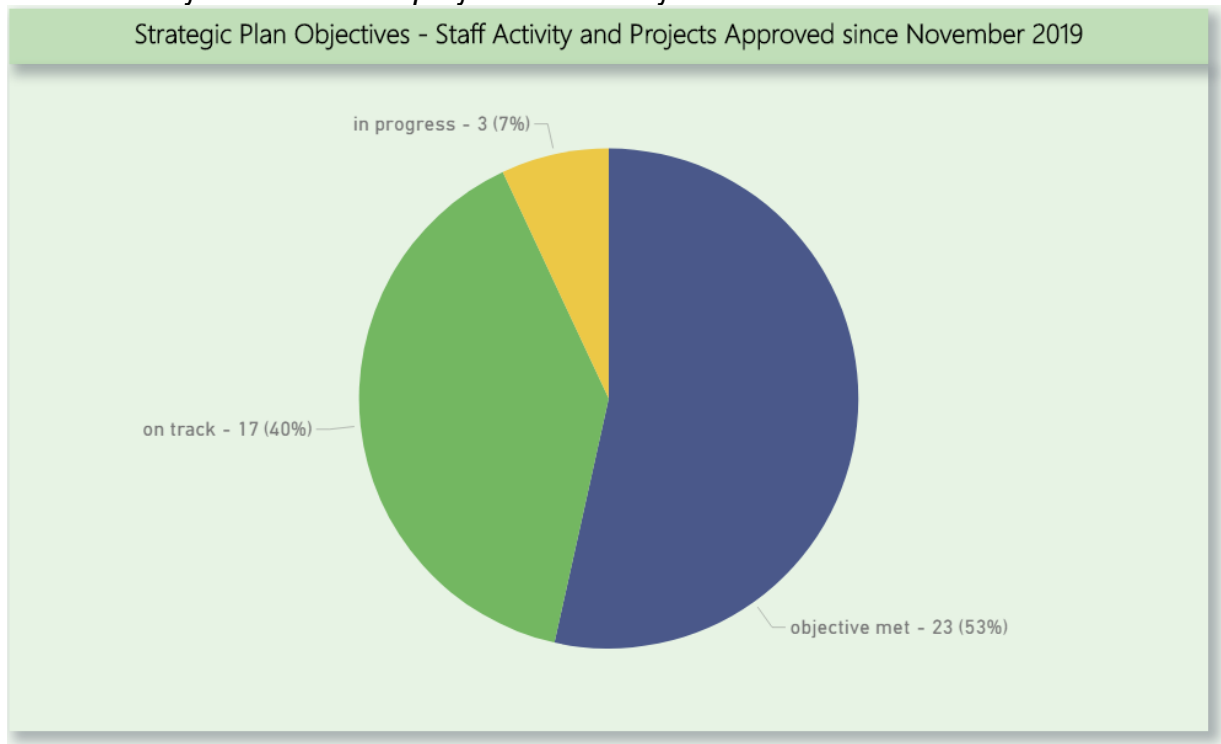


Figure 2. This graphic shows the status of all the project related objectives. It includes project objectives for the five-year time frame and the annual project objectives.



Figure 3. This graphic shows the target and number of projects that have met the five-year objectives.

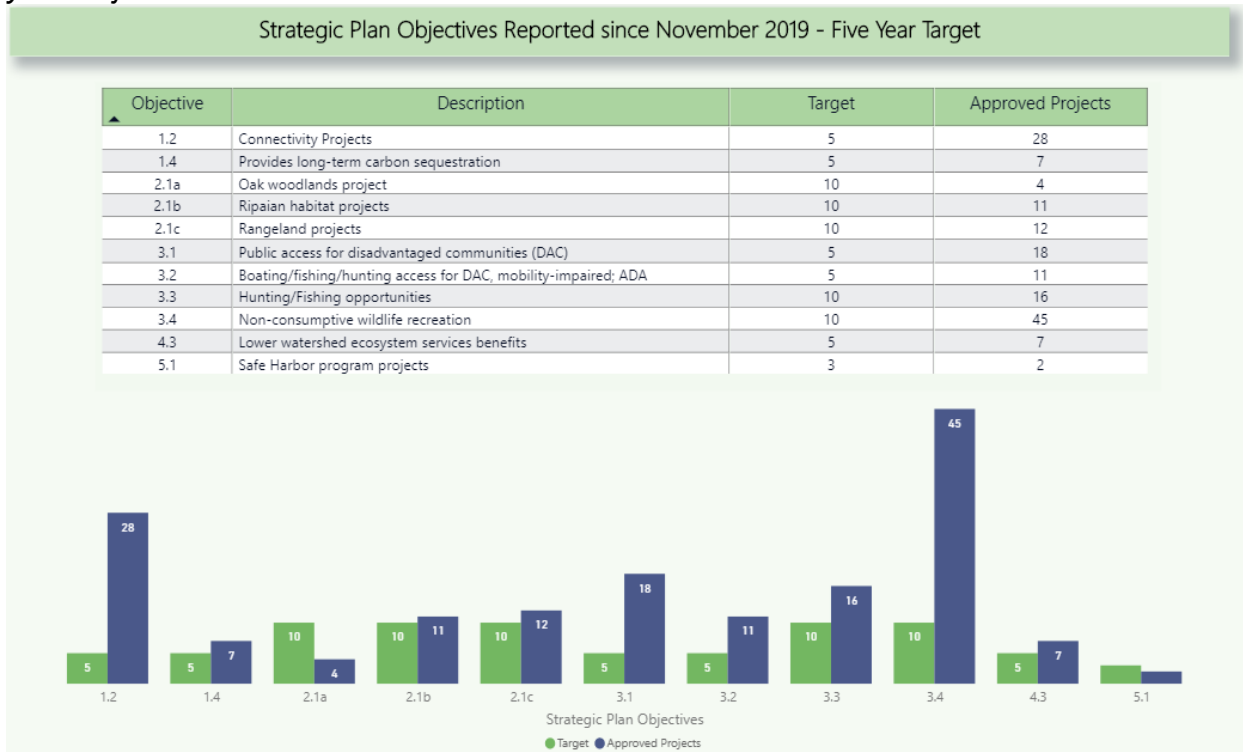


Figure 4. This graphic shows the target and number of projects that have met the annual objectives.

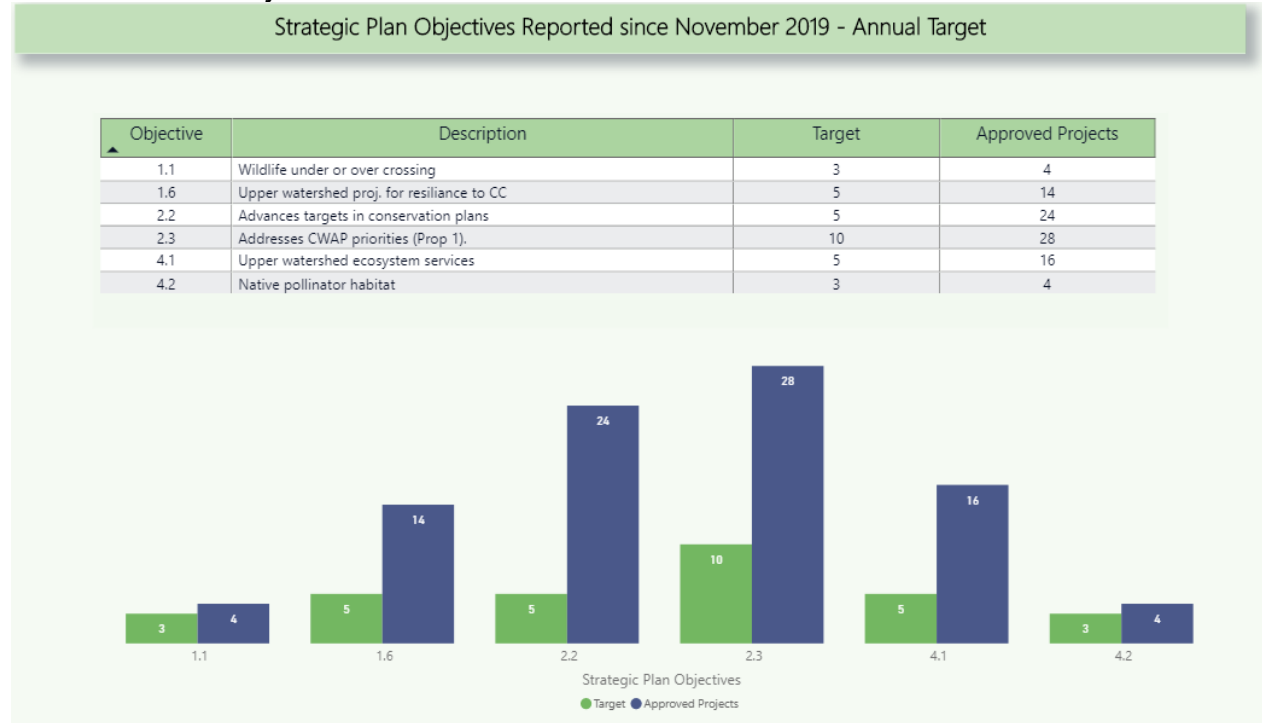


Figure 5. This graphic shows the progress for the staff activity objectives.



Fire Impacts to WCB projects

Informational item regarding the current state of the 2020 fire season, the impacts to current and past WCB projects, and the future of WCB fire impact tracking.

This fire season in California has been unprecedented. Although WCB is not an emergency response agency, annual fire occurrences have prompted staff to begin development of a new process for tracking WCB investments that are impacted by fire. Using spatial data from the California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), wildfires from the 2020 fire season have impacted roughly 30 recent WCB projects that have been approved in the last five years. Fires may have negative impacts such as altering chemical water quality and increasing sediment loads, releasing contaminants and particulate matter into the air, and they may be particularly devastating to life and property. Conversely, fire impacts can also provide benefits to many of California's ecosystems, including improvements to soil fertility, reduction of invasive species, reduction of disease and the insects that prey on vulnerable trees, reduction of forest and grassland debris and thatch, and improves the age-class structure of forests which makes them more resilient to future wildfire impacts. To better understand the long-term cumulative effects of fire impacts on WCB projects, staff will investigate wildfire occurrence data each year, monitor fire impacted projects over time, collaborate with partners, and support new projects that include fire resiliency elements which will help guide current fire recovery efforts and future project ranking.

Consent Items

Items 5-24 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	\$0.00
Habitat Conservation Fund	\$31,467.00
Wildlife Restoration Fund	\$0.00
California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Fund	\$1,815,321.86
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006	\$12,408.00
Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Fund of 2014	\$85,533.00
The California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018	\$4,376.00
Total Recoveries for All Funds	\$1,949,105.86

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

Project Name	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Laursen Outback Preserve, Expansion 1	\$54,484.00	\$54,484.00	\$0.00
Total Recoveries to Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Fund			\$0.00

Table 3 - Habitat Conservation Fund

Project Name	Allocated	Expended	Balance
CAL FIRE Humboldt County Community Forest McKay Tract, Exp. 1	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00
CAL FIRE Ryan Creek C.E.	\$20,000.00	\$14,171.00	\$5,829.00
Coyote Valley Landscape Linkage (Sobrato South)	\$10,025,000.00	\$10,023,600.00	\$1,400.00
Frog Lake	\$10,000.00	\$4,884.00	\$5,116.00
Grinsell Ranch	\$1,040,000.00	\$1,038,140.00	\$1,860.00
Laursen Outback Preserve, Expansion 1	\$628,516.00	\$628,516.00	\$0.00
Tehachapi-Bear Mountain	\$3,510,000.00	\$3,502,738.00	\$7,262.00
Total Recoveries to Habitat Conservation Fund			\$31,467.00

Table 4 - Wildlife Restoration Fund

Project Name	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Oroville Wildlife Area Public Access Improvements	\$484,000.00	\$484,000.00	\$0.00
Total Recoveries to Wildlife Restoration Fund			\$0.00

Table 5 - California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Fund

Project Name	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Careaga Canyon Ranch Conservation Easement	\$1,383,000.00	\$4,920.00	\$1,378,080.00
Shaver Lake Ramp Extension and Shade Pavilions	\$409,000.00	\$373,295.87	\$35,704.13
Shelter Island Boat Launch Replacement	\$3,350,000.00	\$2,953,400.67	\$396,599.33
Sierra Valley Conservation Area, Expansion 5 (Genasci)	\$370,500.00	\$365,561.60	\$4,938.40
Wheeler Ridge, Expansion 2	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$0.00
Total Recoveries to California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Fund			\$1,815,321.86

Table 6 - Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006

Project Name	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Chino Hills (Eastbridge)	\$1,034,000.00	\$1,028,736.00	\$5,264.00
Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan, Rancho Royale Property	\$565,720.00	\$565,720.00	\$0.00
East Contra Costa County HCP/NCCP (Bloching)	\$115,000.00	\$108,996.00	\$6,004.00
Santa Cruz Mountains Linkages, Coyote Ridge Exp. 1	\$1,520,000.00	\$1,518,860.00	\$1,140.00
Total Recoveries to Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002			\$12,408.00

Table 7 - Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Fund of 2014

Project Name	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Scott and Shasta Flow Enhancement Planning Proj.	\$395,576.82	\$310,043.82	\$85,533.00
Total Recoveries to Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006			\$85,533.00

Table 8 - The California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018

Project Name	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan, Rancho Royale Property	\$10,000.00	\$5,624.00	\$4,376.00
Frog Lake	\$1,300,000.00	\$1,300,000.00	\$0.00
Total Recoveries to The California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018			\$4,376.00

6. Large Tree Mapping Across the Sierra Nevada

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$300,000 from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (Budget Act, Chapter 14 and 249, Statutes of 2017); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Large Tree Mapping Across the Sierra Nevada
Project Type:	Technical Assistance
Applicant/Grantee:	Blue Forest Finance, Inc.
Amount Recommended:	\$300,000
Funding Partners:	In-kind contributions from Blue Forest Finance, Inc., U.S. Forest Service, and Salo Sciences
County:	Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, El Dorado, Fresno, Inyo, Kern, Madera, Mariposa, Mono, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sierra, Tulare, Tuolumne, and Yuba
Program:	Climate Adaptation and Resilience Program
Funding:	Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund
Strategic Plan Goals:	A.1 Objectives: SI 1.4
Disadvantaged Community:	Within a disadvantaged community

LOCATION

The project study area consists of all counties across the Sierra Nevada, plus the east side of Lake Tahoe: Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, El Dorado, Fresno, Inyo, Kern, Madera, Mariposa, Mono, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sierra, Tulare, Tuolumne, and Yuba counties.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Landscapes throughout the western U.S. are undergoing rapid changes in the face of global climate change, thereby impacting our reliance on the ecosystem services they provide. Large trees, a common feature, formed the backbone of western landscapes and played a keystone role in terrestrial and aquatic processes. Their thick bark, decay resistant wood, and massive size buffered them against fire and drought disturbances, while locking in carbon reserves and providing important habitat. These properties also made them a target for logging, and their abundance is now a fraction of their pre-Euro American era levels. Currently, little information exists as to the distribution of remaining large trees across the Sierra Nevada landscape and the factors most associated with their persistence on the land. The goals of this project are to identify the locations of large Sierra Nevada trees, quantify their functional value, determine the effects of treatments on their distribution, and assess their variability under climate change. The end-product would be a publicly available large tree data layer for the Sierra Nevada that is derived using state-of-the-art, high-resolution data and technology, and that is repeatable and readily updated to effectively monitor change over time.

This information will assist land managers in implementing practices that provide climate adaptation and resilience to large trees as a critical biological legacy for Sierra Nevada forests.

The development of a web-based planning tool will require diverse and interactive informational sources. Accordingly, this project would leverage resources from other complementary efforts such as the Tahoe-Central Sierra Initiative's (TCSI) development of the LANDIS model for forest management (to inform planning), Salo Science's development of the California Forest Observatory (a data resource), and efforts by the ClimateWorks Foundation to incorporate carbon and climate benefit cash flows into forest restoration (to prioritize investments). In this project, data layers will be used from these and other resources to develop a planning tool that would define, map, assess, and support management planning for large tree areas in the Sierra Nevada.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Project Task	Total Cost	WCB	Non-WCB Funds
Large tree location	\$115,000	\$45,000	\$70,000
Forest carbon and habitat analysis	\$90,000	\$55,000	\$35,000
Model development	\$65,000	\$65,000	---
Develop management scenarios	\$285,000	\$45,000	\$240,000
Mapping data and outreach	\$255,000	\$90,000	\$165,000
Total	\$810,000	\$300,000	\$510,000

Project costs include:

- Large tree location: Personnel time to identify the location of large trees and large tree patches.
- Forest carbon and habitat analysis: Personnel time to analyze the economic value of forest carbon based on off-market, voluntary, and regulatory credit pricing, evaluate risk to long-term storage/large tree habitat based on wildfire risk metrics, analyze the functional value of forest carbon and spotted owl habitat. Develop a final map with distribution of habitat valuation scores.
- Model development: Personnel time to develop machine learning model to identify environmental and topographic drivers of large tree patches and predict where they exist across the Sierra Nevada.
- Develop management scenarios: Personnel time to incorporate TCSI climate and management scenarios for evaluating large tree retention and recruitment into the future.
- Mapping data and outreach: Personnel time to incorporate spatial data into Salo Sciences and Blue Forest's mapping dashboards, create outreach materials, report and peer-reviewed paper writing, publishing costs. Travel

costs to stakeholder meetings for outreach, and for annual internal in-person workshop.

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

The project is statutorily exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15262, Feasibility and Planning Studies, as it involves only feasibility and planning studies for possible future actions. Subject to authorization by WCB, a Notice of Exemption (NOE) will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.



7. Bouvier Ranch

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$630,000 from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund for the grant to Siskiyou Land Trust (SLT); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Bouvier Ranch
Project Type:	Conservation Easement (1,596± acres)
Grantee:	Siskiyou Land Trust
Amount Recommended:	\$630,000
County:	Siskiyou
Program:	Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program
Funding:	Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund
Strategic Plan Goals:	A1, A2 Objectives: SI 1.2, 1.3, 2.1, 2.4, 4.1
Disadvantaged Community:	Within a disadvantaged community

LOCATION

The property, known as Bouvier Ranch, (Property) is located in a scenic area known as Scott Valley (Valley), approximately 15 miles south of the city of Etna, and 1.5 miles west of the town of Callahan in an unincorporated area of western Siskiyou County. The Callahan-Cecilville Road provides direct access to the Property, extending 1.5 miles west from the town of Callahan off State Highway 3.

Historically, the Valley was known as a gold mining area dating back to the 1850s California Gold Rush but has transformed to supporting cattle ranches, dairy farms, and timber production. The general terrain of the Property area is steep and mountainous, supporting mixed conifer and hardwood forested slopes with limited flatlands and extensive valleys. The outlying area of the Property is characterized by a small amount of widely dispersed developed rural homesteads along with large landscapes of conserved areas that includes the adjacent Klamath National Forest which nearly encompasses the Property and the nearby designated wilderness areas of the Marble Mountain, Russian, and Trinity Alps. Approximately 2.5 miles of the South Fork Scott River (River), a designated Critical Habitat tributary of the Klamath river basin, runs through the Property along with Fox Creek and Boulder Creek which provides an additional two miles of perennial streams. These tributaries are key strongholds for endangered salmonid species, as indicated in both the NOAA 2014 Final Recovery Plan and the CDFW Recovery Strategy for California Coho.

The Property and surrounding area are identified in the 2015 State Wildlife Action Plan, North Coast and Klamath region, as an area known for its extensive river systems and anadromous fish populations they support. In particular, this region is recognized for supporting one third of the state's Chinook salmon fishery, and most of the state's coho salmon and steelhead. The Property is also identified for

protection in CDFW's Mt. Shasta Headwaters Conceptual Area Protection Plan which focuses on protecting large tracts of Klamath forest lands that create habitat and wildlife connectivity corridors in response to the effects of climate change.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The 1,596+ acre Property consists of four contiguous legal parcels that form an irregular shaped tract of land that contains a well-developed network of older interior logging roads. The Property is almost entirely forested, with just 70+ acres of homestead and grazing land, adjacent to the north bank of the River.

Improvements on the Property include eight dilapidated building structures that date back to the 1800s and have no contributory value. The current zoning of the Property allows for rural residential development and potential lot line adjustments for subdivision. Historically, the Property has been used for a variety of purposes including logging, mining, and grazing. There is a current grazing lease that serves approximately 30 head of cattle on 50+ acres of a fenced area. Most recently the Property has been used for recreation, but intermittent timber harvesting has occurred on the Property since the 1800s with the most recent commercial harvest completed in 2009.

The topography of the Property varies from gently rolling to steeply sloping terrain with elevation variances of approximately 3,000 to 5,000 feet above sea level and is predominantly forested with second, third, and fourth generation growth Klamath mixed conifer forest species identified as Douglas-fir, Ponderosa pine, and true-fir interspersed with incense cedar and sugar pine. There are also significant stands of mixed hardwood species as well as oak woodlands, meadows, and riparian habitat. Both Fox Creek and Boulder Creek feed into the River which runs in a northeasterly direction along the western boundary of the Property, eventually feeding into the main arm of the Scott River, then northwesterly draining entirely into the Klamath River.

The portion of the River that flows through the Property has been recognized by both the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and CDFW for its ability to consistently sustain high quality water due to its capacity to maintain clarity after storms, low temperatures amid hot summers, and perennial flows in the driest of water years. This is key for juvenile coho salmon that remain in the Scott River system for an entire year before migrating out to the ocean. One of the goals of the conservation easement (Easement) is to monitor dry-season water withdrawals from surface watercourses on the Property in order to improve ground and surface water hydrology and summer stream flows within and downstream for the benefit of fish, wildlife, and neighboring communities. The parties to the Easement intend to extinguish most of the development rights and place additional safeguards on water withdrawals for permitted agricultural or commercial uses and activities. This will help the watercourses retain higher summertime stream flows benefiting salmonid survival rates.

In the summer of 2017, the Siskiyou Resource Conservation District and California Trout undertook a major stream restoration project on the Property, inserting large

woody debris in the River and regrading the banks so that the River can reconnect to its historic floodplain in high water events. Both actions will create new refuges for coldwater fish in times of stress. The Easement will guarantee that these restoration actions continue with phase II of the project already being developed by the original parties.

Greenhouse gas reduction targets are addressed in the Easement by the requirement of a Non-Industrial Timber Management Plan that can support long-term forest restoration and stewardship activities on the Property, that increase resilience to climate change and net carbon storage. The Easement will limit even-aged management and also protects old-growth trees, widens riparian buffers, and requires the delay of commercial timber harvesting for a minimum of 20 years to increase the forest stand inventory across the Property, until a set stocking threshold has been attained.

The Easement will provide resilience to climate change by preserving and enhancing high-quality aquatic and terrestrial habitats that offer refuge to a variety of fish and wildlife. Due to the Property's location and condition, these habitats in their current state are more resistant to climate change, and this Easement will ensure that resistance is bolstered instead of being eroded by poor management. Also, the Property's location within a mosaic of protected lands, coupled with its range of elevations linked by riparian corridors, provide the connectivity that will allow vulnerable species to migrate to more hospitable locations as the climate shifts.

Other species that will benefit from the protection of the Property include the following: northern spotted owl, northern goshawk, California wolverine, Cascade frog, western tailed frog, American pine marten, Pacific fisher, and prairie falcon.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

Under the terms of the Easement, the landowner will be responsible for the cost of maintenance and operation of the Property. Management of the Property will be guided by three management plans which include a Nonindustrial Timber Management Plan, riparian management plan, and an agricultural management plan all approved by CDFW.

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

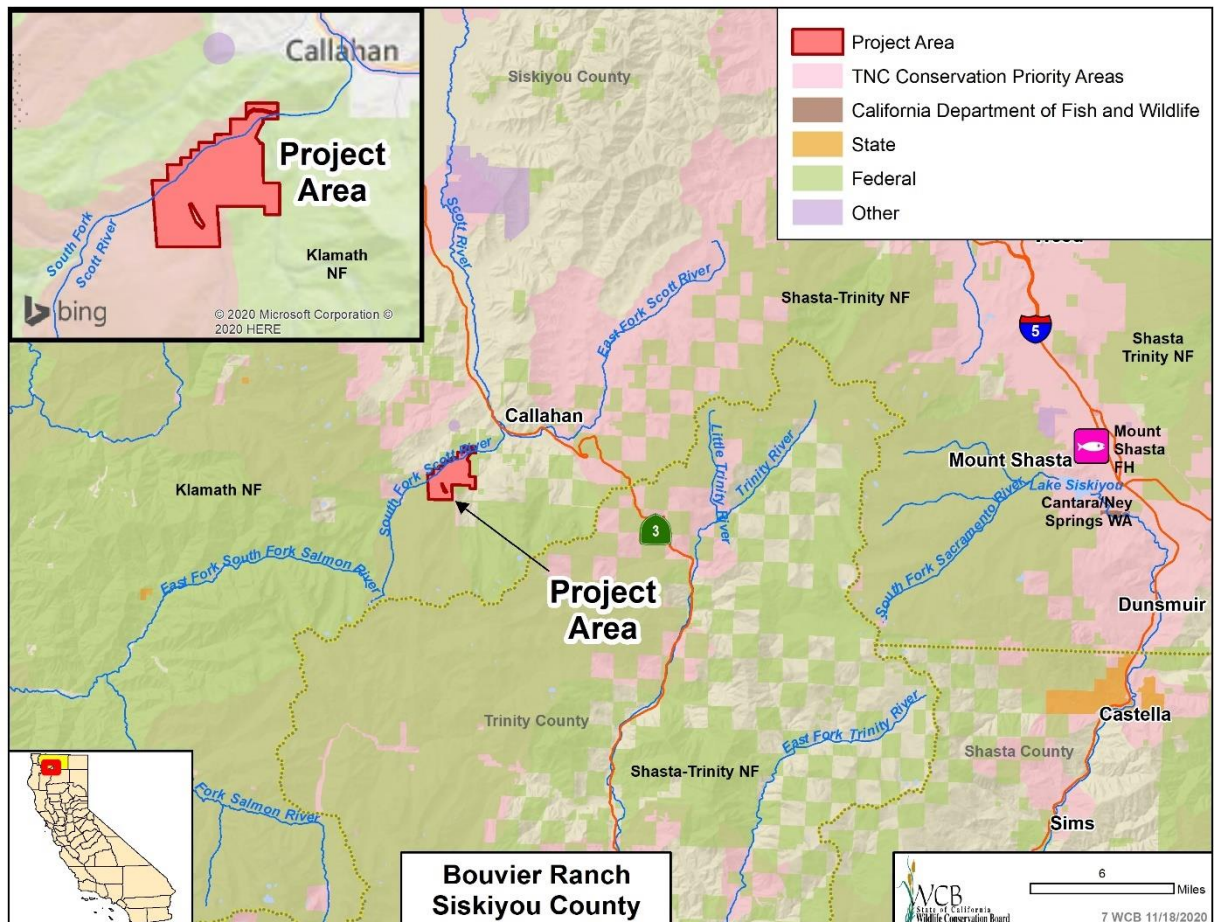
PROJECT FUNDING

The Department of General Services (DGS) approved fair market value is \$630,000. The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$630,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$630,000

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.



8. Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge Water Conveyance Assessment

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$206,000 from the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68), Public Resources Code Section 80132(c); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge Water Conveyance Assessment
Project Type:	Planning
Applicant/Grantee:	Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
Amount Recommended:	\$206,000
Funding Partners:	U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
Landowner(s):	U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
County:	Siskiyou
Program:	Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Program
Funding:	Proposition 68
Strategic Plan Goals:	B.1 Objectives: SI 1.3, 2.4, 3.4
Disadvantaged Community:	Within a severely disadvantaged community

LOCATION

Lower Klamath National Wildlife Area (LKNWR) is located within the Klamath Basin on the California-Oregon border in Siskiyou County. LKNWR is comprised of over 25,000± acres, managed as seasonal, semi-permanent, and permanently flooded wetlands. LKNWR was established in 1908 by President Theodore Roosevelt as the Nation's first waterfowl refuge.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

It is estimated that LKNWR supports approximately 80 percent of the Pacific Flyway's migrating waterfowl during the spring and fall migrations. In addition to being a critical migratory stopover, LKNWR produces 30,000 to 60,000 waterfowl each year. LKNWR is also important for other wetland-dependent waterbirds such as greater Sandhill cranes (state threatened), white-faced ibis, and American white pelicans. The Klamath Basin is one of the most important sub-basins in the Southern Oregon Northeast California Wetland Basins, which is identified as one of the areas of greatest continental significance to North American waterfowl by the North American Waterfowl Management Plan and is one of top priorities of the Intermountain West Joint Venture. Outside of the Rainwater Basin, no other area in North America supports as many spring migrating waterfowl.

Currently LKNWR receives water through the Klamath Irrigation Project with the main intake at the Ady Canal. The water must enter and fill Unit 2, which is a

5,000±-acre wetland unit, and subsequently enter and fill Unit 3, a 2,600±-acre wetland unit, before it is able to be used on any other unit on the refuge. This is a highly inefficient way to convey water and results in limited habitat management options. To increase efficiency, an alternative water conveyance system is proposed to allow water a more direct route from the intake at the Ady Canal to the Central Canal, where it can then be sent to various units. The new conveyance system could benefit 25,837± total acres, of which 17,334± acres are palustrine emergent wetlands and 8,503± are agricultural cropland/upland habitat acres.

Although the solution is well understood, the infrastructure necessary to convey water almost six miles from the Ady Canal to the Central Canal requires a thorough assessment. Two potential routes exist: one is north of State Route 161 and the other to the south. Each option presents unique challenges and complexities necessitating engineering feasibility studies and analysis of potential environmental impacts. To complete the proposed project, the following activities will be completed:

- Conduct an engineering analysis to produce a conceptual design and rough costs for the different conveyance alternatives.
- Assess the environmental impacts of each feasible alternative.
- Select the preferred alternative and complete a 60-70 percent engineering design and complete the necessary CEQA/NEPA documentation.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Project Task	Total Cost	WCB	Non-WCB Funds
Project Administration	\$26,142	\$26,142	---
Engineering Assessment	\$60,255	\$60,255	---
Environmental Compliance	\$113,642	\$98,642	\$15,000
Indirect Charges	\$49,961	\$20,961	\$29,000
Total	\$250,000	\$206,000	\$44,000

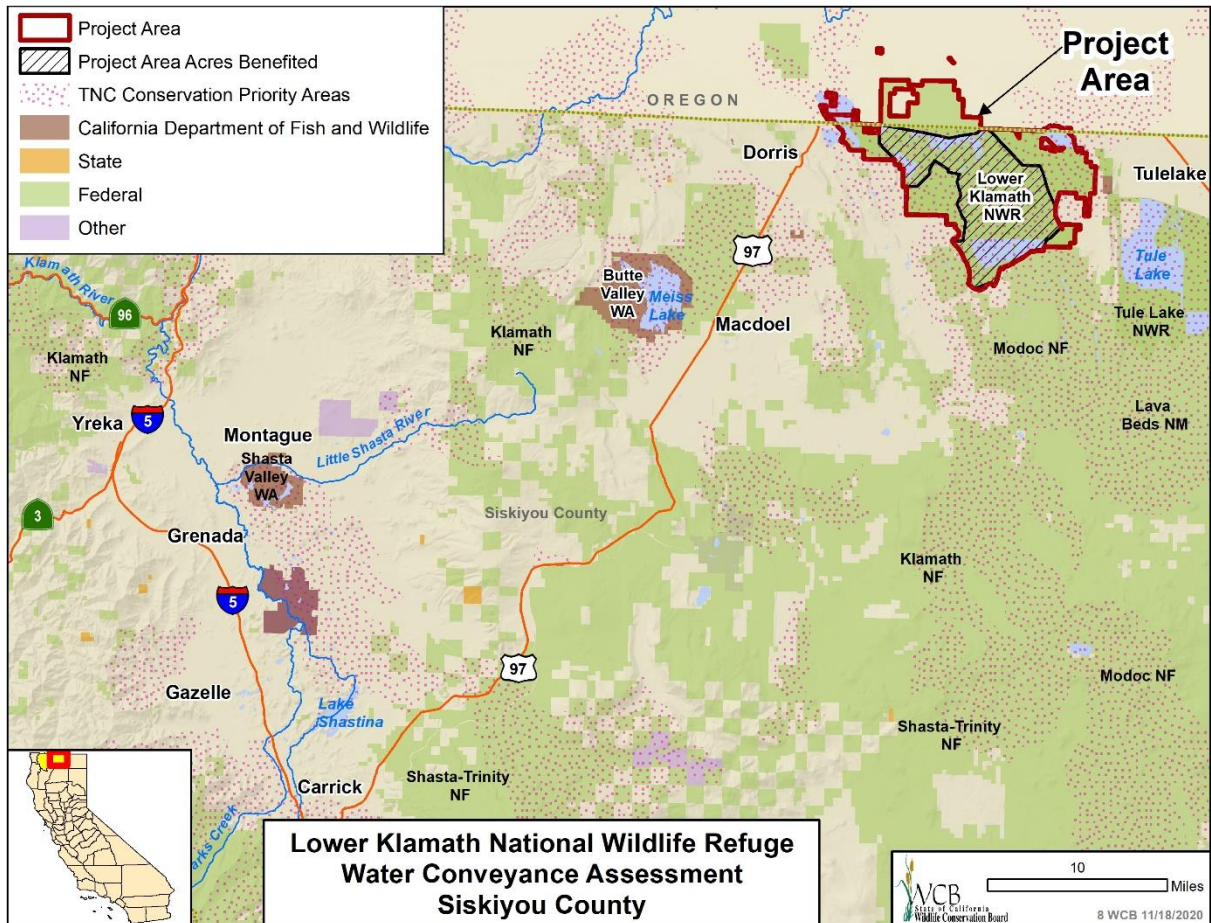
Project costs include:

- Project administration/management.
- Engineering assessment includes topographic survey, develop conceptual design alternatives, and 60-70 percent design of preferred alternative.
- Environmental compliance includes environmental impacts assessment and CEQA/NEPA documentation for the preferred alternative.
- 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 statutorily exempt from CEQA pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15262, Feasibility and Planning Studies, as it involves only

feasibility and planning studies for possible future actions. Subject to authorization by WCB, a NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.



9. State Route 36, Buck Mountain Mitigation, Expansion 1

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

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

Project Title:	State Route 36, Buck Mountain Mitigation, Expansion 1
Project Type:	CDFW Fee Title (114± acres)
Amount Recommended:	\$0
County:	Humboldt
Program:	Land Acquisition Program
Strategic Plan Goals:	A.1, A.2, A.4 Objectives: SI 2.1, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5
Disadvantaged Community:	Within a disadvantaged community

LOCATION

The property (Property) is in the Van Duzen River watershed in Larabee Valley in Humboldt County. The Property consists of a 114± acre parcel located 12.5 miles east of the town of Bridgeville and is approximately 6.8 miles west of the Trinity County border. The Property is accessed off State Route 36 via McClellan Mountain Road, a county-maintained road.

Traditionally, land use on and around McClellan Mountain was primarily forestry and ranching with a rural residential component. Substantial parcelization occurred over the years. Exurban development fueled by marijuana cultivation has transformed and fragmented the landscape and changed the uses of the land. Parcel sizes on McClellan Mountain tend to be 160 acres or larger, with 40-acre minimums. Conversely, nearby parcels along State Route 36, such as those in Larabee Valley, tend to have smaller parcel sizes, greater density, and substantial conversion/development.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property contains an important step-fen, which is the largest surface water contributor to the adjacent CDFW owned Burke/Robey Fen that was acquired in April 2017.

The Property was presented as a possible conservation initiative to other state agencies known to have mitigation needs within the Eel River watershed. A partnership for acquisition resulted from the aligning of CDFW conservation objectives with the Regional Water Board and Caltrans. Caltrans agreed to fund the acquisition of the Property for preservation as compensatory mitigation credit for wetland impacts along State Route 36.

The sole reason for the acquisition of the Property is to conserve the central 5±-acre fen and its associated wetlands and streams. Expansion 1 protects the fen's immediate upslope watershed and its most substantial tributary (i.e. step-fen).

Simply protecting the Property from marijuana cultivation-related fragmenting and water diversion will keep it in a natural state where species will be able to find refuge without additional human caused stressors. Species like the southern torrent salamander are declining across their range from widespread water drafting and dewatering of headwater streams. The Property and its fens, wetlands, and streams contribute cold water directly to the Van Duzen River, and recent genetics work has shown that threatened Van Duzen River summer-run steelhead are genetically unique and over-summer at these fen outfall tributary confluences within the river.

Rare species documented on the Property include northern red-legged frog, foothill yellow-legged frog, southern torrent salamander, and northwestern pond turtle. The northern spotted owl and Pacific fisher likely occur on the Property based on suitable habitat.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

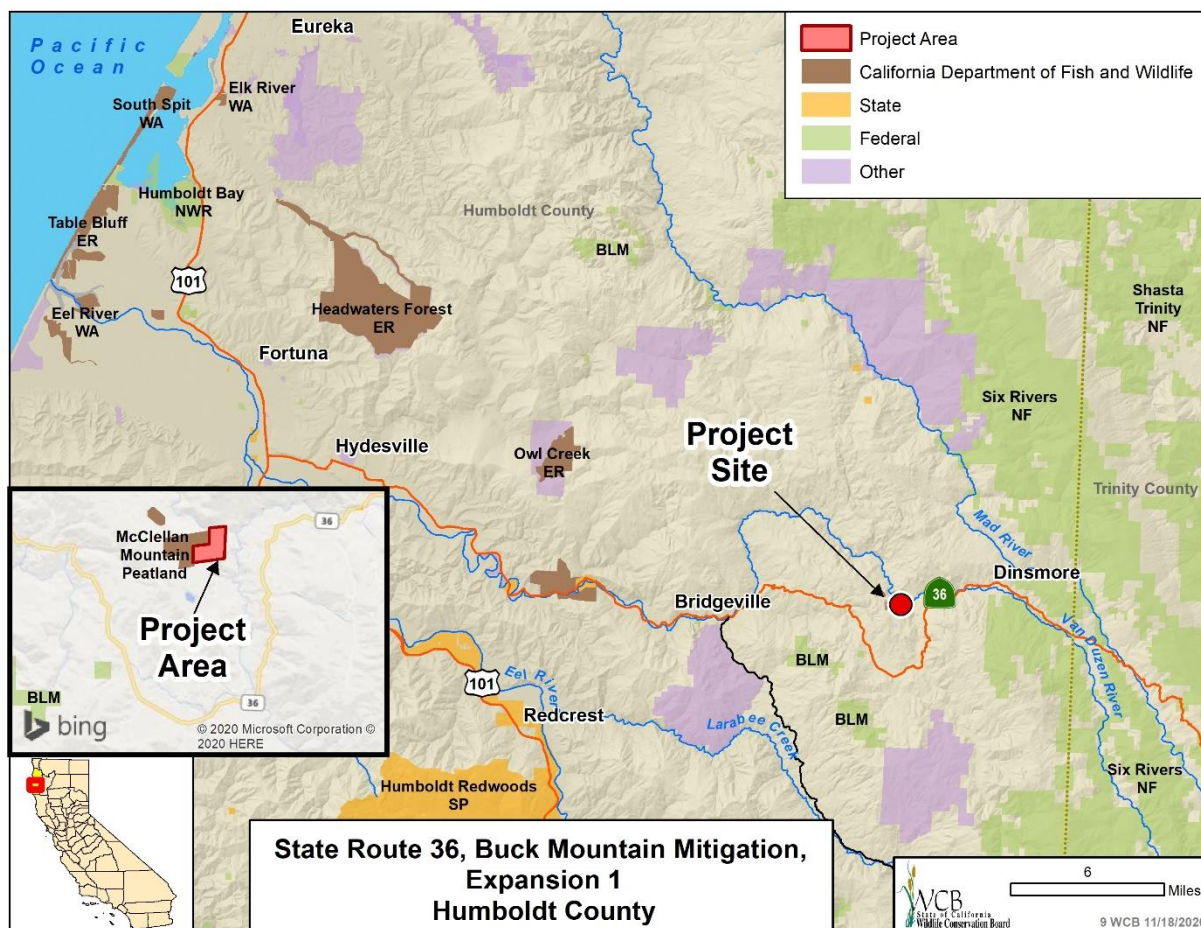
CDFW will be the owner in fee simple and will add this Property to the adjacent Burke/Robey property management. Given the Property's location adjacent to the Burke/Robey property, additional management funds for staffing will not be required.

PROJECT FUNDING

This project requires no allocation of funding.

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. McKenzie and Mountain Meadows Creek Planning

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$398,000 from the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68), Public Resources Code Section 80132(f); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	McKenzie and Mountain Meadows Creek Planning
Project Type:	Planning
Applicant/Grantee:	Plumas Corporation
Amount Recommended:	\$398,000
Funding Partners:	Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District, Bella Vista Foundation, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Plumas Corporation, Point Blue Conservation Science, W.M. Beaty & Associates, Sierra Pacific Industries
Landowner(s):	Sierra Pacific Industries, Red River Forests LLC, and Shasta Forests Timberlands LLC
County:	Lassen
Program:	Forest Conservation Program
Funding:	Proposition 68
Strategic Plan Goals:	A.1, B.1 Objectives: SI 1.2
Disadvantaged Community:	Within a disadvantaged community

LOCATION

The McKenzie and Mountain Meadows Creek Planning Project (Project) is in the Mountain Meadows basin, a 7,000±-acre meadow and stream complex in the North Fork Feather River watershed. McKenzie Meadows (MKM) includes 703± acres of meadow habitat, 6 miles east of the community of Westwood, on State Highway 36. Mountain Meadows Creek (MMC) includes 437± acres of meadow habitat, with 401± acres of complementary forest treatments surrounding the meadow and riparian corridor, at the intersection of Old Town Road and Beaty System Road.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Project will complete planning activities that will result in shovel-ready plans to restore 1,140± acres of wet meadow and 401± acres of adjacent Eastside pine/Sierran mixed conifer forest.

Both MKM and MMC are headwater systems within the Feather River watershed that are significant contributors to the 154 square mile Mountain Meadows Basin watershed. This large montane valley historically was characterized by braided networks of seasonal and perennial streams in a mosaic of wet meadows, willows, cottonwoods, aspen groves, beaver ponds, and emergent wetlands. The meadows

have a prolonged history of channel manipulation, ditching, vehicle use, and grazing. These cumulative disturbances have disrupted the natural hydrology, resulting in erosion, severe channel downcutting, degradation of important wildlife habitat, loss of floodplain connection, and a shift to more xeric plant communities, steadily reducing the quality and availability of wet meadow habitat in the watershed. Additionally, the forest surrounding MMC is characterized by an unhealthy forest structure with an accumulation of ladder vegetation and ground fuels, which increases the risk of catastrophic fire, forest mortality, and fire-related water quality impacts in the watershed.

The purpose of the Project is to complete designs and all environmental analysis needed to create two shovel-ready restoration projects. The plans will aim to reverse the underlying degradation in hydrology by eliminating channel incision and associated depletions in the meadow groundwater table, restore channel-floodplain connectivity, remove conifers in the meadow and riparian corridor, and reduce fuel loads to improve forest health. The upland forestry work at MMC will be designed to complement the meadow restoration, providing additional hydrologic benefits to the meadow, and reducing the risk of catastrophic fire. Plumas Corporation, a nonprofit organization, will consider a suite of techniques to treat degradation at each meadow, including partial fill, total fill, beaver dam analogs, riffle augmentation, and road modification/elimination.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Project Task	Total Cost	WCB	Non-WCB Funds
Project Management	\$21,216	\$20,869	\$347
Engineering and Modeling Development	\$126,360	\$126,276	\$84
Resource Surveys, Reporting, Monitoring	\$166,795	\$129,272	\$37,523
Planning, Design, and Final Report	\$81,163	\$49,807	\$31,356
Environmental Review and Permitting	\$105,466	\$71,776	\$33,690
Total	\$501,000	\$398,000	\$103,000

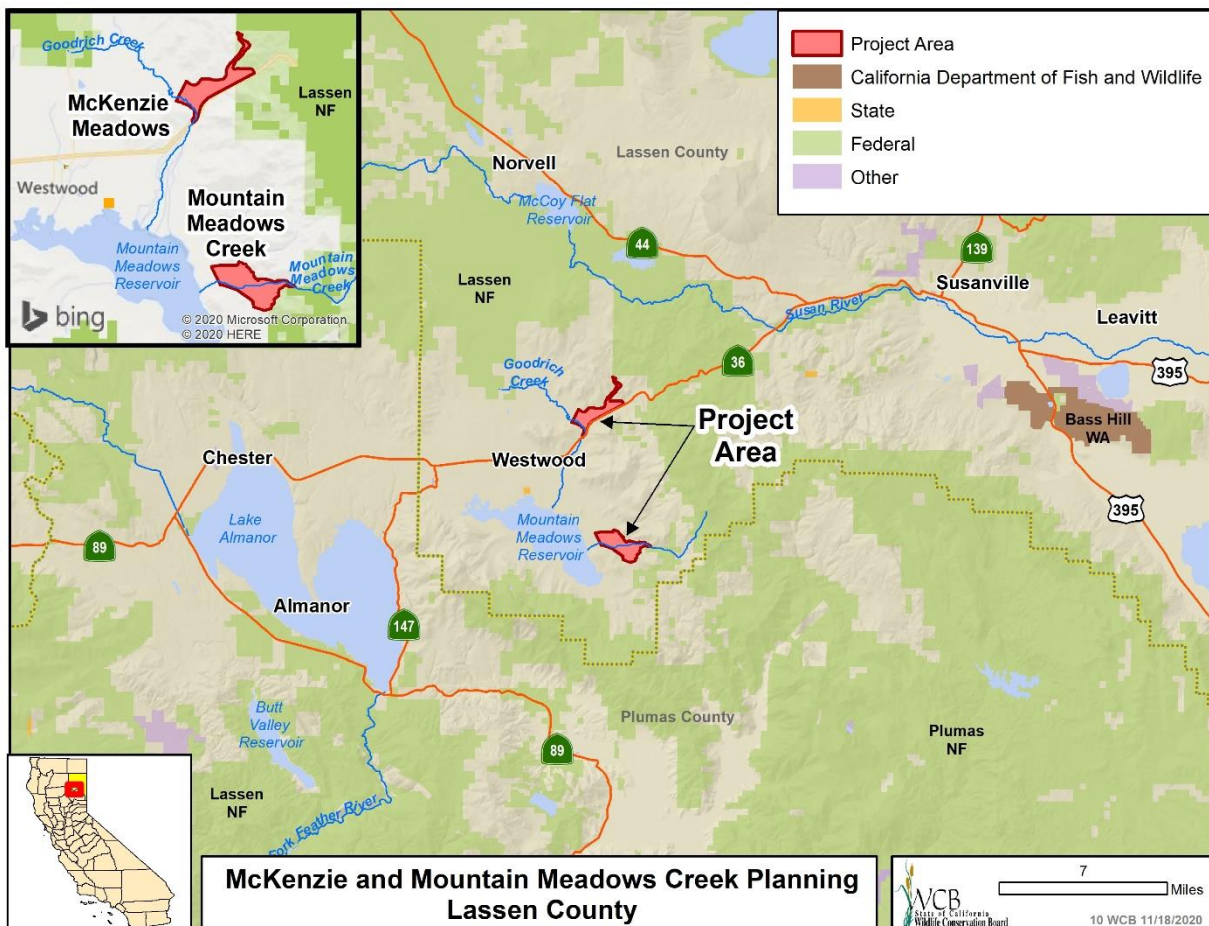
Project costs include:

- Project Management: Staff time to administer the grant and subcontracts, develop quarterly progress reports, process invoices, attend coordination meetings, and general project management.
- Engineering and Modeling Development: Develop a precise elevation map of the project area, engineering work and design development, and develop stamped engineered plans.

- Resource Surveys, Reporting, Monitoring: Botany, wildlife, and archaeological/cultural resources surveys/reports and pre-project monitoring will be completed.
- Planning, Design, and Final Report: Develop meadow/stream design treatments, mapping, and design reports, finalize analysis of data, ensure entry into statewide databases, and complete the Final Report.
- Environmental Review and Permitting: Prepare a CEQA Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for each project area, field/office/mapping time for wetland delineation and impact mapping, and completion of all project permits.

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

The project is statutorily exempt from CEQA pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15262 Feasibility and Planning Studies, as it involves only feasibility and planning studies for possible future actions. Subject to authorization by WCB, a NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.



11. Concow Pyrodiversity Planning

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$180,000 from the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68), Public Resources Code Section 80132(f); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Concow Pyrodiversity Planning
Project Type:	Planning
Applicant/Grantee:	Butte County Resource Conservation District
Amount Recommended:	\$180,000
Funding Partners:	Butte County Resource Conservation District, California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection, U. S. Forest Service
Landowner(s):	Plumas National Forest
County:	Butte
Program:	Forest Conservation Program
Funding:	Proposition 68
Strategic Plan Goals:	A.1, B.1 Objectives: SI 1.2, 1.3, 2.4
Disadvantaged Community:	Within a severely disadvantaged community

LOCATION

The proposed project (Project) is located in the community of Concow, approximately 25 miles northeast of Oroville.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

After many decades of fire suppression, the Concow Basin was densely overgrown until lightning struck in June 2008, igniting the 59,440±-acre Butte Complex Fire. Little post-fire restoration on private or public land followed, leading to an even-aged chaparral habitat throughout the basin. These conditions then led to a second high-severity fire, the Camp Fire on November 8, 2018. Now, the entire basin risks becoming monotypic, even-aged chaparral again. If left untreated, the area will again be at high risk of another high-intensity fire, while providing poor-quality wildlife habitat.

To improve habitat and public safety, local CAL FIRE unit staff have proposed strategic burn “pods” that would break the landscape up into an edge-rich mosaic. These prescribed fires, each several hundred acres in size, would be burned every three to five years, based on ecological monitoring results. This would approach traditional cultural fire return intervals.

The Project will improve water supply and woodland health, reduce wildfire danger, and help protect riparian resources from excessive post-fire sedimentation, due to the designed stream buffers within the project area.

Climate change is expected to put significant stress on Northern Sierra plant communities, with the largest temperature swings seen at the lowest foothill elevations. The project area is already experiencing these stresses. Brushland species are largely expected to benefit from climate change in Concow Basin, with buckbrush expanding its range by 6 percent, deerbrush by 41 percent, and sticky whiteleaf manzanita by 57 percent. Meanwhile, it is expected that most conifer species will lose range. To benefit Concow Basin and other expanding brushland habitats throughout the state, this Project will complete CEQA and NEPA analysis and a prescribed burn plan that can be replicated throughout California's brushland habitats. It will provide the framework for sustaining healthy brushland fire regimes, enhancing productive brushland wildlife habitat, and promoting biodiverse brushland food webs.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

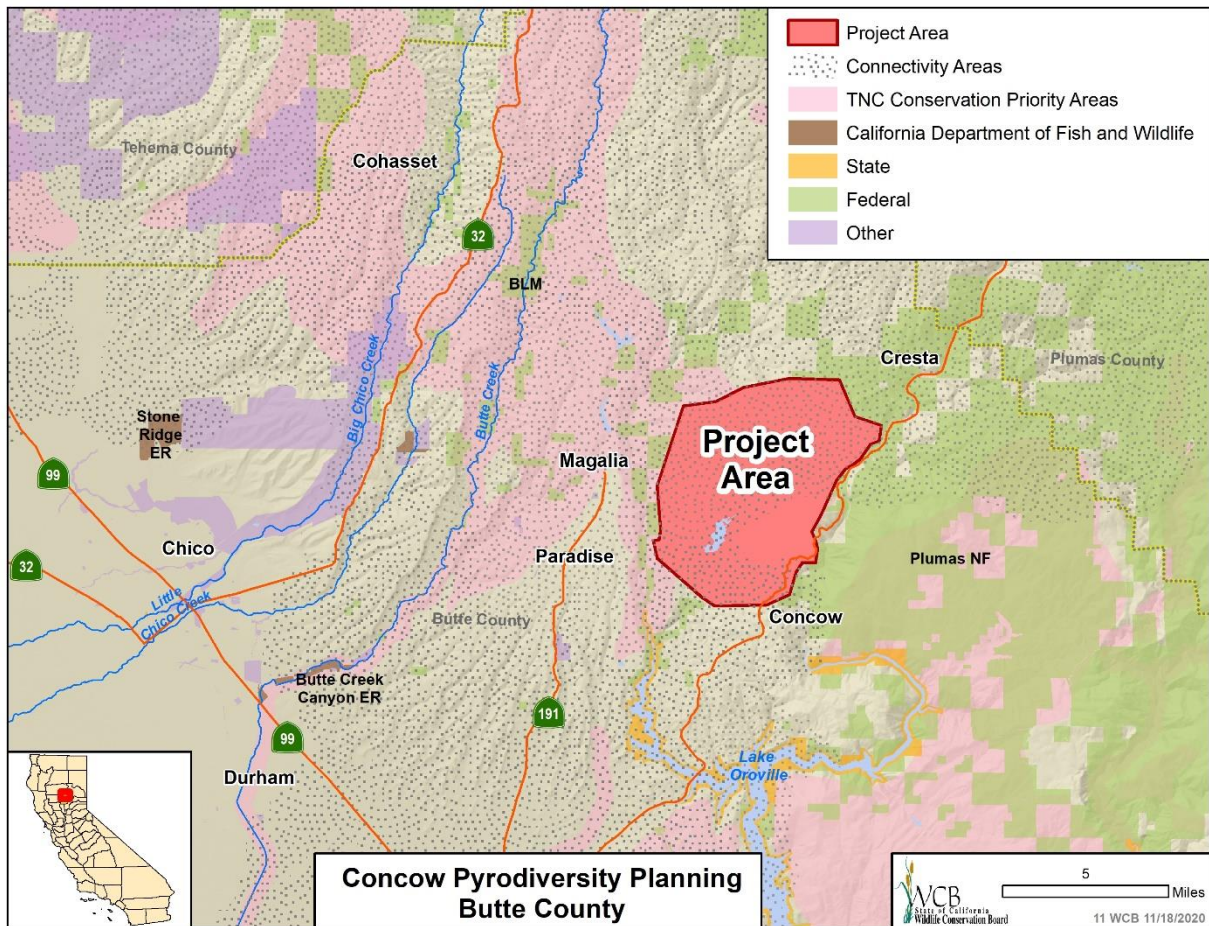
Project Task	Total Cost	WCB	Non-WCB Funds
Project Management	\$35,487	\$35,487	---
Resource Studies	\$106,372	\$104,992	\$1,380
Environmental Compliance and Permitting	\$67,599	\$26,557	\$41,042
Indirect	\$12,964	\$12,964	---
Total	\$222,422	\$180,000	\$42,422

Project costs include:

- Project Management: Preparation and submission of all grant-related documents, coordination with Grantee and project partners/contractors/agencies, including contracting, reporting, and invoicing.
- Resource Studies: Prepare, analyze, and review data for CEQA and NEPA.
- Environmental Compliance and Permitting: Analyze, review, and adopt drafts of MND and EIR.
- Indirect: 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 statutorily exempt from CEQA pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines Section 15262, Feasibility and Planning Studies, as it involves only feasibility and planning studies for possible future actions. Subject to authorization by WCB, a NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.



12. North Yuba Watershed Forest Restoration Planning

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$310,000 from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (General Fund, Budget Act, Chapter 14 and 249, Statutes of 2017); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	North Yuba Watershed Forest Restoration Planning
Project Type:	Planning
Applicant/Grantee:	The Nature Conservancy
Amount Recommended:	\$310,000
Funding Partners:	U.S. Forest Service, California Department of Conservation, Yuba Water Agency, South Yuba River Citizens League
County:	Sierra and Yuba
Program:	Climate Adaptation and Resilience Program
Funding:	Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund
Strategic Plan Goals:	A.1, B.1 Objectives: SI 1.2, 1.4, 1.6, 2.3, 4.1
Disadvantaged Community:	Within a disadvantaged community

LOCATION

The project planning area consists of the 275,000±-acre North Yuba watershed in Sierra and Yuba counties. The North Yuba watershed is within both Plumas and Tahoe National Forests, running from Yuba Pass to New Bullards Bar Reservoir. The area includes thousands of acres of forest habitat, is an important source of water to downstream users, supports high biodiversity, is home to many communities, and offers a wide variety of recreational opportunities.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Forests of the Sierra Nevada are experiencing an unprecedented increase in the size and severity of wildfires and widespread tree mortality from fire and beetle outbreaks tied to drought stress. These developments threaten lives and communities and seriously compromise forest health and resilience by degrading critical benefits that healthy forests provide such as wildlife habitat, carbon storage, clean air, clean water, timber supply, and public recreation. The North Yuba watershed has some of the best remaining old growth forest in the Sierra, supports a high concentration of California spotted owls, and to date has been spared the impacts of large, high-severity wildfire.

This project will develop a shovel-ready forest restoration plan that will incorporate modeling and the best available science on the needs of key species, like the California spotted owl, with the goal of increasing the resilience of wildlife habitat to the effects of climate change and wildfire and securing long-term carbon storage. This plan will provide durable, climate change-informed direction to land managers that remain relevant as conditions change over the decades to come. This

planning effort will be carried out through three steps: First, the best available science and research on the California spotted owl will be brought into the process to ensure the plan strikes the right balance between reducing the risk of high-severity wildfire, promoting long-term climate resilience, and providing habitat over time for the owl and other species that require old growth forest habitat. Next, spatially explicit model projections of climate change, wildfire, bark beetle outbreaks, forest succession, and restoration scenarios will be incorporated into the restoration plan. Model results will be used to identify areas in the North Yuba watershed that are more or less resilient, using indicators such as the likelihood to experience high-severity fire patches regardless of forest management scenario. Finally, the treatment locations, prescriptions, and implementation sequencing will be developed to most effectively reduce the risk of high-severity wildfire and promote forest conditions that are resilient to climate change.

As this planning effort is at a very large scale, the size of the project makes it infeasible to survey every acre of forest and meadow using traditional field surveys. Rather, the abundance of high quality, high resolution spatial data will be used to plan and implement forest restoration activities, using a novel approach pioneered in other landscape-scale forest restoration projects through a process called the “Flexible Toolbox” approach. Through this process, the full suite of possible combinations of forest conditions, biophysical setting, potential wildlife habitat, desired conditions, and the intervention strategy (e.g., thinning, prescribed burning) that will succeed in moving toward those desired conditions are identified. The full suite of interventions is then analyzed for effects on the environment through NEPA and CEQA, and tradeoffs of different levels of interventions and their resulting outcomes (alternatives) analyzed, with the effects disclosed to stakeholders. If conditions change on the landscape, subsequent analysis and adaptation may be necessary, but the Flexible Toolbox allows the use of a logic-chain or decision tree that is predictable, replicable, yet sufficiently adaptable to allow managers to respond to change on the landscape. All data sources are being utilized by the North Yuba Forest Partnership stakeholders to derive and design a treatment scheme for the project area and to analyze and disclose the effects of different management strategies.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

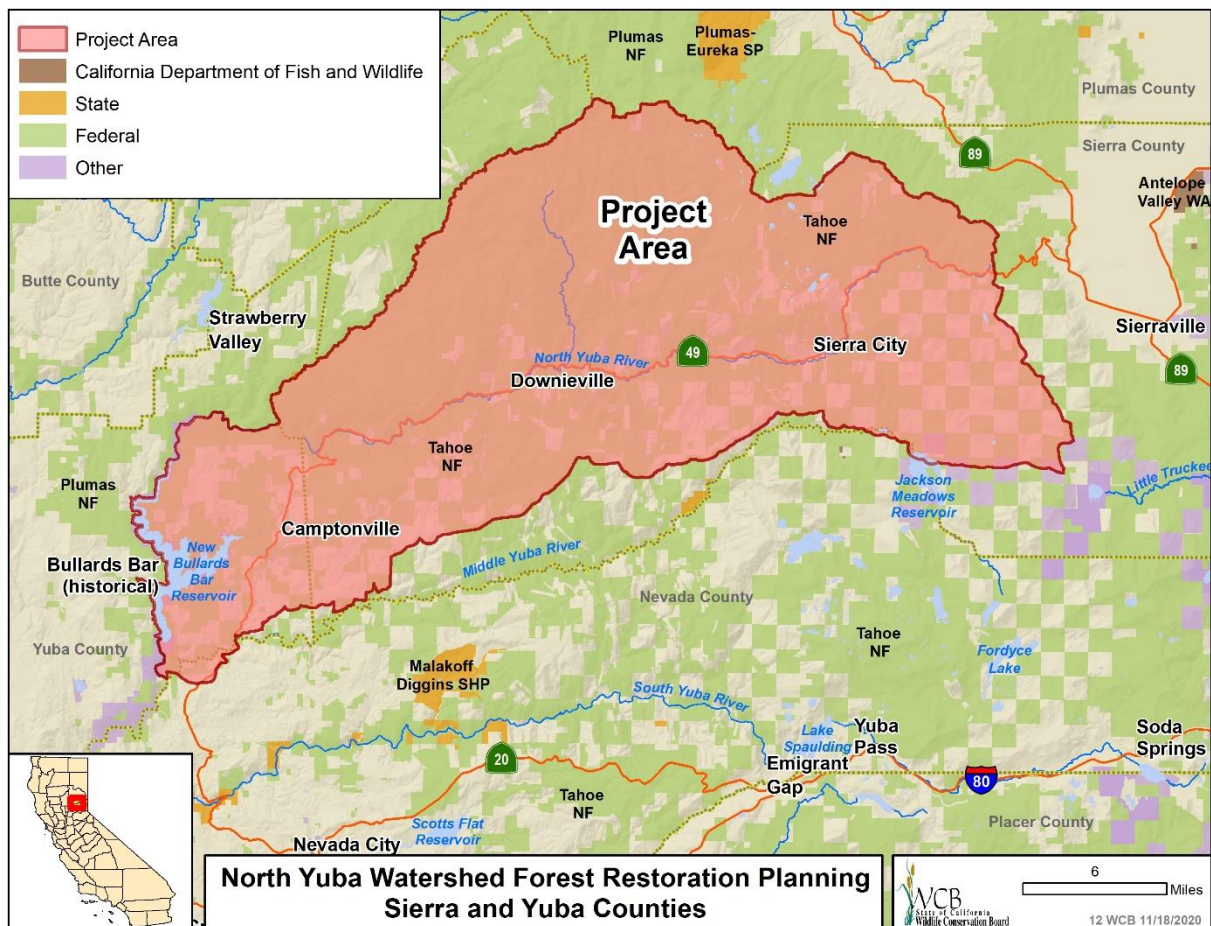
Project Task	Total Cost	WCB	Non-WCB Funds
Project Design	\$56,643	\$55,038	\$1,605
Develop CA Spotted Owl Monitoring Plan	\$91,316	\$73,940	\$17,376
Develop Environmental Analysis	\$304,797	\$125,000	\$179,797
Project Management/ Oversight	\$57,244	\$56,022	\$1,222
Total	\$510,000	\$310,000	\$200,000

Project costs include:

- Project Design: The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Forest Ecologist and Senior Scientist will be responsible for contributing to the integration of climate model results into the project design and providing science oversight for the subcontracted work.
- Develop California Spotted Owl Monitoring Plan: Subcontractor to work with Forest Service staff to design a California spotted owl monitoring plan, and assist with response to public comments and the development of the draft and final CEQA/NEPA environmental analysis documents, as well as development of the treatment locations and prescriptions.
- Develop Environmental Analysis: Subcontractor to develop treatment locations and management prescriptions based on projected climate change impacts, conduct vegetation effects analysis, assist with response to public comments, and develop the draft and final CEQA/NEPA environmental analysis documents.
- Project Management/Oversight: The TNC Project Manager will be responsible for managing the grant with WCB and the subcontractor contracts. The TNC Project Director will be responsible for managing the overall project and will provide strategic direction and oversight.

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

The project is statutorily exempt from CEQA pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines Section 15262, Feasibility and Planning Studies, as it involves only feasibility and planning studies for possible future actions. Subject to authorization by WCB, a NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.



13. Telegraph Ridge Conservation Easement

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$498,000 from Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(a) for a grant to Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Telegraph Ridge Conservation Easement
Project Type:	Conservation Easement (2,416± acres)
Grantee:	Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Amount Recommended:	\$498,000
Funding Partners:	N/A
County:	Colusa
Program:	Land Acquisition Program
Funding:	Habitat Conservation Fund
Strategic Plan Goals:	A.4 Objectives: SI 2.1, 2.4
Disadvantaged Community:	Not within a disadvantaged community

LOCATION

The property (Property) is located along State Route 16 near the junction of State Route 20, approximately 25 miles west of the town of Williams in Colusa County.

The Property lies within the CDFW Blue Ridge–Berryessa Conceptual Area Protection Plan (CAPP) which establishes criteria to prioritize parcels based on their conservation values to increase or enhance habitat, migration corridors, and connectivity. To the west of the Property are protected lands owned by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and CDFW's Indian Valley Wildlife Area. Near or adjacent to the Property are five WCB funded conservation easements: Cache Creek Conservation Area, Bear Valley Conservation Area, Keegan Ranch, Epperson Place Ranch, and the most recent Whiskey Hill conservation easement. Together these conservation areas total over 22,500± acres.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The 2,416± acre site is predominantly open space/livestock rangeland characterized by the oak-forested hillsides of Telegraph Ridge, Jackson Canyon, and the western slope of Cortina Ridge.

The Property is a working cattle ranch. Cattle are grazed primarily during the winter months roughly from November to May. The landowner also leases a portion of the Property to allow for private deer and pig hunting.

The Property includes various habitats including wet meadow, riparian, vernal pool, and blue oak woodland. These habitats support a number of important animal species including deer, golden eagle, and mountain lion. Species of special concern occurring on the Property include the burrowing owl, western pond turtle, and foothill yellow-legged frog. Additionally, the Property's habitat supports the

state endangered bald eagle. The Property's wildflower resources contain several special status plant species including Colander's horkelia, Jepson's milk-vetch, pink creamsacs, and the state threatened adobe lily.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

When establishing a conservation easement, RMEF works closely with the landowner to address the protection of the property's natural habitat and agricultural resources. The purposes of the proposed easement are to ensure that natural resources, agricultural, and wildlife habitat are conserved in balance and harmony with each other. The grant agreement requires RMEF to monitor the Property at least once a year to ensure the easement terms are being honored, as well as to prepare and submit a written monitoring report documenting the visit and noting any significant changes to the resources or any compliance issues. If necessary, corrective action must be recommended and noted in the report.

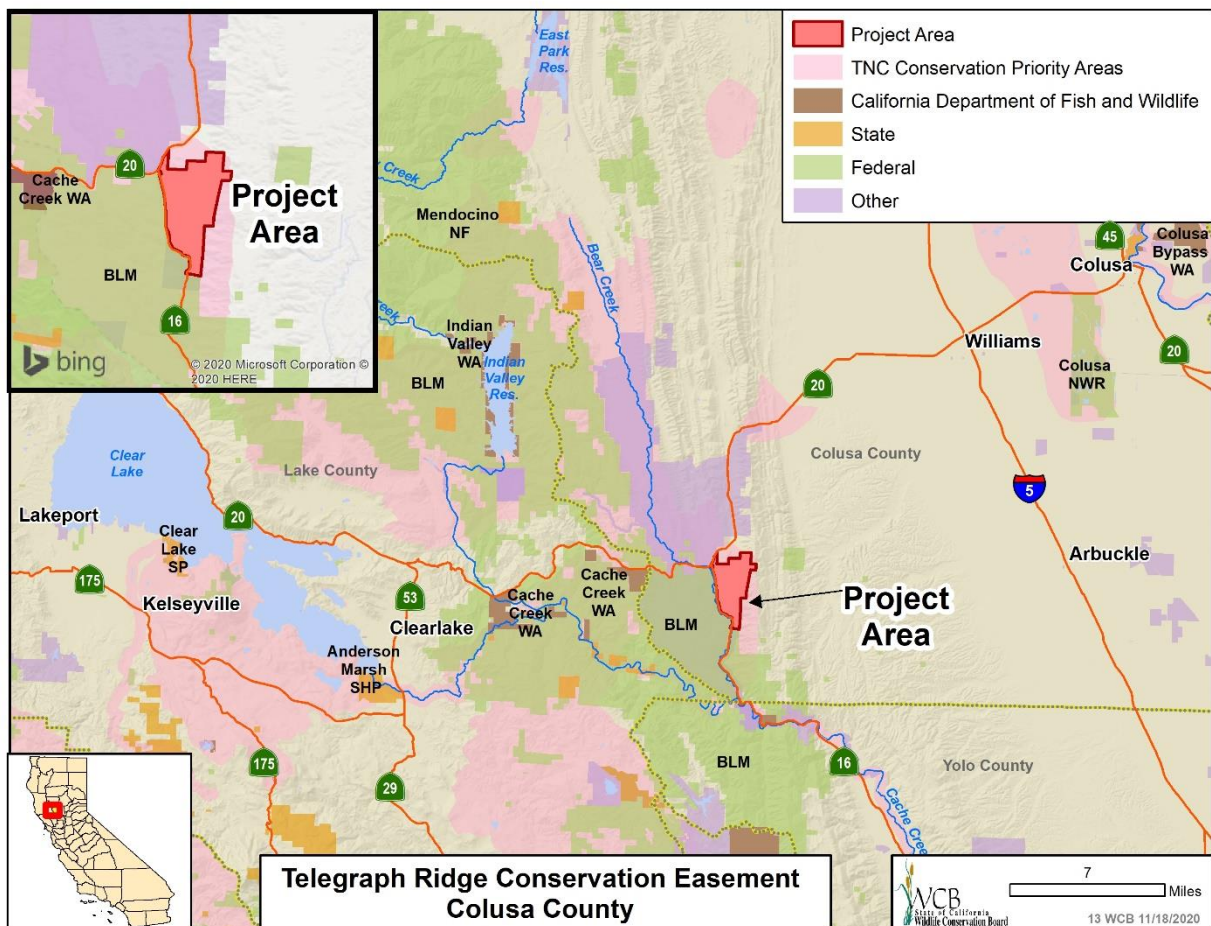
PROJECT FUNDING

The DGS approved fair market value is \$498,000. The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$498,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$498,000

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.



14. Moody Ridge

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$195,000 from Proposition 68, Public Resources Code Section 80132(f) for the grant to Placer Land Trust (PLT); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Moody Ridge
Project Type:	Fee Title (41± acres)
Grantee:	Placer Land Trust
Amount Recommended:	\$195,000
Funding Partners:	N/A
County:	Placer
Program:	Forest Conservation Program
Funding:	Proposition 68
Strategic Plan Goals:	A.1, A.2, C.1 Objectives: SI 2.4, 3.3, 4.1
Disadvantaged Community:	Not within a disadvantaged community

LOCATION

The property (Property) is located on Christmas Tree Lane in the vicinity of Interstate 80, near the town of Dutch Flat in Placer County.

The Property is a key piece within a large block of conserved lands along the North Fork of the American River, a federal Wild and Scenic river and state Wild Trout Water. A Placer County held conservation easement borders it on two sides, in turn connecting to extensive federal lands and PLT's Bailey Preserve. PLT is currently working with a neighboring landowner on a conservation easement. When completed, three sides of the Property will border protected lands.

There is a critical need to protect this important river canyon and its multiple benefits: downstream public water supply (feeding Folsom Lake, which serves the greater Sacramento region), pristine water quality (federally designated Wild and Scenic river, state designated Wild Trout Water), diverse and intact wildlife habitat, extensive wildlife migration corridor (extending from Auburn far into the Sierra), river-based recreation (rafting trips), scenic views and more. Despite the river's semi-protected status, the canyon rim sees a lot of residential development. The "Moody Ridge" area is predominantly rural residential, with 10-20 acre lots along the canyon rim.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property is on the canyon rim of the North Fork of the American River. Approximately half of it is flat/sloping bluff and half is steep canyon slopes, with elevations from 3,330 to 4,130 feet. It is entirely forested with mixed hardwood and conifer forests consisting of large ponderosa pine, incense cedar, Douglas fir, black oak, and canyon live oak, many of which are large-diameter mature trees. The understory vegetation is dense and diverse. The slope contains a mature

forest which has not been previously logged. Near the center of the Property is a large cliff outcropping with a year-round spring/seep, a diversity of riparian vegetation, and a small waterfall.

Per ACE data, the Property may support 26 climate vulnerable species, 12 game species, and 1,898 native species. The California Natural Diversity Database lists 6 rare species within 2 miles, and 12 rare species within 5 miles. There is an onsite occurrence of Sierra blue grass which is a California Native Plant Society designated rare plant. There is also an occurrence of foothill yellow-legged frog within two miles of the Property, which is a state candidate threatened species.

Protection of the Property and prevention of additional development along the canyon rim will benefit watershed and water quality health. This is important given the high quality of this Sierra river, and its designations as a federal Wild and Scenic river and state Wild Trout Water.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

PLT will manage the project and plans to offer guided hikes and naturalist tours on the Property and neighboring property, free to the public. This would be done through PLT's existing docent-led hiking program. Plans are to develop small, scenic footpaths that wind across the canyon. Nearby are public trails at Lovers Leap and the historic Green Valley Trail, which may be connected via this Property in the future.

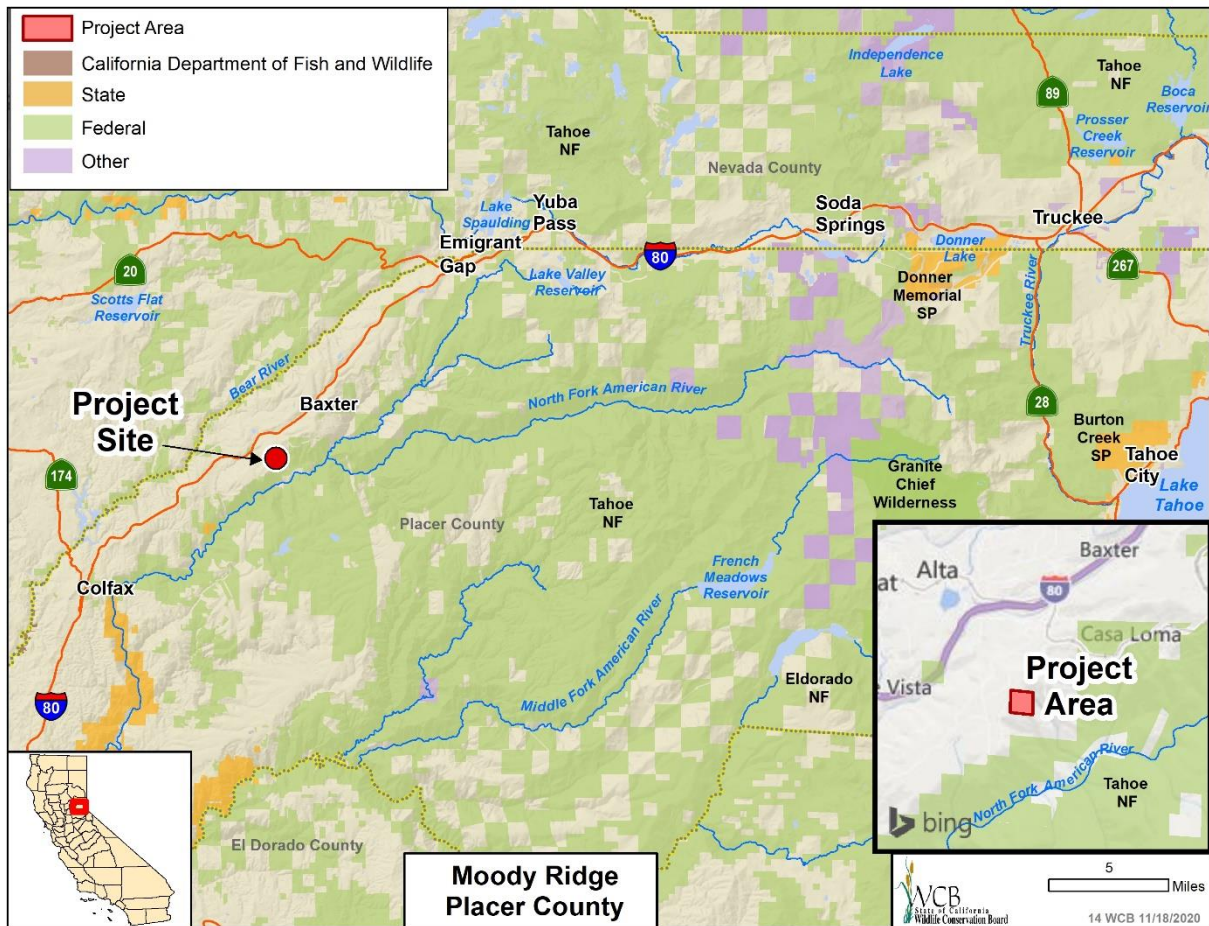
PROJECT FUNDING

The DGS approved fair market value is \$195,000. The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$195,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$195,000

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.



15. Meadow Restoration Planning in the American and Pine Creek Watersheds

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$299,028 from the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68), Public Resources Code Section 80132(f); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Meadow Restoration Planning in the American and Pine Creek Watersheds
Project Type:	Planning
Applicant/Grantee:	Trout Unlimited
Amount Recommended:	\$299,028
Funding Partners:	CDFW, Trout Unlimited, U.S. Forest Service
Landowner(s):	U.S. Forest Service
County:	El Dorado, Lassen
Program:	Forest Conservation Program
Funding:	Proposition 68
Strategic Plan Goals:	B.1 Objectives: SI 1.2, 1.3, 1.6, 2.4
Disadvantaged Community:	Within a disadvantaged community

LOCATION

The proposed project aims to restore and benefit a total of 160± acres of mountain meadow habitat at three high-priority sites. Wilson Ranch and Calf Pasture meadows in El Dorado National Forest (ENF) and Logan Springs Meadow in Lassen National Forest (LNF). Wilson Ranch, a 90±-acre meadow and Calf Pasture, a 30±-acre meadow are located in the South Fork American River watershed. Logan Springs is a 40±-acre meadow located in the Pine Creek watershed.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Healthy meadows provide resiliency to the effects of climate change by providing improved groundwater storage, enhanced water quality, reduced peak flood flows, greater baseflows, increased resilience to wildfire and enhanced critical habitat and aquatic resources. An estimated 50 percent of Sierra Nevada meadows are degraded by human impacts, resulting in the loss of these benefits. As in other Sierra watersheds, the meadows of the American River and Pine Creek watersheds contribute to critical ecosystem services, including clean water for drinking, water for irrigation, and valuable wildlife habitat, particularly for federally threatened species. Unfortunately, meadows in these watersheds have been severely degraded by overgrazing, roads and railroad grades, diversions, off-highway vehicle use, heavy recreational use, and other historic and contemporary land uses. To strategically address this degradation, American Rivers, a nonprofit organization, and partners assessed meadows in the American River watershed in

2016 and meadows in the Pine Creek watershed in 2015 and collaboratively selected top priority sites for restoration. The proposed project builds on this effort and will complete project planning to make 160± acres of meadow in two watersheds, shovel-ready for implementation.

In the American River watershed, Wilson Ranch and Calf Pasture were prioritized because of channel incision, floodplain disconnection, and the potential restoration benefits for species including the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, southern long-toed salamander, and willow flycatcher. In each meadow, the project aims to place fill material to reverse incision. This will raise the water table and allow flow to disperse across the meadow surface. Additionally, Trout Unlimited plans to redesign an undersized vented ford crossing in Wilson Ranch to eliminate flow constriction, which has contributed to incision.

In the Pine Creek watershed, the project team prioritized Logan Springs because of the meadow's impaired hydrology, relic infrastructure diverting flows, and restoration benefits for the endemic Eagle Lake rainbow trout (ELRT). The project aims to reactivate the meadow's historic floodplain by removing relic railroad grades and berms that divert flow and placing channel fill and beaver dam analogs to aggrade sediment and raise the water table. This will reconnect the channel with the meadow floodplain, enhancing baseflows and spawning habitat for ELRT.

The expected results of the proposed project are twofold: 1) hydrological and ecosystem processes are restored across 160± acres of mountain meadow, and 2) build U.S. Forest Service (USFS) staff capacity to increase the efficacy and efficiency of future meadow restoration efforts within two Sierra watersheds.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Project Task	Total Cost	WCB	Non-WCB Funds
Project Management	\$132,242	\$54,033	\$78,209
Final Designs	\$166,814	\$116,600	\$50,214
Environmental Compliance and Permitting	\$140,649	\$93,884	\$46,765
Monitoring	\$27,483	\$17,483	\$10,000
Outreach	\$15,660	\$7,660	\$8,000
Indirect Cost	\$9,368	\$9,368	---
Total	\$492,216	\$299,028	\$193,188

Project costs include:

- Project Management: Preparation and submission of all grant-related documents, coordination with Grantee and project partners/contractors/agencies, including contracting, reporting, and invoicing.

- Final Designs: Complete topographic surveys, hydrology and hydraulic analysis and Certified Stamped Engineered 100 percent designs.
- Environmental Compliance and Permitting: Permitting, compliance and coordination for NEPA and CEQA.
- Monitoring: Includes reporting requirements and coordination, organizing field work, collecting, analyzing, and writing data.
- Outreach: Includes volunteer event coordination and execution, material development, newsletters, media content, and stakeholder coordination.

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

The project is statutorily exempt from CEQA pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15262, Feasibility and Planning Studies, as it involves only feasibility and planning studies for possible future actions. Subject to authorization by WCB, a NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.



16. Faith Valley Meadow Restoration

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$351,240 from the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68), Public Resources Code Section 80132(f); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Faith Valley Meadow Restoration
Project Type:	Implementation
Applicant/Grantee:	American Rivers
Amount Recommended:	\$351,240
Funding Partners:	Alpine Watershed Group, American Rivers, CDFW, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Landowner(s):	U.S. Forest Service
County:	Alpine
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

Faith Valley meadow is a 120±-acre meadow located along the West Fork Carson River in the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest (HTNF), Alpine County. Faith Valley is accessed along the west side of Blue Lakes Road, five miles south of State Highway 88. Faith Valley is four miles upstream of Hope Valley, a previous American Rivers meadow restoration project along the West Fork Carson River funded by WCB in May 2015 which was completed in the fall of 2017.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Faith Valley was selected and vetted as a top priority site for restoration based on American Rivers' 2014 assessment of all meadows in the Carson River watershed. Stakeholders prioritized Faith Valley because of its impacted hydrologic condition and the potential restoration benefits for species including the willow flycatcher, Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, and stocked Lahontan cutthroat trout.

While Faith Valley currently supports some healthy wet meadow and riparian habitat, impacts from historic land uses, including historic overgrazing and road construction, as well as current recreational use have impaired the meadow's hydrology. Specifically, the channel has downcut and incised throughout the lower portion of the meadow, lowering the water table, and causing disconnection with the meadow surface and eroding banks. The vegetation on the floodplain has partially converted from wet meadow to upland plants, and although mature willow stands are present, these stands lack the saturated conditions required to support the willow flycatcher. In addition, the off-highway vehicle route adjacent to the

meadow captures and diverts flows from tributaries, degrading the road and impacting the meadow's natural flow paths. These characteristics threaten the groundwater storage, streamflow, habitat benefits, and recreational uses of the meadow.

Faith Valley contains an active beaver colony, whose dams raise the water table and stabilize streambanks in localized portions of the meadow; however, the effects of beaver dams are not widespread and are often short-lived because they are built in an incised channel, causing high flows to concentrate on the dams rather than dissipate across the floodplain. The presence of beaver in Faith Valley has presented an opportunity to use light-handed techniques that incorporate and imitate beaver, like beaver dam analogs (BDAs). BDAs mimic natural beaver dams but can be placed strategically and be constructed to withstand higher flows and therefore persist longer. This allows for aggradation and floodplain reconnection, as well as enhances conditions for beavers to build dams and maintain the site over the long term. Compared with other techniques that aim to rapidly reconnect the meadow floodplain, such as full channel fill or pond and plug, BDAs are lower risk and lower cost.

The proposed Faith Valley Meadow Restoration Project, offered by a partnership that includes the HTNF, CDFW, and Alpine Watershed Group, aims to address the impacts described above and restore the hydrological and ecosystem processes in Faith Valley meadow, as well as enhance recreation access. The Faith Valley project will install a series of BDAs at strategic locations in Faith Valley to raise the water table and capture sediment. This will reconnect the meadow floodplain, providing saturated conditions for willow flycatcher and floodplain habitat for Lahontan cutthroat trout. It will also enhance the meadow's ability to provide natural benefits including groundwater storage, augmented base and peak flows, reduced downstream sedimentation, enhanced habitat for native species, and resilience to climate change. The project will also implement road improvements to restore more natural drainage patterns on the meadow surface, as well as enhance recreational values.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The USFS adopted a Management Plan that guides 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, then the grant agreement requires that American Rivers 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	\$79,712	\$21,145	\$58,567
Restoration	\$467,735	\$299,235	\$168,500

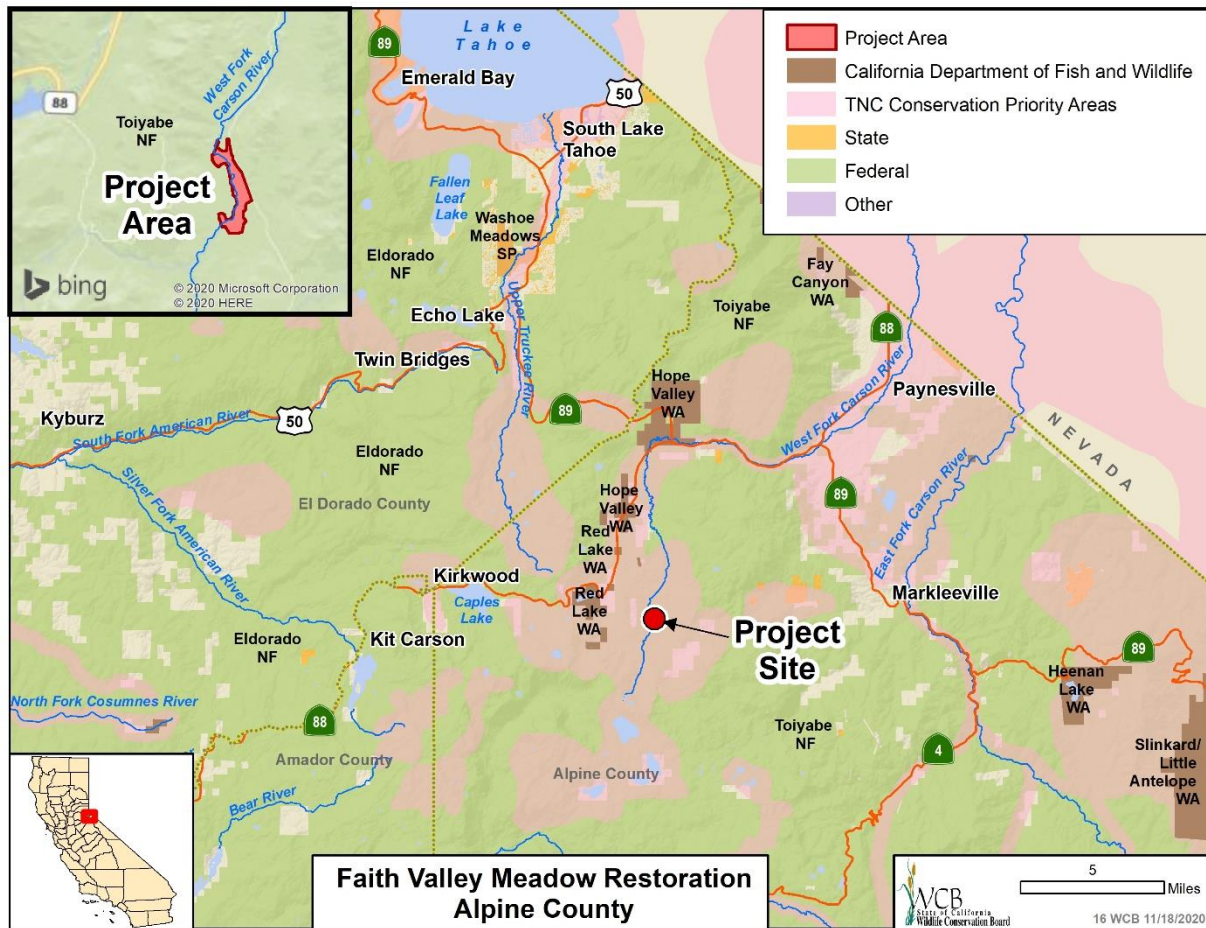
Project Task	Total Cost	WCB	Non-WCB Funds
Monitoring	\$75,440	\$21,940	\$53,500
Indirect Costs	\$39,814	\$8,920	\$30,894
Total	\$662,701	\$351,240	\$311,461

Project costs include:

- Project Management: Project team coordination, stakeholder communications and outreach, permit and grant reporting.
- Restoration: Project implementation per implementation plans and oversight of restoration activities.
- Monitoring: Pre- and post-project monitoring (e.g., streamflow, CO₂ gas flux, groundwater, aquatic habitat, vegetation).
- Indirect Costs: 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, Section 15333, Class 33, Small Habitat Restoration Projects, as a project not to exceed 5 acres in size to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of habitat for fish, plants, or wildlife and Section 15304, Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land, as a minor alteration to land, water and vegetation which does not involve the removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees. Subject to approval of this proposal by the WCB, the appropriate NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.



17. San Joaquin River Parkway, Slenders Property

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$995,000 from Proposition 84, Public Resources Code Section 75050(f) for the acquisition; authorize a Transfer of Jurisdiction (TOJ) of the land by CDFW to the San Joaquin River Conservancy (SJRC); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	San Joaquin River Parkway, Slenders Property
Project Type:	CDFW Fee (35± acres)
Amount Recommended:	\$995,000
County:	Madera County
Program:	Land Acquisition Program
Funding:	Proposition 84
Strategic Plan Goals:	A.1, A.2, C.1 Objectives: SI 1.2, 3.1, 3.3, 3.4
Disadvantaged Community:	Within a disadvantaged community

LOCATION

The Slenders property (Property), is located east of State Route 99, directly south of Avenue 7, and just west of the San Joaquin River. It is approximately 12 miles southeast of the city of Madera, and approximately 15 miles north of the Fresno downtown business district.

Surrounding property uses are primarily agricultural. SJRC's Schneider property is adjacent to the Property. SJRC owns and manages multiple properties that are located along both sides of the San Joaquin River and are in the Property's vicinity. These SJRC properties include Camp Pashayan, Schneider, Liddell, Sycamore Island, and River West properties.

The Property is within the planning area for the San Joaquin River Parkway (Parkway), a natural and recreational area in the San Joaquin River floodplain that begins at Friant Dam and extends roughly 22 miles along the San Joaquin River to State Route 99. The Parkway includes portions of Madera and Fresno counties and the city of Fresno, and the planning area varies in width from a narrow wildlife corridor where the river bluffs are steep and close to the river, to extensive floodplains of several hundred acres.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property is an undeveloped, irregularly shaped tract of land that includes two assessor parcel numbers for a total of 40± acres. This acquisition would acquire 35± acres of the Property, the result of a proposed lot line adjustment. The lot line adjustment is needed for an approximate 5±-acre parcel which the current owner will retain as a homesite, which includes a domestic well. An official survey has been conducted outlining the carveout.

A successful acquisition of the Property would put SJRC's access road in fee title ownership rather than an easement. The Property meets the following criteria for high-priority Parkway land acquisitions: protection of habitat values, connectivity and protection of wildlife movement corridors, need for conservation in path of development, and spreads Parkway benefits among geographic areas (future convenient access for Madera County residents).

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

Following the acquisition and TOJ, SJRC will manage the Property as an addition to existing Parkway properties. 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 and to provide access to supervised stewardship groups until partnerships, programs, and features can be developed for general public access. Site visits will be performed from time to time to monitor the Property. These site visits will be included with other surrounding parcels in SJRC's ownership and management. The Property has the potential for high-value public access from the highly traveled State Route 99, and activities such as wildlife viewing and non-motorized boating.

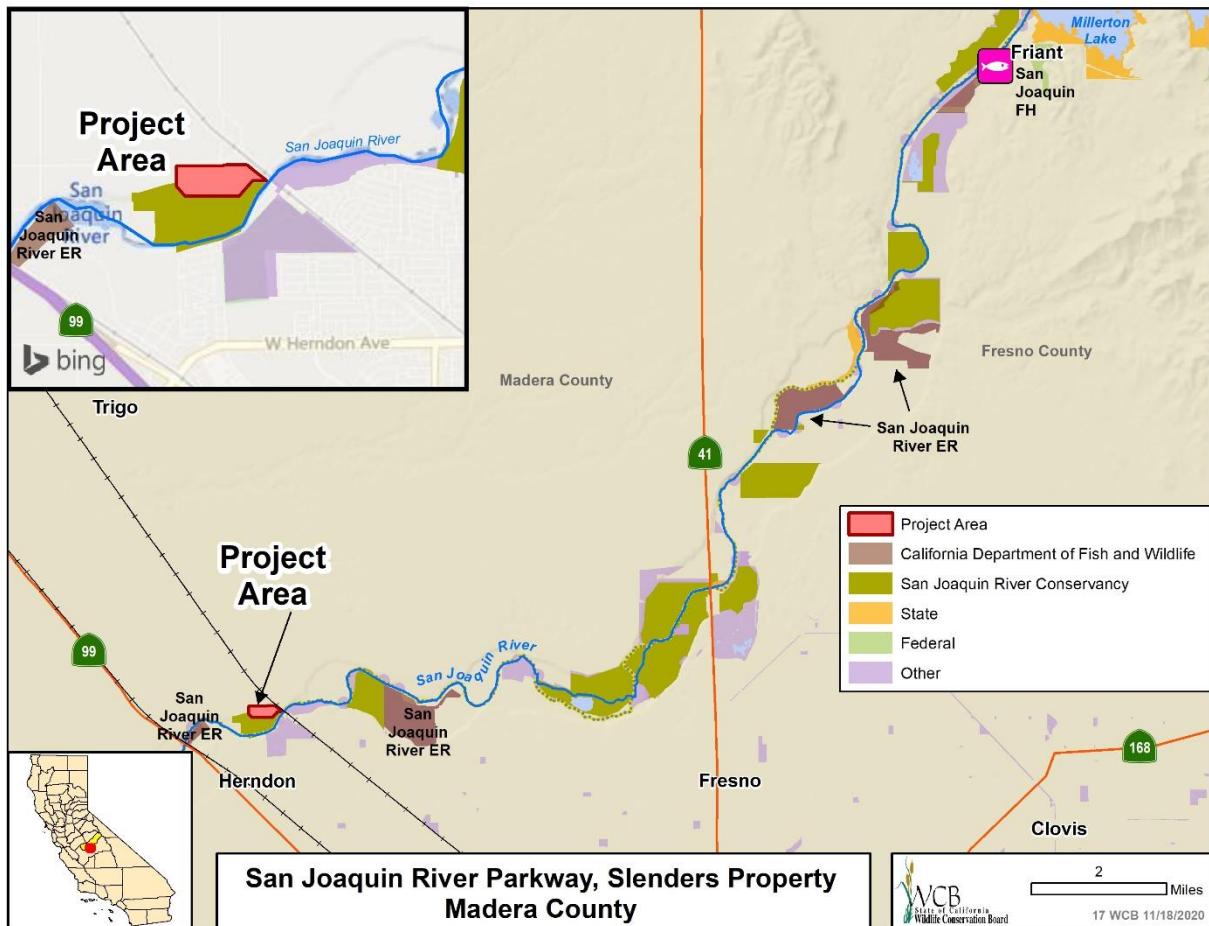
PROJECT FUNDING

The DGS approved fair market value is \$995,000. The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$995,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$995,000

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.



18. San Joaquin River Parkway, River West Public Access

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB adopt the written findings and approve this project as proposed; allocate \$125,000 from Proposition 40, Public Resources Code Section 5096.650(b)(5) for the acquisition; authorize a Transfer of Jurisdiction of the land by CDFW to SJRC; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	San Joaquin River Parkway, River West Public Access
Project Type:	Public Access Easement (8± acres)
Amount Recommended:	\$125,000
County:	Fresno County
Program:	Land Acquisition Program
Funding:	Proposition 40
Strategic Plan Goals:	A.1, C.1 Objectives: SI 1.2, 3.1, 3.3, 3.4
Disadvantaged Community:	Within a disadvantaged community

LOCATION

The property (Property) is located on the northern boundary of the city of Fresno in Fresno County. It is adjacent to the San Joaquin River and is near the intersection of North Palm Avenue and West Nees Avenue.

The Property is located in the river bottom of the San Joaquin River and is adjacent to SJRC's River West properties. It is adjacent to the river bluff. Above the river bluff are office and commercial structures with a residential neighborhood in the vicinity. Property in the surrounding area was historically used for mining sand and gravel.

SJRC owns and manages multiple properties that are located along both sides of the San Joaquin River and are in the Property's vicinity. In addition to the River West properties, SJRC properties in the area include Sycamore Island, Van Buren, Woodward Park, and Jenson River Ranch.

The Property is within the planning area for the Parkway, a natural and recreational area in the San Joaquin River floodplain that begins at Friant Dam and extends roughly 22 miles along the San Joaquin River to State Route 99. The Parkway includes portions of Madera and Fresno counties and the city of Fresno, and the planning area varies in width from a narrow wildlife corridor where the river bluffs are steep and close to the river, to extensive floodplains of several hundred acres.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property is a vacant and irregularly shaped tract of land with the topography undulating and unlevel. It is zoned for park and recreation and the highest and best use has been determined to be for recreation, similar to surrounding properties.

Since the Property is a former landfill now under private ownership, a Post-Closure Land Use Plan for the Property was approved by the County of Fresno Environmental Health Division and the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board. The plan approves development of an access road to the Property and a parking facility.

Current access to the Property is via easements across adjoining lands. SJRC intends to access the Property via its River West property, which is adjacent to the Property. River West is approximately 291± acres and is accessed via West Riverview Drive and East Perrin Road.

This proposed acquisition of a Public Access Easement is consistent and pursuant to the terms of a Settlement Agreement entered into between the state and the current property owner, resulting from a lawsuit by the property owner against the state. In December 2017, SJRC's Board approved the core project, which included SJRC's acquisition of the Property with access to the Property via North Palm Avenue, access to the River West property via East Perrin Road, parking lots at both locations, and the extension of a multi-use trail through the River West property for the public. The approval had a provision which allowed for SJRC's Board to rescind approval if several specified benchmarks were not achieved within a year. In January 2019, SJRC's Board did not determine that the benchmarks were achieved, resulting in the approval for the acquisition of the Property being denied. The Property owner then filed a lawsuit against SJRC, which resulted in the Settlement Agreement. Based on the Settlement Agreement, SJRC would acquire a Public Access Easement rather than fee title and the core project would include a parking lot with access from West Riverview Drive. SJRC's Board approved the Settlement Agreement and Project on August 12, 2020. The Settlement Agreement is expressly conditioned upon WCB's approval of the acquisition of the Public Access Easement.

A successful acquisition of the Easement would enable SJRC to complete design and construction of an access road and parking lot. The Property meets the following criteria for a high-priority Parkway acquisition: connectivity and protection of wildlife movement corridors, need for conservation in path of development, and spreads Parkway benefits among geographic areas (future convenient access for Fresno County residents).

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

Following the acquisition, SJRC will manage the Property as an addition to existing Parkway properties. The Property is specifically planned to be a paved parking lot to be utilized by the public accessing the Parkway. The goal is for costs associated with managing the Property to be offset by parking fees. Site visits will be performed to monitor the Property. These site visits will be included with other surrounding parcels in the SJRC's ownership and management. The Property has the potential for high-value public access from the highly traveled State Route 99, and activities such as wildlife viewing and non-motorized boating.

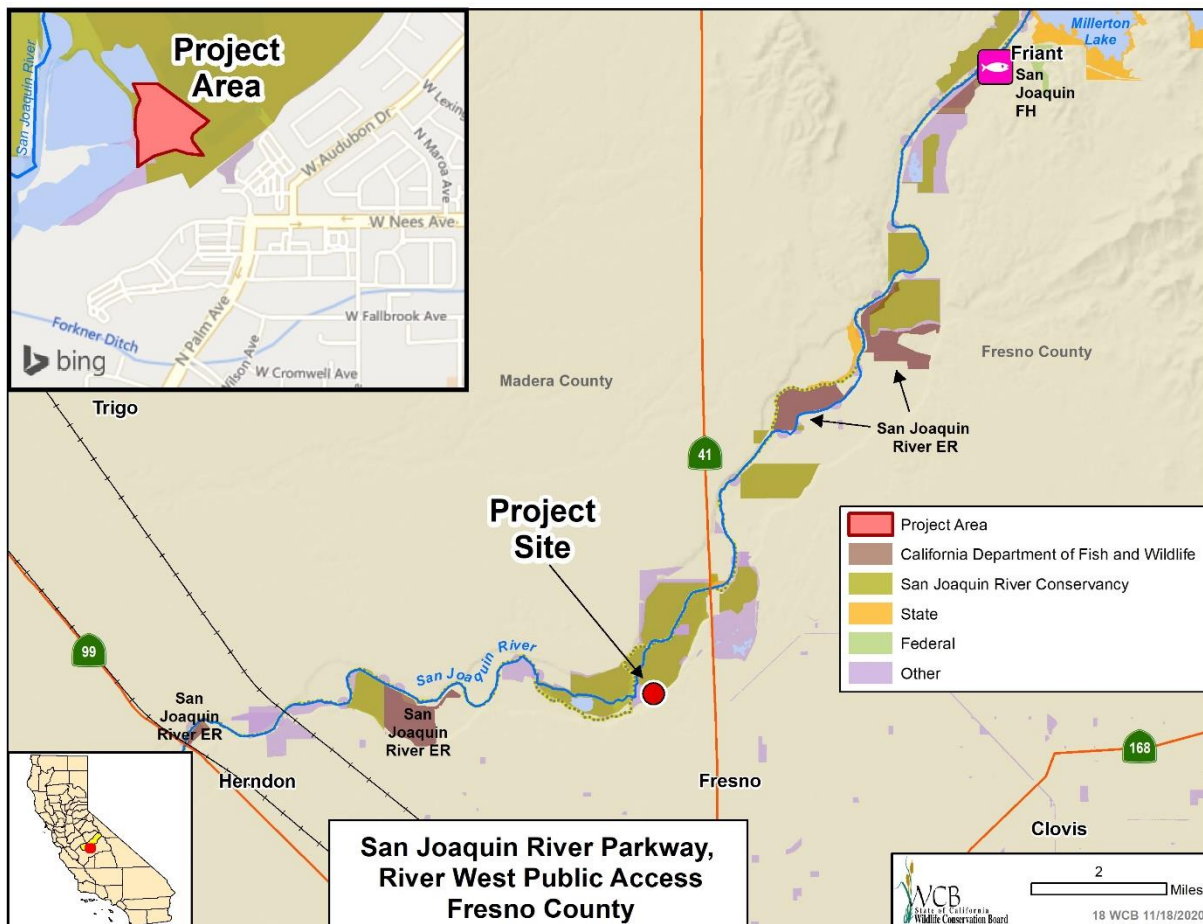
PROJECT FUNDING

Per the terms of the Settlement Agreement, WCB is to pay \$125,000. This value was accepted and approved by DGS.

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$125,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$125,000

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

As lead agency, SJRC 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.



19. Nicholson Ranch Conservation Easement

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$760,000 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(a) for the grant to The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo (LCSLO); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Nicholson Ranch Conservation Easement
Project Type:	Conservation Easement (717± acres)
Grantee:	The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County
Amount Recommended:	\$760,000
Funding Partners:	California Department of Conservation California State Coastal Conservancy
County:	San Luis Obispo
Program:	Land Acquisition Program
Funding:	Habitat Conservation Fund
Strategic Plan Goals:	A.1, A.2, A.4, E.1 Objectives: SI 1.2, 2.1, 2.4
Disadvantaged Community:	Not within a disadvantaged community

LOCATION

The property (Property) is located along State Route 46 west in the Adelaida Region known for scenic vistas, rolling grasslands, and oak studded hillsides. The Property is located less than 4 miles from Cayucos and 2.5 miles from Whale Rock Reservoir.

The Property lies within the CDFW Adelaida CAPP which establishes criteria to prioritize parcels based on their conservation values to increase or enhance habitat, migration corridors, and connectivity. Protecting the Property will lead to important wildlife conservation benefits. The Property sits at the intersection of two critical wildlife corridors in the southern Santa Lucia range. Together, these corridors extend from the San Rafael Wilderness in Santa Barbara County to the Silver Peak Wilderness in Monterey County. These corridors are identified as the La Panza Range – San Geronimo and the San Geronimo – Los Padres National Forest ECAs. In its current natural state, the Property supports both local and migratory species that traverse these corridors.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The 717± acre Property is predominantly open space/livestock rangeland characterized by the oak-forested hillsides and open grasslands. The Property is a working cattle ranch and a light to moderate herd of cattle are grazed throughout the year.

Habitats present on the Property include coast live oak woodland and associated grasslands. These habitats support several important animal species including deer, golden eagle, and mountain lion. Species of special concern potentially

occurring on the Property include the burrowing owl, western pond turtle, and California red-legged frog. Protection of the Property will also add to the landscape scale protection of the Whale Rock Reservoir. The Property is part of a larger scale land protection effort within the watershed and will join two permanently protected ranches for the protection of 4,500± contiguous acres of upper Villa Creek and Cottontail Creek watersheds, thus protecting the city of San Luis Obispo's municipal water source.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

When establishing a conservation easement, LCSLO works closely with the landowner to address the protection of the Property's natural habitat and agricultural resources. The purposes of the proposed easement are to ensure that natural resources, agricultural, and wildlife habitat are conserved in balance and harmony with each other. The grant agreement requires LCSLO to monitor the Property at least once a year to ensure the easement terms are being honored, as well as to prepare and submit a written monitoring report documenting the visit and noting any significant changes to the resources or any compliance issues. If necessary, corrective action must be recommended and noted in the report.

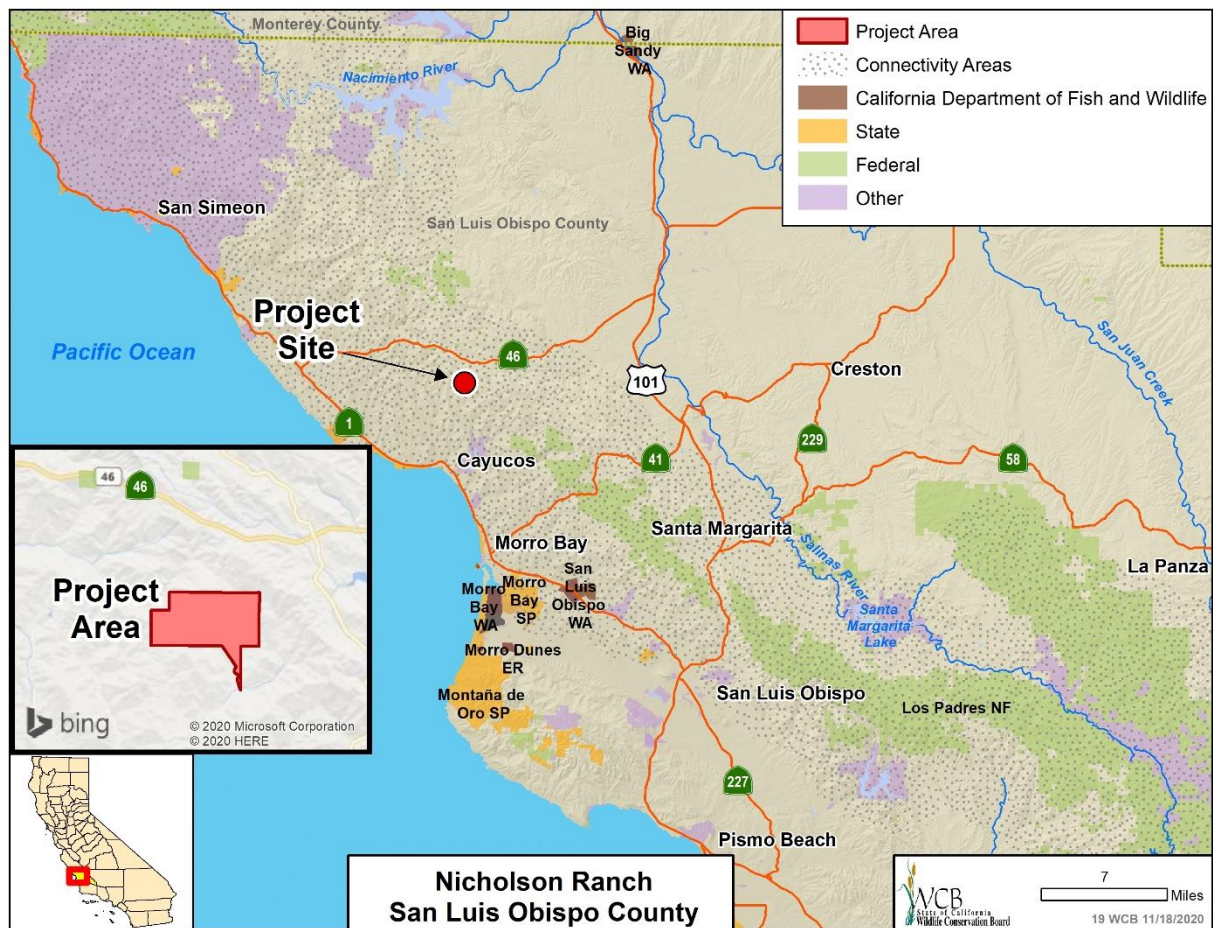
PROJECT FUNDING

The DGS approved fair market value is \$2,360,000. The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$760,000
DOC	\$1,000,000
SCC	\$600,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$2,360,000

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.



20. Morongo Basin, Expansion 9

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$539,750 from the Proposition 12, Public Resources Code Section 5096.350(a)(3) and (a)(5) 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 9
Project Type:	Fee Acquisition (79± acres)
Grantee:	Mojave Desert Land Trust
Amount Recommended:	\$539,750
Funding Partners:	Mojave Desert Land Trust
County:	San Bernardino
Program:	Land Acquisition Program
Funding:	Proposition 12
Strategic Plan Goals:	A.1, A.4, C.1, C.4 Objectives: SI 1.2, 1.3, 2.4, 3.4
Disadvantaged Community:	Within a severely disadvantaged community

LOCATION

The property (Property) is situated in 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. The Property fronts State Route 62 and is adjacent to MDLT headquarters. 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 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 Ground 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, rectangular shaped tract of land that includes three assessor parcel numbers. The Property has been managed as speculation for development, as are many such privately-owned properties located in the Morongo Basin with frontage on State Route 62.

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 practices active monitoring and restoration efforts on its lands and runs a desert plant nursery that provides its properties with native desert plants.

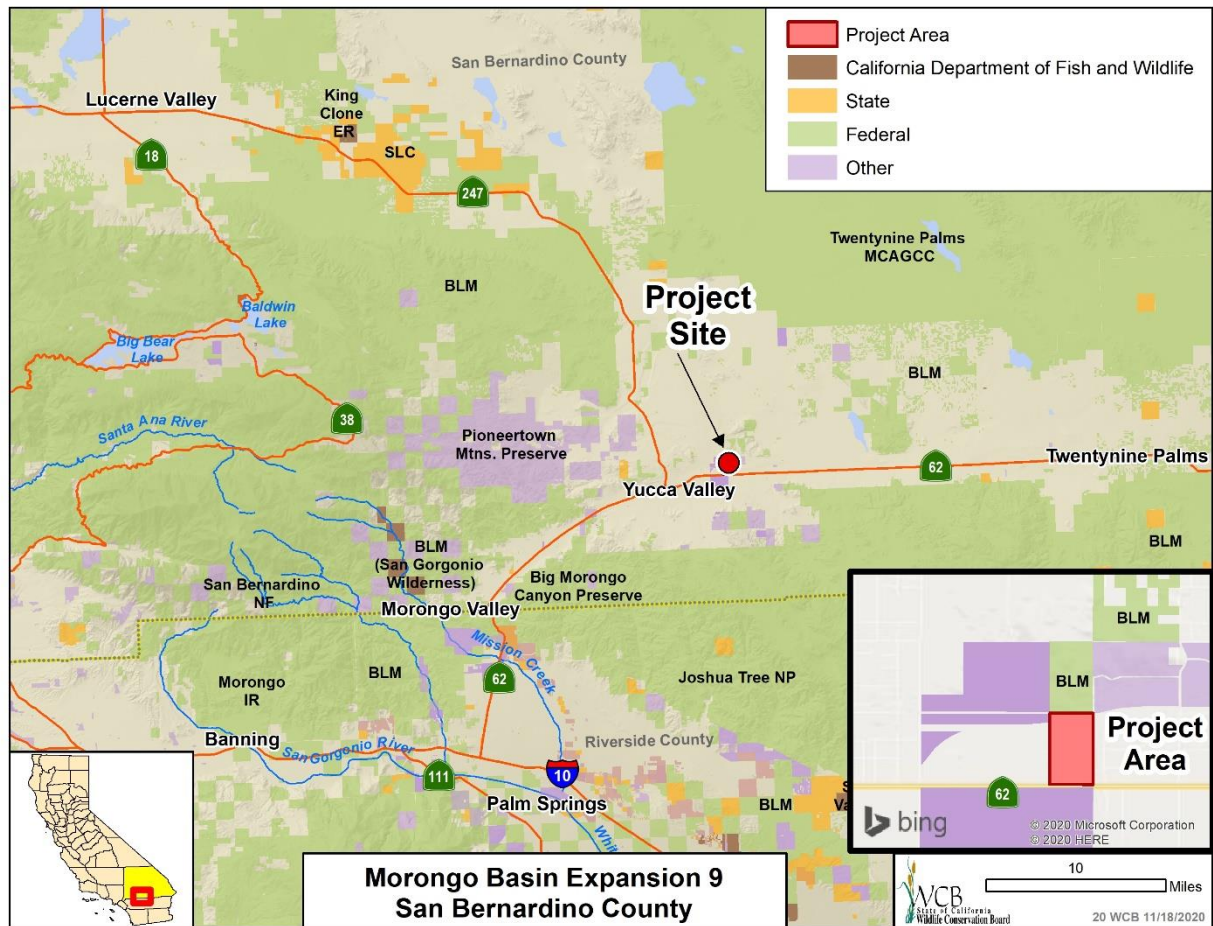
PROJECT FUNDING

The DGS approved fair market value is \$635,000. The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$539,750
MDLT	\$95,250
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$635,000

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. Hidden Valley Wildlife Area Floodplain Restoration Planning

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$537,158 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(e)/(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:	Hidden Valley Wildlife Area Floodplain Restoration Planning
Project Type:	Planning
Applicant/Grantee:	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District
Amount Recommended:	\$537,158
Funding Partners:	Santa Ana Watershed Association, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District, and HANA Resources
Landowner(s):	Department of Fish and Wildlife and Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District
County:	Riverside
Program:	Riparian Habitat Conservation Program
Funding:	Habitat Conservation Fund
Strategic Plan Goals:	A.2 Objectives: SI 1.2, 2.1b, 2.4
Disadvantaged Community:	Not within a disadvantaged community

LOCATION

Hidden Valley Wildlife Area (HVWA) is a publicly owned, open space located approximately one mile south of the city of Jurupa Valley and protects 1,100± acres along the upper Santa Ana River for wildlife-oriented public recreation (Property). In the early 1970s CDFW purchased a majority of the Property with funding provided by WCB. The County of Riverside (County) also purchased land along the northern and southern boundaries of the Property. The County has operated and maintained the Property since 1974 under a 50-year cooperative management agreement with CDFW. This management agreement expires in 2023, and CDFW and the Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District (Parks District) are in the process of negotiating a new long-term management agreement.

Prior to public ownership, the Property was known as the Hidden Valley Gun Club and promoted pheasant and duck hunting, which is responsible for the development of the ponds and wetlands that exist there today. Primary land uses surrounding the Property include single-family residences, golf courses, agriculture, and open space. The Parks District and the cities of Jurupa Valley, Riverside, and Norco own the adjacent open space.

The presence of year-round surface flows supports a diverse series of native riparian, floodplain, and upland plant communities. Disturbances due to flood and fire have created a patchwork of vegetation assemblages from early successional and willow thickets to Fremont cottonwood forest along the river corridor, and alluvial fan sage scrub, coastal sage scrub, and nonnative California annual grassland in the uplands. Several special-status species inhabit the Property including least Bell's vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher, yellow-breasted chat, yellow warbler, arroyo chub, and Santa Ana sucker, and over 21 other sensitive species occur along the Santa Ana River corridor upstream and downstream from the Property. The Property is included as an existing core area of the Western Riverside County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP), and it also functions as a habitat linkage between Orange County to the west and San Bernardino County to the east.

The Property serves a vital role within the urbanized landscape of the Inland Empire, providing open space for the local community. HVWA's 25-mile trail system offers scenic views and opportunities for hiking, biking, running, equestrian, fishing, hunting, and viewing migratory birds, native flora and fauna, and aquatic wildlife. The onsite Hidden Valley Nature Center is an interpretive center that offers educational programs through live native wildlife exhibits and habitat displays.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The goals of this planning project are to complete the necessary studies, designs, and environmental compliance for a HVWA Riparian Habitat Restoration Project that will restore and enhance riparian and upland habitats, remove and control invasive non-native plants, provide high-quality habitat for special-status plants and wildlife, and improve water quality. The habitat restoration design will focus on restoring native plant structure, abundance and species diversity, increasing the site's resistance to invasion by nonnative plants, and increasing habitat connectivity.

The project will identify goals and objectives, measures, and metrics that will be synthesized into a Habitat Restoration Plan (HRP). This will be consistent with long-term plans for HVWA and local planning efforts, including the Western Riverside County MSHCP.

The project will also complete GIS mapping data and scientific studies. Unmanned aerial vehicle studies will be conducted to measure the current growth of plant species and assess plant health. A fine-scale map of Arundo location and density will also be created.

Design plans (65 percent) will be prepared for riparian and upland habitat restoration and 24,490 linear feet of river channel. The HRP will describe native plant palettes for appropriate sites, identify habitat success criteria, and identify management practices. Management and monitoring activities will also outline survey methods, data standards, and reporting requirements.

The project will conduct environmental review in accordance with CEQA and NEPA, and technical studies related to biological resources, cultural resources, noise, air quality, and greenhouse gas will be completed. It is anticipated that an EIR will be prepared for CEQA, but if the analysis results in a less-than-significant finding, then a MND will be prepared. The Parks District will hold up to four public hearings.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The Parks District will continue its role as land manager of the Property. Specific monitoring and management objectives for the habitat restoration will be included in the HRP.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Project Task	Total Cost	WCB	*Non-WCB Funds
Project Management	\$29,750	\$24,150	\$5,600
Outreach and Planning Charette	\$110,170	\$76,010	\$34,160
Habitat Restoration Plan and Designs	\$70,844	\$38,448	\$32,396
GIS/Aerial Imagery	\$156,500	\$152,300	\$4,200
Environmental Review and Management Plan Outline	\$571,931	\$246,250	\$325,681
Total	\$939,195	\$537,158	\$402,037

*Cost share provided by San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District, Santa Ana Watershed Association, and HANA Resources.

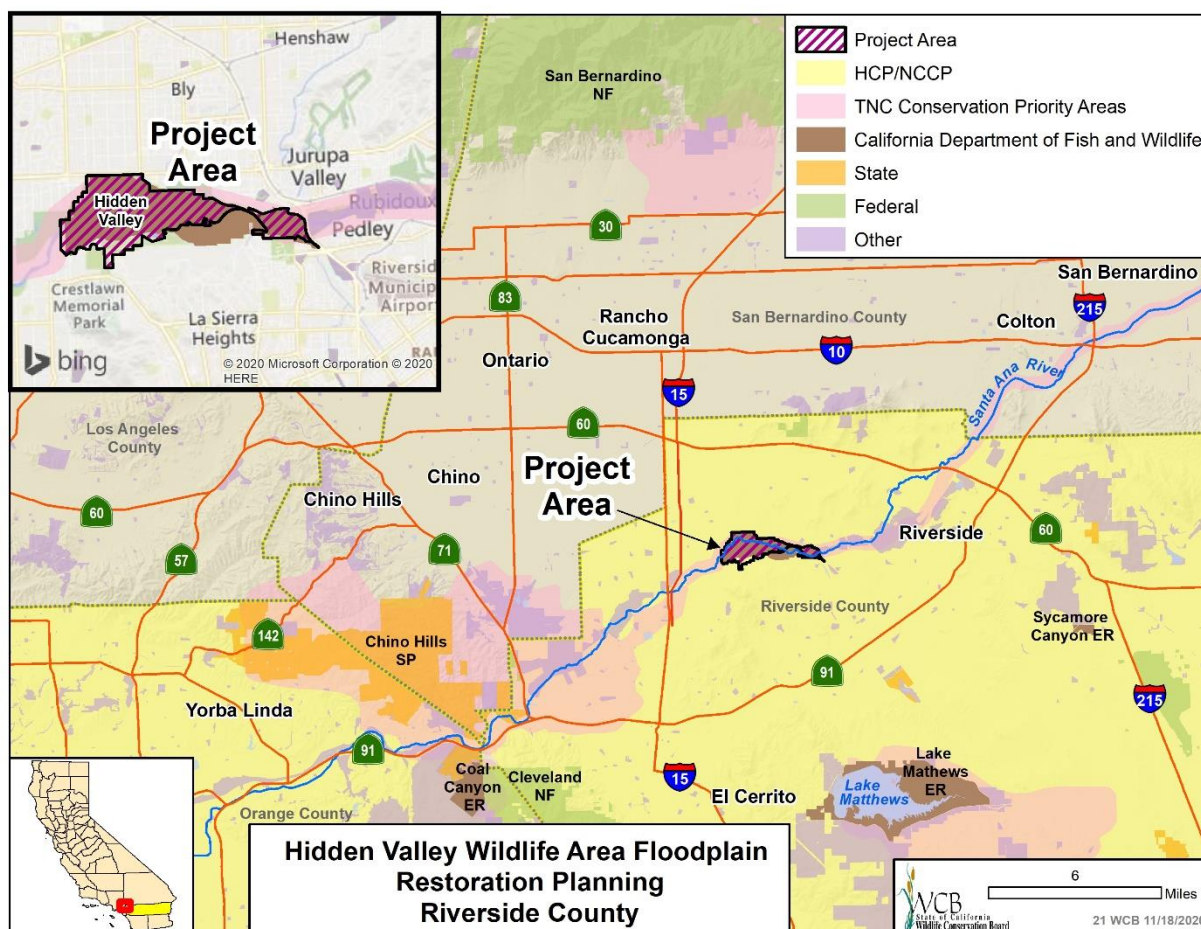
Project costs include:

- Project Management: Oversee and coordinate with project partners, manage schedule and deliverables.
- Outreach and Planning Charette: Conduct outreach with regulatory agencies and the public. Host public workshops, inform the public and stakeholders on timing, location, and goals of planned habitat restoration.
- Habitat Restoration Plan and Designs: Prepare Habitat Restoration Plan and complete 65 percent designs.
- GIS/Aerial Imagery: Create, collect, manage, and analyze spatial and tabular data.
- Environmental Review and Management Plan Outline: Complete technical studies to inform CEQA/NEPA. Prepare environmental document and host public hearings. Outline management plan for restored and enhanced habitat.

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

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

15262), as it involves only feasibility and planning studies for possible future actions. Subject to authorization by WCB, a NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.



22. Denk Mountain, Expansion 1

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$75,250 from Proposition 68, Public Resources Code Section 80111(b) for the grant to Center for Natural Lands Management (CNLM); approve the acceptance of the Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition grant from USFWS in the amount of \$139,750 and approve the subgrant of the federal funds to CNLM; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Denk Mountain, Expansion 1
Project Type:	Fee Title (6± acres)
Grantee:	Center for Natural Lands Management
Amount Recommended:	\$75,250
Funding Partners:	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Section 6
County:	San Diego
Program:	Land Acquisition Program
Funding:	Proposition 68
Strategic Plan Goals:	A.1, A.3, A.4 Objectives: SI 1.3, 2.1, 2.2, 2.4 3.4
Disadvantaged Community:	Not within a disadvantaged community

LOCATION

The property (Property) is 6± acres and is located at the southern border of the city of San Marcos near the community of San Elijo Hills. San Marcos is south of State Route 78, approximately 15 miles east of the city of Carlsbad. More specifically, the Property is located about one mile southeast of the intersection of Melrose Drive and San Elijo Road.

The surrounding parcels to the north, east, and south consist of vacant land owned by CNLM as part of the Rancho La Coasta 1,650± acre preserve that serves as a regional corridor connecting Batiquitos Lagoon and Lake Hodges. Two separate 5± acre vacant, privately-owned parcels to the west remain as a small private inholding surrounded by the preserve. The community of San Marcos is comprised primarily of single-family residential lots.

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

The Property is also included in the City of Carlsbad's Habitat Management Plan (HMP). Acquisition of the Property will help advance the HMP by securing key wildlife linkages and preserving core areas of habitat. The City of Carlsbad HMP subarea plan was permitted in November 2004 and provides coverage for 54

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

WCB funded several CNLM acquisitions in the vicinity including the 39± acre Luchia Property just over one mile north in 2020, the neighboring 5± acre Denk Mountain Property just 1,200 feet west in 2019, and the 156± acre Carlsbad/Northwest San Diego County MHCP HCP/NCCP 2010 (Perkins) property located one half mile southeast in 2011.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property is an irregularly shaped parcel that is vacant and unimproved. Access to the Property is from a private dirt road off San Elijo Road. The Property features steep and rugged mountainside terrain with gently rolling hilltop areas at the south side. The predominant vegetation on the Property is southern mixed chaparral intermixed with Diegan coastal sage scrub.

The Property is zoned RR, Rural Residential, by San Diego County, and the minimum allowed parcel size by zone is four acres. The General Plan designation is SR-10, Semi-Rural Lands, with a minimum allowed parcel size of ten acres.

The Property is situated among Carlsbad's existing mitigation sites and MHCP coastal California gnatcatcher core area. The proposed acquisition and the adjacent protected lands provide core and linkage habitat for species such as coastal California gnatcatcher, least Bell's vireo, and Del Mar manzanita, among other species. The wide swath of coastal sage scrub in this area is the highest quality habitat remaining in north San Diego County for the coastal California gnatcatcher and numerous other sensitive sage scrub-dependent species. Maintaining this area and the coastal California gnatcatchers that breed here as a core population center is critical to the long-term viability of the population in San Diego County.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

CNLM currently manages 1,655± acres of conservation lands which surround the Property. CNLM will manage and monitor this property consistent with its management of its other properties, and pursuant to the Rancho La Costa Habitat Conservation Area 2016-2020 Management Plan. This resource management plan is updated approximately every five years. The management objectives include habitat assessments, plant and animal monitoring, habitat maintenance (such as nonnative invasive species control), erosion control, and public services (such as patrolling, site protection, signage, and outreach). There will be no public access to the Property.

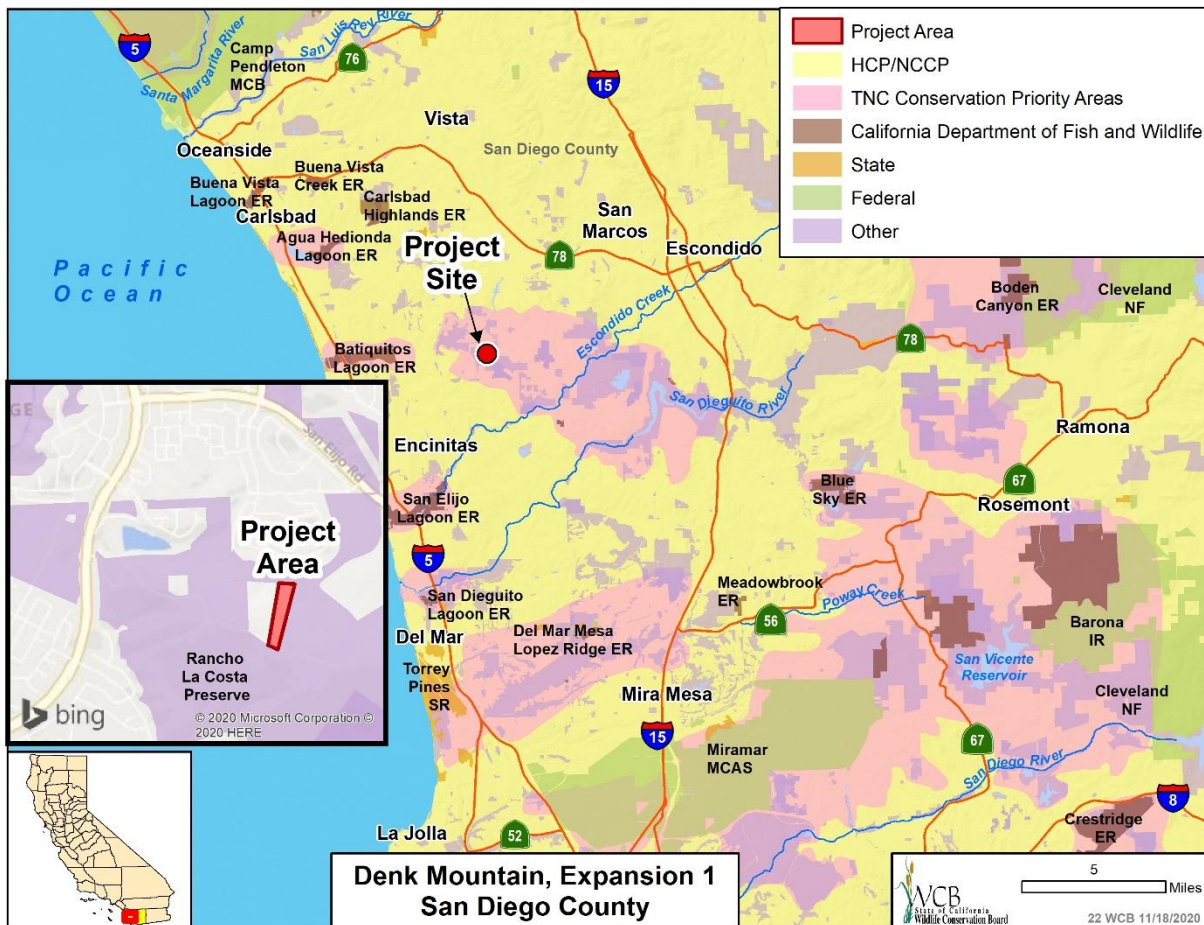
PROJECT FUNDING

The DGS approved fair market value is \$215,000. The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$75,250
USFWS subgrant funds	\$139,750
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$215,000

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.



23. LeoMar Preserve

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$718,900 from Proposition 68, Public Resources Code Section 80111(b) for the grant to Escondido Creek Conservancy (Conservancy); approve the acceptance of the Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition grant from USFWS in the amount of \$1,335,100 and approve the subgrant of the federal funds to Conservancy; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	LeoMar Preserve
Project Type:	Fee Title (79± acres)
Grantee:	Escondido Creek Conservancy
Amount Recommended:	\$718,900
Funding Partners:	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Section 6
County:	San Diego
Program:	Land Acquisition Program
Funding:	Proposition 68 and Proposition 84
Strategic Plan Goals:	A.1, A.3, A.4 Objectives: SI 1.3, 2.2, 2.4, 3.4
Disadvantaged Community:	Not within a disadvantaged community

LOCATION

The property (Property) is along Rancho Summit Drive, South of Elfin Forest Road and San Elijo Road, in both the city of San Marcos and unincorporated San Diego County.

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

The Property is also within the Multiple Habitat Conservation Program gnatcatcher core area identified within the City of Carlsbad HMP. Acquisition of the Property will help advance the HMP by securing key wildlife linkages and preserving core areas of habitat. The City of Carlsbad HMP subarea plan was permitted in November 2004 and provides coverage for 54 species, including 19 species federally listed as endangered or threatened and 35 unlisted species. The HMP commits to preserve an area of 4,441± acres. The Escondido Creek CAPP will provide major benefits to the gnatcatcher regionally, and also complements the objectives of the draft County of San Diego North County Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP), Subregional Plan.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property is located at a high point within a broad valley and hill area which allows for expansive views, including some ocean view potential. Topography

ranges from level to steeply sloping, with the steepest areas of the subject generally in the central and northwestern areas. Elevation ranges from a low of approximately 575 feet near the western edge of the parcel, to a high of approximately 920 feet near the center.

The Property is situated among Carlsbad's existing mitigation land within the MHCP gnatcatcher core area. Conserving this area and the gnatcatchers that breed in this core population center is critical to the long-term viability of the population in San Diego County. The proposed acquisition and the adjacent protected lands provide core and linkage habitat for species such as gnatcatcher, rufous crowned sparrow, Bell's sage sparrow, and coast horned lizard, among other species. The wide swath of coastal sage scrub in this area is the highest quality habitat remaining in north San Diego County for the gnatcatcher and numerous other sensitive sage scrub-dependent species. The proposed acquisition will also benefit the Hermes copper butterfly, which was not covered by the Carlsbad HMP, but was recently designated as a federal candidate species.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The Conservancy is dedicated to the preservation, restoration, and protection of the natural open space within the Escondido Creek watershed. The Conservancy currently owns and/or manages 2,800± acres of land within the watershed, which extends 26 miles from Bear Valley to the San Elijo Lagoon and including parts of the cities of Encinitas and Escondido. The Property will be monitored on at least a monthly basis by the Conservancy's land management team. Currently, the Conservancy consists of eight staff members and utilizes over 70 active volunteers to remove invasive species and for site restoration projects. Public access on the Property will potentially include compatible Conservancy-led hikes and conservation research undertaken through Conservancy education programs.

PROJECT FUNDING

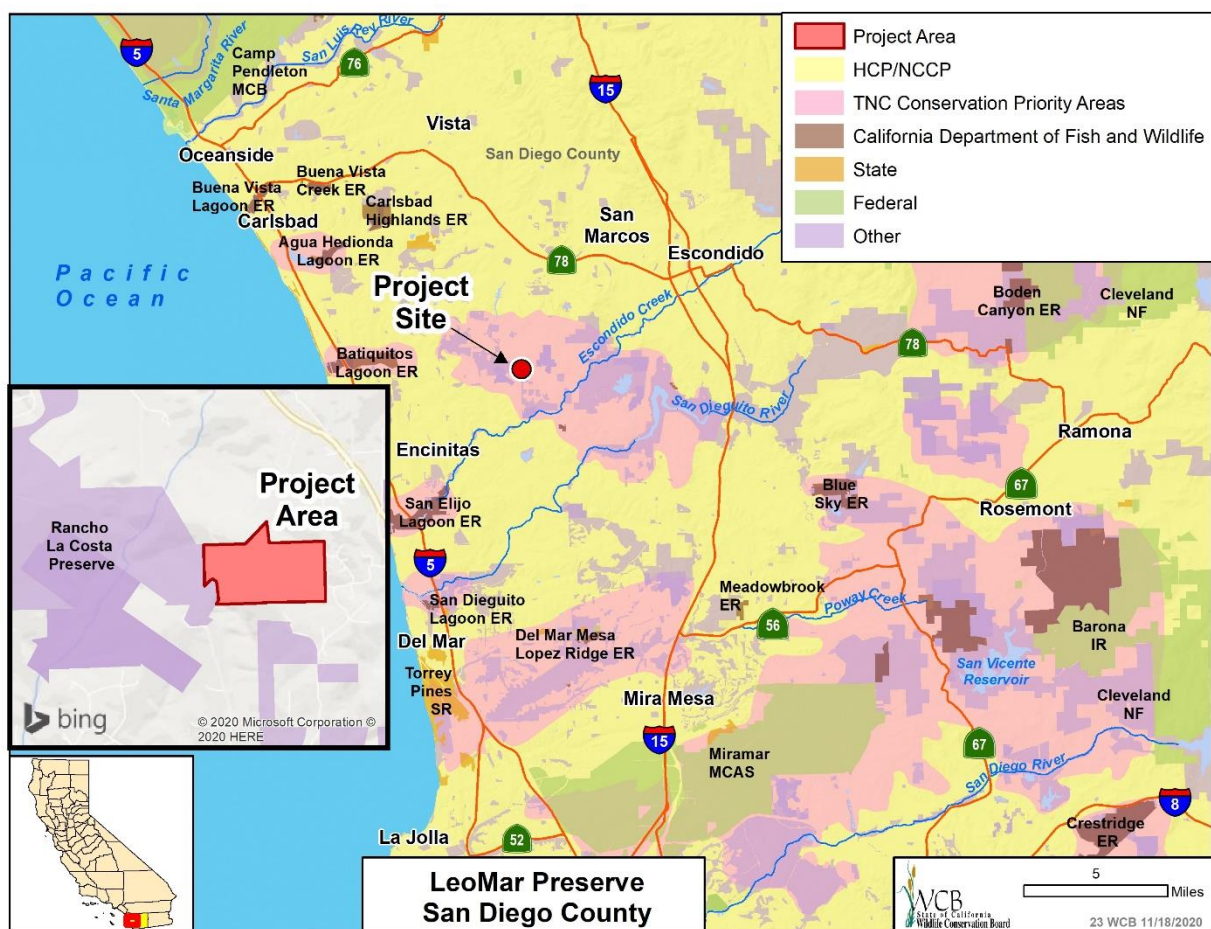
The DGS approved fair market value is \$2,054,000. The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$718,900
USFWS	\$1,335,100
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$2,054,000

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.



24. San Diego County HCP (2019) White

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$453,200 from Proposition 68, Public Resources Code Section 80111(b) for the grant to San Dieguito River Valley Land Conservancy (SDRVLC); approve the acceptance of the Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition grant from USFWS in the amount of \$1,586,200 and approve the subgrant of the federal funds to SDRVC; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	San Diego County HCP (2019) White
Project Type:	Fee Title (103± acres)
Grantee:	San Dieguito River Valley Land Conservancy
Amount Recommended:	\$453,200
Funding Partners:	San Dieguito River Valley Land Conservancy, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
County:	San Diego
Program:	Land Acquisition Program
Funding:	Proposition 68
Strategic Plan Goals:	A.1, A.3, A.4 Objectives: SI 1.3, 2.2, 2.4, 3.4
Disadvantaged Community:	Not within a disadvantaged community

LOCATION

The property (Property) is located two miles east of Rancho Santa Fe, four miles southwest of the city of Escondido, and four miles south of the city of San Marcos within the Rancho Cielo Specific Plan. Access is provided from Del Dios Highway along the Property's eastern border. Secondary access is provided by Toyon Canyon Road at the Property's northern border. Toyon Canyon Road is paved and privately maintained.

The Rancho Cielo Specific Plan consists of 2,668± acres of land just north and west of the Del Dios Highway in the vicinity of Lake Hodges and the communities of Elfin Forest and Del Dios.

Conserved lands are found within a few miles in all directions from the Property. The Del Dios Highlands Preserve is one mile north, the Santa Fe Valley Open Space Preserve is one and a half miles south, Lake Hodges is less than a mile to the east, and the Bridges at Rancho Santa Fe is three miles west. WCB has contributed to the acquisition of over 1,500± acres in the immediate vicinity since 2003.

The Property is located within the San Diego MSCP. The MSCP covers 85 species, including 26 federally listed species and 59 unlisted species. Fifteen of the covered species are listed as threatened or endangered by CDFW.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The 103± acre Property consists of two adjacent irregularly shaped parcels of unimproved land with rolling to steep slopes and some portions of level terrain. Elevations range from 431± feet to 942± feet with average slope greater than 25 percent.

Development of the Property would be dictated by the Rancho Cielo Specific Plan (Plan). Within the Plan, the Property is designated as country estates, planned development, and open space. Under the Plan, the Property is allowed 20 dwelling units in total. However, with no known development entitlements in place, and physical limitations such as steep terrain, fire hazards, and lack of utilities and accessibility, potential development could be challenging.

The Property is covered almost entirely by dense southern mixed chaparral and diegan coastal sage scrub habitat. The Property has a steep south facing exposure; at upper elevations of the Property, views of the Coast to Crest Trail at Del Dios Gorge can be enjoyed.

Species expected to benefit from the protection of the Property include the coastal California gnatcatcher, Encinitas baccharis, and other sensitive species including southern California rufous-crowned sparrow, northern harrier, Cooper's hawk, orange-throated whiptail, San Diego horned lizard, mountain lion, southern mule deer, and San Diego barrel cactus.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The Property will be managed and owned by SDRVC who will provide resource stewardship and monitoring. The Property has the potential for compatible future docent led, wildlife-oriented, public use such as birding and hiking.

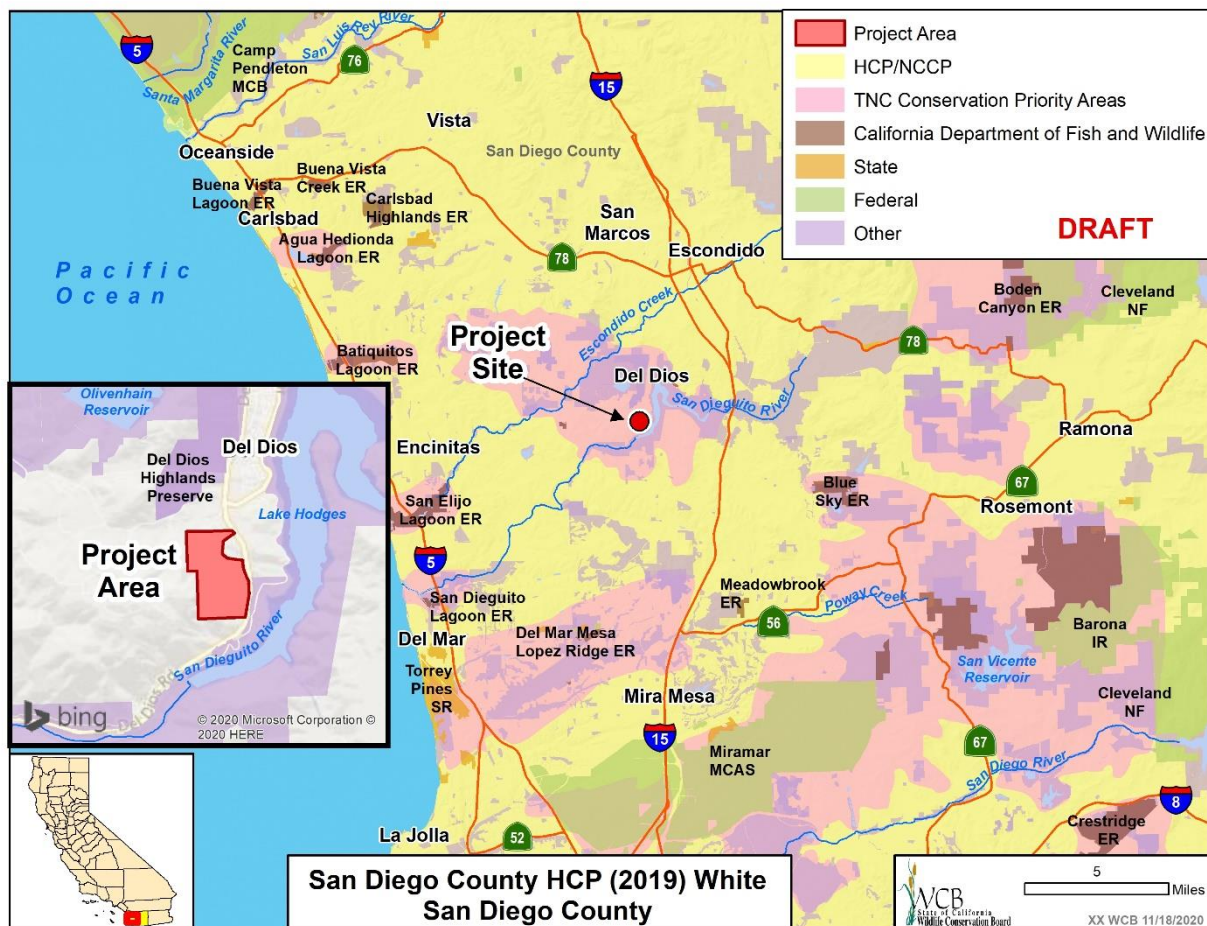
PROJECT FUNDING

The DGS approved fair market value is \$2,266,000. The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$453,200
USFWS subgrant funds	\$1,586,200
SDRVLC	\$226,600
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$2,266,000

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

25. Scott River Headwaters, Wildcat

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$2,500,000 from Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, Budget Act, Chapter 14 and 249, Statutes of 2017 for the grant to the Siskiyou Land Trust (SLT); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Scott River Headwaters, Wildcat
Project Type:	Conservation Easement (8,269± acres)
Grantee:	Siskiyou Land Trust
Amount Recommended:	\$2,500,000
County:	Siskiyou County
Program:	Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program
Funding:	Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund
Strategic Plan Goals:	A.1, A.2 Objectives: SI 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.6, 2.4
Disadvantaged Community:	Within a disadvantaged community

LOCATION

The property (Property), known as Wildcat, is adjacent to State Route 3, southwest of the town of Etna in Siskiyou County. It is situated in the Klamath Mountains southwest of the southern end of Scott Valley, on east-facing slopes below Grizzly and Eaton peaks.

The Property is an irregular shaped tract of land and includes a total of 21 assessor parcels. From State Route 3, the Property is accessed by Sugar Creek Road. It can also be accessed via French Creek Road, the Callahan-Cecilville Highway, and USFS Road 41N16. There are approximately 76 miles of established roads throughout the Property.

Topography on most of the Property includes gradual to moderate slopes, with north to northeast flowing creeks originating in the Russian Wilderness and flowing into the Scott River. Steeper topography is found on slopes above Sugar Creek, lands west of French Creek, and above Grizzly Creek and the South Fork of Scott River. Elevation ranges from 3,130 feet at the bottom of Sugar Creek to a highpoint of 6,690 feet west of the uppermost reaches of French Creek.

The Property and the surrounding lands support the most diverse conifer assemblage in the world and have outstanding ecological values. Other WCB projects in the vicinity include the Noyes Valley Wildlife Area, Scott Valley, and Shasta Big Springs Ranch.

In addition to being awarded under the Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program, it is also within CDFW's Mt. Shasta Headwaters Forest CAPP and is designated as a Legacy Forest. The primary purpose of the CAPP is to conserve

forest habitats within and across planning watersheds, protect watersheds important to water supplies and/or to salmonid recovery, protect native species richness, contribute to the protection of at-risk species, achieve habitat and natural lands connectivity goals and support climate-adaptation strategies, minimize risk to natural resources from current or alternative land uses, and provide for public recreation opportunities.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed conservation easement (Easement) will provide significant conservation benefits since the Property provides core habitat and critical biological, stream, and public-use corridors between Scott Valley and wilderness on the western and southern boundary of the Property. Thirty-seven threatened, endangered, or at-risk species, including coho salmon and northern spotted owl, as well as 38 rare plant species are supported by the Property's habitat. It also supports oak, aspen, and serpentine soil-related plant communities.

A dozen watersheds on the Property provide high quality water to the Scott River, the highest wild coho salmon producer in the Klamath Basin and state. Creeks that flow through the Property include French Creek, Miners Creek, Sugar Creek, Wildcat Creek, and the South Fork Scott River. There are approximately 65 miles of water courses mapped on the Property. French Creek, Sugar Creek, and Wildcat Creek and the South Fork Scott River flow directly into the Scott River, east of the Property. The Easement will enhance diverse habitats important to species as well as water quality and flows to the Scott River and the associated ecological, social, and economic benefits would extend far beyond the Property to the Scott River Basin and larger landscape.

The proposed Easement will also increase carbon storage and make a significant contribution to the state's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas by extinguishing development rights on the Property, thereby keeping the largest contiguous block of private forest land in Scott Valley in working forest land in perpetuity. Forest management under the Easement will increase average tree diameters, native tree and plant species diversity, the amount of late successional and older forest stands, representation of special forest habitat types, and general stand health and resiliency to natural disturbances including wildfire.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

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

SLT will hold, manage, and be responsible for the monitoring of the Easement in perpetuity per WCB grant terms. If this project is approved, a baseline report will

be completed by SLT and approved by WCB. The conservation easement deed permits access to the Property by both SLT and WCB staff for monitoring purposes.

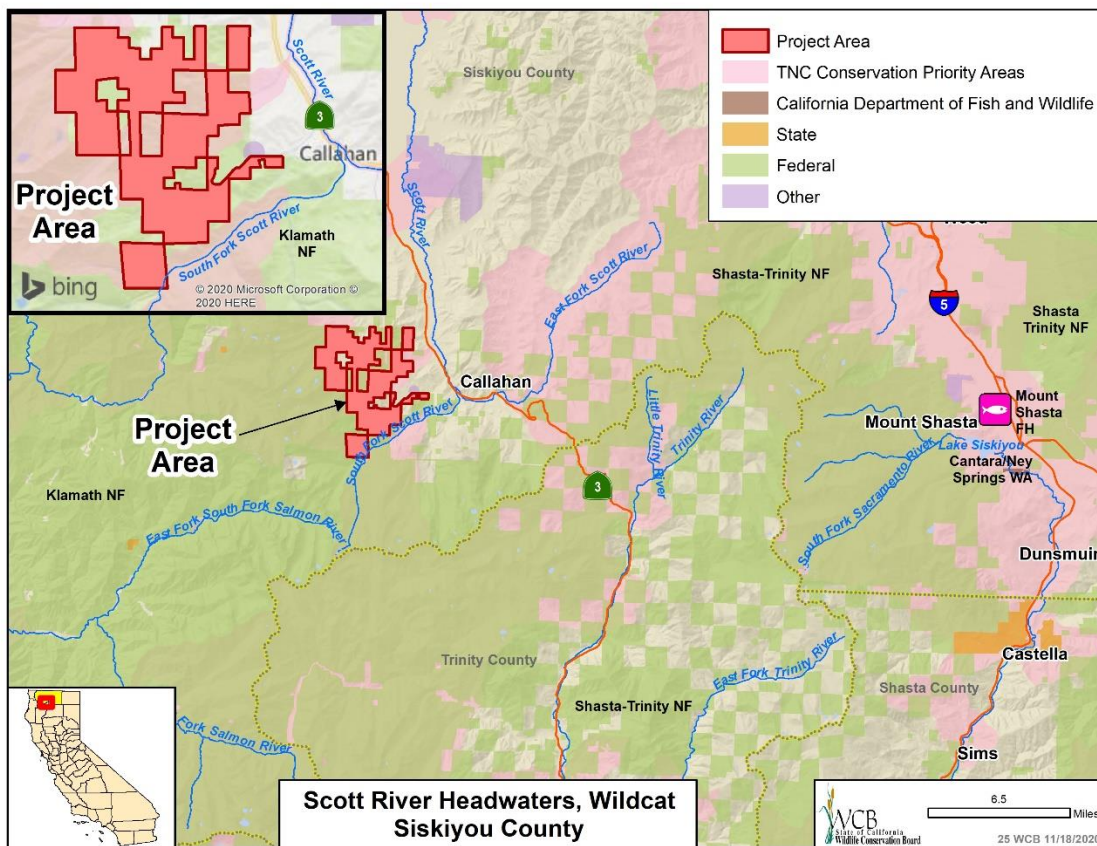
PROJECT FUNDING

The DGS approved fair market value is \$2,660,000. The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$2,500,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$2,500,000

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.



26. San Joaquin River Parkway, Sumner-Peck Ranch

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$3,600,000 from Proposition 40, Public Resources Code Section 5096.650(a) for the grant to the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust, Inc. (Parkway 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:	San Joaquin River Parkway, Sumner-Peck Ranch
Project Type:	Fee Acquisition (76± acres)
Grantee:	San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust, Inc.
Amount Recommended:	\$3,600,000
Funding Partners:	San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust, Inc.
County:	Fresno County
Program:	Land Acquisition Program
Funding:	Proposition 40 and Proposition 84
Strategic Plan Goals:	A.1, A.2 C.1 Objectives: SI 1.2, 2.1, 3.1, 3.4
Disadvantaged Community:	Within a disadvantaged community

LOCATION

The property (Property), known as Sumner-Peck Ranch, is located on North Friant Road, south of the Community of Friant in Fresno County. It is on the east bank of the San Joaquin River and is approximately two miles north of the city of Fresno.

The Property is directly across the river from SJRC's Ledger Island and just north of SJRC's Ball Ranch. CDFW's San Joaquin River Ecological Reserve and San Joaquin Fish Hatchery are in the vicinity. Aside from conservation and recreational uses, property uses immediately surrounding the Property include sand and gravel extraction, cropland, permanent plantings, and residential development.

The Property is within the planning area for the Parkway, a natural and recreational area in the San Joaquin River floodplain that begins at Friant Dam and extends roughly 22 miles along the San Joaquin River to State Route 99. The Parkway includes portions of Madera and Fresno counties, and the city of Fresno, and the planning area varies in width from a narrow wildlife corridor where the river bluffs are steep and close to the river, to extensive floodplains of several hundred acres.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property is irregular in shape with topography ranging from gently rolling to sloping. It has over half a mile of river frontage along the San Joaquin River. Its current use is a small winery operation with structural improvements, including a tasting room and event staging area, a small wine making building, freestanding garage, cold storage units, and a manufactured home which is utilized as an office.

The Property entrance is paved up to the parking area surrounding the event venue. The winery equipment has been removed.

The zoning for the Property is Exclusive Agriculture with a minimum parcel size of 20 gross acres. Currently it has approximately 25 acres of wine grapes and two acres of citrus trees growing. It includes riparian rights, a domestic well, and a deep well used for irrigating crops. Highest and best use of the Property is conservation use, or an interim use of agricultural production, held until which time residential development is feasible.

The Property's attributes include high quality riparian habitat within a floodplain. Wildlife known to frequent and forage on the site include deer, small mammals, coyotes, songbirds, and raptors. The Property also offers the potential for habitat-friendly recreation uses such as access points for nature observation, river access, and hiking. It meets SJRC's criteria for high-priority Parkway land acquisitions that include protection of habitat values, connectivity, protection of wildlife movement corridors, and need for conservation in path of development. The project was approved and recommended for funding by the SJRC Board during its meeting this past August.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The Property will be operated and maintained by the Parkway Trust. For approximately 30 years the Parkway Trust has worked closely with SJRC and other state and federal agencies towards creating a continuous greenway along the San Joaquin River. It offers a variety of services in areas of conservation, education, and recreation. The Parkway Trust would manage the Property for public access and wildlife habitat conservation purposes. It intends to continue operating the site as a farm and special event venue in the short term (three-five years after the acquisition). This would allow time for the Parkway Trust to acquire funding and plan habitat enhancement to return the site to wildlife habitat and create a trail system. The Parkway Trust would also develop a restoration and operations plan in coordination with SJRC and other stakeholders.

PROJECT FUNDING

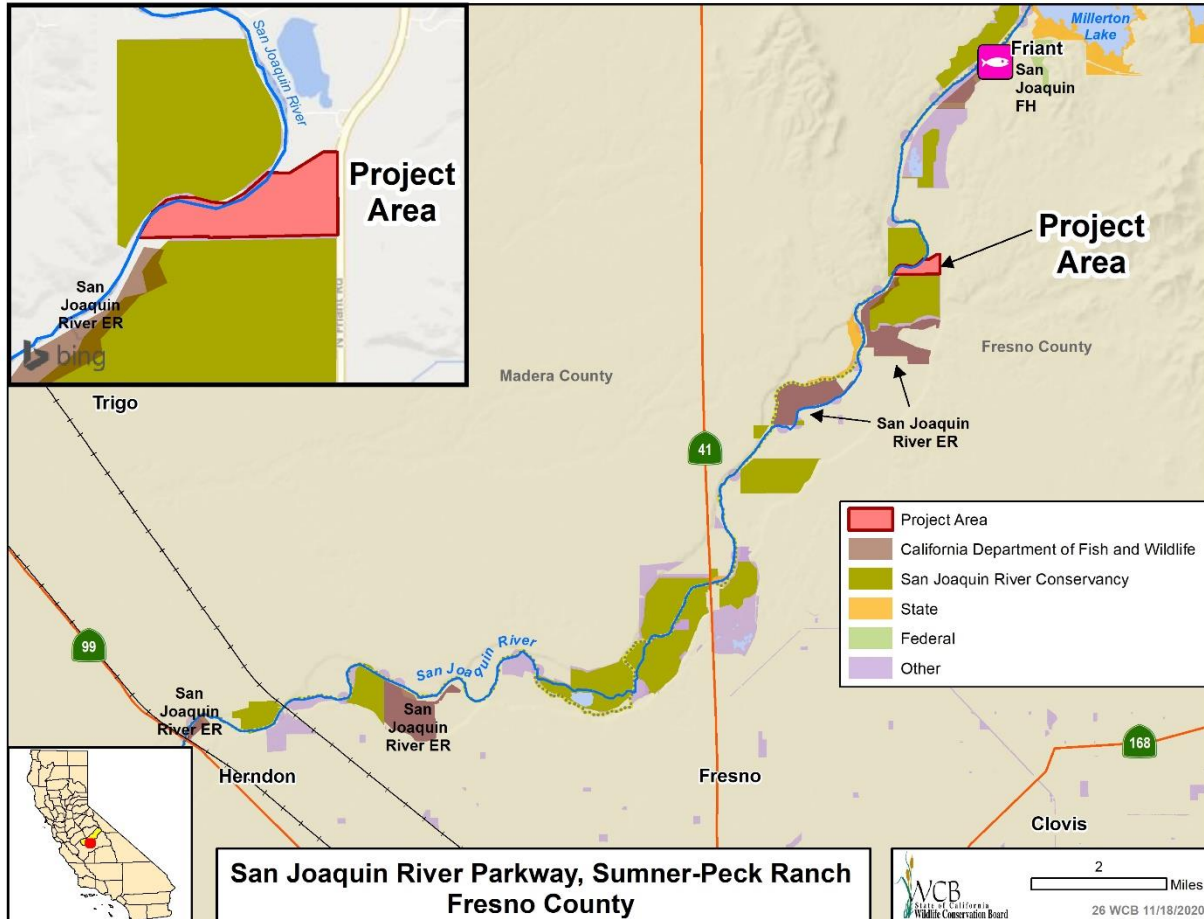
The DGS approved fair market value is \$4,450,000. The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$3,600,000
San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust	\$96,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$3,696,000

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.



27. Pilgrim Creek Ecological Reserve

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$1,580,000 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117) Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c) for the acquisition; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Pilgrim Creek Ecological Reserve
Project Type:	CDFW Fee (61± acres)
Amount Recommended:	\$1,580,000
County:	San Diego County
Program:	Land Acquisition Program
Funding:	Habitat Conservation Fund
Strategic Plan Goals:	A.1, A.2, A.3 Objectives: SI 1.2, 1.3, 2.2
Disadvantaged Community:	Not within a disadvantaged community

LOCATION

The property (Property), known as Foss Lake, is located near the southern boundary of Camp Pendleton in Oceanside in San Diego County. The Property is in a residential neighborhood, adjacent to the Oceanside Golf Course and CDFW's Pilgrim Creek Ecological Reserve and is across the street from Reynolds Elementary School. The Property is accessed from Douglas Drive, which runs along its southeastern boundary. Pilgrim Creek flows through the Property and feeds into the San Luis Rey River. Other CDFW properties in the surrounding area include the Buena Vista Lagoon Wildlife Area, Buena Vista Creek, and Holly Springs Ranch.

The proposed acquisition is within the San Diego County MSCP, a joint Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP). It will augment the MSCP, a comprehensive long-term HCP/NCCP addressing the needs of multiple species and the preservation of natural vegetation communities in San Diego County. The MSCP addresses the potential impacts of urban growth and loss of native species and habitats by preserving a network of habitat and open space. It provides a framework in which to mitigate for the potential loss of covered species and their habitat due to the direct impacts of future development of both public and private lands within the MSCP plan area.

Acquisition of the Property will help preserve key regional wildlife linkages between existing preserved core resource areas. Core resource areas are areas of high concentration of sensitive biological resources, which, if lost, could not be replaced or mitigated elsewhere. This acquisition will contribute to the MSCP's ability to address the effects of climate change by enhancing species' opportunities to utilize suitable habitat and/or expand their ranges as necessitated by changing environmental conditions.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property is an undeveloped, irregularly shaped tract of land and is part of a wetlands complex. The Property is zoned Residential Estate with its highest and best use being open space or conservation.

Approximately 23 of the total 61± acres have been used in part for mitigation purposes, utilizing mitigation and conservation deeds. Therefore, this proposed acquisition is only paying for the value of the remaining acreage, which is approximately 38 acres. Also, management of the Property will be augmented by a mitigation fund already established to manage the 23± acres used for that purpose.

Vegetation habitat types found on and adjacent to the Property include coastal sage scrub, southern willow scrub, mulefat scrub, disturbed alkali marsh, seasonal open water, and nonnative grassland. Special status MSCP-covered species targeted to benefit from this acquisition include least Bell's vireo (federally endangered) and California gnatcatcher (federally threatened, California State species of concern).

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

Following the acquisition, CDFW will own and manage the Property as an addition to the Pilgrim Creek 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 and preventing the introduction and spread of invasive non-native plants.

PROJECT FUNDING

The DGS approved fair market value is \$1,580,000. The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$1,580,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$1,580,000

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.



28. Vanauken Creek Conservation Easement

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$1,500,000 from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, Budget Act, Chapter 14 and 249, Statutes of 2017 for the grant to Sanctuary Forest Land Trust (SFLT); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Vanauken Creek Conservation Easement
Project Type:	Conservation Easement (1,320± acres)
Grantee:	Sanctuary Forest Land Trust
Amount Recommended:	\$1,500,000
Funding Partners:	California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Grace Us Foundation, Sanctuary Forest Land Trust, Weeden Foundation
County:	Humboldt
Program:	Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program
Funding:	Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund
Strategic Plan Goals:	A.1, A.2 Objectives: SI 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.6, 2.4
Disadvantaged Community:	Within a disadvantaged community

LOCATION

The property (Property) is 1,320± acres located in southern Humboldt County, situated near the northern California coast, 90± miles south of the Oregon border and 200 miles north of San Francisco. More specifically, the Property is approximately seven miles east of Shelter Cove. Access is provided from Briceland-Thorn Road, east of Thorn Junction, and north of the community of Whitethorn.

The Property is located on the east side of the Mattole River headwaters and includes sections of Gibson Ridge, which is the watershed divide between the Mattole and South Fork Eel River(s). This ridge is an important wildlife corridor allowing for cross-basin migration as well as wildlife movement along several miles of the east side of the Mattole River headwaters. This is an area of high biological diversity, located in the transitional region between north coastal and montane riparian forest and woodland and Pacific Northwest conifer forests and is included in the California State Wildlife Action Plan.

The Vanauken Creek watershed is the third largest tributary in the Mattole headwaters subbasin. The proposed project will increase resilience and adaptation to climate change in the Mattole River headwaters by conserving a key headwaters tributary and enabling holistic land and water stewardship projects to move forward. Protecting the Vanauken watershed will provide long-term adaptation benefits for the sub-basin as well as for the Mattole River.

WCB has provided funding for several stream flow enhancement projects in the vicinity including the McKee Creek Enhancement Project in 2017.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property includes an irregularly shaped tract of land which includes twelve assessor's parcel numbers. The Property is unimproved, vacant land with timber and hardwood tree cover. There are several springs and feeder creeks, as well as Vanauken Creek, within the Property. Vanauken Creek runs through the Property, and feeds the Mattole River, just west of the Property, below Briceland-Thorne Road. The Property is presently vacant land and has been used mainly for timber management for the past several decades.

The conservation easement (Easement) permanently extinguishes all subdivision and development rights (this watershed has 20 separate certificates of compliance in place), protects important salmonid habitat, preserves current instream flows by preventing future legal and illegal water diversions, and enables desperately needed forest health improvements, groundwater recharge, and salmon habitat restoration projects to move forward. These actions will provide climate adaptation and resilience by increasing soil carbon sequestration through expanded wetland areas, reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfire through active forest management, and increasing carbon sequestration through avoided conversion to residential uses and increasing the amount of late-seral coniferous forests.

Species that will benefit from this project include the northern spotted owl, goshawk, tailed frogs, Pacific giant and southern torrent salamanders, as well as coho, Chinook, and steelhead and thousands of common species that inhabit this unique coastal redwood and mixed forest ecosystem.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

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

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

PROJECT FUNDING

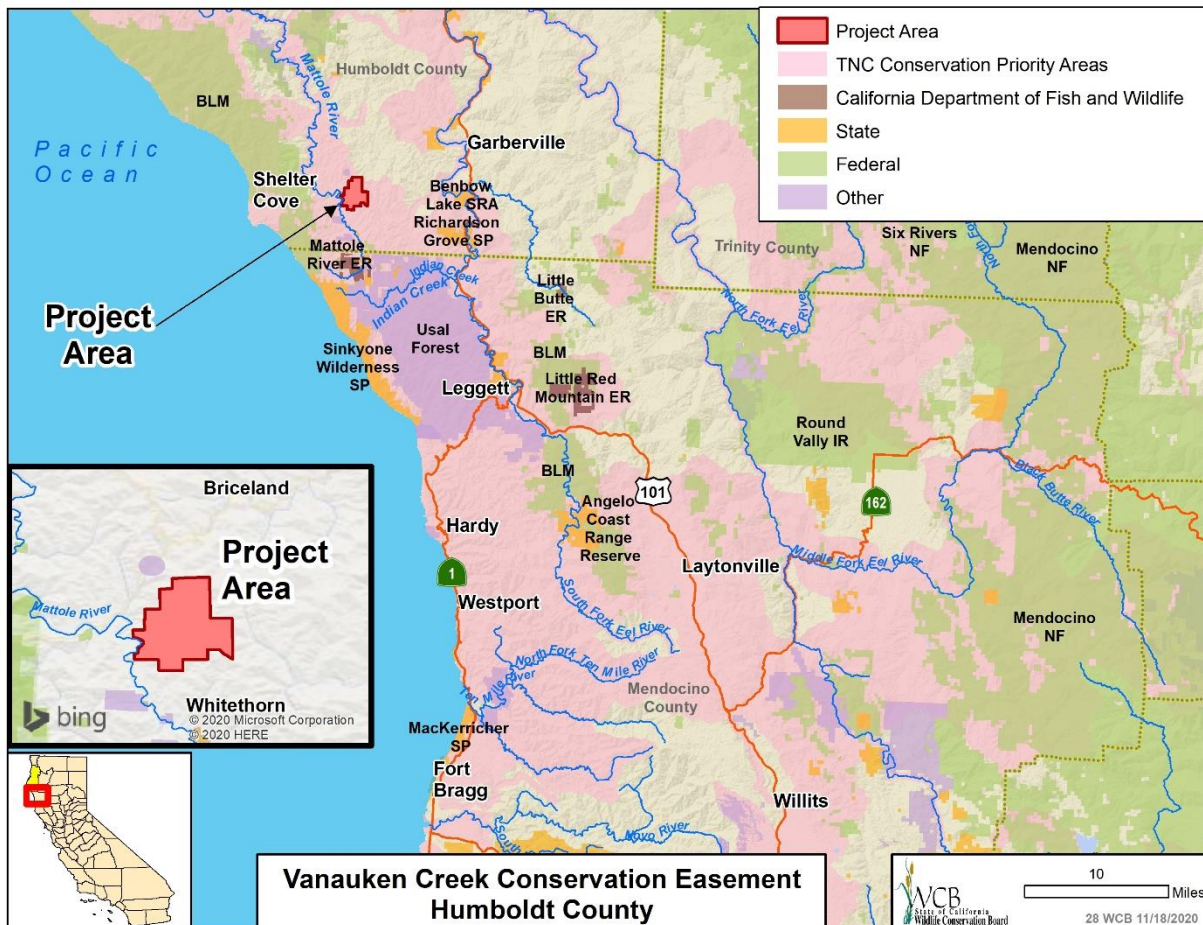
The DGS approved fair market value is \$4,020,000. The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$1,500,000
CDFW	\$1,850,000
Weeden Foundation	\$45,000

Partners	Amount
Grace Us Foundation	\$30,000
Sanctuary Forest Land Trust	\$595,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$4,020,000

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. Wildlife Resilience Metrics for Sierra Nevada Forests

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$334,800 from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund [Public Resources Code Section 5845 et seq. General Fund, Budget Act, Chapter 14 and 249, Statutes of 2017]; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Wildlife Resilience Metrics for Sierra Nevada Forests
Project Type:	Technical Assistance
Applicant/Grantee:	California Academy of Sciences
Amount Recommended:	\$334,800
Funding Partners:	U.S. Forest Service
Landowner(s):	U.S. Forest Service
County:	Amador, Alpine, El Dorado, Placer, Nevada, Sierra, and Yuba
Program:	Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program
Funding:	Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund
Strategic Plan Goals:	A.1, B.1 Objectives: S1 1.3, 1.6, 2.2, 4.1
Disadvantaged Community:	Within a disadvantaged community

LOCATION

The study area covers Sierra Nevada forest habitats in Amador, Alpine, El Dorado, Placer, Nevada, Sierra, and Yuba counties. The project focus area will be the 2.4 million± acre landscape covered by the Tahoe Central Sierra Initiative (TCSI), a partnership of state, federal, environmental, industry, and research representatives formed to accelerate large-landscape forest restoration to improve the health and resilience of the Sierra Nevada. The study area will also include the data-rich Lake Tahoe basin, thereby leveraging TCSI's previously modeled forest change, fire dynamics, and climate scenarios.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

California forest ecosystems face increasing threats and an uncertain future due to climate change, wildfire, and other stressors. Understanding wildlife community resilience is essential to meet the ecosystem diversity and services objectives identified in many state and federal wildlife management plans. Although there is enthusiasm for wildlife resilience as a concept, there are relatively few efforts to quantitatively measure or compare community resilience across managed landscapes or in response to management.

The project will first compile baseline data. Data primarily will include food web relationships and sources, vegetation data, CDFW California Wildlife Habitat Relationship species lists by hectare, and empirical plant and animal data.

Once the baseline data is compiled, community resilience metrics will be developed that can be used to assess the current and projected future resilience

(i.e., persistence in the face of disturbance) of Sierra Nevada forest wildlife communities as they respond to climate change. These metrics will be based on ecological food web modeling, a practical method for directly assessing resilience of biological communities to inform management decisions.

These community resilience metrics will ultimately be available as a web-based tool for assisting natural and working lands managers in the Sierra Nevada to implement practices that have been informed by the effects of climate change and management practices on key drivers of wildlife community resilience.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Project Task	Total Cost	WCB	Non-WCB Funds
Construct dynamic food web model	\$215,742	\$69,686	\$146,056
Apply model metrics at regional scale	\$420,456	\$91,666	\$328,790
Apply model metrics at watershed scale	\$747,534	\$101,478	\$646,056
Develop web-based management tool	\$49,200	\$24,200	\$25,000
Reporting and publication	\$4,800	\$4,800	---
Indirect costs	\$42,970	\$42,970	---
Total	\$1,480,702	\$334,800	\$1,145,902

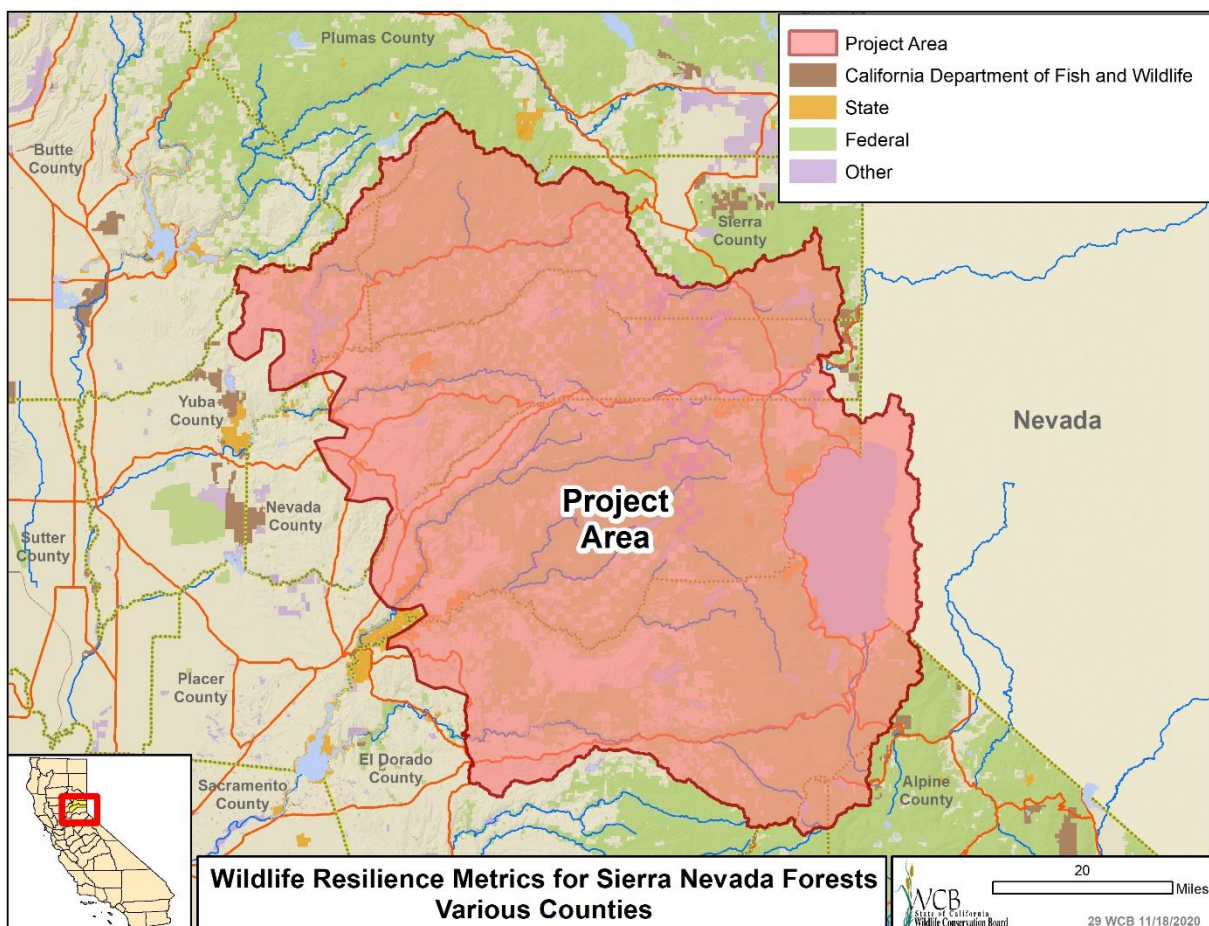
Project costs include:

- Construct dynamic food web model: Complete the steps needed (data collation, food web model construction, study statistical design and data informatics, project management) to construct a dynamic food-web model for Sierra Nevada forests, and use it to develop metrics of wildlife community resilience.
- Apply model metrics at regional scale: Project management, facilitation, landscape-level statistical modeling, landscape-level analysis, and Cloud computation of large-scale landscape simulations.
- Apply model metrics at watershed scale: Project management, facilitation, and statistical analysis for watershed-level food web model application.
- Develop web-based management tool: Funding for a geospatial expert, data scientist, programmer, and web dashboard creator to create the web-based resource management tool.
- Reporting and publication: Project management for overseeing and financing needed to publish the web dashboard page.

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

The project is statutorily exempt from the CEQA pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15262, Feasibility and Planning Studies, as it involves only

feasibility and planning studies for possible future actions. Subject to authorization by WCB, a NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.



30. CDFW Vegetation Mapping, Sierra Nevada and Northeast

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$1,097,905 from the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68), Public Resources Code Section 80111(d); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	CDFW Vegetation Mapping, Sierra Nevada and Northeast
Project Type:	Planning
Applicant/Grantee:	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Amount Recommended:	\$1,097,905
Funding Partners:	Bureau of Land Management, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California Biodiversity Initiative
Counties:	Fresno, Kern, Lassen, Los Angeles, Madera, Mariposa, Modoc, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sierra, Tulare
Program:	Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Program
Funding:	Proposition 68
Strategic Plan Goals:	A.3 Objectives: SI 2.2, 2.4
Disadvantaged Community:	Not in a disadvantaged community

LOCATION

This conservation mapping project (Project) will encompass a study area including the Southern Sierra Nevada Foothills (SSNF) and northeastern California that occur within the multiple listed counties. The SSNF totals 1.9± million acres and stretches from the town of Mariposa southward, wrapping around the base of the Tehachapi Mountains to include the San Emigdio Mountains west of Tejon Pass. Numerous major and minor watersheds are situated along the foothills and primarily drain into the Great Valley. Current land uses include grazing, agriculture, watershed protection, and rural and ranchette development. The northeastern California mapping area includes 2.095± million acres that extend from the Modoc Plateau south to Lake Tahoe. This portion also includes the Doyle and Loyalton-Truckee deer herd ranges (DOLO). Current land uses include forestry, agriculture, grazing, watershed protection, recreation, and rural and urban development.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Vegetation science has played an increased role in wildlife and natural lands conservation and management, as vegetation is seen as a surrogate for habitat and ecosystem health. CDFW's Vegetation Classification and Mapping Program (VegCAMP) focuses on developing and maintaining maps and classifying all vegetation and habitats in the state to support conservation and management decisions at the local, regional, and state levels. The current goal of the program is

to complete a statewide vegetation map. Over 39 million acres (37 percent) of the state have been mapped to VegCAMP's California Vegetation Classification and Mapping Standards, and 11.3 million acres (14 percent) are in progress, including the SSNF and northeastern California. WCB previously funded several phases of VegCAMP mapping projects in 2008, 2011, and 2014.

The Project will complete the SSNF and northeastern portion of the California vegetation mapping projects. The fine-scale vegetation maps will inform conservation and management planning for fish and wildlife species, both common and imperiled, within both regions. The information collected can be used to develop species distribution models for determining where species are likely to occur or where recovery actions may be appropriate. This information can also be used to develop acquisition and restoration projects to protect and improve habitat and connectivity for multiple species and habitat management plans. In addition to the maps, the field data, including ground photos, are archived and can be used to evaluate change over time.

Previously completed, the Northern Sierra Nevada Foothills map was used to model linkages for wildlife movement between large landscape blocks. Completion of the map for the SSNF area would allow the analysis to be extended across the entire Sierra Nevada foothills. In addition, the vegetation maps will allow for the refinement of habitat use maps for large ungulate migration corridors, stop-over locations, and wintering and fawning habitat that are currently being developed using GPS collar data. The maps will also assist in identifying suitable locations for crossing structures at high priority wildlife barrier locations as prioritized in CDFW's 2020 Priority Wildlife Movement Barrier Locations by Region report which identifies barriers in both the SSNF and DOLO areas. This Project is also consistent with the California State Wildlife Action Plan. The completed maps will be instrumental in the development of any future Regional Conservation Investment Strategies or Natural Community Conservation Plans within the project areas.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Project Task	Total Cost	WCB	Non-WCB Funds
Project Management	\$2,063	---	\$2,063
CDFW VegCAMP Mapping Support	\$198,201	---	\$198,201
Southern Sierra Nevada Foothills Map	\$1,341,486	\$341,486	\$1,000,000
Northeastern California Map	\$3,147,629	\$756,419	\$2,391,210
Total	\$4,689,379	\$1,097,905	\$3,591,474

Project costs include:

- Southern Sierra Nevada Foothills Map: Mapping, accuracy assessments, final reporting, final map production and delivery.
- Northeastern California Map: Mapping, accuracy assessments, final reporting, final map production and delivery.

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

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



31. Ansel Adams Wilderness Restoration

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$836,337 from the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68), Public Resources Code Section 80132(f); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Ansel Adams Wilderness Restoration
Project Type:	Implementation
Applicant/Grantee:	JMT Wilderness Conservancy
Amount Recommended:	\$836,337
Funding Partners:	U.S. Forest Service, JMT Wilderness Conservancy, and several private donors
Landowner(s):	U.S. Forest Service
County:	Madera and Mono
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 severely disadvantaged community

LOCATION

The Ansel Adams Wilderness encompasses 232,000± acres, ranging in elevation from 3,500 to 13,157 feet. It is located between Yosemite National Park and Mammoth Lakes. The John Muir and Pacific Crest Trails pass through this wilderness, and it can be reached from both sides of the Sierra crest. Most people enter the wilderness from the east, starting in the Mammoth Lakes area or from the south near Lake Thomas Edison.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project will restore upper alpine meadows, subalpine and montane meadows, connected riparian zones, and talus watershed basins in the Ansel Adams Wilderness. It will replace several pedestrian/stock bridges and durable stream crossings over sensitive aquatic terrain using methods approved by National Forest Engineers and Protocols. The project is divided into four distinct restoration areas: Shadow Lake to Ediza Lake Corridor, Thousand Island & Garnet Lakes Area, Island Pass & Marie Lakes Junction, and Donahue Pass Basin. These restoration areas encompass a vast region of remote and challenging terrain that totals roughly 1,300± acres. The region is most impacted by heavy recreational use and has seen extensive degradation in recent decades.

Specific restoration actions include:

- Close and restore user-created trails in meadows: Fill incised trails, restore natural surface contour, install native plants, and obscure trail entrances with natural materials.

- Reroute official trails out of meadows and riparian zones: Construct new trail sections to avoid meadows and riparian zones using established USFS specifications for high use wilderness trails. Restore decommissioned trail sections by applying methods used to close and restore user-created trails in meadows.
- Close and restore illegal and damaging campsites: Remove evidence of illegal campfire rings and restore campsites to natural terrain. Use natural materials to indicate campsite closures and direct visitors away from the closed campsites.
- Replace bridges and hardened stream crossings: Use established USFS specifications to replace bridges and durable stream crossings using native logs and stones as appropriate. Remove unsustainable crossings and rehabilitate impacted areas.
- Educate: Install temporary trail closure and restoration signage at project sites as appropriate. Provide educational signage and maps at trailhead kiosks, visitor centers, and permit stations. Coordinate wilderness rangers to provide “Leave-No-Trace” minimum-impact information to wilderness visitors.

Once completed, the restored trails and campsites will promote functional meadow hydrology by improving hydrologic connectivity across floodplains and allowing for improved groundwater recharge. This will help create a more resilient habitat that can withstand annual temperature increases and fluctuating snowpack, and provide reliable habitat for sensitive species such as the state-listed endangered willow flycatcher, Yosemite toads, mountain yellow-legged frogs, and Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The Inyo National Forest adopted a Management Plan that guides management actions for the property, including management of the Ansel Adams Wilderness. If at any time during the 25-year life of the project, JMT Wilderness Conservancy 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:

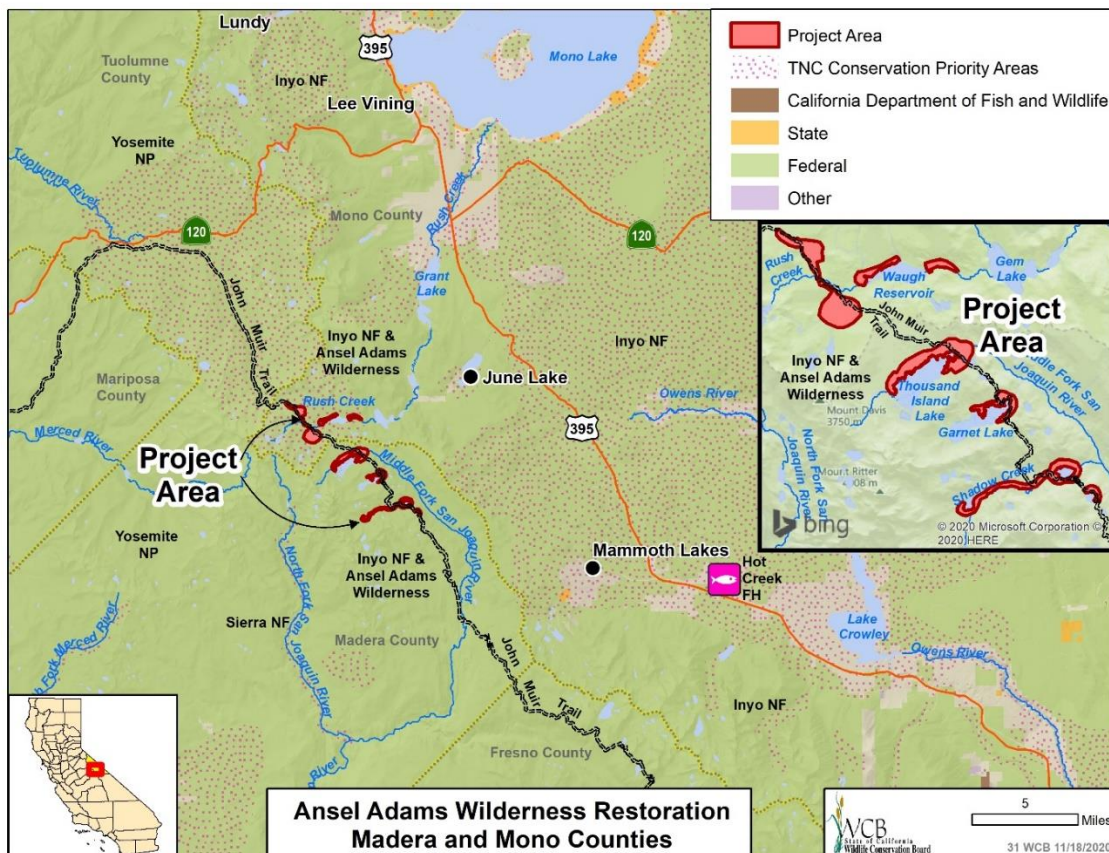
Project Task	Total Cost	WCB	Non-WCB Funds
Project Management	\$131,080	\$103,000	\$28,080
Restoration Activities	\$1,321,896	\$656,396	\$665,500
Monitoring	\$120,200	\$3,200	117,000
Indirect Costs	\$73,741	\$73,741	---
Total	\$1,646,917	\$836,337	\$810,580

Project costs include:

- Project Management: Project team coordination, stakeholder communications and outreach, and grant administration.
- Restoration Activities: Project implementation per implementation plan and oversight of restoration activities.
- Monitoring: Pre- and post-Project monitoring per monitoring plan (e.g., photo points and vegetation).
- Indirect Costs: 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 Section 15333, Class 33, Small Habitat Restoration Projects, as a project not to exceed 5 acres in size to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of habitat for fish, plants, or wildlife and Section 15302, Class 2, Replacement or Reconstruction, as replacement or reconstruction of existing structures where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and Section 15304, Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land, as a minor alteration to land, water and vegetation which does not involve the removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.



32. Chicago Valley

This item has been withdrawn from consideration at this time.

33. Ventura River Parkway

This item has been withdrawn from consideration at this time.

34. 2021 Board Meeting Dates

Board will be asked to approve WCB meetings dates for 2021.

Thursday, February 25, 2021

Thursday, May 27, 2021

Thursday, August 26, 2021

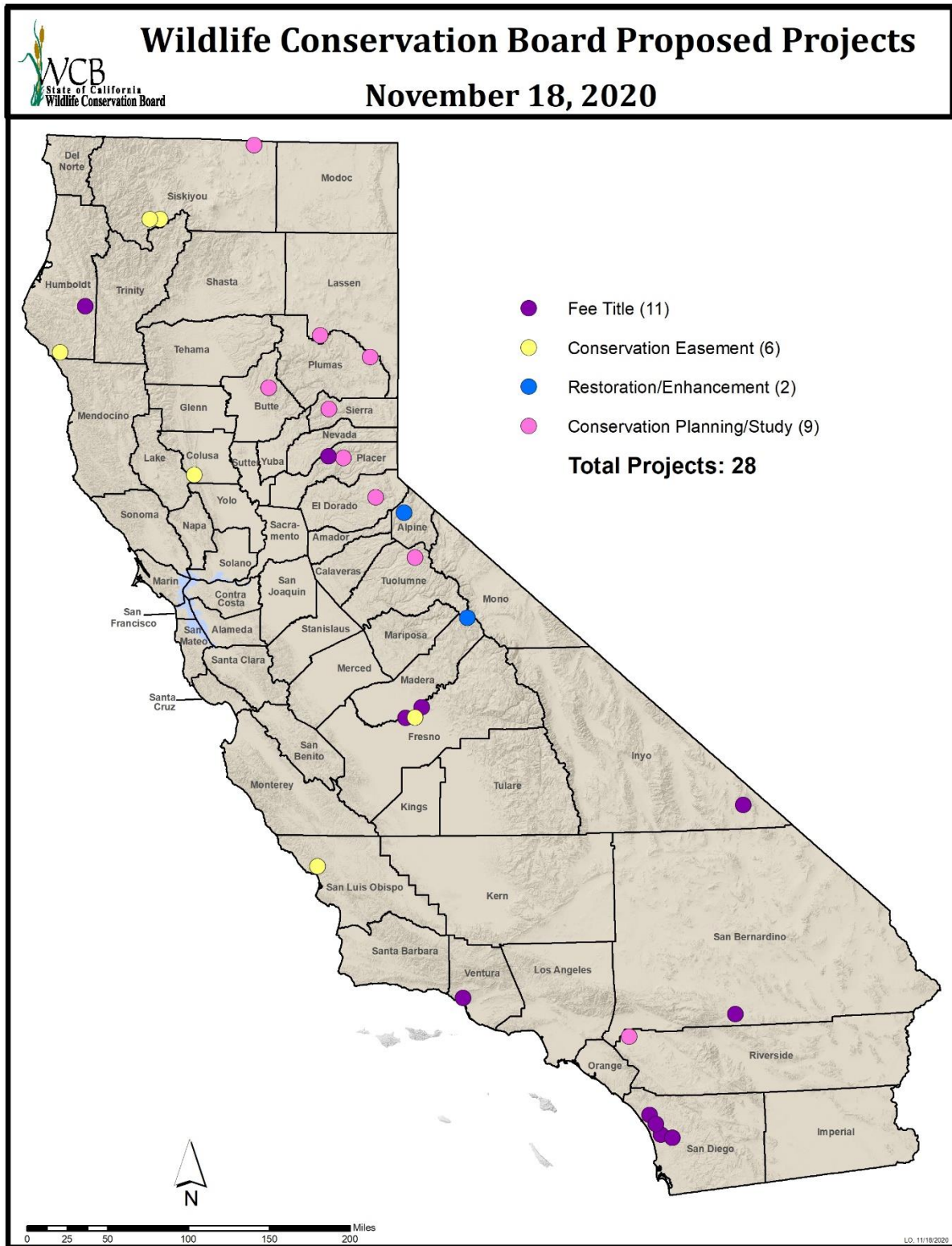
Thursday, November 18, 2021

Stream Flow Enhancement Program Board Meeting

Thursday, April 22, 2021

Adjourn

ATTACHMENT A – MAP OF NOVEMBER 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.