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

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

May 20, 2021, 1:00 p.m.

The public and Board members will participate in the meeting via Zoom. Public comment will be accepted per the agenda*. A recording will be posted after the meeting.

Please click the link below to join the webinar.

Join the webinar
Passcode: 378163

If you can only join via telephone, email Mary.Ahern@wildlife.ca.gov for a phone number or call WCB at 916-445-8448.

*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 May 2021 Projects

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PERSONS WITH DISABILITES

Persons with disabilities needing reasonable accommodation to participate in public meetings or other CDFW activities are invited to contact the Department's EEO Officer at (916) 653-9089 or EEO@wildlife.ca.gov. Accommodation requests for facility and/or meeting accessibility and Requests for American Sign Language Interpreters should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event. Requests for Real-Time Captioners should be submitted at least four weeks prior to the event. These timeframes are to help ensure that the requested accommodation is met. If a request for an accommodation has been submitted but is no longer needed, please contact the EEO Officer immediately

1. Roll Call

Wildlife Conservation Board Members
Charlton H. Bonham, Chair
Director, Department of Fish and Wildlife
Alina Bokde, Vice Chair, Public Member
Keely Bosler, Member
Director, Department of Finance
Diane Colborn, Public Member
Mary Creasman, Public Member
Fran Pavley, Public Member
Peter S. Silva, 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 *Vacant*
Assemblymember Marc Levine – Alternate

Executive Director
John P. Donnelly

2. Discussion and Selection of new Board Chair and Vice Chair

3. Public Forum for Items not on this Agenda

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

4. Funding Status – Informational

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

WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND (0447)	**$1,000,000.00**
May 2021 Board Meeting Allocation:	0.00
Total Project Development:	0.00
Projected Unallocated Balance:	**$1,000,000.00**
HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (0262)	**$61,524,613.40**
May 2021 Board Meeting Allocation:	(5,087,494.00)
Total Project Development:	(18,035,737.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	**$38,401,382.40**
SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS, CLEAN WATER, CLEAN AIR, AND COASTAL PROTECTION BOND FUND (Proposition 12) (0005)	**$545,364.00**
May 2021 Board Meeting Allocation:	(21,574.00)
Total Project Development:	0.00
Projected Unallocated Balance:	**$523,790.00**
CALIFORNIA CLEAN WATER, CLEAN AIR, SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS AND COASTAL PROTECTION BOND FUND (Proposition 40) (6029)	**$7,634,739.93**
May 2021 Board Meeting Allocation:	(50,000.00)
Total Project Development:	(5,807,370.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	**$1,777,369.93**
WATER SECURITY, CLEAN DRINKING WATER, COASTAL AND BEACH PROTECTION FUND OF 2002 (Proposition 50) (6031)	**$17,764,900.86**
May 2021 Board Meeting Allocation:	0.00
Total Project Development:	(14,023,955.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	**$3,740,945.86**

SAFE DRINKING WATER, WATER QUALITY AND SUPPLY, FLOOD CONTROL, RIVER AND COASTAL PROTECTION FUND OF 2006 (Proposition 84) (6051)	**$13,190,347.19**
May 2021 Board Meeting Allocation:	(3,343,317.00)
Total Project Development:	(7,155,009.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	**$2,692,021.19**
WATER QUALITY, SUPPLY, AND INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT FUND (Proposition 1) (6083)	**$27,745,631.65**
May 2021 Board Meeting Allocation:	0.00
Total Project Development:	0.00
Projected Unallocated Balance:	**$27,745,631.65**
THE CALIFORNIA DROUGHT, WATER, PARKS, CLIMATE, COASTAL PROTECTION, AND OUTDOOR ACCESS FOR ALL ACT OF 2018 (Proposition 68) (6088)	**$123,017,632.00**
May 2021 Board Meeting Allocation:	(12,427,572.00)
Total Project Development:	(42,767,730.000
Projected Unallocated Balance:	**$67,822,327.00)**
GENERAL FUND (0001)	**$5,000,000.00**
May 2021 Board Meeting Allocation:	(1,085,000.00)
Total Project Development:	0.00
Projected Unallocated Balance:	**$3,915,000.00**
GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION FUND (3228)	**$7,566,900.00**
May 2021 Board Meeting Allocation:	(1,745,000.00)
Total Project Development:	(4,904,600.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	**$917,300.00**
TOTAL – ALL FUNDS	**$264,990,129.03**
Grand Total - May 2021 Board Meeting Allocation:	(23,759,960.00)
Grand Total - Project Development:	(92,694,401.00)
Grand Total Projected Unallocated Balance:	**$148,535,768.03**

5. Executive Director's Report

Consent Items

Items 6-30 are part of the Consent Calendar

6. Recovery of Funds, Thursday, May 20, 2021

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**
Habitat Conservation Fund	$2,610.00
California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Fund	$7,519.05
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006	$13,567.88
Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Fund of 2014	$24,485.48
Total Recoveries for All Funds	***$48,182.41***

Table 2 – Habitat Conservation Fund

Project Name	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Puma Canyon, Expansion 8 (Tidwell)	$95,500.00	$95,500.00	$0.00
Puma Canyon, Expansion 9 (Vogler)	$24,000.00	$24,00.00	$0.00
Temescal Ranch	$640,000.00	$637,390.00	$2,610.00
Total Recoveries to Habitat Conservation Fund			***$2,610.00***

Table 3 - California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Fund

Project Name	Allocated	Expended	Balance
San Joaquin River Parkway, Riverbottom Park and Schneider	$897,605.00	$890,085.95	$7,519.05
Total Recoveries to California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Fund			***$7,519.05***

Table 4 - Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006

Project Name	Allocated	Expended	Balance
CAL FIRE Mailliard East Ranch C.E.	$40,000.00	$39,139.75	$860.25
San Joaquin River Parkway, Spano River Ranch, Habitat Enhancement	$275,000.00	$262,292.37	$12,707.63
Total Recoveries to Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002			***$13,567.88***

Table 5 - Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Fund of 2014

Project Name	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Flow Availability Analysis for Mark West Creek	$363,418.00	$340,924.51	$22,493.49
Scotts Creek Lagoon and Marsh Restoration Project	$435,000.00	$433,008.01	$1,991.99
Sonoma Creek Streamflow Stewardship Program, Phase 1	$118,801.00	$118,801.00	$0.00
Total Recoveries to Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006			***$24,485.48***

7. Klamath National Forest Restoration

STAFF RECOMMENDATION
Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) approve this project as proposed; allocate $367,000 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 the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Klamath National Forest Restoration
Project Type:	Implementation
Applicant/Grantee:	California Deer Association
Amount Recommended:	$367,000
Funding Partners:	U.S. Forest Service
Landowner(s):	U.S. Forest Service
County:	Siskiyou County
Program:	Forest Conservation Program
Funding:	Proposition 68
Strategic Plan:	Goals: B.1 Objectives: SI 1.2, 1.3, 2.1
Disadvantaged Community:	Within a severely disadvantaged community

LOCATION
The Klamath National Forest Restoration project (Project) is located in Klamath National Forest, eight miles west of Macdoel in Siskiyou County. The Project is comprised of three work sites (Butte Mountain, Round Valley, and Van Bremmer) totaling approximately 883 acres situated within the Goosenest Ranger District. The Project will directly benefit the Klamath River watershed as well as four smaller watersheds (i.e., 7th field watersheds): Flume Canyon-Shovel Creek, Little Shasta River Headwaters, Upper Shovel Creek, and Harris Creek.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
Over the past century, a confluence of conditions has caused a vegetative shift so that the natural community is no longer fire adapted. Such changed conditions include climate change, fire suppression practices, insect infestations, and increased anthropogenic fire frequency. These changes have favored non-fire adapted vegetation and conifer encroachment into meadows, aspen stands, and other previously healthy forest communities. The non-fire adapted vegetation competes against other native vegetation, has high water consumption, and exacerbates wildfire risk. As a result, the ecological function and resiliency of these habitats have been degraded.

The Project entails thinning encroaching conifers and other non-desired vegetation to enhance ecological function and restore habitat quality. Ultimately, these restoration activities will benefit water supply, improve water and air quality, enhance native wildlife habitat, and reduce flood and wildfire risk.

Conifer thinning and juniper removal in sensitive areas will improve the watershed by strengthening meadow and aspen resilience, remove less desired monoculture vegetation, reduce fuel loads, increase vegetation biodiversity and resilience, improve water quality, and increase hydrologic capacity for system recharge and evapotranspiration. A variety of thinning techniques (e.g., lop and scatter, hand pile and burn) will be utilized specific to individual site conditions. At the Butte Mountain work site, encroaching conifers will be treated across 80 acres of aspen stands and 170 acres of meadow habitat. The Round Valley work site will entail juniper removal across 533 acres. At the Van Bremmer work site, conifer removal and forest understory fuels reduction will be applied across 100 acres.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

Klamath National Forest has adopted a Management Plan that guides management actions for the property, including management of the Project area. If at any time during the 25-year life of the Project, California Deer Association 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:

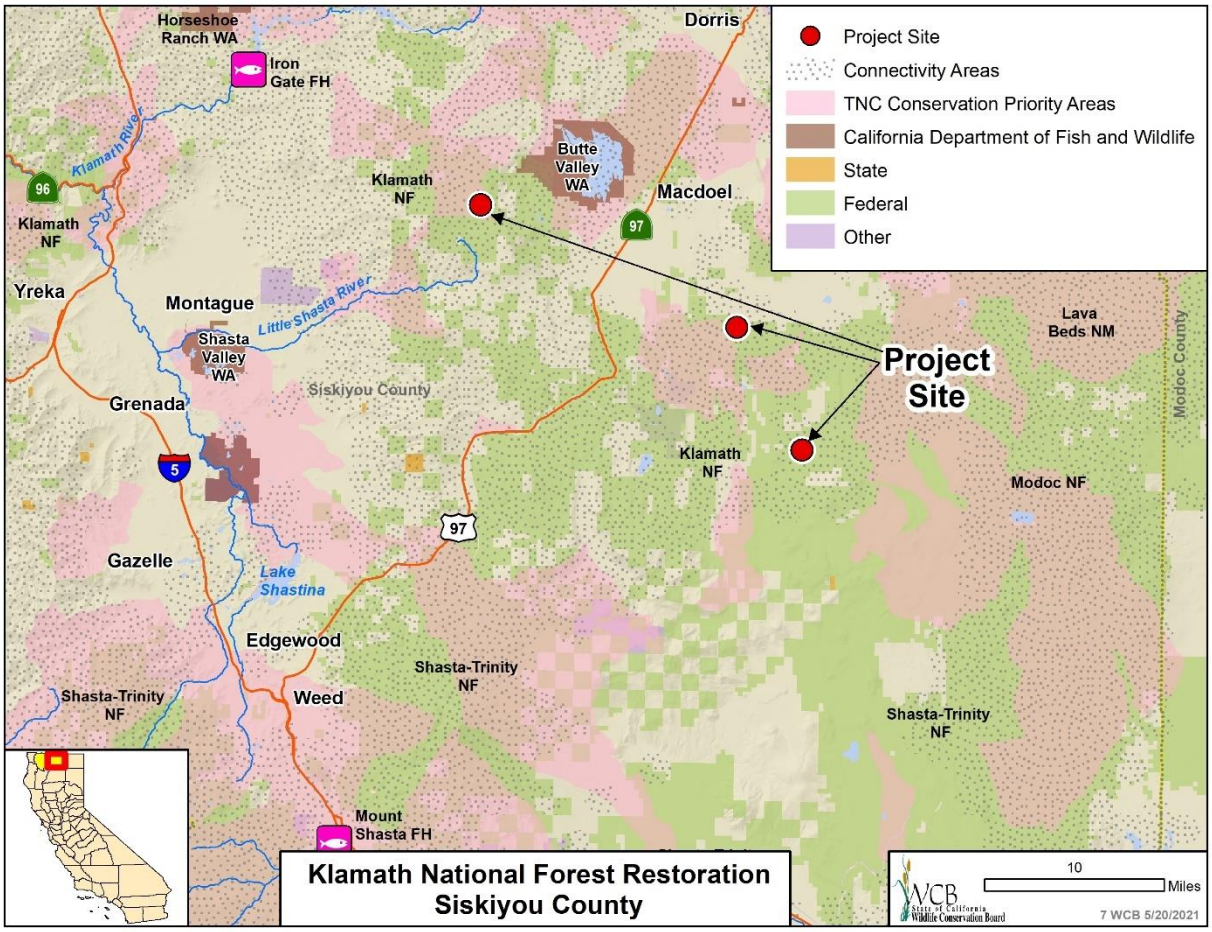
Project Task	Total Cost	WCB	Non-WCB Funds
Project Management	$61,208	$51,208	$10,000
Restoration	$455,550	$305,550	$150,000
Indirect Costs	$10,242	$10,242	---
Total	$527,000	$367,000	$160,000

Costs associated with WCB funding 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.
- 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 statutorily exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 4799.05(d)(1), as the Project involves prescribed fire, thinning, or fuel reduction projects undertaken on federal lands to reduce the risk of high-severity wildfire that have been reviewed under the federal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate Notice of Exemption (NOE) will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.


Project Site
Connectivity Areas
TNC Conservation Priority Areas
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
State
Federal
Other
Horseshoe Ranch WA
Iron Gate FH
Dorris
Klamath River
Butte Valley WA
Klamath NF
Macdoel
96
97
Yreka
Montague
Little Shasta River
Shasta Valley WA
Siskiyou County
Lava Beds NM
Modoc County
Project Site
Grenada
5
Klamath NF
Modoc NF
97
Gazelle
Lake Shastina
Edgewood
Shasta-Trinity NF
Weed
Shasta-Trinity NF
Shasta-Trinity NF
Mount Shasta FH
Klamath National Forest Restoration
Siskiyou County
10
Miles
WCB
State of California
Wildlife Conservation Board
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8. State Route 97 Wildlife Migratory Corridor Planning

Withdrawn from consideration at this time.

9. Salt River Public Access, Planning

STAFF RECOMMENDATION
Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate $61,000 from the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68), Public Resources Code Section 80132(a); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Salt River Public Access, Planning
Project Type:	Planning
Applicant/Grantee:	Humboldt County Resource Conservation District
Amount Recommended:	$61,000
Funding Partners:	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
County:	Humboldt
Program:	Public Access Program
Funding:	Proposition 68
Strategic Plan:	Goals: C.1 Objectives: SI 3.2, 3.4
Disadvantaged Community:	Within a disadvantaged community

LOCATION
The Salt River Public Access, Planning project (Project), within CDFW's Eel River Wildlife Area (WA), is located four miles northwest of Ferndale in Humboldt County. This Project is located across 300 acres of restored tidal marsh habitat. Multiple restoration elements, such as the two-mile setback berm and excavated river and slough channels, and infrastructure are available to be utilized for public access. In 2007, WCB provided partial funding to purchase the CDFW WA property for utilization within the larger Salt River Ecosystem Restoration Project.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
No public access currently exists at this section of the WA, though this location is highly coveted by boaters, hunters, birders, hikers, sightseers, and visitors from around the world. The goal of providing public access to this location is to help educate visitors about the opportunities and challenges associated with balancing ambitious landscape scale ecosystem restoration with agricultural production in a highly dynamic environment. Specific objectives include: ensuring adequate pedestrian access to the CDFW WA; providing water access for non-motorized vessels to newly restored tidal marsh and the expansive Eel River Delta; allowing access for seasonal hunting opportunities; and showcasing the diverse wildlife viewing opportunities available within the Eel River Delta.

The capacity and infrastructure at the CDFW WA are largely constructed, but additional engineering design features are required to achieve a suitable level of readiness for public access. A public access plan with final engineering for the sites across the property will be completed for this proposed project. CEQA

investigations and a possible addendum to the larger Salt River Ecosystem Restoration Project's Final EIR, if necessary, are also included.

To achieve the public access objectives, this planning project will evaluate the feasibility of incorporating the following components:

- Hiking trails along a two-mile long set-back berm.
- Non-motorized boat access via a ramp near the entrance of the WA.
- Four miles of new water trails through the restored Salt River and the slough channel networks.
- A parking area.
- Potential hunter access during the winter months.
- Interpretive signage. All signage narratives will be bilingual, likely English and Spanish, though languages will be explored during the planning process.

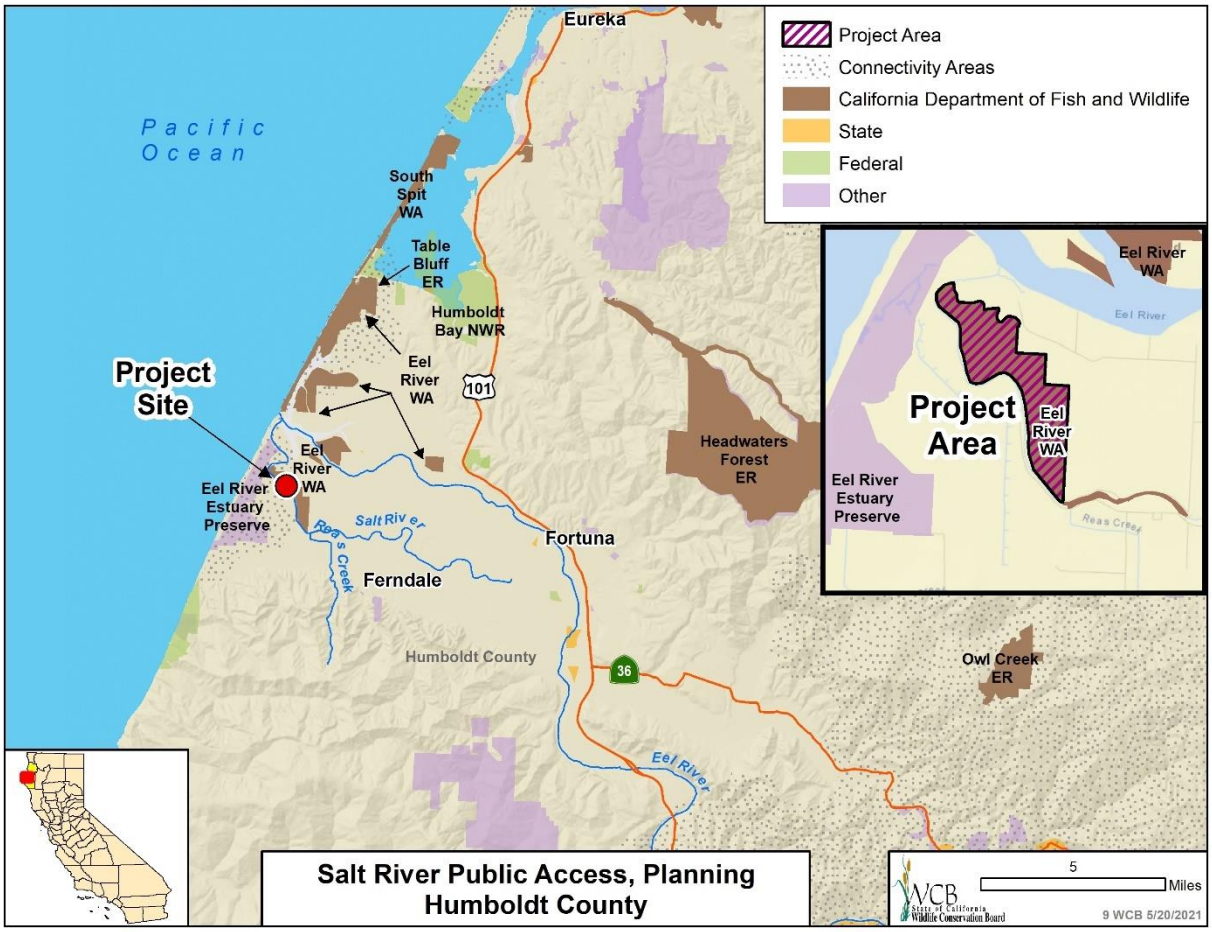
PROJECT FUNDING
The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	Total Cost	WCB	Non-WCB Funds
Project Management	$7,900	$7,900	---
Public Access Plan	$25,700	$22,200	$3,500
Engineering Plans	$30,100	$30,100	---
Indirect	$800	$800	---
Total	$64,500	$61,000	$3,500

Costs associated with WCB funding include:

- Project Management: Project coordination, invoicing, reporting, travel, etc.
- Public Access Plan: Outreach and development of a public access plan.
- Engineering Plans: CEQA investigations and development of engineering plans for the public access elements defined in the Public Access Plan.
- 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 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 approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.


Project Area
Connectivity Areas
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
State
Federal
Other
Pacific Ocean
Eureka
South Spit WA
Table Bluff ER
Humboldt Bay NWR
Eel River WA
101
Project Site
Eel River Estuary Preserve
Salt River
Reas Creek
Ferndale
Fortuna
Humboldt County
Headwaters Forest ER
36
Owl Creek ER
Eel River
Project Area
Eel River WA
Eel River Estuary Preserve
Salt River Public Access, Planning
Humboldt County
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10. CAL FIRE Grizzly Creek Forest Conservation Easement

STAFF RECOMMENDATION
Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; approve the acceptance of a conservation easement (Easement) by CAL FIRE over 762± acres; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff, CDFW, and CAL FIRE to proceed substantially as planned. CAL FIRE is purchasing the Easement under the California Forest Legacy Program Act of 2007, with funding provided by the United States Forest Service and the California Climate Investment Fund.

Project Title:	CAL FIRE Grizzly Creek Forest Conservation Easement
Project Type:	Conservation Easement (762± acres)
Amount Recommended:	$0
County:	Humboldt
Program:	California Forest Legacy Program Act of 2007

LOCATION
The property (Property) is located approximately four miles northwest of Bridgeville in the eastern portion of south-central Humboldt County. Access to the Property is developed over two roads, the Camp Bemis Road and Kneeland Road. However, Kneeland Road is the only legally recorded access.

Humboldt County has an area of approximately 2.3 million acres, more than 80 percent of which is forested, protected redwood forests, or recreation areas. Humboldt County has an economic base centered on timber production, fishing, and agriculture. The County is consistently the largest log-producing county in the state, producing more than 20 percent of California's logs. The timber industry has been in a steady decline over the past several decades, due mainly to a dwindling supply of high-volume timber, particularly from Forest Service lands, as well as concerns over the environmental impacts caused by industrial timber harvesting. However, recent timber prices, especially for good quality redwood, has crept back to a ten-year high over the past several years.

The surrounding area includes Grizzly Creek State Park located in the heart of the Grizzly Creek watershed. The Grizzly Creek watershed is a second order anadromous tributary via the Van Duzen River to the Eel River. This area is also known for an emerging herd of Roosevelt elk.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
The Property consists of 6 APNs that total 762± acres. If approved, the Easement will prohibit subdivision and prevent conversion into cannabis production sites. The Easement will establish a forest preservation corridor along Grizzly Creek and force stand volume retention (carbon sequestration) and expansion on the rest of the tract. The Easement also prohibits any clear cutting, development of any inappropriate commercial or industrial facility, as well as no road construction or

repair in excess of the baseline condition unless approved in the required forest management plan.

The Easement sustains local socio-economic conditions and supports a working forest landscape with conservation values. Currently 35-50 percent of logs in the Humboldt region come from family-owned, sustainably managed tracts.

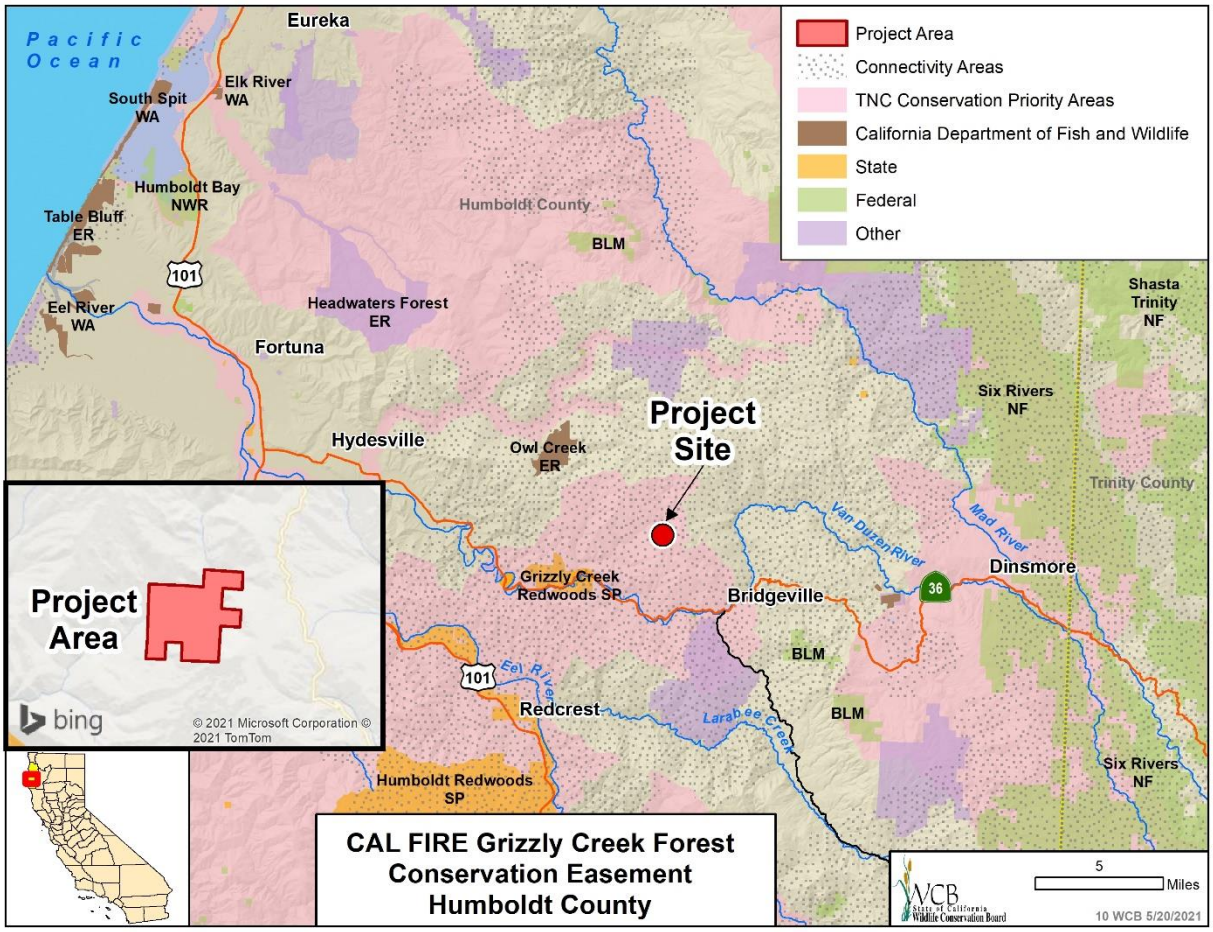
The Easement also preserves critical habitat for many state and federal threatened and endangered species including two nesting northern spotted owl pairs. Chinook salmon and year-round steelhead trout are abundant in Grizzly Creek.

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

PROJECT FUNDING
The Department of General Services (DGS) approved fair market value is $2,210,000. The landowner has agreed to sell the Easement for $2,194,000. CAL FIRE will reimburse WCB for indirect costs related to the project. The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Partners	Amount
United States Forest Service	$998,500
California Climate Investment Fund	$1,195,500
TOTAL Purchase Price	$2,194,000

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.


Pacific Ocean
Eureka
Elk River WA
South Spit WA
Humboldt Bay NWR
Table Bluff ER
Humboldt County
BLM
101
Eel River WA
Headwaters Forest ER
Fortuna
Hydesville
Owl Creek ER
Project Site
Shasta Trinity NF
Six Rivers NF
Trinity County
Van Duzen River
Mad River
Dinsmore
36
Grizzly Creek Redoods SP
Bridgeville
BLM
101
Eel River
Redcrest
Larabee Creek
BLM
Six Rivers NF
Humboldt Redwoods SP
Project Area
Connectivity Areas
TNC Conservation Priority Areas
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
State
Federal
Other
Project Area
bing
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CAL FIRE Grizzly Creek Forest Conservation Easement Humboldt County
WCB State of California Wildlife Conservation Board
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Miles
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11. Turtle Bay Boat Ramp Improvements, Planning

STAFF RECOMMENDATION
Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate $311,000 from the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68), Public Resources Code Section 80132(a); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Turtle Bay Boat Ramp Improvements, Planning
Project Type:	Planning
Applicant/Grantee:	City of Redding
Amount Recommended:	$311,000
Funding Partners:	City of Redding
County:	Shasta
Program:	Public Access Program
Funding:	Proposition 68
Strategic Plan:	Goals: C.4 Objectives: SI 3.1, 3.2
Disadvantaged Community:	Within a severely disadvantaged community

LOCATION
The Turtle Bay Boat Ramp Improvements Planning project (Project) is located on the Sacramento River in the city of Redding approximately 2,000 feet upstream of the Sundial Bridge and Turtle Bay Exploration Park. This stretch of river draws local, regional, and international visitors for world class fly fishing. The boat launch is located near an important spawning area for the federally and state listed Sacramento River winter-run Chinook salmon and fall-run Chinook salmon. The salmon egg nests (redds) near the boat launch represent a large portion of the total redds in the Redding Riffle. Protection of this area is crucial to the long-term habitat preservation efforts of state and local agencies.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
The Project will address overcrowding at the boat launch, move non-motorized boaters upstream to an area with fewer redds, and replace an aging and non-ADA compliant restroom. The planning process will include planning, design, engineering, CEQA studies and preparation, permitting, and development of the construction bid package for implementation of enhancements to the Turtle Bay boat launch. Improvements to be designed include a widened, two-lane boat ramp, a boating beach/non-motorized launch, additional parking, ADA-compliant restroom, and interpretive signage. This Project will ultimately replace the existing motorized boat launch and relocate the non-motorized ramp upstream 950 feet to reduce angler impacts to winter/fall-run Chinook redds. The planning process will result in shovel-ready designs to increase launch capacity, provide accessibility, and protect salmon spawning habitat.

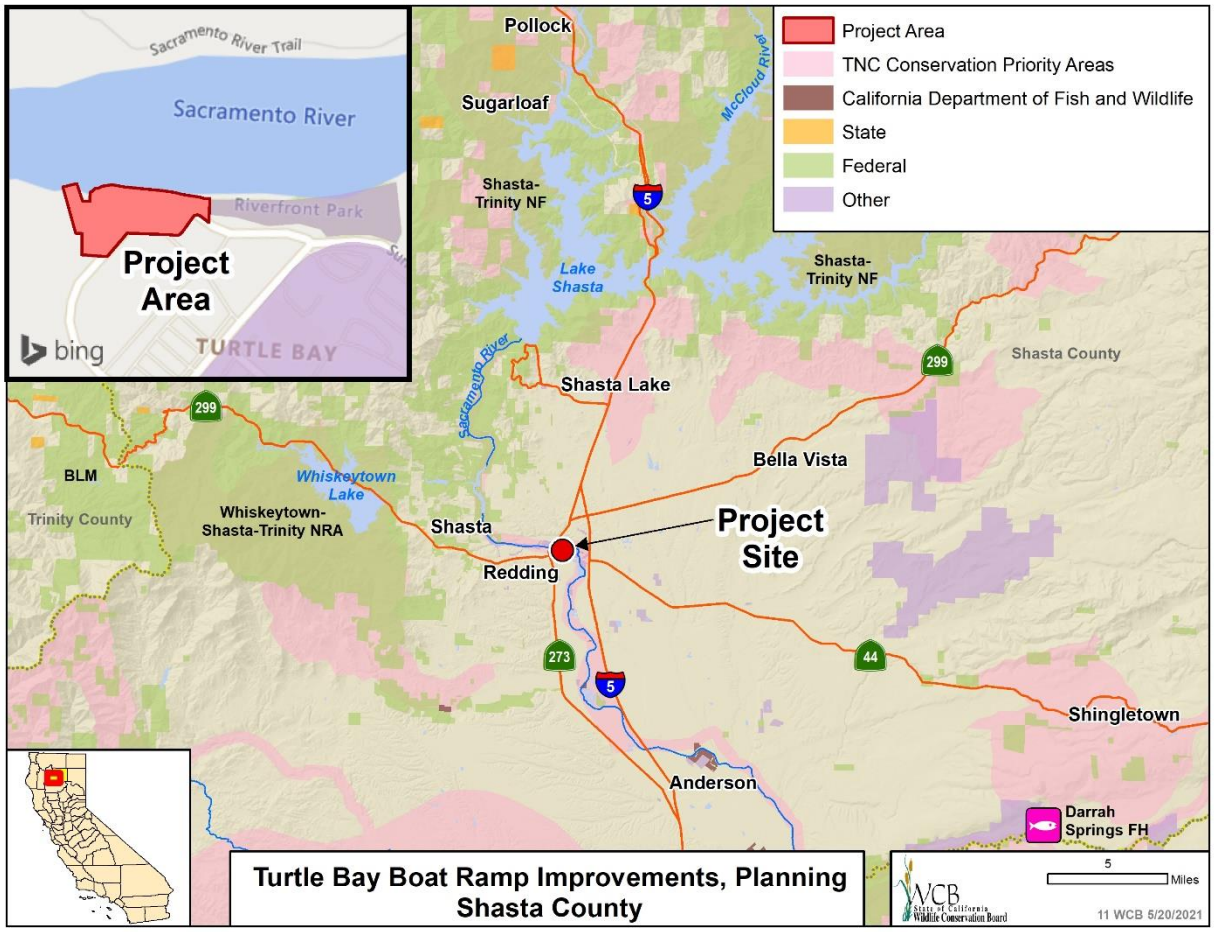
PROJECT FUNDING
The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	Total Cost	WCB	Non-WCB Funds
Design, Engineering, and Bid Package	$196,000	$186,000	$10,000
Biological Assessments and Permitting	$135,000	$125,000	$10,000
CEQA Preparation	$10,000	---	$10,000
Total	$341,000	$311,000	$30,000

Costs associated with WCB funding include:

- Design, Engineering, and Bid Package: Preparation of final designs and engineering for the Project. Preparation of the construction bid package.
- Biological Assessments and Permitting: All needed biological studies will be conducted to meet CEQA requirements. Permit applications will be prepared and submitted.

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


Project Area
TNC Conservation Priority Areas
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
State
Federal
Other
Sacramento River Trail
Sacramento River
Riverfront Park
Project Area
TURTLE BAY
bing
Pollock
Sugarloaf
Shasta-Trinity NF
McCloud River
Lake Shasta
Shasta-Trinity NF
Shasta County
Shasta Lake
Sacramento River
Bella Vista
BLM
Whiskeytown Lake
Trinity County
Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity NRA
Shasta
Project Site
Redding
Shingletown
Anderson
Darrah Springs FH
Turtle Bay Boat Ramp Improvements, Planning
Shasta County
5
Miles
11 WCB 5/20/2021

12. Yuba River Headwaters Aspen Restoration Planning

STAFF RECOMMENDATION
Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate $260,000 from the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (P68), 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:	Yuba River Headwaters Aspen Restoration Planning
Project Type:	Planning
Applicant/Grantee:	South Yuba River Citizens League
Amount Recommended:	$260,000
Funding Partners:	Department of Conservation, South Yuba River Citizens League, U.S. Forest Service
Landowner(s):	U.S. Forest Service
County:	Nevada, Placer, Sierra
Program:	California Forest Conservation Program
Funding:	Proposition 68
Strategic Plan:	Goals: B.1, B.5 Objectives: SI 1.2, 1.3
Disadvantaged Community:	Within a disadvantaged community

LOCATION
The Yuba River Headwater Aspen Restoration Planning project (Project) will result in planning for at least 100 acres of the most critically threatened aspen vegetation in the Yuba River watershed in the Tahoe National Forest near Sierra City.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
Quaking aspen forests can support the widest range of plant and animal species of any forest type in the western United States, providing critical moist habitat and acting as a refuge for flora and fauna in Sierra Nevada headwater ecosystems. Due to fire suppression, severe drought, grazing, conifer competition, and mortality from disease and insects, aspen are in decline across the West. Although aspen communities comprise only a small fraction of Sierra Nevada forests, they provide an outsized role in biodiversity, similar to riparian areas. In addition to habitat, aspen stands provide ecosystem services that affect surrounding ecological communities both directly and indirectly, including landscape-scale fire resilience and improved water quality.

Aspen restoration efforts in the watershed have often been the product of larger timber projects rather than deliberately prioritized ecological health or critical habitat restoration. Investing in a restoration assessment, quantitative prioritization tool, and high priority area treatment design and environmental compliance will address this deficiency. South Yuba River Citizens League and the Tahoe National Forest, in conjunction with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Region 5 Aspen

Working Group, will develop a systematic process for restoring aspen stands across the Yuba River watershed, through the following:

- Create a consolidated watershed-wide, spatially explicit aspen stand database, verified by current and former USFS specialists.
- Assess the extent and significance of aspen presence through quantitative field evaluation of stand structure, composition, causes of problematic conditions, and additional variables.
- Develop a quantitative decision-making and restoration action tool, informed by data gathered during the ground assessment.
- Design a restoration plan for the 100-acres of highest priority.
- Complete surveys and NEPA/CEQA documentation to enable future implementation.

PROJECT FUNDING
The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

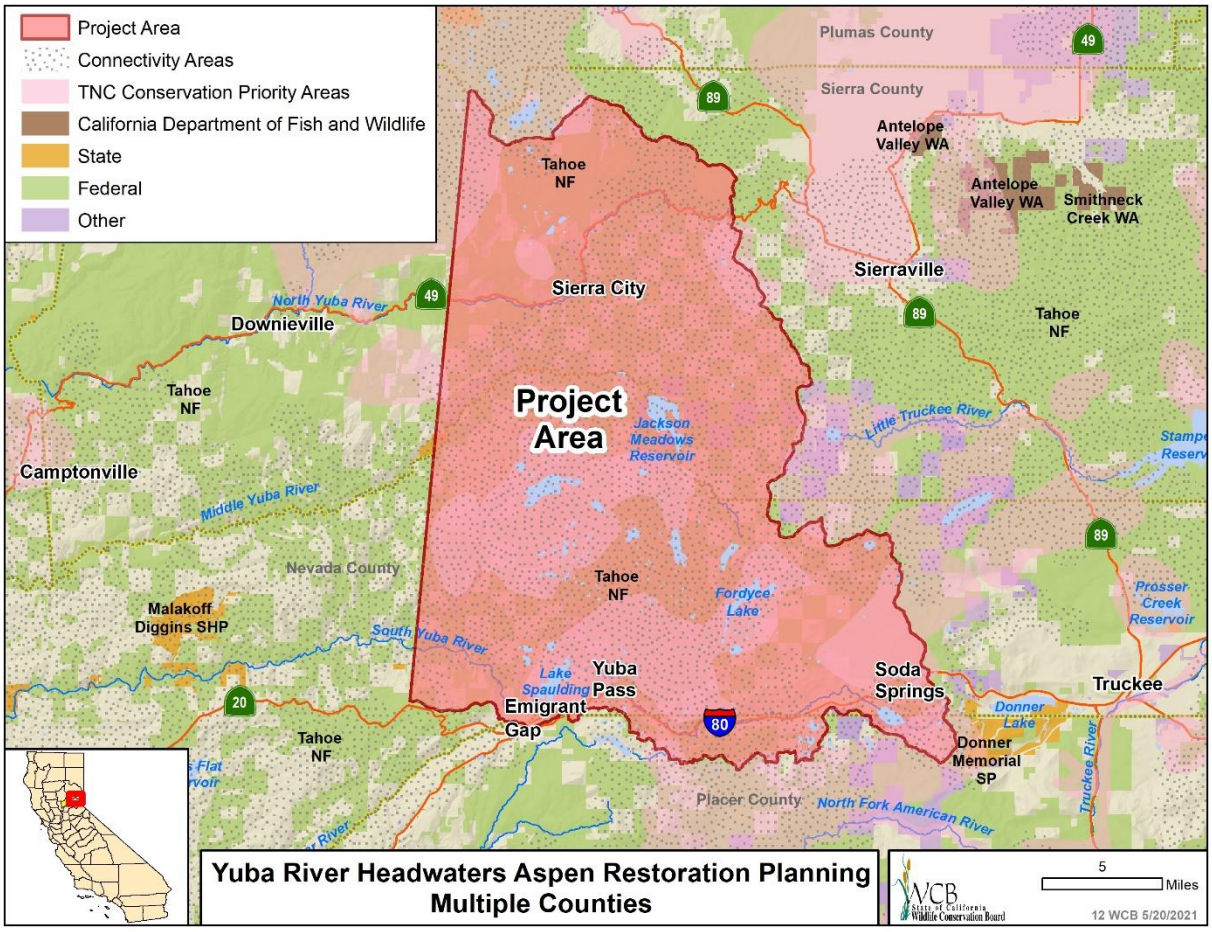
Project Task	Total Cost	WCB	Non-WCB Funds
Project Management	$15,322	$15,322	---
Planning and Design	$49,500	$22,000	$27,500
Field Surveys	$73,450	$58,450	$15,000
Outreach	$23,800	$2,300	$21,500
Environmental Compliance	$146,678	$140,678	$6,000
Indirect	21,250	$21,250	---
Total	$330,000	$260,000	$70,000

Costs associated with WCB funding include:

- Project Management: Staff time and other related project management and administrative costs.
- Planning and Design: Consolidate aspen inventory, develop assessment protocol, and develop restoration design plans for at-least 100-acres of aspen habitat.
- Field Surveys: Collection of baseline data on forest stand structure, composition, causes of problematic conditions, and stand conditions.
- Outreach: Lead field days and online education events for the public to foster local involvement in restoration monitoring.
- Environmental Compliance: Complete necessary biological and archeological surveys and reports to meet NEPA and CEQA requirements.
- 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 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 approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.



13. Lower Yuba River-Excelsior, Expansion IV

STAFF RECOMMENDATION
Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate $55,000 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(a) for the acquisition; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Lower Yuba River-Excelsior, Expansion IV
Project Type:	CDFW Fee (3± acres)
Amount Recommended:	$55,000
County:	Yuba
Program:	Land Acquisition Program
Funding:	Habitat Conservation Fund
Strategic Plan:	Goals: A.1, A.4, C.1 Objectives: SI 1.3, 2.1, 2.4, 3.1, 3.4
Disadvantaged Community:	Not within a disadvantaged community

LOCATION
The property (Property) is located near the western edge of the Nevada County line and the eastern edge of the Yuba County line, just north of State Route 20 and west of Mooney Flat Road. The site is situated northeast of the small rural community of Smartsville and is bordered by Penn Valley, Grass Valley, and Nevada City to the east and Marysville and Yuba City to the west. The western edge of the Property lies adjacent to the southern extent of CDFW's Lower Yuba River, Excelsior, Expansions I (108± acres), II (527± acres) and III (65± acres), approved by WCB in November of 2010, August of 2012, and March of 2019, respectively. When combined with the previous acquisitions, the proposed acquisition will enhance access into CDFW properties, thereby enhancing and benefiting public recreational opportunities and access to the Yuba River for angling, hiking, and other recreational and scenic activities.

The proposed acquisition is located within the CDFW Lower Yuba River Watershed Conceptual Area Protection Plan (CAPP) and is situated in a region of foothills between CDFW and other protected areas located to the south and north along the same stretch of foothills. The acquisition will help provide habitat and recreational linkages between the CDFW Daugherty Wildlife Area (DHWA) to the north and the CDFW Spenceville Wildlife Area located to the south.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
The irregularly shaped Property is unimproved. The terrain is primarily covered with grassland and oak woodlands on a level to sloping terrain. The Property provides wintering habitat for the Mooretown deer herd and contains suitable habitat for a number of endangered species including valley Elderberry longhorn beetle, western burrowing owl, and peregrine falcon. Other resident wildlife

species include the black bear, wild turkey, gray squirrel, California quail, bald and golden eagles, and a variety of associated riparian and wetland species.

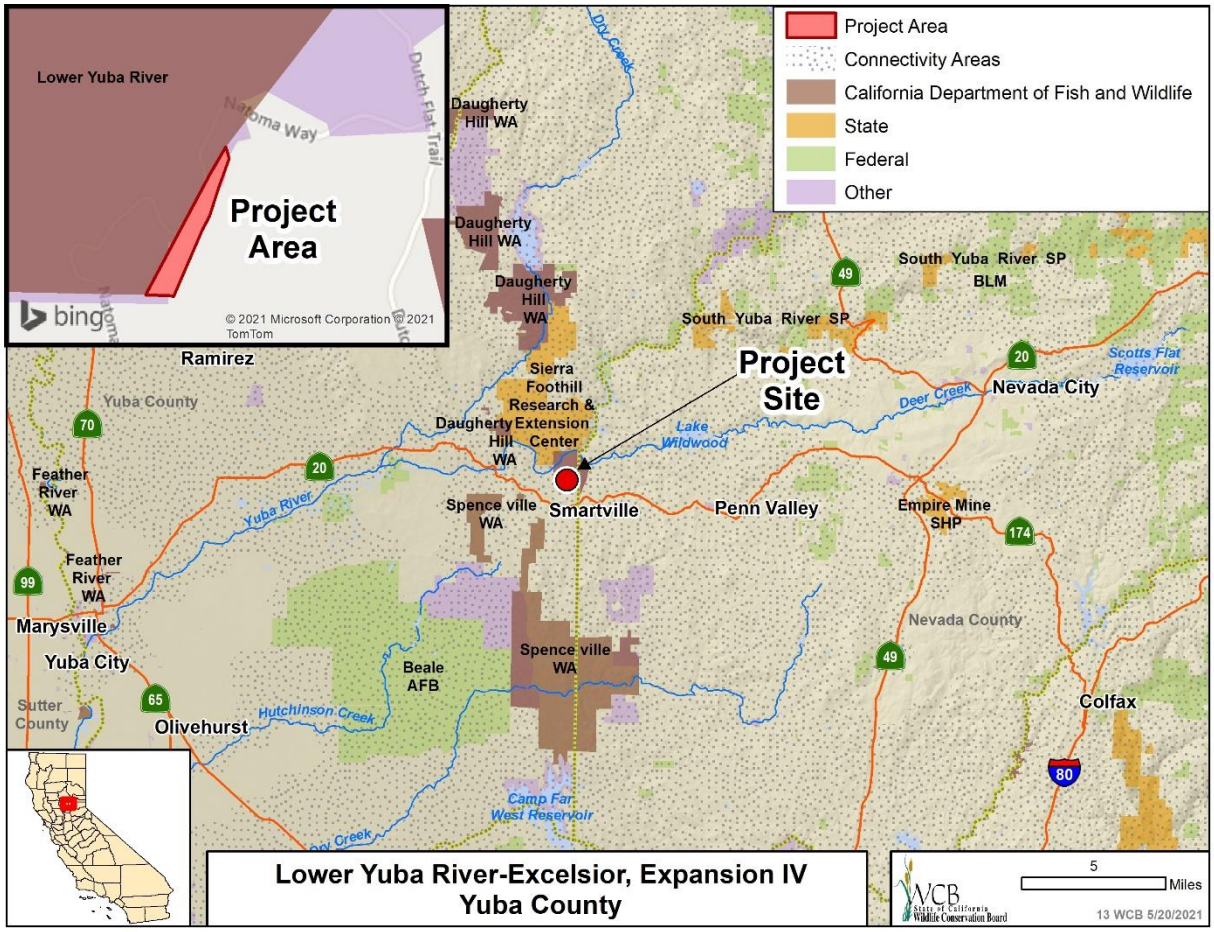
Acquisition of the Property will further enhance public recreational opportunities and access to the Yuba River for angling, hiking, and other recreational and scenic activities. Acquisition of the Property will also preclude potential development of lands within the Yuba River watershed, helping to protect and maintain water quality within the Yuba River floodplain.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS
CDFW will be the owner in fee simple and will add the Property as an expansion to the planned Yuba Narrows Unit of the DHWA. CDFW regional staff anticipates that nominal management costs would be associated with the Property. Given the Property's proximity to DHWA, additional management funds for staffing would not be required. Public access to the DHWA is currently provided for low-impact recreational activities, including hunting, fishing, hiking, and bicycle use.

PROJECT FUNDING
The DGS approved fair market value is $55,000. The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	$55,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	$55,000

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.


Project Area
Connectivity Areas
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
State
Federal
Other
Lower Yuba River
Project Area
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Project Site
Daugherty Hill WA
Sierra Foothill Research & Extension Center
South Yuba River SP
South Yuba River SP BLM
Nevada City
Scotts Flat Reservoir
Deer Creek
Lake Wildwood
Smartville
Penn Valley
Empire Mine SHP
Spence ville WA
Ramirez
Yuba County
Feather River WA
Yuba River
Marysville
Yuba City
Sutter County
Olivehurst
Beale AFB
Hutchinson Creek
Camp Far West Reservoir
Nevada County
Colfax
Lower Yuba River-Excelsior, Expansion IV
Yuba County
5
Miles
13 WCB 5/20/2021

14. Hawk Hill Visitor Access Improvements
Withdrawn from consideration at this time.

15. North Bay Baylands Regional Conservation Investment Strategy

STAFF RECOMMENDATION
Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate $640,000 from The California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68), Public Resources Code Section 80111(a); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	North Bay Baylands Regional Conservation Investment Strategy
Project Type:	Planning
Applicant/Grantee:	Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Amount Recommended:	$640,000
Funding Partners:	California Department of Transportation
County:	Marin, Napa, Solano, Sonoma
Program:	Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Program
Funding:	Proposition 68
Strategic Plan:	Goals: B.1 Objectives: SI 1.3
Disadvantaged Community:	Within a disadvantaged community

LOCATION
The proposed North Bay Baylands Regional Conservation Investment Strategy (NBRCIS) is located along the San Pablo Bay shoreline from the western touchdown of the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge to the northern touchdown of the Carquinez Bridge. The NBRCIS will encompass an area that extends landward approximately one mile inland from the maximum flood extent for the California Ocean Protection Council's H++ scenario, a future 10.2 feet of sea level rise plus 100-year storm surge scenario, and extends bayward into San Pablo Bay along the existing San Pablo Bay shoreline to encompass mudflats adjacent to the shoreline, which provide habitat for migratory bird species and longfin smelt. These terrestrial and aquatic extents were selected in consideration of climate change with a focus on future sea level rise inundation. The NBRCIS area also includes creeks, rivers (Las Gallinas, Novato, Petaluma, Sonoma, and Napa), and smaller tributaries that deliver sediment to the San Pablo Baylands surrounding SR 37 and U.S. 101.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
The San Pablo Baylands are made up of tidally influenced habitats and their associated watershed drainages and upland habitats. Habitats, communities, and infrastructure surrounding San Pablo Bay, including SR 37, are projected to be severely impacted by future bay and riverine flooding due to sea level rise and extreme weather events (e.g., winter storms). SR 37 is a critical north bay connection between Interstate 80 and U.S. 101, and is a vital transportation corridor connecting affordable housing to available jobs.

The NBRCIS area is made up of sensitive salt marsh, brackish water marsh and freshwater marsh habitats, and adjacent upland habitats. Many of these areas are biodiversity hotspots and provide important wildlife and habitat connectivity linkages. Healthy marsh habitats provide flood control functions through wave attenuation and reduce storm surge impacts to infrastructure and communities. However, they are also projected to have low climate change resilience and are at risk of being converted to open water habitat which can exacerbate impacts from storm surge. Maintaining a sustained sediment supply to these marshes, and conservation of transition zones between marsh habitats and available accommodation space is needed to allow for the persistence and migration of bayland salt and freshwater marsh habitats, and to reduce the impacts of flooding to infrastructure and communities. The NBRCIS will incorporate the range of climate projections into the development of conservation actions designed to increase the resiliency of San Pablo Baylands' habitats, transportation infrastructure, and neighboring communities to sea level rise and extreme weather events.

The Resilient SR 37 Corridor Program (Program), jointly envisioned by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, Caltrans, Sonoma County Transportation Authority, Transportation Authority Marin, Napa Valley Transportation Authority, and Solano Transportation Authority, is currently planning improvements that aim to reduce flooding hazards, relieve congestion, increase modal options, and enhance recreational access, while improving and making the overall natural landscape more resilient to climate change. Conservation and habitat enhancement actions identified in the NBRCIS could be integrated into design components of the Program that would reconnect and improve marsh habitats throughout the corridor.

Landscape-scale restoration and climate change mitigation projects have been identified as part of the Program that could serve as advanced mitigation credits via a future Mitigation Credit Agreement (MCA). The NBRCIS and subsequent CDFW-approved MCAs would allow for sponsoring agencies to implement advanced restoration and nature-based solutions to climate change adaptation projects along the SR 37 Corridor. In the near-term, this will provide the landscape with the opportunity to build up landscape-scale resilience to sea level rise and flooding, while also ensuring transportation agencies that these up-front efforts can be counted and applied as mitigation credits for future Resilient SR 37 Corridor Program projects. Any additional credits generated would be used for other project mitigation needs, such as species credits, climate change adaptation, and others.

Large-scale restoration, natural infrastructure enhancement, and land acquisition will be necessary to ensure bayland habitats function properly, and to maintain beneficial ecosystem services over time. This will require increased regional collaboration amongst stakeholders and public agencies. The best available scientific data, existing conservation plans and priorities, and anticipated mitigation needs will be integrated into the NBRCIS development process to enhance resiliency and buffer the region against projected climate change impacts. The

NBRCIS' regional planning vision would inform habitat creation, enhancement, and restoration projects that increase resiliency to rising seas and flooding risks as advanced compensatory mitigation. Creating a framework with prioritized goals and objectives to increase climate resilience could be used an example for the greater San Francisco Bay Area and other California areas which will also face these specific climate impacts.

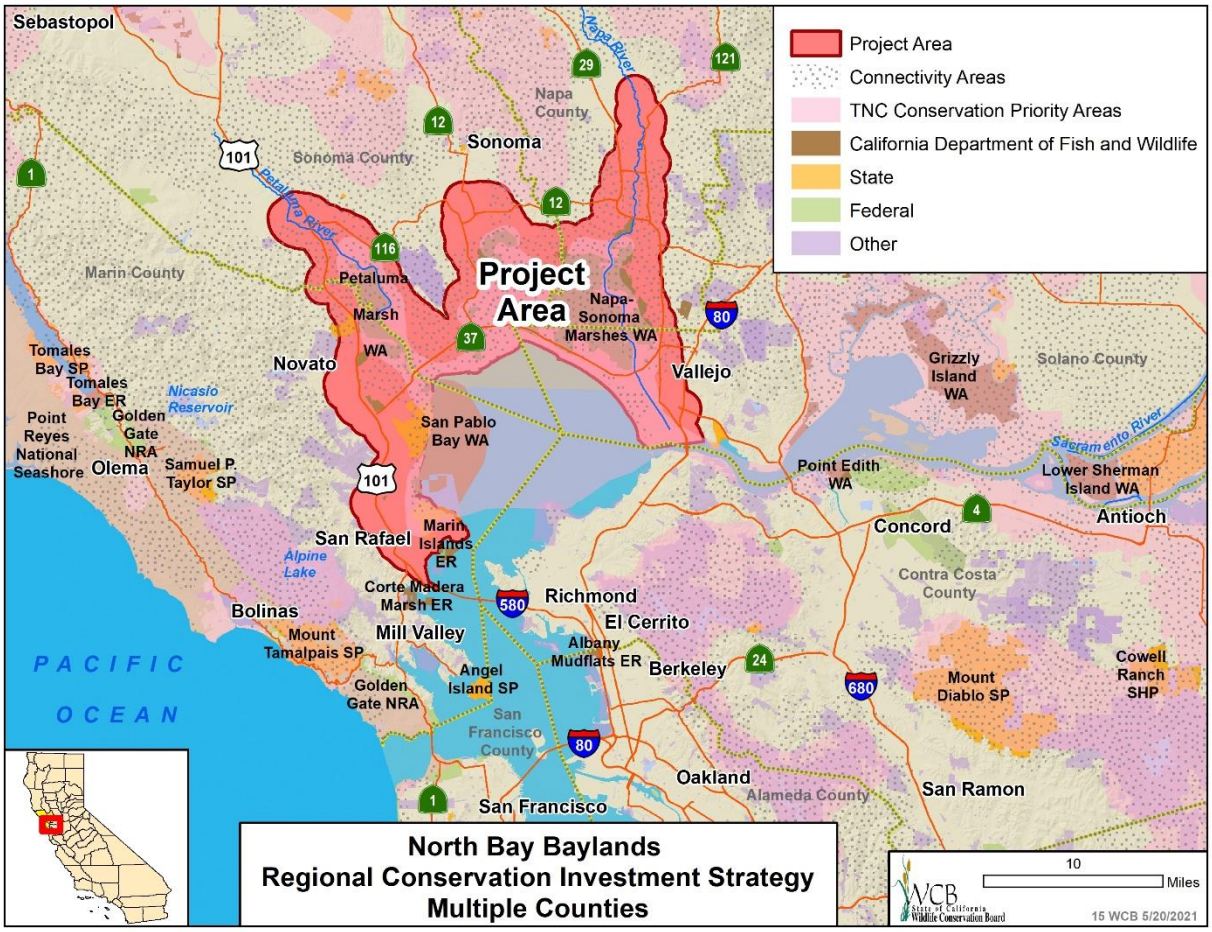
PROJECT FUNDING
The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	Total Cost	WCB	Non-WCB Funds
Project Management	$288,300	$116,089	$172,211
Steering Committee	$60,000	$35,000	$25,000
Outreach	$190,737	$161,711	$29,026
Regional Conservation Investment Strategy	$442,091	$327,200	$114,891
Total	$981,128	$640,000	$341,128

Costs associated with WCB funding include:

- Project Management: Overall project management, including coordination with a core team of co-proponents, consultant services procurement, contracting and contract management, partner coordination, Steering Committee support and participation, and overall grant management including invoicing and reporting.
- Steering Committee: The Steering Committee will meet at least six times over the two-year project.
- Outreach: Conduct outreach and engagement with disadvantaged and frontline communities through at least four stakeholder meetings and at least three broader community workshops.
- Regional Conservation Investment Strategy: Preparation of the RCIS will include the following subtasks: 1) Regional Setting, 2) Climate Change/Sea Level Rise Analysis, 3) Conservation Strategy, and 4) Draft and Final RCIS.

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


Project Area
Connectivity Areas
TNC Conservation Priority Areas
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
State
Federal
Other
Project Area
Sebastopol
Sonoma
Sonoma County
Napa County
Petaluma
Marsh WA
Napa-Sonoma Marshes WA
Novato
Vallejo
Marin County
Tomales Bay SP
Tomales Bay ER
Point Reyes National Seashore
Olema
Golden Gate NRA
Samuel P. Taylor SP
Nicasio Reservoir
San Pablo Bay WA
San Rafael
Marin Islands ER
Alpine Lake
Corte Madera Marsh ER
Bolinas
Mount Tamalpais SP
Mill Valley
Angel Island SP
Golden Gate NRA
San Francisco County
San Francisco
Oakland
Alameda County
Richmond
El Cerrito
Albany Mudflats ER
Berkeley
Concord
Contra Costa County
Point Edith WA
Grizzly Island WA
Solano County
Lower Sherman Island WA
Antioch
Mount Diablo SP
Cowell Ranch SHP
San Ramon
Petaluma River
Napa River
Sacramento River
PACIFIC OCEAN
North Bay Baylands
Regional Conservation Investment Strategy
Multiple Counties
10
Miles
WCB
State of California
Wildlife Conservation Board
15 WCB 5/20/2021

16. Lake Solano Park Public Access, Planning

STAFF RECOMMENDATION
Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate $93,000 from The California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68), Public Resources Code Section 80132(a); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Lake Solano Park Public Access, Planning
Project Type:	Planning
Applicant/Grantee:	Solano County Resource Conservation District
Amount Recommended:	$93,000
Funding Partners:	Bureau of Reclamation, Sonoma County Regional Parks
County:	Solano
Program:	Public Access Program
Funding:	Proposition 68
Strategic Plan:	Goals: C.1 Objectives: SI 3.4
Disadvantaged Community:	Not within a disadvantaged community

LOCATION
The Lake Solano Park Public Access Planning project (Project) is located four miles west of the city of Winters and includes plant and wildlife communities from riparian forest and mixed blue oak-grey pine woodlands.

The LNU (Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit) Lightening Complex Fire impacted Lake Solano County Park (Park) causing the campground, day use, boat launch, and lake access to be closed until the Park is able to return to operations. Re-opening is expected in June 2021.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
When operational, more than 75,000 people visit the Park's campground and day use areas each year, with many choosing to boat and fish from the creek banks. Additionally, over 1,500 students, many of them from disadvantaged communities, visit the Park each year as part of Putah Creek Council's Waterways Education Program.

Despite its great potential to offer a unique visitor experience, the Park faces many significant accessibility and resource issues. Limited ADA-accessible facilities and non-existent staging and signage discourages visitors from exploring the Park's hiking trails and experiencing its natural beauty. Extensive populations of invasive yellow star thistle and trail erosion in the upland regions of the Park reduce visitor enjoyment of the trails and diminish the quality of wildlife habitat. Finally, a lack of interpretive materials along the Park's hiking trails, fishing access areas, and boat ramp launch results in missed opportunities to immerse visitors in the Park's landscape and meaningfully educate them about the rich cultural history and

abundant wildlife found in the Park, as well as about the best ways to steward the land and care for these resources.

Solano Resource Conservation District, Solano County Parks, the Bureau of Reclamation, Putah Creek Council, and Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation have worked in partnership at the Park for many years to benefit it by coordinating weed control projects, volunteer opportunities, and elementary education field programs. Through these collaborative efforts, a number of potential improvements that are needed to improve visitor access and recreation have been identified, including:

- New ADA-accessible entrance area and kiosk at the Beetle Point trailhead.
- New 1,000-foot-long ADA accessible trail and new 0.5-acre demonstration garden at the Beetle Point trailhead.
- Improve existing visitor day use parking lot, including installing shade trees.
- Address trail erosion at two points on the existing Beetle Point trail system.
- New outdoor classroom (bench seats and simple shade structure) for use by student school groups, including students from schools in disadvantaged communities.
- Restoration of native plants along the Beetle Point trail system to improve wildlife habitat and provide shade for hikers.
- New set of interpretive panels (10 for the Beetle Point trail system, 3 for the fishing access areas, and 2 in boat launch area) that focus on wildlife habitat, recreational fishing ethics, boating stewardship, bird watching, traditional cultural uses of native plants, and other natural history topics.
- New wayfinding signage that identifies boating, fishing, and hiking opportunities.

This Project will allow the partnership to work together to create detailed, shovel-ready plans (including site designs, implementation plans, and environmental permits) to facilitate an application for implementation grant funding to improve public access and interpretive opportunities at the Park's trail systems, fishing access areas, and boat launch.

PROJECT FUNDING
The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

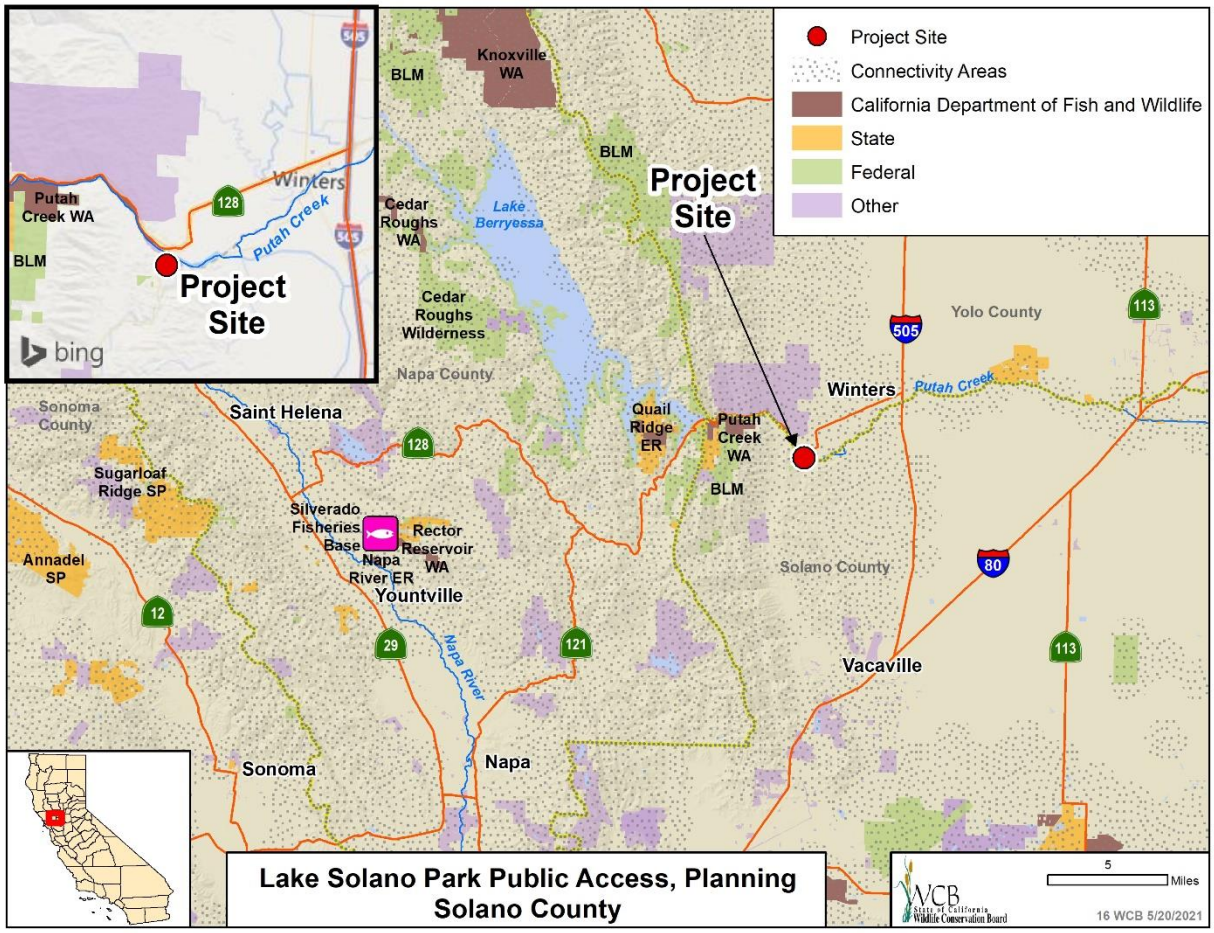
Project Task	Total Cost	WCB	Non-WCB Funds
Project Management	$12,000	$12,000	---
Coordination, Design, and Planning	$45,200	$23,400	$21,800
Surveys and Permits	$70,150	$31,400	$38,750
Interpretive Content	$14,500	$11,300	$3,200
Indirect	$14,900	$14,900	---
Total	$156,750	$93,000	$63,750

Costs associated with WCB funding include:

- Project Management: Administration, quarterly reports, ongoing data management, project updates, etc.
- Coordination, Design, and Planning: Regular meetings with partners, final site designs, and implementation plans.
- Surveys and Permits: Cultural and species surveys, complete all necessary permits, potentially including: NEPA, CEQA, CDFW Streambed Alteration, and County grading and building permits.
- Interpretive Content: Content for planned interpretive materials.
- 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 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 approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.



17. Tuolumne-Stanislaus Watershed Restoration Planning

STAFF RECOMMENDATION
Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate $219,000 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:	Tuolumne-Stanislaus Watershed Restoration Planning
Project Type:	Planning
Applicant/Grantee:	Tuolumne River Trust
Amount Recommended:	$219,000
Funding Partners:	Tuolumne River Trust, U.S. Forest Service
Landowner(s):	U.S. Forest Service
County:	Tuolumne
Program:	California Forest Conservation Program
Funding:	Proposition 68
Strategic Plan:	Goals: B.1 Objectives: SI 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.6
Disadvantaged Community:	Within a disadvantaged community

LOCATION
Tuolumne-Stanislaus Watershed Restoration Planning (Project) would plan restoration activities at four degraded sites within both the Stanislaus and Tuolumne River watersheds. The Project area is part of the Stanislaus National Forest near the confluence of the Clavey and Tuolumne rivers about 20 miles east of Sonora.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
The 2013 Rim Fire burned 21 percent of the Tuolumne River watershed and a large percentage of the watershed's mixed conifer forest. It destabilized meadows and stream channels due to loss of large woody debris (LWD) both on meadow surfaces where LWD disperses and slows flow and in stream channels where LWD traps sediment and provides stability. The fire also resulted in increased flows, leading to increased erosion, channelization, and incision. Due to concerns about these post-fire effects, a Rim Fire Meadow Assessment was completed in 2014. As part of the assessment, a topographic and general survey for 43 meadows within the Rim Fire area were completed. This assessment identified areas of instability in meadows that were either created by or exacerbated by the Rim Fire and identified preliminary restoration proposals.

Stanislaus National Forest watershed staff reviewed the meadow assessment and used federal dollars to fund two NEPA Decision Memos in 2015 covering restoration activities in 29 meadows. Since NEPA and CEQA completion, restoration has occurred at 17 meadows within the Rim Fire perimeter. The Project

will continue this work by completing CEQA at an unnamed restoration site (tributary to Little Rattlesnake Creek), wetland delineations at three sites (Boggy, Boney Flat, and Cottonwood meadows), and final designs and permitting at all four sites.

Boggy Meadow is a 5-acre meadow that provides habitat for deer, small mammals, red-tailed hawk, great horned owl, and great gray owl. The main channel in Boggy Meadow is incised and there are areas of head-cutting and erosion. Sheet flow in Boggy Meadow has channelized since the Rim Fire.

Channel incision at Boney Flat, a 10-acre meadow, ranges from approximately 4-10 feet deep and up to 50 feet wide. Reconnecting the channel to its floodplain will greatly increase meadow wetness and water storage, as well as improve water quality by reducing future erosion. Restoration of the meadow will improve habitat for deer, great gray owls, hawks, and small mammals.

Cottonwood Meadow is a 52-acre meadow, with a 10-acre aspen stand, that provides habitat to deer, small mammals, red-tailed hawk, great horned owl, warbling vireo, and great gray owl. While Cottonwood Meadow itself did not burn during the Rim Fire, fire surrounded it, burning the drainages that feed the meadow. The main channel, Cottonwood Creek, is highly incised as a result of a previous fire and subsequent land management activities. Increased runoff following the Rim Fire further destabilized the main channel, which is down cut by up to 12 feet, and increased instability in its tributaries.

Additionally, within the North Fork Stanislaus River watershed beyond the burn area of the Rim Fire, a headcut within an unnamed intermittent tributary to Little Rattlesnake Creek has caused the channel to incise and widen along 500 feet of the channel. The channel has incised from 8 to 20 feet in width and 6 to 10 feet in depth. The headcut remains active and continues to migrate upstream, eroding and degrading currently stable upstream reaches. Proposed restoration activities would restore ecosystem function to 500 feet (0.5 acres) of stream and riparian habitat while also preventing the degradation of an additional 1,200 feet (1.1 acres) of upstream channel.

The proposed channel restoration is a component of the larger Prather-Medusa Landscape Restoration, a 6,100-acre project that includes a comprehensive set of treatment activities designed to address forest health, fuels reduction, and watershed restoration. The Forest Service funded NEPA planning for this project and completed an Environmental Assessment with a decision in 2012.

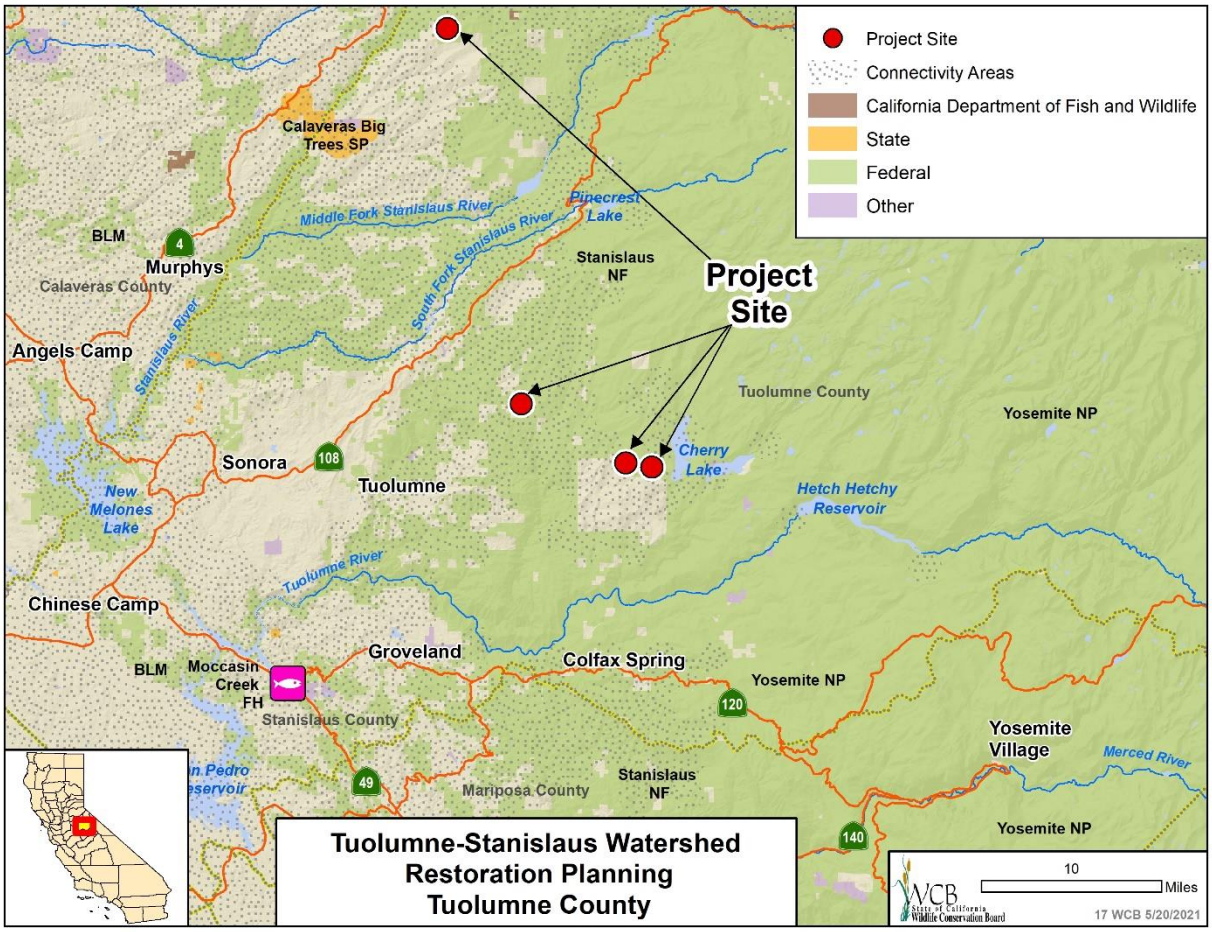
PROJECT FUNDING
The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	Total Cost	WCB	Non-WCB Funds
Project Management	$24,729	$22,729	$2,000
Project Support	$38,100	$27,050	$11,050
Planning and Design	$165,000	$165,000	---
Indirect	$4,221	$4,221	---
Total	$232,050	$219,000	$13,050

Costs associated with WCB funding include:

- Project Management: Administration, contracting, supervision, travel, supplies.
- Project Support: Project and planning review, surveys, permits fees, reporting.
- Planning and Design: Wetland delineations, additional surveys, design, develop permits, reporting.
- 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 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 approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.


Project Site
Connectivity Areas
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
State
Federal
Other
Project Site
Calaveras Big Trees SP
Middle Fork Stanislaus River
Pinecrest Lake
South Fork Stanislaus River
Stanislaus NF
BLM
Murphys
Calaveras County
Angels Camp
Stanislaus River
Tuolumne County
Yosemite NP
Cherry Lake
Sonora
Tuolumne
Hetch Hetchy Reservoir
New Melones Lake
Tuolumne River
Chinese Camp
Groveland
Colfax Spring
Moccasin Creek FH
Stanislaus County
Mariposa County
Yosemite Village
Merced River
Tuolumne-Stanislaus Watershed
Restoration Planning
Tuolumne County
10
Miles
17 WCB 5/20/2021

18. Sierra Nevada Aquatic Research Laboratory Facilities Enhancement

STAFF RECOMMENDATION
Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate $320,000 from (Proposition 68); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	SNARL Facilities Enhancement
Project Type:	Implementation
Applicant/Grantee:	University of California, Santa Barbara
Amount Recommended:	$320,000
Funding Partners:	University of California, Santa Barbara
Landowner(s):	Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
County:	Mono County
Program:	UC Reserves Program
Funding:	Proposition 68
Strategic Plan:	Goals: B.5 Objectives: SI 3.4
Disadvantaged Community:	Not within a disadvantaged community

LOCATION
The Sierra Nevada Aquatic Research Laboratory (SNARL) Facilities Enhancement project (Project) is located in Mammoth Lakes within Mono County. SNARL is situated on 55 acres on the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada and is an ideal base for field research throughout the eastern Sierra and the Owens Valley. A former U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) research station since 1935, the facilities at SNARL became a part of the University of California Natural Reserve System in 1973. SNARL provides a modern laboratory which includes a molecular diagnostics facility, and an experimental stream complex that promotes and encourages scientific research.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
SNARL is well known in the region for its active outreach programs. The Spring Seminar Series hosts visiting scientists who give presentations on scientific topics of interest to local and regional public audiences of approximately 75-100 people per week. The Outdoor Science Education program provides hands-on science lessons for K-12 students from Inyo and Mono counties as well as remote locations of western Nevada. During the summer months, SNARL also offers one and two-week science day camps for K-12 students on a fee basis. SNARL has extensive facilities for research and teaching and is home to a more extensive array of field and laboratory facilities.

Currently there are no means to easily accommodate disabled visitors to SNARL. To better service the SNARL user community, the Project will convert an unused attached garage to housing accessible to people of varied abilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). By converting this garage unit to achieve ADA compliance, the Reserve will be able to open its doors to all potential users

for the first time. The Project will also fund exterior building enhancement, including paint and repairs on the dormitory, headquarters, Residence Q7 and Residence Q8.

Using cost share provided by the grantee, two factory-manufactured and prefabricated shipping containers were purchased and installed at SNARL to address the shortage of available onsite housing for staff and Reserve users. The shipping containers were joined together to create a 2-bedroom, 1- bathroom housing unit. The unit was placed on the site of a previous mobile housing unit, where utility hookups were already in place. This project is currently ongoing, interior detail and furnishings are being finalized and is estimated to be complete in Spring 2021.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS
The Grantee has adopted a Management Plan that guides management actions for the property, including management of the Property. If at any time during the 25-year life of the Project, the University of California, Santa Barbara 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:

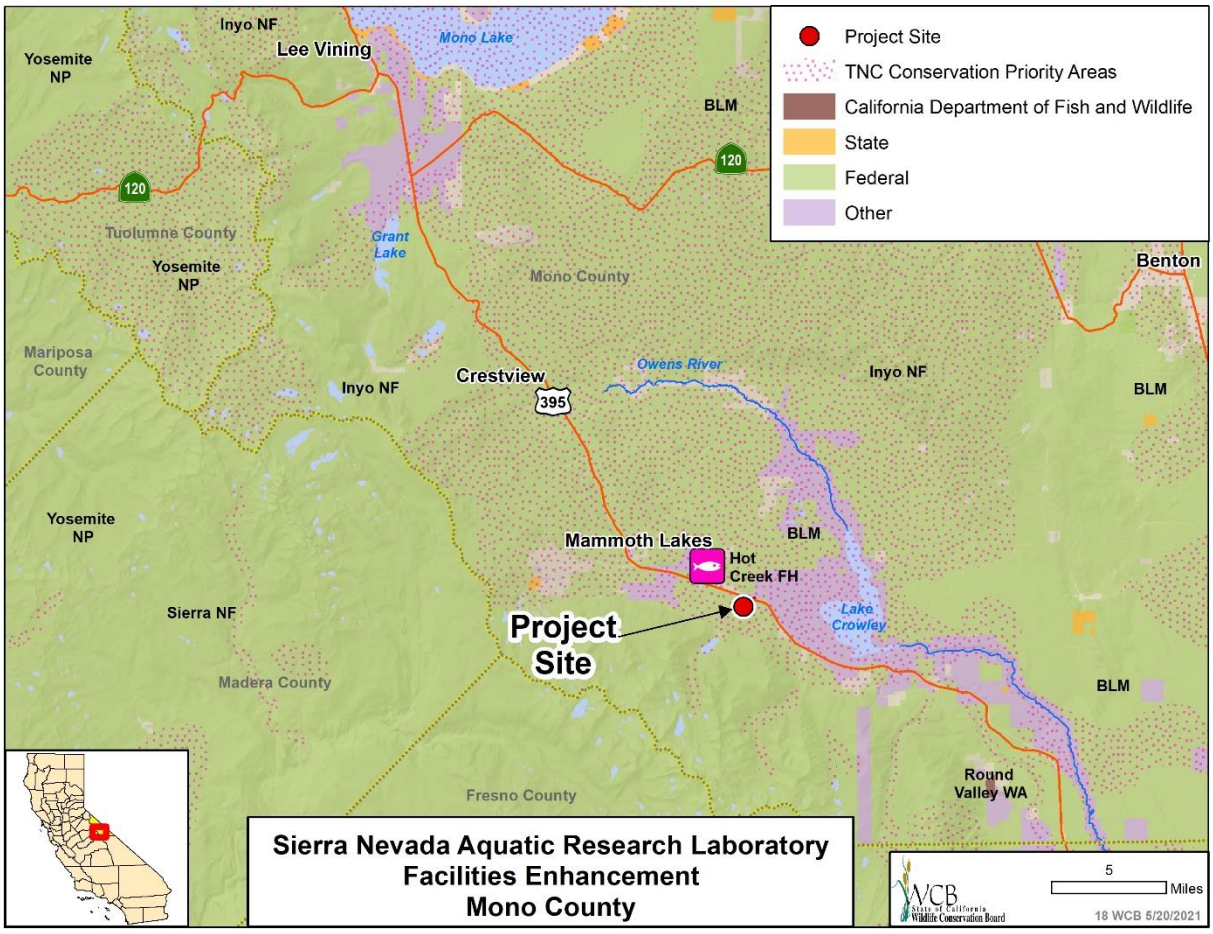
Project Task	Total Cost	WCB	Non-WCB Funds
Project Management	$4,000	---	$4,000
Aspen House ADA Renovations	$271,000	$236,000	$35,000
Building Exterior Paint & Repair	$84,000	$84,000	---
New Staff Accommodations	$46,622	---	$46,622
Total	$405,622	$320,000	$85,622

Costs associated with WCB funding include:

- Aspen House ADA Renovations: Exterior repairs for plumbing, foundation, walkways. Demo and replace existing garage floor, install new plumbing, relocate water heater, install HVAC, upgrade electrical, install new windows and doors, frame interior walls, install cabinetry, install drywall and paint, pour concrete ADA access path, stripe and paint ADA parking area, install ADA signage, and install new roof, sub-roof, and insulation.
- Building Exterior Paint and Repair: Complete exterior repairs and paint for the dorm, headquarters, Residence Q7, and Residence Q8.

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS
The Project is proposed as exempt from the CEQA pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15301, Class 1, Existing Facilities, as repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing public structures and facilities, Section 15303, Class 3,

New Construction of Conversion of Small Structures, as the conversion of existing small structures from one use to another, and Section 15304, Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land, as minor public alterations in the condition of land. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.



19. Shoreline Park Public Access, Planning

STAFF RECOMMENDATION
Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate $500,000 from the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68), Public Resources Code Section 80132(a); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Shoreline Park Public Access, Planning
Project Type:	Planning
Applicant/Grantee:	SPHERE Institute
Amount Recommended:	$500,000
Funding Partners:	Environmental Protection Agency
County:	San Mateo
Program:	Public Access Program
Funding:	Proposition 68
Strategic Plan:	Goals: C.1 Objectives: SI 3.2, 3.4
Disadvantaged Community:	Not within a disadvantaged community

LOCATION
Shoreline Park Public Access Planning project (Project) is a planning project within the city limits of Burlingame. The 9.4-acre Project site, Shoreline Park, is currently a vacant lot filled with gravel, weedy vegetation, and an abandoned parking lot. The site has direct access to San Francisco Bay and is just north of the San Mateo Bridge. In this highly urbanized area, parks are few and far between.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
This weedy, abandoned lot is an unusable eyesore in the very urbanized Bay Area. The Project will develop designs for a shovel-ready project that will transform the bayfront land into a public nature and recreation park. Approximately 3-4 acres will be restored to tidal marsh and transition zone habitats. Excavated material will be used to construct a gently sloped transition zone leading from the tidal marsh area to a horizontal “living levee”. The new levee will include a new Bay Trail segment, interpretive area, and other recreational amenities located on the crest. There will be designated access areas for fishing, kayaking, and windsurfing/kiteboarding and an area dedicated for an education center. This planning project will conduct site investigations, outreach, design development, and prepare a long-term lease application.

PROJECT FUNDING
The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	Total Cost	WCB	Non-WCB Funds
Project Management	$35,444	$35,444	---
Site Investigations	$352,037	$146,648	$205,389
Outreach and Coordination	$134,911	$45,003	$89,908
Design Development	$741,349	$262,324	$479,025
Lease Development	$55,781	$10,581	45,200
Total	$1,319,522	$500,000	$819,522

Costs associated with WCB funding include:

- Project Management: Contract development and compliance, progress reporting, invoice development, and fund tracking.
- Site Investigations: Soil and biotic assessments, topographical and boundary surveys, bathymetry and hydrological investigations, and conduct a parking lot survey.
- Outreach and Coordination: Outreach workshops with partners, stakeholders, and the community.
- Design and Development: Complete designs and permitting.
- Lease Development: Work with the State Lands Commission to move from a short-term lease to a long-term lease agreement.

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


Project Area
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
State
Federal
Other
San Francisco
Alameda County
San Francisco County
Daly City
San Bruno Mountain ER
San Francisco Bay
San Mateo County
Pacific Ocean
San Bruno
Pacifica
Golden Gate NRA
San Andreas Lake
Project Site
Burlingame
San Mateo
Montara SB
Rancho Corral de Tierra
Lower Crystal Springs Reservoir
Upper Crystal Springs Reservoir
Laurel
Redwood Shores ER
Bair Island ER
Redwood City
Don Edwards NWR
Newark
Half Moon Bay
Project Area
Airport Blvd
Bayshore Fwy
bing
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Shoreline Park Public Access, Planning
San Mateo County
5
Miles
WCB
State of California Wildlife Conservation Board
19 WCB 5/20/2021

20. Pacheco Creek Reserve Restoration, Planning

STAFF RECOMMENDATION
Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate $350,000 from The California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68), Public Resources Code Section 80111(b); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Pacheco Creek Reserve Restoration, Planning
Project Type:	Planning
Applicant/Grantee:	Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency
Amount Recommended:	$350,000
Funding Partners:	Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency
County:	Santa Clara
Program:	Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Program
Funding:	Proposition 68
Strategic Plan:	Goals: B.1 Objectives: SI 1.2, 2.1, 2.5, 3.4
Disadvantaged Community:	Not within a disadvantaged community

LOCATION
The Pacheco Creek Reserve Restoration, Planning project (Project) is located approximately 6.5 miles east of the Highway 152/156 intersection and lies immediately adjacent to Highway 152, approximately 13 miles east of Gilroy in the Upper Pajaro River watershed in Santa Clara County.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
The Pacheco Creek Reserve (Reserve) was formed through the acquisition of property for conservation of riparian habitat. In 2019, a consultant team led a restoration and design effort on the Reserve to meet goals identified in the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan (Habitat Plan), a joint Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan. This project was partially funded with CDFW Local Assistance Grant funds in the amount of $143,083. During this effort, an additional property immediately adjacent was acquired and added to the Reserve, however it was not included in the CDFW funded project. This newly acquired property includes a 12-acre pond and an approximately 1,300 linear foot reach of Pacheco Creek, much of which has been channelized. The pond was created when the area was used as a borrow pit during construction of Highway 152, which also resulted in pushing the creek to the south into a straightened, confined channel. The Project will expand the previous planning and design work to assure a contiguous restoration of both parcels, thereby enhancing and restoring a larger area of the Reserve and more effectively implementing the Habitat Plan.

The Project will complete planning for the enhancement and/or restoration of pond, freshwater perennial wetland, willow riparian and scrub, and stream habitats, benefiting a suite of Habitat Plan covered species, including California red-legged

frog, western pond turtle, tricolored blackbird, and least Bell's vireo. In addition, the Project could benefit the non-Habitat Plan covered South Central California Coast steelhead trout, which the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency and wildlife agencies have agreed should be included in design efforts to aid in recovery within the Pacheco Creek watershed. Some grading of the pond and active planting will be required to support restoration of freshwater perennial wetland and willow riparian and scrub habitats. Instream work will likely entail habitat structures and planting of willow riparian and scrub to improve habitat for covered aquatic species and steelhead trout. The enhanced and restored habitats will be subject to a long-term management plan targeting control of invasive species (plants and animals) and a carefully managed livestock grazing program.

PROJECT FUNDING
The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

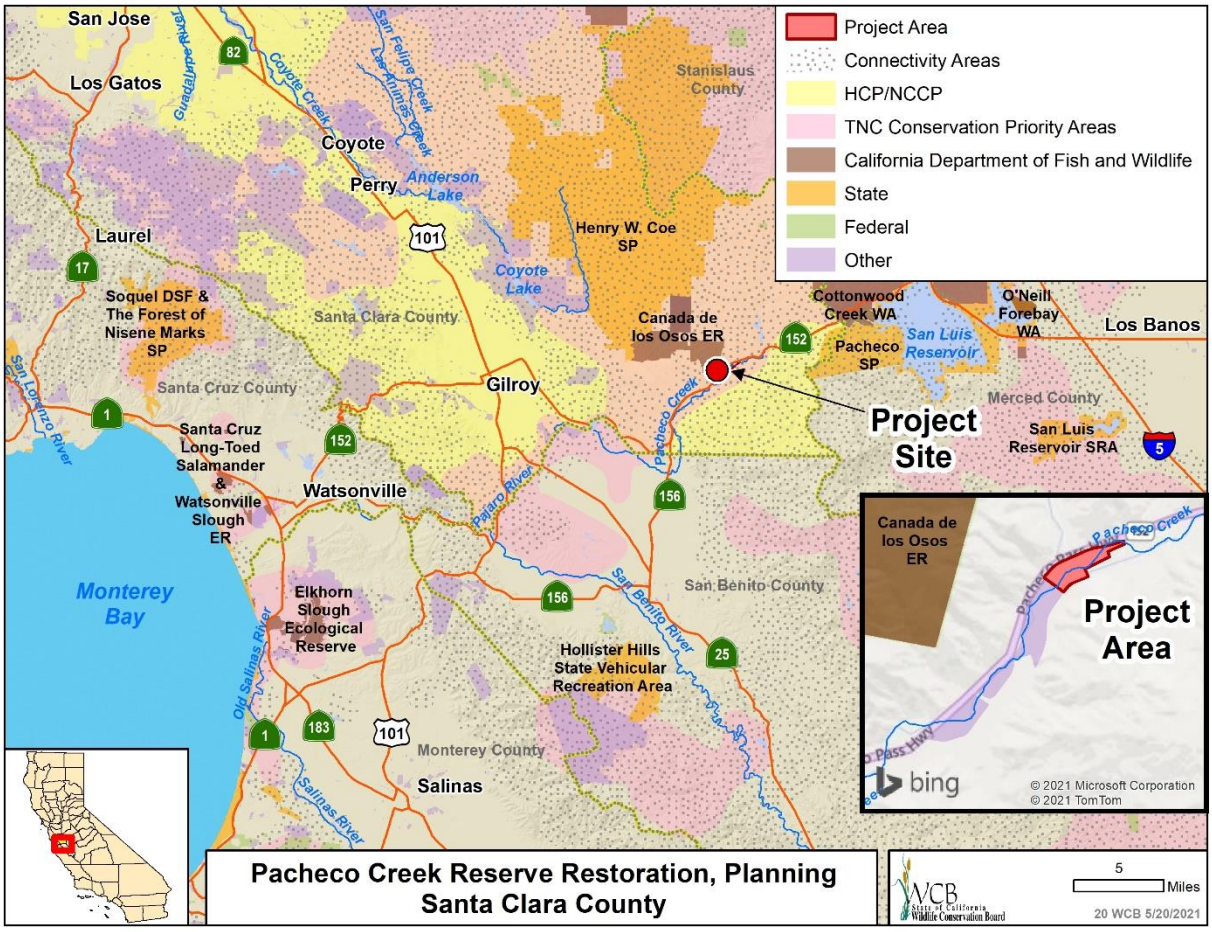
Project Task	Total Cost	WCB	Non-WCB Funds*
Project Management	$54,027	$10,000	$44,027
Field Investigations	$80,523	$50,000	$30,523
Compare Conceptual Restoration Options/ Assessment Report	$65,250	$30,000	$35,250
Project Design and Cost Estimate	$243,309	$160,000	$83,309
Regulatory Permitting	$155,725	$100,000	$55,725
Total	$598,834	$350,000	$248,834

Costs associated with WCB funding include:

- Project Management: Grant administration, monthly invoices, quarterly progress reports, project schedule, meeting materials and notes, and project coordination with stakeholders.
- Field Investigations: Assessments for understanding existing ecological and physical site conditions, as well as potential cultural resources.
- Compare Conceptual Restoration Options/Assessment Report: Develop a matrix of the habitat restoration opportunities for the pond and creek, and prepare a report highlighting existing conditions with identified restoration opportunities.
- Project Design and Cost Estimate: Prepare the project description, 35% design, 65% and 100% construction plans, specifications, and cost estimates.
- Regulatory Permitting: Prepare wetland delineation/regulated habitats map, mitigation and monitoring plan, long-term management plan, and permit applications.

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



21. Newman Seasonal Inland Wetland Restoration

Withdrawn from consideration at this time.

22. San Joaquin River Parkway, Ball Ranch Managed Aquifer Recharge Planning

STAFF RECOMMENDATION
Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate $324,317 from the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code 75050(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:	San Joaquin River Parkway, Ball Ranch Managed Aquifer Recharge Planning
Project Type:	Planning
Applicant/Grantee:	River Partners
Amount Recommended:	$324,317
Funding Partners:	Department of Water Resources, River Partners
County:	Fresno
Program:	Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Program
Funding:	Proposition 84
Strategic Plan:	Goals: B.1 Objectives: SI 2.1
Disadvantaged Community:	Not within a disadvantaged community

LOCATION
The San Joaquin River Parkway (Parkway) is comprised of approximately 5,900 acres on both sides of a 22-mile-long reach of the San Joaquin River (River) between Friant Dam to the east and State Route 99 to the west, in Fresno and Madera counties.

Ball Ranch is owned and managed by the San Joaquin River Conservancy (SJRC) and is located along the Parkway, approximately 1.5 miles north of the city of Fresno. The property consists of approximately 360 acres and contains significant habitat diversity including mixed riparian forest, valley oak riparian forest, valley oak woodland, willow scrub, non-native grasslands, freshwater marsh, and artificial open water ponds.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
The San Joaquin River Parkway, Ball Ranch Managed Aquifer Recharge Planning project (Project) is a two-phase pilot-scale effort to design, implement, and measure the impacts of a multi-benefit groundwater recharge project on the SJRC's Ball Ranch. The Project aims to identify opportunities to reduce hydrological impacts resulting from the construction and management of Friant Dam. With the funding requested, River Partners and their project partner, FlowWest, will complete the first phase of the Project by collaborating with local stakeholders and researchers, consolidate pertinent data and identify data needs, and develop a scope of work and cost estimate for the implementation of the pilot in Phase II: Ball Ranch Managed Aquifer Recharge Implementation.

Understanding the fate of surface and groundwater flow and how such flows will interact with the River and the surrounding aquifers will provide valuable insights to inform restoration and flow management actions for spring run Chinook salmon and other native fish in the River. The findings of the managed aquifer recharge implementation study will help identify prospective multi-benefit project opportunities for riparian and wetland restoration and managed groundwater recharge at Ball Ranch and other sites along the River. The Department of Water Recourses will be providing technical services for this phase of the Project and will use the results to inform the Flood-Managed Aquifer Recharge Program, the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan, and Conservation Strategy and develop floodplain recharge strategies throughout the San Joaquin River basin.

PROJECT FUNDING
The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

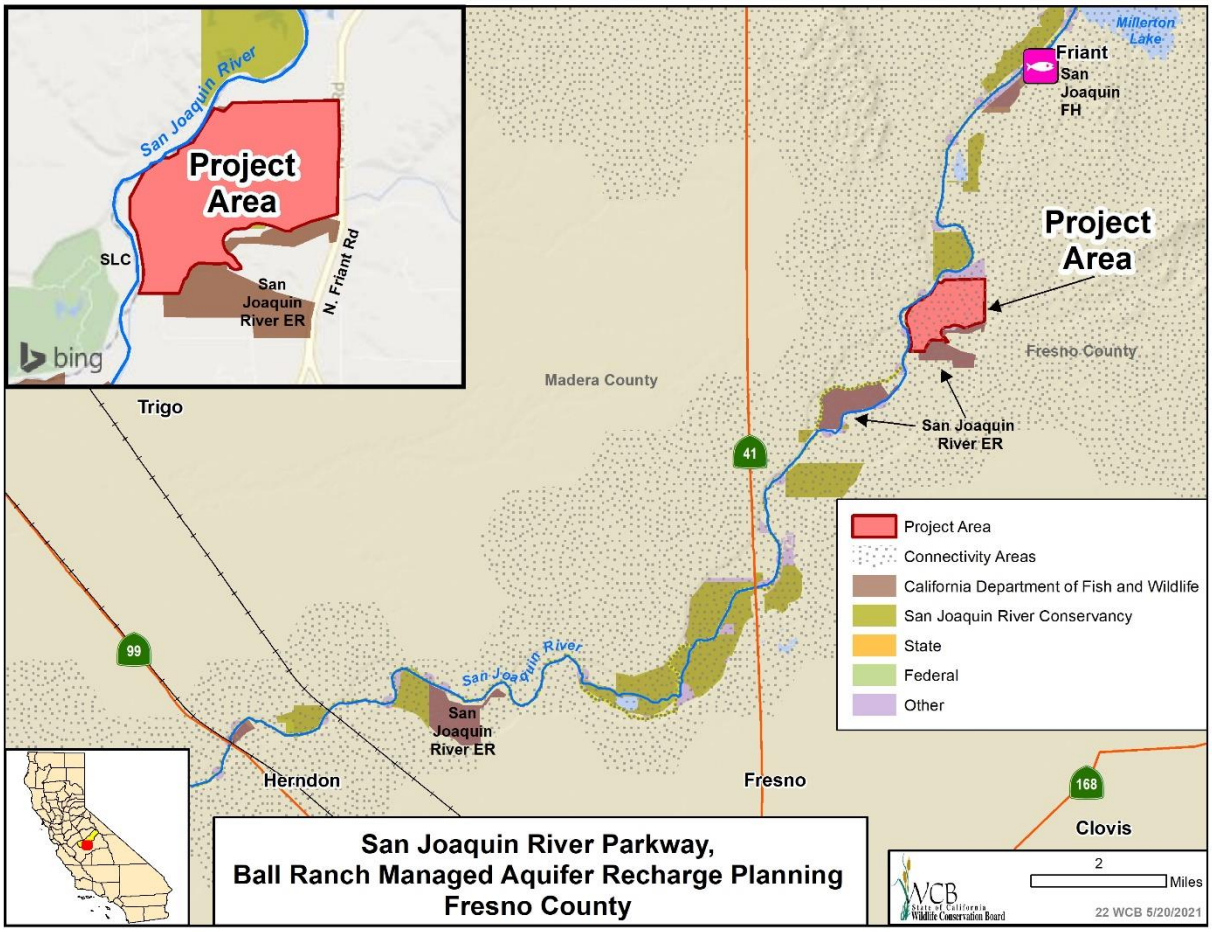
Project Task	Total Cost	WCB	Non-WCB Funds
Stakeholder Engagement	$143,031	$68,031	$75,000
Information Collection and Analysis	$258,223	$158,223	$100,000
Prepare Strategy and Final Report	$137,184	$62,184	$75,000
Project Management	$69,651	$19,651	$50,000
Indirect Costs	$21,161	$16,228	$4,933
Total	$629,250	$324,317	$304,933

Costs associated with WCB funding include:

- Stakeholder Engagement: Develop a primary list of issues, available data, and anticipated data needs for feedback from key stakeholders.
- Information Collection and Analysis: Analyze groundwater level data from existing wells and data sources, review soils and existing surface and groundwater data and models, review regional water supply data, and review available biotic and abiotic project factors as identified by the project stakeholders.
- Prepare Strategy and Final Report: Develop a final report and Project implementation strategy for the pilot on Ball Ranch (Phase II).
- Project Management: Provide technical and administrative services associated with performing and completing the work.
- 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 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 approval of

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



23. Big Creek Reserve Facilities and Infrastructure Improvement

STAFF RECOMMENDATION
Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate $512,788 from the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68), Public Resource Code Section 80111(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:	Big Creek Reserve Facilities and Infrastructure Improvement
Project Type:	Implementation
Applicant/Grantee:	University of California, Santa Cruz
Amount Recommended:	$512,788
Funding Partners:	University of California, Santa Cruz
Landowner(s):	University of California, Santa Cruz
County:	Monterey County
Program:	UC Reserves Program
Funding:	Proposition 68
Strategic Plan:	Goals: B.1 Objectives: SI 1.2, 1.3, 2.4, 3.3
Disadvantaged Community:	Not within a disadvantaged community

LOCATION
The Big Creek Reserve Facilities and Infrastructure Improvement project (Project) is located at the Landels-Hill Big Creek Reserve (Reserve), in Big Sur, within Monterey County. The Reserve is an 8,000-acre reserve located on the Big Sur coast, centered between Carmel and San Simeon, and bordered to the east by the Ventana Wilderness and to the west by the Big Creek State Marine Reserve. The Reserve encompasses two coastal watersheds that harbor steep topographical gradients reaching from sea level to 3,000 feet and diverse vegetation and geology that result in high biodiversity. With nearly 50 miles of roads and trails that provide access for research and teaching, the land itself serves as a sprawling living laboratory and outdoor classroom.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
The Reserve facilities are spread across four sites, each with their own power and water infrastructure. There is a 1,500 sq. ft. visitor center (classroom, office, restrooms and meeting room), two 1,000 sq. ft. research facilities (Gatehouse and Whale Point Research cabins), three campgrounds, and two staff residences. Reserve infrastructure consists of off-the-grid photovoltaic systems, propane fuel generators and water heaters, a wireless radio network, roads, trails, and spring water sources all installed in a wilderness/remote ranch operational environment.

Research and teaching use at UC Reserves' properties is measured in user days. Big Creek has experienced a steady increase in use over the past twenty years, from 2,400 user days in Year 2000 to an average of 5,000 user days in the past

decade. While research support has been relatively consistent throughout the years, the largest growth in use has been in the teaching sector. University of California, Santa Cruz has increased the number of experiential learning classes that bring undergraduate students into the reserve for field work. The students learn natural history observation and scientific research methods while in the outdoors then come to the classroom for background research, writing, and presentations.

Many of the buildings at the Reserve are past their normal operational life and the increasing trend in use has resulted in increased traffic, power demands, and general wear and tear. The proposed renovations to facilities and infrastructure will result in significant improvements that will be carried through many years of university-level research and teaching support, K-12 school field trips, and community stewardship.

The Project's primary objectives are to renovate research facilities, improve off-grid power supply systems, rehabilitate roads, parking, and operations yards, upgrade network infrastructure and emergency communication, and improve safety at the main entrance. These objectives will be met through a retrofit of the Reserve's photovoltaic systems, including upgrading the battery bank, replacing expired solar panels, and installing new solar panels. Roads, parking lots, and the maintenance yard will be resurfaced to improve surface durability and increase safety. Research facility renovations include plumbing, window, siding, insulation, and roofing repairs/upgrades. The Project will complete network upgrades including installing upgraded routers, network radios, and Wi-Fi access points. Electric gate openers will be installed at the Reserve's front entrance, eliminating the need for manual operation. Acoustical panels will be installed in the Reserve classrooms to achieve State acoustics standards.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The University of California, Santa Cruz has adopted a Management Plan that guides management actions for the property, including management of the Reserve. If at any time during the 25-year life of the Project, the University of California, Santa Cruz 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:

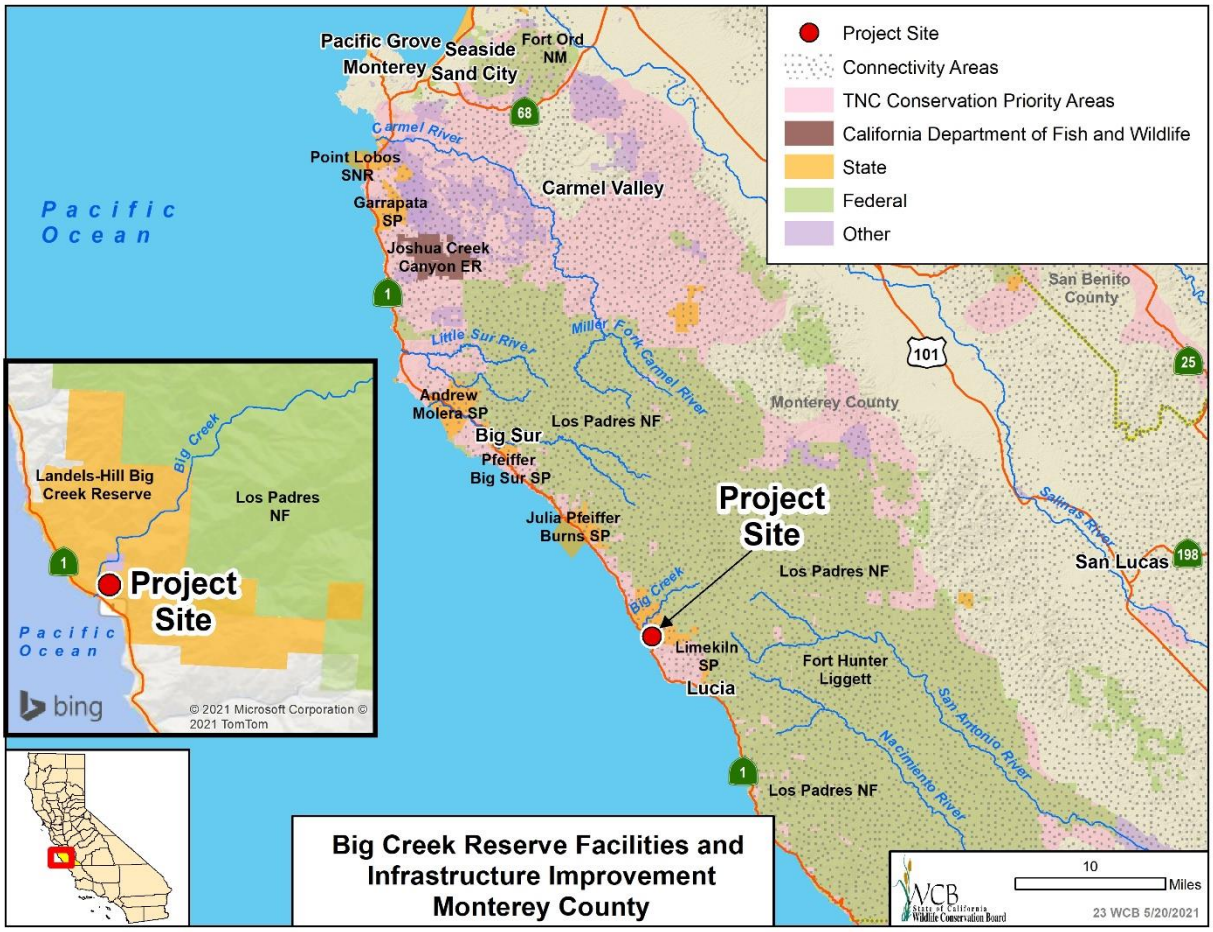
Project Task	Total Cost	WCB	Non-WCB Funds
Photovoltaic Systems Retrofit	$40,548	$17,598	$22,950
Surface Improvements	$202,286	$59,193	$143,093
Network Infrastructure	$27,053	---	$27,053
Entrance Gate	$20,890	---	$20,890

Project Task	Total Cost	WCB	Non-WCB Funds
Facilities Renovations	$463,998	$435,997	28,000
Classroom Acoustics	$6,369	---	$6,369
Total	$761,144	$512,788	$248,355

Costs associated with WCB funding include:

- Photovoltaic Systems Retrofit: Increase battery bank, replace expired solar panels, install new solar panels, complete electrical improvements.
- Surface Improvements: Install compacted rock on road to Whale Point cabins, repair and enhance Canyon Road, grading for garbage truck approach, pave surface of garbage area, and install compacted rock in operations yard.
- Facilities Renovations: Complete upgrades to external building components including plumbing, windows, siding, insulation, roofing, etc.

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS
The project is proposed as exempt from the CEQA pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15301, Class 1, Existing Facilities, as repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing public structures, facilities, and mechanical equipment, and Section 15304 Class 2, Replacement or Reconstruction, replacement or reconstruction of existing utility systems and/or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of capacity, and Section 15304, Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land, as minor public alterations in the condition of land. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.


Project Site
Connectivity Areas
TNC Conservation Priority Areas
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
State
Federal
Other
Pacific Ocean
Pacific Grove
Seaside
Monterey
Sand City
Fort Ord NM
Carmel River
Point Lobos SNR
Garrapata SP
Joshua Creek Canyon ER
Carmel Valley
Little Sur River
Miller Fork Carmel River
Andrew Molera SP
Big Sur
Pfeiffer Big Sur SP
Los Padres NF
Julia Pfeiffer Burns SP
Project Site
Big Creek
Limekiln SP
Lucia
Fort Hunter Liggett
San Antonio River
Nacimiento River
Los Padres NF
Monterey County
San Benito County
101
25
198
Salinas River
San Lucas
Landels-Hill Big Creek Reserve
Los Padres NF
Project Site
Pacific Ocean
bing
© 2021 Microsoft Corporation © 2021 TomTom
Big Creek Reserve Facilities and Infrastructure Improvement
Monterey County
10
Miles
WCB
State of California
Wildlife Conservation Board
23 WCB 5/20/2021

24. Calmas/Hayes Donation (North Carrizo Ecological Reserve)

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

Project Title:	Calmas/Hayes (North Carrizo Ecological Reserve)
Project Type:	CDFW Fee Donation (485± acres)
Amount Recommended:	$0
County:	San Luis Obispo
Program:	Land Acquisition Program
Strategic Plan:	Goals: A.1, A.2, A.4 Objectives: SI 1.3, 2.4
Disadvantaged Community:	Within a severely disadvantaged community

LOCATION
The property (Property) is located on the south side of State Route 58 (Carrisa Highway), just west of the Kern County line. The nearest communities to the Property are Santa Margarita, approximately 35 miles west, McKittrick approximately 19 miles east, Buttonwillow approximately 28 miles northeast, and Taft approximately 32 miles southeast.

Presently, this region supports rural residential development, and the area is experiencing expansion of rural residential and rural ranchette development on lands historically used for dry farming grain and as rangeland. The general terrain of the vicinity and the Property is rolling hills supporting grasslands.

The Property would add 485± acres to the 12,408±-acre North Carrizo Ecological Reserve (NCER). The Property is immediately adjacent to the NCER, which was acquired as mitigation for the impacts associated with the Topaz solar development on San Joaquin kit fox and pronghorn antelope.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
The Property is 485± acres, irregular in shape, and consists of five assessor parcel numbers. The terrain ranges from rolling to sloping with elevation ranges from 2,004 to 2,172 feet, with an average slope of 4 percent. The Property has a general downslope from its northeast boundary to its western border. The Property is zoned AG (Agriculture), and the best use would be for a grazing operation.

The Property is comprised of land from two previous acquisitions by the Carrizo Plain Conservancy (CPC). CPC, acting upon the recommendation of the San Luis Obispo office of CDFW, entered into negotiations with a southern California investment firm, Calmas, to purchase four, 40±-acre parcels in an area highly regarded by CDFW as kit fox habitat. That transaction was completed in November 2017. Shortly afterward, CPC was approached by a Paso Robles real estate firm regarding the adjacent 320± acre Hayes property; that transaction was also supported by CDFW and was completed in June 2018. Both acquisitions were

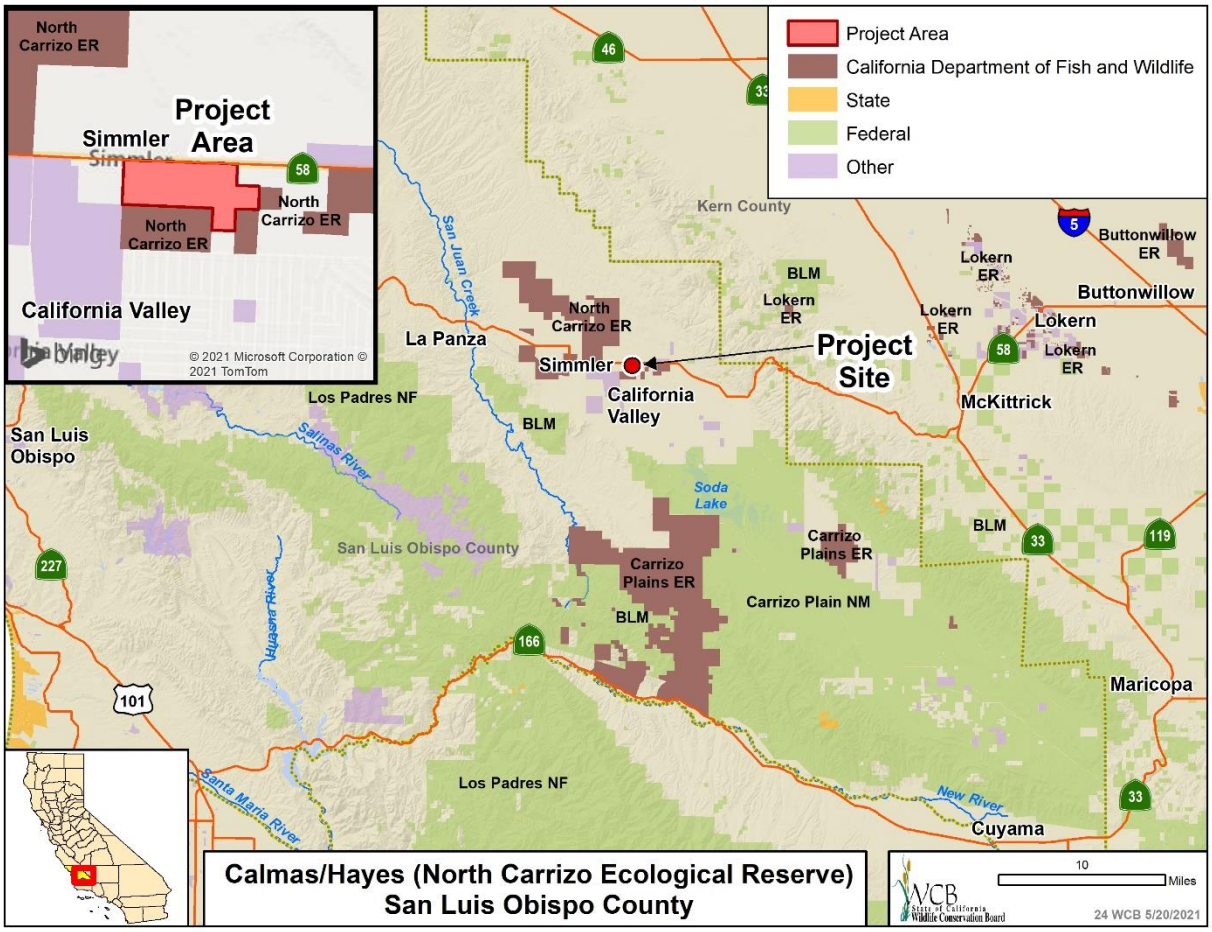
completed using funds from a County of San Luis Obispo mitigation program referred to as the kit fox mitigation fund. This program allows in-lieu payments for impacts to kit fox habitat by developments within a specified area of San Luis Obispo County. The funds are held by The Nature Conservancy as trustee, but the use of the funds is controlled by the local CDFW office. The Property is now being transferred to CDFW to incorporate into its existing NCER as a donation for the protection of the San Joaquin kit fox and other threatened and endangered species.

In addition to the state threatened and federal endangered San Joaquin kit fox, the Property has other notable residents such as pronghorn antelope, American badger, and western burrowing owl. The range and abundance of the state and federal endangered giant kangaroo rat has been increasing in the vicinity over the last decade and this species is likely to colonize the Property in the near future. California condors are also expected to use the Property in the future as a foraging area.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS
CDFW will own and operate this Property as part of its greater Carrizo Plains Ecological Reserve and will be responsible for the long-term management of the Property. Ongoing operations and maintenance costs have been, and are expected to be, relatively limited. The Property creates a larger and more cohesive block of CDFW property that will be easier to manage. The costs will be included in the NCER budget.

PROJECT FUNDING
The Property is being donated to CDFW by the landowners and must be approved by the Department of Finance before final transfer. The DGS approved fair market value of the Property is $716,000.

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


Project Area
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
State
Federal
Other
North Carrizo ER
Project Area
Simmler
North Carrizo ER
California Valley
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Kern County
San Juan Creek
La Panza
North Carrizo ER
Simmler
California Valley
Project Site
BLM
Lokern ER
Buttonwillow ER
Buttonwillow
Lokern ER
McKittrick
Los Padres NF
BLM
San Luis Obispo
Salinas River
Soda Lake
San Luis Obispo County
Carrizo Plains ER
Carrizo Plain NM
BLM
Carrizo Plains ER
Huasna River
Maricopa
Los Padres NF
Santa Maria River
New River
Cuyama
Calmas/Hayes (North Carrizo Ecological Reserve)
San Luis Obispo County
10
Miles
WCB
24 WCB 5/20/2021

25. Los Osos Wetland Restoration

STAFF RECOMMENDATION
Staff recommends that WCB adopt the written findings and approve this project as proposed; allocate $157,494 from Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(e) and (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:	Los Osos Wetland Restoration
Project Type:	Implementation
Applicant/Grantee:	Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District
Amount Recommended:	$157,494
Funding Partners:	Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District, County of San Luis Obispo, Creek Lands Conservation, Morro Bay National Estuary Program, Morro Coast Audubon Society, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Landowner(s):	Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District
County:	San Luis Obispo
Program:	California Riparian Habitat Conservation Program
Funding:	Habitat Conservation Fund
Strategic Plan:	Goals: B.1, B.5 Objectives: SI 1.2, 1.3, 2.1, 2.4, 4.3
Disadvantaged Community:	Within a disadvantaged community

LOCATION
The Los Osos Wetland Restoration project (Project) is located approximately one mile east of the Morro Bay Estuary on the lower Los Osos Creek at the confluence with Warden Creek, in the Morro Bay watershed. The Project area includes 56 acres of wetland and upland habitat within the larger 80-acre parcel owned by the Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District (CSLRCD). The 56-acre Project footprint is comprised of 40 acres of declining palustrine wetland and 16 acres of upland dune scrub and includes 0.5 miles of designated critical habitat for the federally threatened south central California coast steelhead trout and 9 acres of critical habitat for the federally endangered tidewater goby. Other sensitive species, such as Morro shoulderband snail, California red-legged frog (CRLF), Morro manzanita, and marsh sandwort also persist at the site. The Project is one of several in the watershed that has been supported by USFWS's National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Program and is considered a strategic and highly prioritized location for sediment capture and protecting the estuary from sedimentation and resulting habitat and water quality degradation.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
The Project is positioned in a location where sediment delivered from the Los Osos Creek sub-watershed would naturally deposit prior to entering the Morro Bay

estuary, however land use changes and channel modification have disconnected the creek from its natural floodplain and hydrology.

Land use impacts over the past century have caused severe incision along much of Los Osos Creek, resulting in high rates of sediment transport from eroding bed and bank material. Portions of the Project footprint were actively farmed until 1995, resulting in legacy impacts associated with grading activities, levees, access roads, overhead power lines, irrigation infrastructure, homestead buildings, and extensive presence of non-native vegetation. A road providing well access to adjacent landowners and access to the homestead, including creek crossings, is considered an in-channel barrier to fish passage and constrains the creek, impairing the hydrologic and ecosystem function throughout the site.

The Project will restore 40 acres of declining palustrine coastal wetlands and 16 acres of upland coastal dune scrub habitat to enhance and increase habitat for sensitive species and reduce sediment loading in the Morro Bay Estuary. Project outcomes include restoration of hydrologic creek function by reestablishing historic floodplains, reduced volume of sediment entering Morro Bay, improved water quality through wetland filtration, and restored habitat for steelhead trout, tidewater goby, CRLF, and Morro shoulderband snail.

The Project will reconnect the creek to 40 acres of historic floodplain and wetland habitat by breaching portions of a levee, replacing perched culverts with rocked ford crossings, decommissioning a domestic well, controlling invasive plants, and revegetating disturbed and degraded areas with native riparian and in-channel habitat.

Sixteen acres of coastal dune habitat will be enhanced by removing existing upland infrastructure, decommissioning the homestead access road, controlling invasive plant species, and establishing over one acre of native coastal dune habitat, including habitat for the federally endangered Morro shoulderband snail and Morro manzanita.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS
The CSLRCD has adopted a Management Plan that guides management actions for the property, including management of the Property. If at any time during the 25-year life of the Project, the CSLRCD 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.

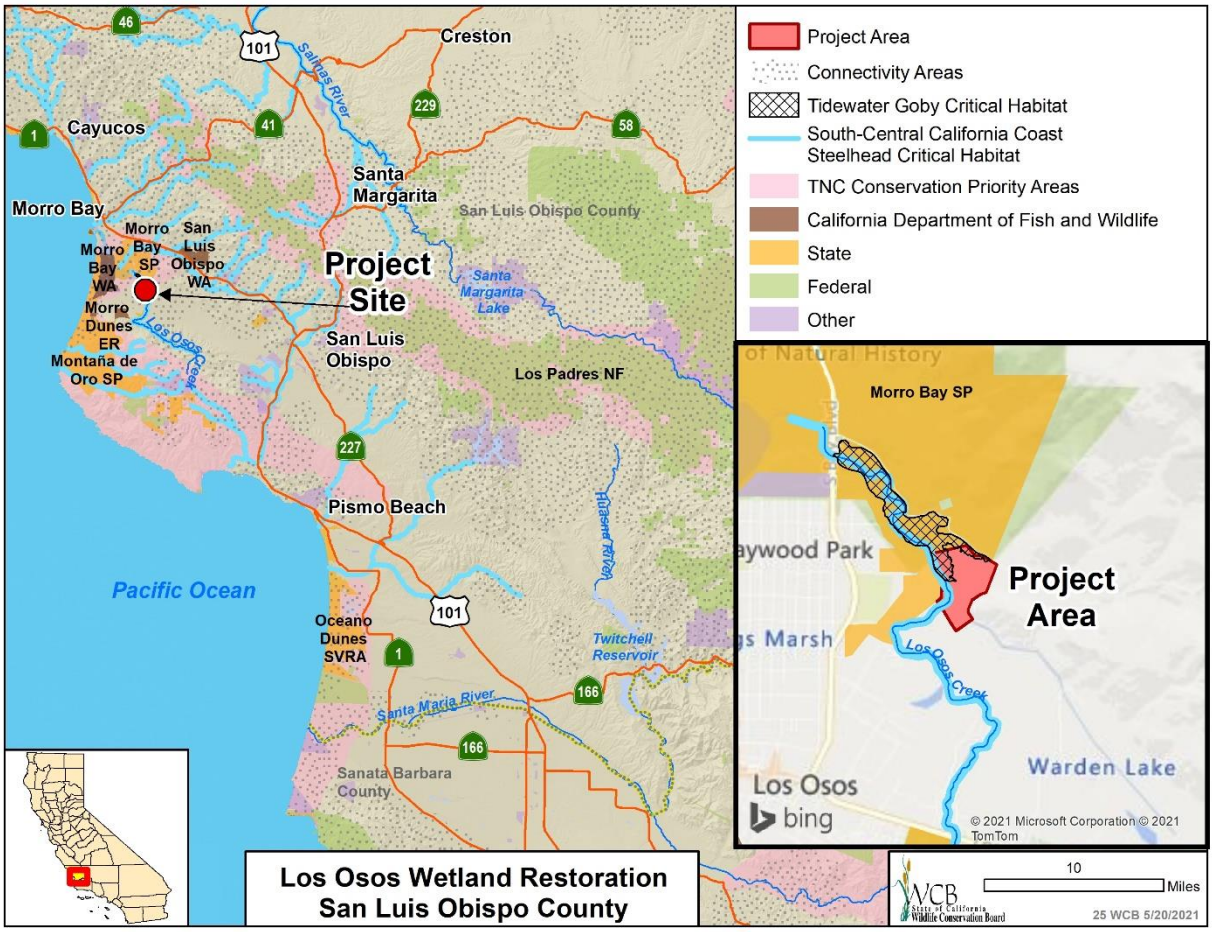
PROJECT FUNDING
The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	Total Cost	WCB	Non-WCB Funds
Project Management, Outreach, and Education	$62,790	$15,000	$47,790
Wetland Habitat Restoration	$345,735	$72,400	$273,335
Upland Habitat Restoration	$205,504	$70,094	$135,410
Total	$614,029	$157,494	$456,535

Costs associated with WCB funding include:

- Project Management, Outreach, and Education: Administer grant, oversee project activities and contracting, coordinate with project partners, and prepare invoices and project reports. Develop educational materials and facilitate field tours of the completed Project.
- Wetland Habitat Restoration: Conduct biological monitoring, implement best management practices for erosion control and in-stream work, and complete vegetation clearing, plant purchasing, revegetation activities, and invasive plant control.
- Upland Habitat Restoration: Conduct biological and cultural monitoring, implement best management practices for erosion control and to protect sensitive areas, install temporary irrigation system, and complete native plant revegetation and invasive plant control.

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS
The CSLRCD, as lead agency, prepared an MND for the project pursuant to the provisions of the CEQA. Staff considered the MND and has prepared proposed, written findings documenting WCB's compliance with CEQA. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate Notice of Determination (NOD) will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.


Project Area
Connectivity Areas
Tidewater Goby Critical Habitat
South-Central California Coast Steelhead Critical Habitat
TNC Conservation Priority Areas
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
State
Federal
Other
Creston
Cayucos
Morro Bay
Morro Bay SP
San Luis Obispo WA
Morro Bay WA
Morro Dunes ER
Montaña de Oro SP
Project Site
Santa Margarita
San Luis Obispo County
Santa Margarita Lake
San Luis Obispo
Los Padres NF
Pismo Beach
Pacific Ocean
Oceano Dunes SVRA
Twitchell Reservoir
Santa Maria River
Sanata Barbara County
Salinas River
Los Osos Creek
Morro Bay SP
Project Area
Warden Lake
Los Osos
bing
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Los Osos Wetland Restoration
San Luis Obispo County
10
Miles
WCB
25 WCB 5/20/2021

26. Agua Dulce Creek SR 14 Wildlife Undercrossing

STAFF RECOMMENDATION
Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate $381,000 from the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68), Public Resources Code Section 80132(e)(1); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Agua Dulce Creek SR 14 Wildlife Undercrossing
Project Type:	Implementation
Applicant/Grantee:	Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority
Amount Recommended:	$381,000
Funding Partners:	Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority
Landowner(s):	Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority
County:	Los Angeles
Program:	Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Program
Funding:	Proposition 68
Strategic Plan:	Goals: B.1 Objectives: SI 1.1, 1.2
Disadvantaged Community:	Not within a disadvantaged community

LOCATION
The Agua Dulce Creek SR 14 Wildlife Undercrossing project (Project) is located along Agua Dulce Creek, 18 miles northeast of Santa Clarita. The site is a culvert undercrossing of State Route 14 (SR-14) that provides critical wildlife connectivity between units of the Angeles National Forest (Forest).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
Located on the northern edge of the Los Angeles metropolitan area, the Forest provides millions of Californians easy access to a wide variety of recreation opportunities. It is also home to a number of sensitive plant and animal species that have seen their populations decline due to urban development.

As critical as the 700,000 acres of open space have been for plant and animal species, the habitat value of the Forest is currently being reduced due to a wildlife movement barrier created by SR-14. The roadway bisects the forest and impairs the free movement of wildlife between the Santa Clarita management unit in the north and the three management units south of SR-14. This has eliminated many traditional wildlife corridors and increased the importance of the few remaining areas where passage under SR-14 is still possible.

One of these areas is a culvert where SR-14 crosses Agua Dulce Creek. Wildlife have been using this culvert to pass under the roadway and gain access to Agua Dulce Canyon, which is then used to travel between the northern and southern Forest management units. The South Coast Missing Linkages Project identifies Agua Dulce Canyon as a central landscape linkage of the San Gabriel-Castaic Connection’s least cost corridor for the Pacific kangaroo rat, mule deer, mountain

lion and other species of concern. The project site is also highly ranked in CDFW's approved Angeles Linkage CAPP, and the SR-14 culvert is the CAPP focal point designed to connect separate units of the Forest.

The goal of the Project is to improve conditions for wildlife usage of the SR-14 culvert. This will be done by controlling non-native vegetation and installing native vegetation to shield animal species that are sensitive to human presence from the light and noise of SR-14 as they approach the culvert. It will also increase forage potential for wildlife before and after crossing.

Specifically, the Project will enhance approximately 2.75 acres of riparian and transitional upland habitat on the north side of the Agua Dulce Creek culvert under SR-14. This will maximize the quality, density, and diversity of native vegetation along an approximately 1,300-foot-long section of Agua Dulce Creek leading to the culvert undercrossing.

The native plants selected for the restoration will all be common to Agua Dulce Canyon and be large enough to serve as cover for wildlife. In general, riparian vegetation elements such as arroyo willow and Fremont's cottonwood will be planted in the most low-lying areas closest to the low flow channel edges. Mulefat and sandbar willow cuttings will also be added wherever there is a good probability of successful establishment. Patches of California rose will be the main added understory component in these areas. In low lying areas where cottonwood and arroyo willow may be challenging to establish, desert olive will be the primary woody species installed.

In addition to wildlife mobility benefits, co-benefits of the Project include improved water quality of Agua Dulce Creek in the upper Santa Clara River watershed; a nature-based solution to flood control; increased native, flowering plants for local pollinators; and carbon sequestration from enhanced native woody vegetation.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority has adopted a Management Plan that guides management actions for the property, including management of the project area. If at any time during the 25-year life of the Project, Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority 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.

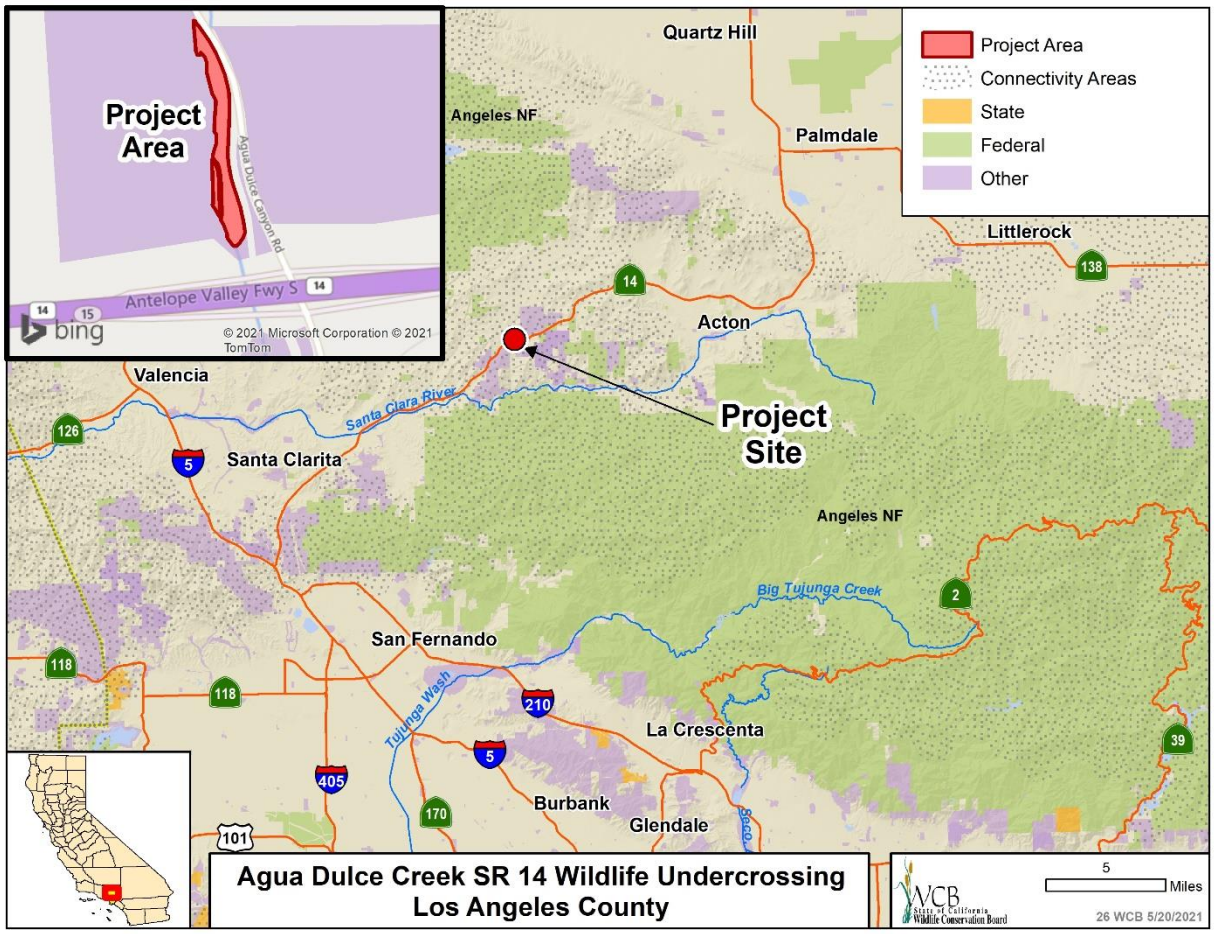
PROJECT FUNDING
The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	Total Cost	WCB	Non-WCB Funds
Project Management	$35,000	$30,000	$5,000
Site Preparation	$60,000	$60,000	---
Native Plant Installation	$136,000	$136,000	---
Maintenance	$160,000	$135,000	$25,000
Monitoring & Reporting	$35,000	$20,000	$15,000
TOTAL	$426,000	$381,000	$45,000

Costs associated with WCB funding include:

- Project Management: Management of project activities and reporting.
- Site Preparation: Removal of invasive plant species, cleanup of litter and other debris, and site preparation for plant installation.
- Native Plant Installation: Planting native riparian and upland plant species.
- Maintenance: Support for newly installed native plants.
- Monitoring & Reporting: Baseline surveys and other monitoring and reporting.

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS
The project is proposed as exempt from the CEQA pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15333, Class 33, Small Habitat Restoration Projects, as a project not to exceed five acres in size to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of habitat for fish, plants, or wildlife. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.


Project Area
Agua Dulce Canyon Rd
Antelope Valley Fwy S
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Quartz Hill
Angeles NF
Palmdale
Littlerock
Acton
Valencia
Santa Clara River
Project Site
Santa Clarita
Angeles NF
Big Tujunga Creek
San Fernando
Tujunga Wash
La Crescenta
Burbank
Glendale
Project Area
Connectivity Areas
State
Federal
Other
Agua Dulce Creek SR 14 Wildlife Undercrossing
Los Angeles County
5
Miles
26 WCB 5/20/2021

27. San Joaquin Marsh Water Management Enhancement

STAFF RECOMMENDATION
Staff recommends that WCB adopt the written findings and approve this project as proposed; allocate $422,000 from the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68, PRC 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:	San Joaquin Marsh Water Management Enhancement
Project Type:	Implementation
Applicant/Grantee:	Regents of the University of California, Irvine
Amount Recommended:	$422,000
Funding Partners:	Regents of the University of California, Irvine
Landowner(s):	Regents of the University of California, Irvine
County:	Orange County
Program:	Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Program
Funding:	Proposition 68
Strategic Plan:	Goals: B.1 Objectives: SI 1.3, 2.4, 3.3
Disadvantaged Community:	Not within a disadvantaged community

LOCATION
The San Joaquin Marsh Water Management project (Project) is located at the University of California, Irvine's San Joaquin Marsh Reserve (UCI Marsh) in the city of Irvine. The UCI Marsh is a 200-acre depressional wetland complex including 30 acres of open water, 30 acres of shallow ponds, and 70 acres of shallow and deep semi-permanent emergent marshlands. Additional upland habitats bordering the wetlands include riparian, coastal sage scrub, and grassland habitats.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
UCI Marsh was historically a depressional wetland fed by a shallow water aquifer and a drainage from the San Joaquin Hills to the south. The UCI Marsh also periodically received tidal flows from Newport Bay, creating brackish conditions at lower elevations. As marsh waters were being drained in the upper watershed, San Diego Creek formed and fed into San Joaquin marsh. In the 1960's connections with both San Diego Creek and Newport Bay were broken with the channelization of San Diego Creek.

Currently, freshwater is supplied to the UCI Marsh either by reserve staff pumping it from San Diego Creek when water levels are high enough, or indirectly, when Irvine Ranch Water District pumps water from San Diego Creek and conveys it to the UCI Marsh through a culvert under Campus Drive into the upper marsh unit. In the past decade, drought periods have intensified and lengthened, lowering water levels and shortening periods of flow in San Diego Creek, especially in the reach owned by the University of California, Irvine. Although significant variation in inter-

annual winter precipitation from year to year is historically normal for Southern California, this has reached record levels in recent years and is predicted to become even more extreme. Consequently, maintaining water levels within the UCI Marsh using current infrastructure has been increasingly challenging.

To maintain and add wetland habitat acreage, improve wetland health, and to adapt to the impacts of climate change, the Project will complete the following multiple water control enhancements:

- Install a box culvert with slide gate between the Middle and Lower marsh units, and between Hoag Pond and the Experimental Ponds, allowing UCI Marsh managers to adjust water levels among different units to maintain refugia in dry years and expand to capacity in wet years.
- Re-establish the one outlet for the UCI Marsh that has not functioned for at least 15 years and improve water circulation for the entire marsh.
- Excavate soil to create a swale through the Lower Marsh to the marsh outlet, creating seasonal wetland habitat and improving flow and circulation between the rest of the UCI Marsh and its outlet.
- Raise the elevation of a berm separating the Hoag Pond from one of the Experimental Ponds enabling the Hoag Pond to fill to capacity without spilling into the neighboring pond.

Overall, these infrastructure improvements will maintain and enhance the breadth and quality of wetland habitat necessary to maintaining wetland processes important for ecosystem function and supporting a diverse bird population.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The Grantee has adopted a Management Plan that guides management actions for the property, including management of the Reserve. If at any time during the 25-year life of the Project, the University of California, Irvine 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:

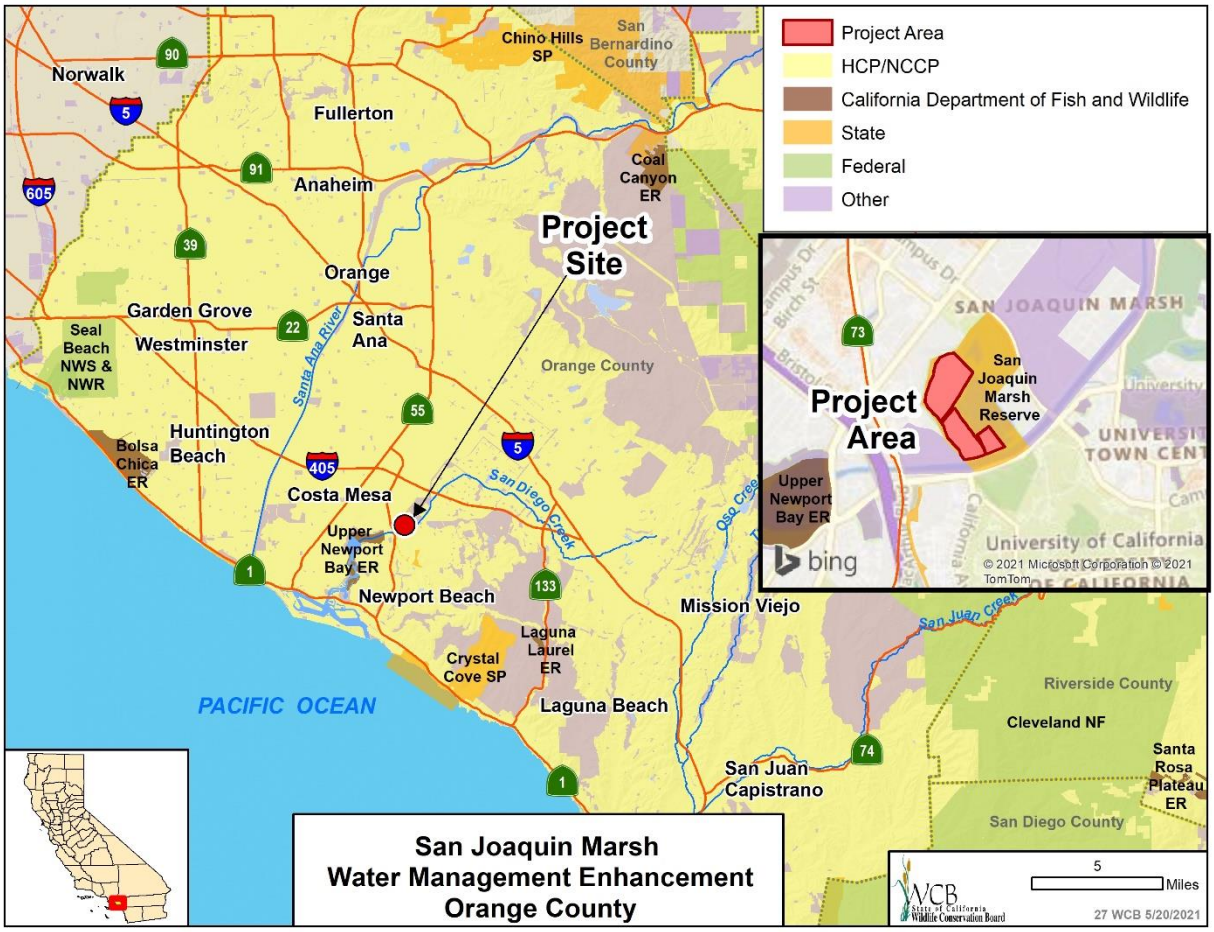
Project Task	Total Cost	WCB	Non-WCB Funds
Headwall and Slide Gate Construction	$129,140	$85,610	$43,530
Outlet Reconstruction	$112,586	$83,223	$29,363
Swale Excavation	$291,000	$233,850	$57,150
Road Berm	$37,114	$19,317	$17,797
Total	$569,840	$422,000	$147,840

Costs associated with WCB funding include:

- Headwall and Slide Gate Construction: Construct headwalls and slide gates between the Middle and Lower marsh, and between Hoag Pond and the Experimental Ponds.
- Outlet Reconstruction: Reconstruct marsh outlet to San Diego Creek.
- Swale Excavation: Excavate swale within the Lower Marsh to the marsh outlet.
- Road Berm: Raise the elevation of the berm separating Hoag Pond from the Experimental Ponds.

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

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



28. Coastal California Gnatcatcher Habitat Restoration

STAFF RECOMMENDATION
Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate $527,000 from The California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68), Public Resources Code Section 80111(b); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Coastal California Gnatcatcher Habitat Restoration
Project Type:	Implementation
Applicant/Grantee:	County of San Diego, Department of Parks and Recreation
Amount Recommended:	$527,000
Funding Partners:	County of San Diego, Department of Parks and Recreation
Landowner(s):	County of San Diego, Department of Parks and Recreation
County:	San Diego
Program:	Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Program
Funding:	Proposition 68
Strategic Plan:	Goals: B.1 Objectives: SI 1.3, 2.1, 2.2
Disadvantaged Community:	Not within a disadvantaged community

LOCATION
The Coastal California Gnatcatcher Habitat Restoration project (Project) is located in Dictionary Hill County Preserve (Preserve) near the community of Spring Valley in the west-central portion of unincorporated San Diego County, east of State Route 125 and south of State Route 94. The Preserve spans 175 acres of coastal sage scrub (CSS) and chaparral habitat and is within the Metro-Lakeside-Jamul Segment of the Multiple Species Conservation Plan (MSCP).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
CSS is a plant community found in coastal California that is dominated by aromatic shrubs that often lose their leaves during the long dry summer and rarely exceed 2 meters in height. It is found primarily at low elevations near the coast and on foothill slopes in areas with some maritime influence. CSS once covered approximately 2.5 million acres, but recent estimates indicate that 85-90 percent has been destroyed due to urban and agricultural development.

CSS presents different evolutionary pressures than other California ecosystems and many wildlife species have come to be completely reliant on the habitat. The coastal California gnatcatcher (gnatcatcher) is one such species. The gnatcatcher is a small grey, white, and black songbird that is dependent on CSS for its breeding and foraging habitat. The loss of CSS has negatively impacted

gnatcatcher populations to the point that the bird is now federally listed as threatened.

With upwards of 90 percent of its habitat being lost to development, the gnatcatcher has lost most of its historical breeding grounds. There are remnant portions of gnatcatcher habitat that have been preserved, but they are highly fragmented with nearly all being bordered on at least one side by rapidly expanding urban centers. This has led to isolated pockets of gnatcatcher that have reduced genetic variation and are vulnerable to being wiped out by one of the fire events frequent to southern California.

The 175-acre Preserve was acquired by the County of San Diego, Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) in 2017 to preserve CSS and to provide a refuge for gnatcatcher and other species listed in the MSCP. The Preserve also functions as a stepping-stone for gnatcatcher from conserved lands directly east of the Preserve within the Sweetwater Reservoir to the San Miguel Mountain Core Resources Area.

CSS covers 90 percent of the Preserve, but it has been degraded by disturbances from the unauthorized use of numerous dirt trails and invasive non-native plants. Restoration of disturbed CSS within the Preserve would provide a refuge for listed species, including gnatcatcher and other MSCP covered species. In addition, restoration of disturbed CSS would increase carrying capacity for gnatcatcher, and also assist with preserving genetic diversity if a fire occurs within the preserved land east of the Preserve.

The Project will increase gnatcatcher habitat by actively restoring approximately four acres of CSS and performing invasive non-native plant treatment throughout the entire Preserve. This will result in expanded breeding and foraging habitat while enhancing a linkage for gnatcatcher between nearby conserved lands. Before and during restoration activities, the project team will partner with Dictionary Hill Open Space Advocates to educate the residents of Spring Valley regarding the Project and how restoration activities benefit both wildlife and the people who live in nearby communities.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS
DPR has adopted a Management Plan that guides management actions for the Project property, including management of the Project property. If at any time during the 25-year life of the Project, DPR 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.

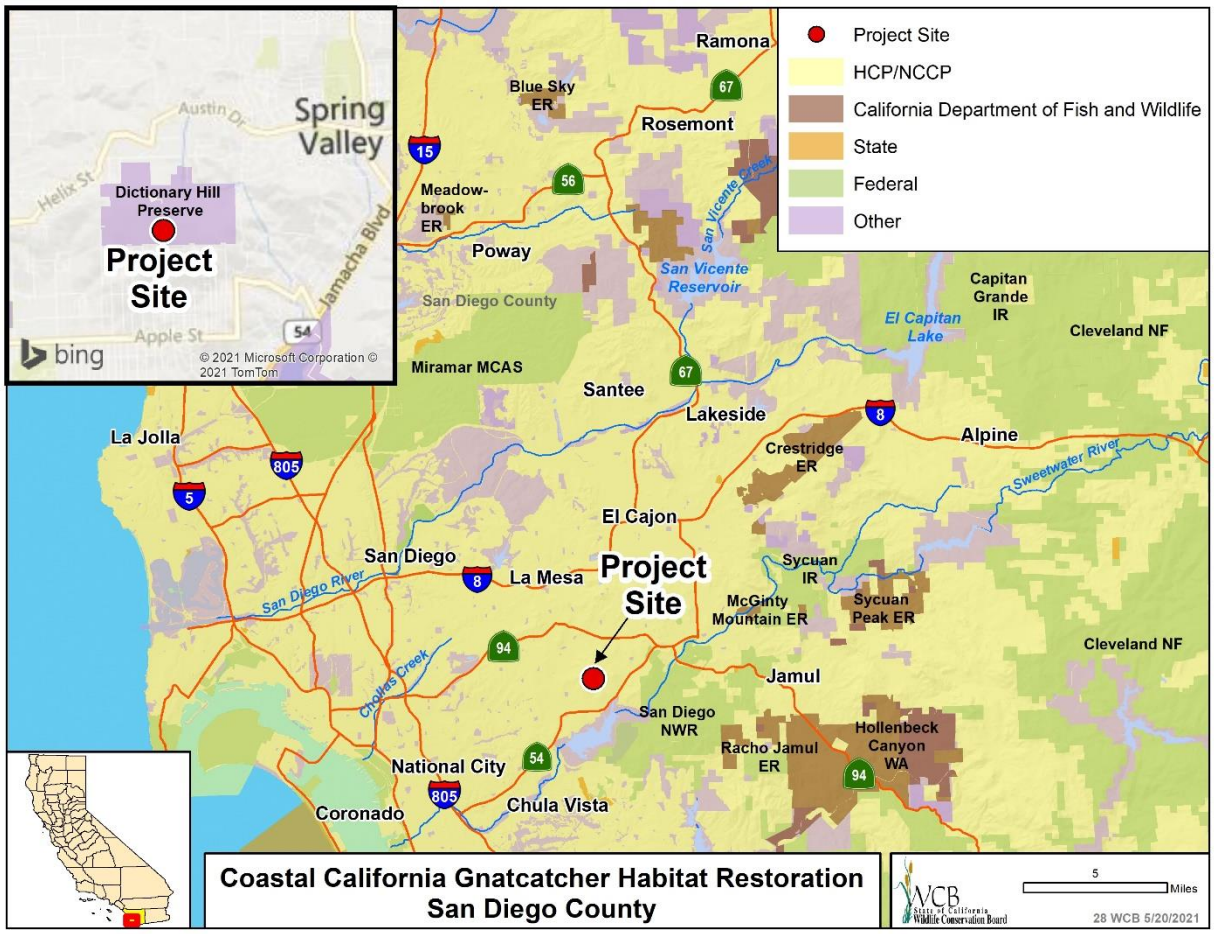
PROJECT FUNDING
The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	Total Cost	WCB	Non-WCB Funds
Site Preparation	$96,783	$96,783	---
Implementation	$202,026	$202,026	---
Maintenance	$171,386	$171,386	---
Monitoring	$25,926	$25,926	---
Project Management and Reporting	$55,439	$30,879	$24,560
TOTAL	$551,560	$527,000	$24,560

Costs associated with WCB funding include:

- Site Preparation: restoration site preparation and finalizing the habitat restoration and data management plans.
- Implementation: CSS plant installation and invasive plant treatments.
- Maintenance: weeding and watering necessary to maintain newly installed plants.
- Monitoring: monitoring of invasive plant treatments and restoration areas.
- Project Management and Reporting: invoicing, contract management, and annual and final reports.

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS
The Project is proposed as exempt from the CEQA pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15333, Class 33, Small Habitat Restoration Projects, as a project not to exceed five acres in size to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of habitat for fish, plants, or wildlife. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.


Project Site
HCP/NCCP
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
State
Federal
Other
Spring Valley
Austin Dr
Helix St
Dictionary Hill Preserve
Project Site
Jamacha Blvd
Apple St
54
bing
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Ramona
Blue Sky ER
67
Rosemont
15
56
Meadow-brook ER
San Vicente Creek
Poway
San Vicente Reservoir
San Diego County
Capitan Grande IR
El Capitan Lake
Cleveland NF
Miramar MCAS
Santee
Lakeside
8
Alpine
La Jolla
805
5
Crestridge ER
Sweetwater River
El Cajon
San Diego
La Mesa
Project Site
Sycuan IR
San Diego River
McGinty Mountain ER
Sycuan Peak ER
94
Cleveland NF
Cholla Creek
Jamul
San Diego NWR
Hollenbeck Canyon WA
Racho Jamul ER
National City
54
94
805
Chula Vista
Coronado
Coastal California Gnatcatcher Habitat Restoration
San Diego County
WCB
State of California
Wildlife Conservation Board
5
Miles
28 WCB 5/20/2021

29. Hidden Canyon

STAFF RECOMMENDATION
Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate $613,750 from the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68), Public Resources Code Section 80111(b) 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 $1,841,250 and approve the subgrant of the federal funds to the 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:	Hidden Canyon
Project Type:	Fee Title (25± acres)
Grantee:	Escondido Creek Conservancy
Amount Recommended:	$613,750
Funding Partners:	USFWS Section 6
County:	San Diego
Program:	Land Acquisition Program
Funding:	Proposition 68
Strategic Plan:	Goals: A.1, A.3, A.4 Objectives: SI 1.2, 1.3, 2.2, 2.4, 3.4
Disadvantaged Community:	Not within a disadvantaged community

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

The Property is also within the Multiple Habitat Conservation Program (MHCP) gnatcatcher core area identified within the City of Carlsbad-Habitat Management Plan (HMP). Acquisition of the Property will complement 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 approximately 4,441 acres. The Property location within the Escondido Creek CAPP will provide major benefits to the gnatcatcher regionally, and helps to achieve the goals of the forthcoming County of San Diego North County MSCP Subregional Plan.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
The Property generally slopes up gradually from the south to the north. Topography ranges from level to steeply sloping, with the steepest areas of the subject generally in the northwestern areas. Elevation ranges from a low of approximately 600 feet near the northwest corner of the parcel, to a high of approximately 735 feet at the northeast corner.

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.

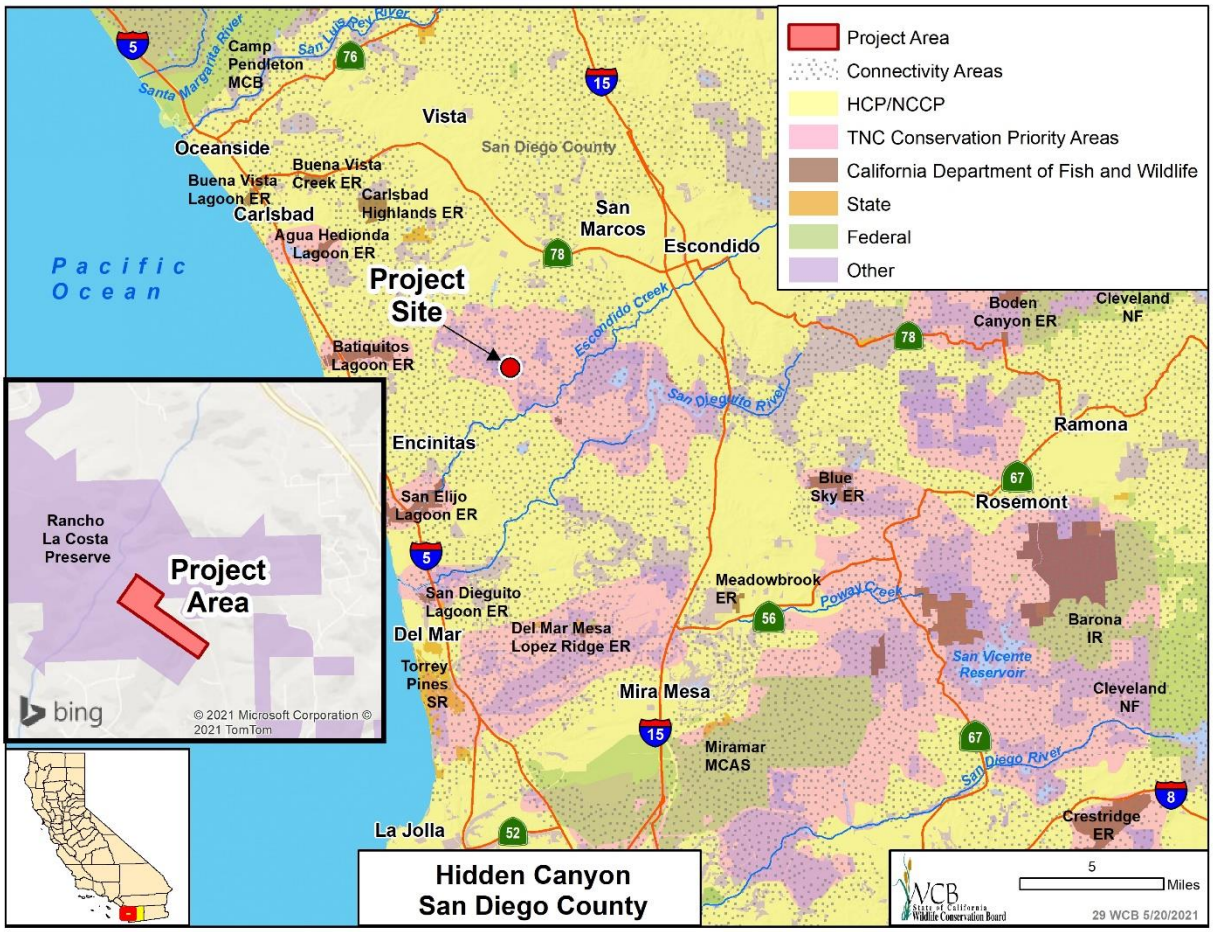
MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS
The Escondido Creek Conservancy (Conservancy) is dedicated to the preservation, restoration, and protection of the natural open space within the Escondido Creek watershed. The Conservancy currently owns and/or manages almost 3,000 acres of land within the watershed, which extends 26 miles from Bear Valley to the San Elijo Lagoon, 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 nine staff members and utilizes over 70 active volunteers to remove invasive species and for site restoration projects. Compatible public access on the Property will be evaluated by the CDFW and USFWS in coordination with the Conservancy.

PROJECT FUNDING
The DGS approved fair market value is $2,455,000. The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	$613,750
USFWS	$1,841,250
TOTAL Purchase Price	$2,455,000

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, an NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.



30. Otay Mesa Vernal Pool and Uplands Habitat Restoration Phase II

STAFF RECOMMENDATION
Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate $547,000 from The California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68), Public Resources Code Section 80111(b); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Otay Mesa Vernal Pool and Uplands Habitat Restoration Phase II
Project Type:	Implementation
Applicant/Grantee:	Chaparral Lands Conservancy
Amount Recommended:	$547,000
Funding Partners:	Chaparral Lands Conservancy
Landowner(s):	City of San Diego
County:	San Diego
Program:	Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Program
Funding:	Proposition 68
Strategic Plan:	Goals: B.1 Objectives: SI 1.2, 2.1
Disadvantaged Community:	Not within a disadvantaged community

LOCATION
The Otay Mesa Vernal Pool and Uplands Habitat project (Project) is located on the City of San Diego's Clayton Preserve (Preserve) in western Otay Mesa, a suburban and industrial community near the international border with Mexico. The Project site is on a parcel of land that was added to the Preserve with financial assistance from WCB in 2011 and Phase I of the Project was funded by WCB in 2017.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
Historically, the Otay Mesa was covered by coastal sage scrub (CSS) habitat mixed with vernal pools (VP). CSS and VP areas contain some of the highest levels of biodiversity in the state, and there are many sensitive plant and animal species that completely rely on them for habitat. Unfortunately, they are also two of the rarest and most endangered habitat types in California.

Both CSS and VP in southern California are predominately found in low slope and low elevation areas near the coast. These characteristics are also highly desired for urban and agricultural development. This has led to the loss of upwards of 90 percent of CSS and VP habitat in the region. The remaining 10 percent has also been degraded by irresponsible human activities and invasive non-native plant species. With this loss of habitat, in both extent and quality, there are several plant and animal species whose long-term sustainability is being threatened.

One of the largest causes of degradation to CSS and VP areas, that are still undeveloped, is the damage from off-road vehicles (ORV). ORV use was rampant

in Otay Mesa and on the Project site in the 1990s and 2000s prior to construction of a nearby housing development and preservation of the Clayton property. The Preserve is now secure and ORV use is no longer a problem, but repair of significant residual damage is needed.

The Project will address this damage to the Preserve and improve the hydrologic and ecologic function of five acres of VP and CSS by meeting the following goals:

- Restore and Enhance Vernal Pools and Coastal Sage Scrub – Restoration and enhancement of damaged topography in existing vernal pools and construction of new vernal pools where appropriate.
- Increase Diversity of Vernal Pool Flora and Fauna - Increase native plant and animal species diversity in repaired existing vernal pools and constructed new pools.
- Increase Populations of Sensitive Species - Directly expand populations and habitat for San Diego button-celery, San Diego fairy shrimp, two-striped garter snake, and western spadefoot toad that already exist on the Project site.
- Prevent Introduction or Spread of Undesirable Flora and Fauna - Attempt to control Versatile fairy shrimp and/or hybrid San Diego fairy shrimp/Versatile fairy shrimp where these species are found in existing vernal pools. Prevent introduction and spread of invasive plants and reduce existing invasive plant populations in vernal pools and coastal sage scrub.
- Limit Future Harm - Limit future anthropogenic disturbance with several management measures including fencing, signing, planting, and vegetative camouflage of old dirt roads and paths, and public educational outreach.

Implementation of the Project will follow established methods utilized by habitat restoration experts and accepted by CDFW and USFWS. Multiple projects using similar methods have been implemented near the Project site. These efforts have produced substantial evidence of success in achieving similar habitat and species restoration goals and objectives.

The Project will be evaluated for effectiveness by monitoring the restored habitats and species to determine the outcome of the restoration objectives. Monitoring of vernal pools will include hydrology, fairy shrimp, other vernal pool fauna, and flora. Monitoring of coastal sage scrub will include native plant cover and richness and non-native plant cover.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The Chaparral Lands Conservancy has adopted a Management Plan that guides management actions for the property, including management of the Property. If at any time during the 25-year life of the Project, Chaparral Lands 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.

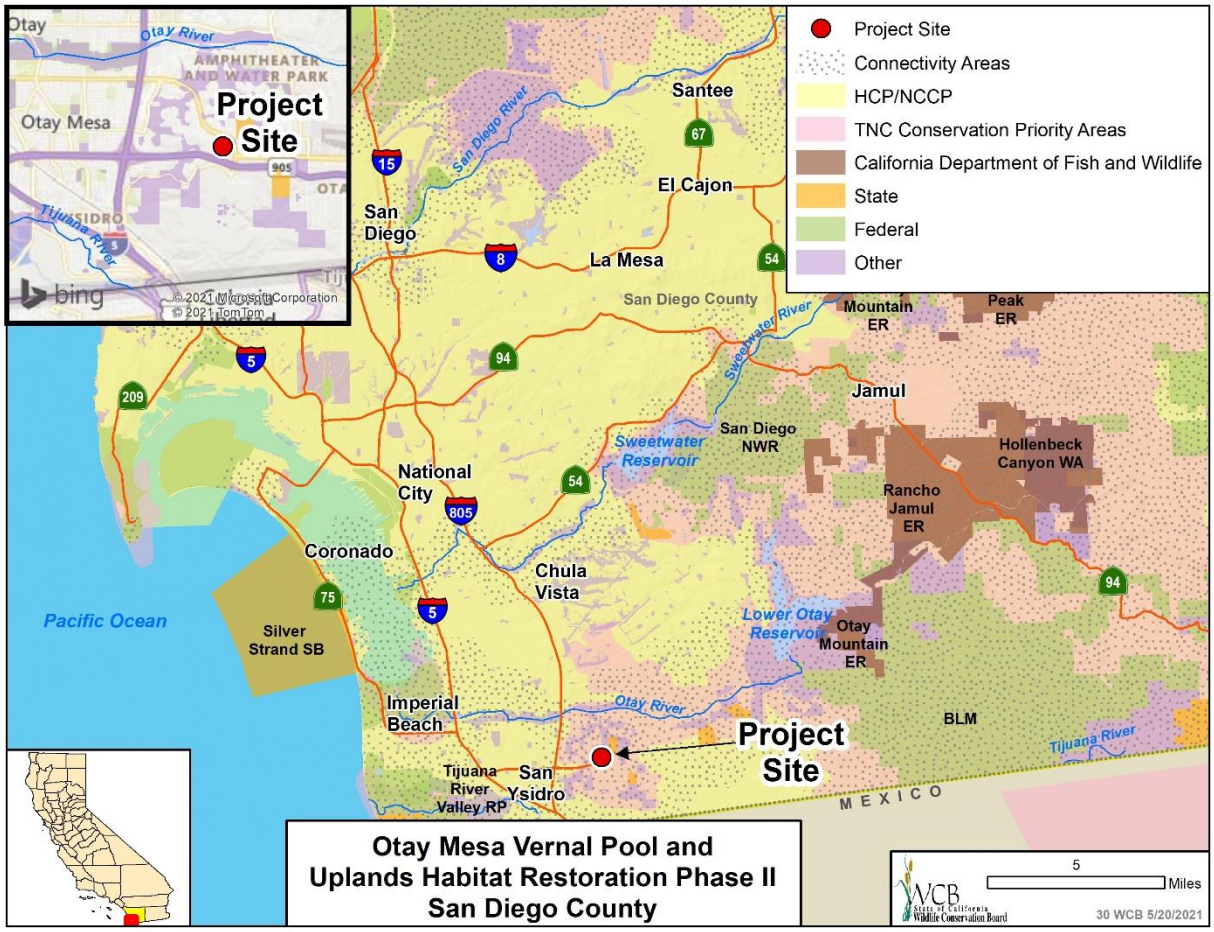
PROJECT FUNDING
The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	Total Cost	WCB	Non-WCB Funds
Project Management	$69,339	$64,927	$4,412
Design, Planning, and Permitting	$24,406	---	$24,406
Restoration	$482,573	$482,073	$500
TOTAL	$576,318	$547,000	$29,318

Costs associated with WCB funding include:

- Project Management: supervising implementation of restoration and all project related bookkeeping, billing, and reporting.
- Restoration: restoring damaged, and creating new, vernal pool and coastal sage scrub habitat.

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS
The project is proposed as exempt from the CEQA pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15333, Class 33, Small Habitat Restoration Projects, as a project not to exceed five acres in size to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of habitat for fish, plants, or wildlife and pursuant to Section 15304, Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land, as a project that consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry and agricultural purposes. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.


Project Site
Connectivity Areas
HCP/NCCP
TNC Conservation Priority Areas
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
State
Federal
Other
Otay River
Otay Mesa
Project Site
Tijuana River
San Diego River
Santee
El Cajon
San Diego
La Mesa
San Diego County
Sweetwater River
Mountain ER
Peak ER
Jamul
San Diego NWR
Sweetwater Reservoir
Hollenbeck Canyon WA
Rancho Jamul ER
National City
Chula Vista
Coronado
Pacific Ocean
Silver Strand SB
Lower Otay Reservoir
Otay Mountain ER
BLM
Imperial Beach
Tijuana River Valley RP
San Ysidro
MEXICO
Project Site
Otay Mesa Vernal Pool and Uplands Habitat Restoration Phase II San Diego County
5
Miles
30 WCB 5/20/2021

Proposed Items

31. Redwoods Rising Forest Restoration

STAFF RECOMMENDATION
Staff recommends that WCB adopt the written findings and approve this project as proposed; allocate $1,500,000 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:	Redwoods Rising Forest Restoration
Project Type:	Implementation
Applicant/Grantee:	Save the Redwoods League
Amount Recommended:	$1,500,000
Funding Partners:	National Park Service
Landowner(s):	National Park Service and California Department of Parks and Recreation
Counties:	Humboldt and Del Norte
Program:	Forest Conservation Program
Funding:	Proposition 68
Strategic Plan:	Goals: B.1 Objectives: SI 1.2, 1.3, 2.1
Disadvantaged Community:	Within a severely disadvantaged community

LOCATION
The Redwoods Rising Forest Restoration project (Project) is located in Redwood National and State Parks (Redwood National Park, Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park, and Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park) in Humboldt and Del Norte counties. The 1,000-acre Project area is comprised of two work sites in separate watersheds: Greater Prairie Creek (10,300-acre watershed within Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park and Redwood National Park) and Greater Mill Creek (34,080-acre watershed within Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park and Redwood National Park). The Great Prairie Creek work site is four miles north of Orick in Humboldt County and the Greater Mill Creek work site is six miles east of Crescent City in Del Norte County.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
Redwoods Rising is an innovative, multiyear, public-private partnership among National Park Service (NPS), California Department of Parks and Recreation, and Save the Redwoods League to restore up to 70,000 acres of redwood ecosystems in Redwood National and State Parks over the coming decades. Most of the Project area was intensively harvested (extensive clear-cutting) between 1908 to 2000. Today, nearly the entire area proposed for restoration is comprised of second-growth redwoods and Douglas-fir, spruce, and alder that were seeded at extremely high densities (more than ten times the density typical of mature forests)

in anticipation of harvesting timber. A network of access roads, forestry roads, and skid trails reflect many decades of intensive timber management, too.

The Redwoods Rising partnership launched a pilot phase in winter 2019-2020 through spring 2022, aiming to treat 3,266 acres and remove 13 miles of roads. Save the Redwoods League and California Department of Parks and Recreation have thinned more than 4,000 acres of forest, retired 69 miles of roads, removed 344 stream crossings, and installed 90 in-stream log structures since adding 25,000 of these acres to the park in 2002, but significant work remains.

The Project will contribute to Redwoods Rising by implementing forest restoration treatments across 1,000 acres and removing of four miles of roads that improve forest health, stream health, critical wildlife habitat, and resilience to climate change. Broader Project goals include:

- Advance late-seral conditions in previously logged coast redwood forests through strategic thinning and restoration of natural geomorphic and hydrologic hillslope processes, supporting habitat for aquatic, avian, and terrestrial species;
- Enhance the forest's ability to sequester and store carbon by thinning younger trees and promoting the growth of larger, healthier trees, while reducing the risk of catastrophic fire;
- Improve salmonid habitat and water quality by reducing the input of sediment into watercourses, floodplains, and riparian forests; and
- Improve the visitor experience within Redwood National and State Parks while supporting the public health and the local economy.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

NPS and California State Parks have adopted Management Plans that guide management actions for the property, including management of the Project area. If at any time during the 25-year life of the Project, Save the Redwood League 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

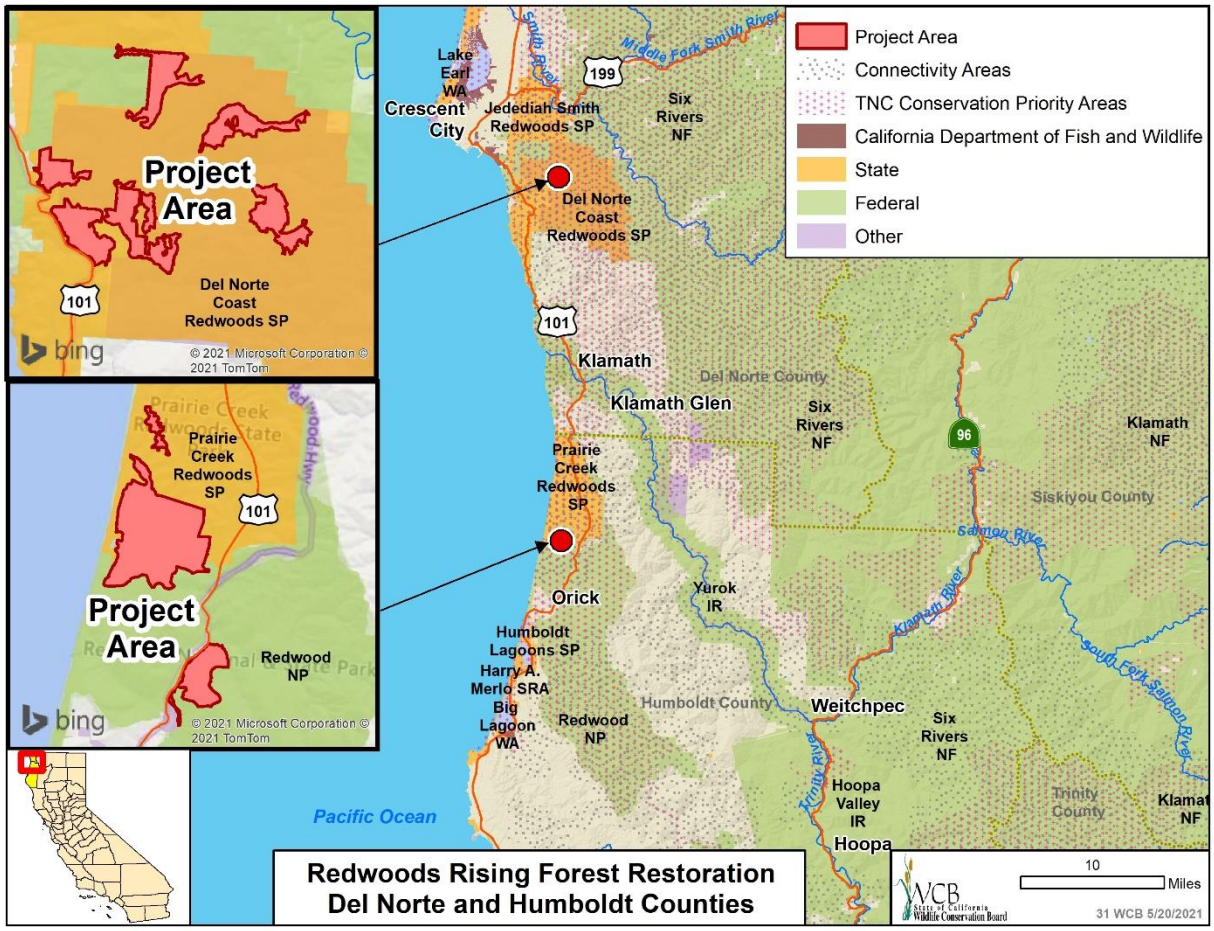
The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	Total Cost	WCB	Non-WCB Funds
Project Management	$500,000	$250,000	$250,000
Restoration	$2,000,000	$1,250,000	$750,000
Total	$2,500,000	$1,500,000	$1,000,000

Costs associated with WCB funding 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.

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS
The California Department of Parks and Recreation, as lead agency, prepared MNDs for the Project pursuant to the provisions of the CEQA. Staff considered the MNDs and has prepared proposed, written findings documenting WCB's compliance with CEQA. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOD will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.



32. Shasta-Trinity National Forest Restoration

STAFF RECOMMENDATION
Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate $740,000 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:	Shasta-Trinity National Forest Restoration
Project Type:	Implementation
Applicant/Grantee:	California Deer Association
Amount Recommended:	$740,000
Funding Partners:	U.S. Forest Service
Landowner(s):	U.S. Forest Service
County:	Siskiyou County
Program:	Forest Conservation Program
Funding:	Proposition 68
Strategic Plan:	Goals: B.1 Objectives: SI 1.2, 1.3, 2.1
Disadvantaged Community:	Within a disadvantaged community

LOCATION
The Shasta-Trinity National Forest Restoration project (Project) is located in Shasta-Trinity National Forest, 23 miles east of McCloud in Siskiyou County. The Project area comprises 1,290 acres, is situated within the McCloud Ranger District, and benefits the Porcupine watershed which drains into the larger Sacramento River watershed.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
Climate change, drought-related impacts, and fire suppression practices have reduced aspen, black oak, meadows, and other forage habitat used by migratory large game such as elk and deer. For example, black oak decline has contributed to the decline of the McCloud Flats mule deer population. Meadows are also critically important for water quality and wildlife habitat; healthy meadows can act as a carbon sink and improve resilience to climate change. Furthermore, two powerline corridors passing through the Project vicinity lack habitat complexity and create a sharp, artificial habitat transition that excessively exposes calving elk and other wildlife to predation.

The Project entails thinning encroaching conifers and other non-desired vegetation to enhance ecological function and restore habitat quality. In addition, the Project will enhance pollinator and wildlife migratory corridors in the powerline corridors. Project work has been coordinated with other stakeholders and collaborators (e.g., Transmission Agency of Northern California) through the Eastside Collaborative Group.

A variety of thinning techniques will be applied depending on site conditions (e.g., hand thinning, mastication, chipping, lop and scatter, burn piles). The Project is expected to enhance 625 acres of aspen, 565 acres of meadow, and 100 acres of black oak habitat; increase water quality, quantity, and watershed hydrologic storage; and improve wildlife habitat.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS
Shasta-Trinity National Forest has adopted a Management Plan that guides management actions for the property, including management of the Project area. If at any time during the 25-year life of the Project, California Deer Association 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.

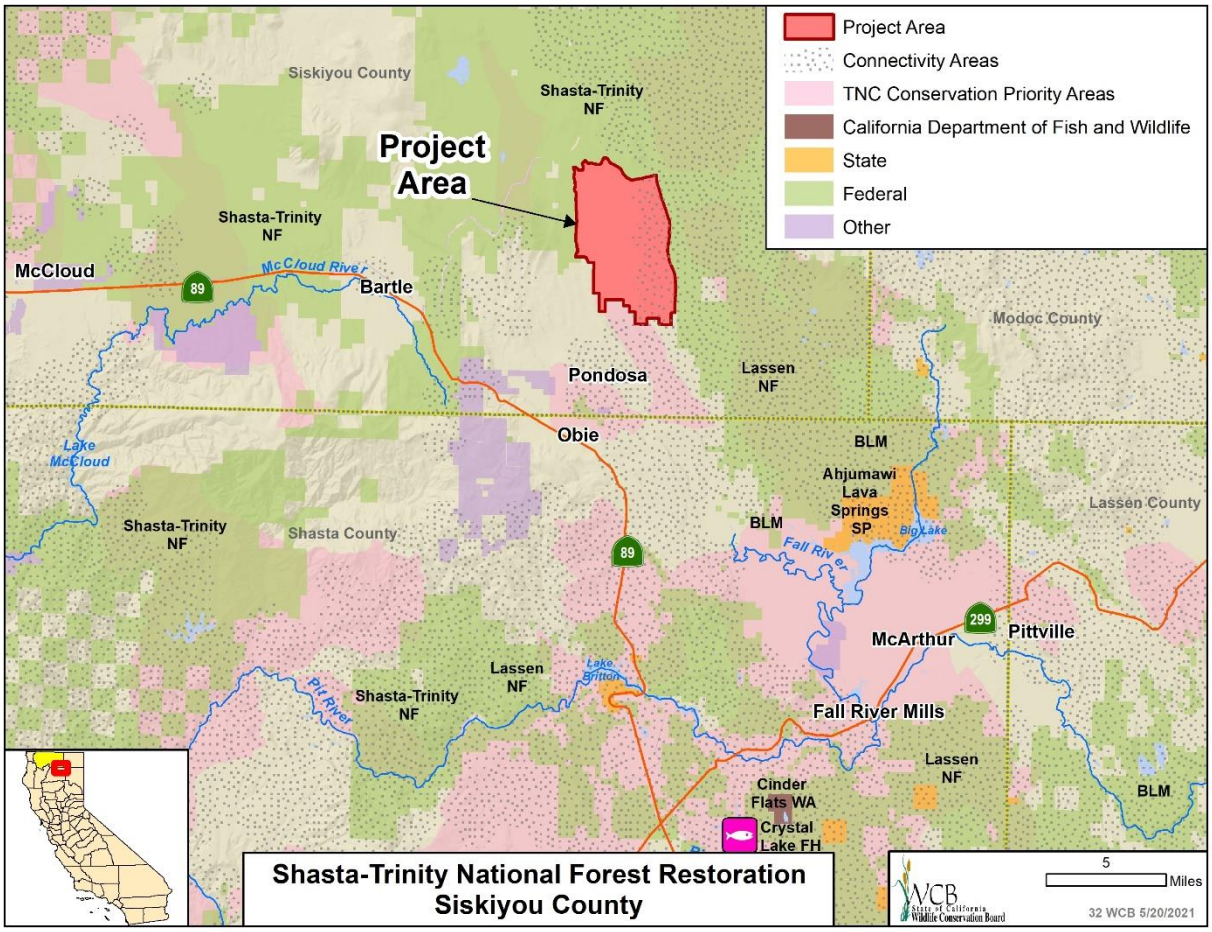
PROJECT FUNDING
The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	Total Cost	WCB	Non-WCB Funds
Project Management	$293,250	$123,250	$170,000
Restoration	$747,100	$592,100	$155,000
Indirect Costs	$24,650	$24,650	---
Total	$1,065,000	$740,000	$325,000

Costs associated with WCB funding 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.
- 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 statutorily exempt from CEQA pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 4799.05(d)(1), as the Project involves prescribed fire, thinning, or fuel reduction projects undertaken on federal lands to reduce the risk of high-severity wildfire that have been reviewed under the federal NEPA. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.


Project Area
Connectivity Areas
TNC Conservation Priority Areas
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
State
Federal
Other
Siskiyou County
Shasta-Trinity NF
Project Area
Shasta-Trinity NF
McCloud
McCloud River
89
Bartle
Modoc County
Pondosa
Lassen NF
Obie
BLM
Lake McCloud
Ahjumawi Lava Springs SP
Big Lake
Lassen County
Shasta-Trinity NF
Shasta County
BLM
Fall River
89
299
McArthur
Pittville
Lassen NF
Lake Britton
Pit River
Shasta-Trinity NF
Fall River Mills
Lassen NF
Cinder Flats WA
BLM
Crystal Lake FH
Shasta-Trinity National Forest Restoration
Siskiyou County
5
Miles
WCB
State of California
Wildlife Conservation Board
32 WCB 5/20/2021

33. Lightning Canyon Ranch Conservation Easement

STAFF RECOMMENDATION
Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate $795,000 from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund for the grant to The Pacific Forest Trust (PFT); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Lightning Canyon Ranch Conservation Easement
Project Type:	Conservation Easement (2,098 ± acres)
Grantee:	Pacific Forest Trust
Amount Recommended:	$795,000
County:	Shasta
Program:	Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program
Funding:	Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund
Strategic Plan:	Goals: A1; A2; A5, B1 Objectives: SI 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 2.4, 4.1
Disadvantaged Community:	Within a disadvantaged community

LOCATION
The property, known as Lightning Canyon Ranch, (Property) is located in a scenic area between the Sacramento River arm of Lake Shasta and the McCloud River arm of Lake Shasta, approximately three miles southeast of the town of Lakehead, and two miles east of the town of Lake Shore in an unincorporated area of Shasta County. The Claus Lane deeded access provides access through the Gregory Creek Acres Subdivision to the Property. The Property is surrounded by federally owned lands on three sides and mixed publicly- and privately-owned lands on the north side.

The California State Wildlife Action Plan designates the area as the “Eastern Klamath Low Elevation Forest” in the southeastern portion of the Klamath Mountains Ecoregion. The Klamath-Siskiyou mountain ranges are recognized globally for their outstanding biological diversity, harboring diverse temperate coniferous forests. This diversity is attributable to a variable climate, geography, and soil types.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
The 2,098± acre property consists of 25 contiguous assessor parcels that form an irregular shaped tract of land that contains a well-developed network of interior roads and ATV trails. The Property is almost entirely forested and ranges in elevation from a low of approximately 1200’ to a maximum on top of Sacramento Mountain at 3281’. Most of the Property drains in a southwesterly direction into the Sacramento River arm of Lake Shasta, California’s largest reservoir and a key source for the state’s agricultural and drinking water. The Shasta County Zoning allows for limited development in the area and most of the Property is zoned as

working timberland or for rural residential development. The current uses of the Property are residential, recreational, and timber production. In addition to the road and jeep trail system, the Property contains few improvements, the primary one being one 1,736 square foot residence and a garage/shop on Old Mill Road.

The Lightning Canyon Ranch conservation easement (Easement) will preserve forestland located in the watershed of Shasta Lake, preventing carbon-intensive low-density development, providing habitat connectivity across public-private boundaries, providing options for wildlife adaptation, and reducing fire risk. The general terrain of the Property area is moderately sloping to steep and mountainous, supporting mixed conifer and hardwood forested slopes. The area surrounding the Property is characterized by rural residential subdivisions on one side and large landscapes of conserved areas on the other, including the adjacent Shasta National Forest and Shasta Whiskeytown National Recreation Area. Commercial timberland also borders the Property to the north.

The Property supports a diverse mix of montane hardwood and mixed conifer forests, as well as mixed chaparral, with habitat for 248 species—including more than 20 rare, endemic, and at-risk species—and myriad springs that provide cold water to 16+ miles of perennial and seasonal creeks, including Salt Creek.

The conservation goals afforded to the Property include the protection of land as a wildlife corridor between the McCloud and Sacramento arms of the Lake Shasta system. Elevation gradients allow for the upward migration of species in response to climate change. In addition, the proposed Easement will eliminate the threat of greenhouse gas emissions and loss of future sequestration from carbon-intensive development by consolidating 17 legal parcels into a single landscape block and permanently preventing subdivision of 413 acres designated for rural residential development by the Shasta County General Plan. This will reduce potential development from dozens of home-sites to just three, assuring an important buffer between the subdivisions and wildlands.

Unique, localized conditions have given rise to endemic species, such as the Shasta maidenhair fern found on the Property. Based on landowner observations and a review of California Natural Diversity Database and ACE 3 data, the Property is potential habitat for 39 special status species including peregrine falcon, bald eagle, osprey, purple martin, Pacific fisher, foothill yellow-legged frog, Townsend's big-eared bat, and seven listed plants.

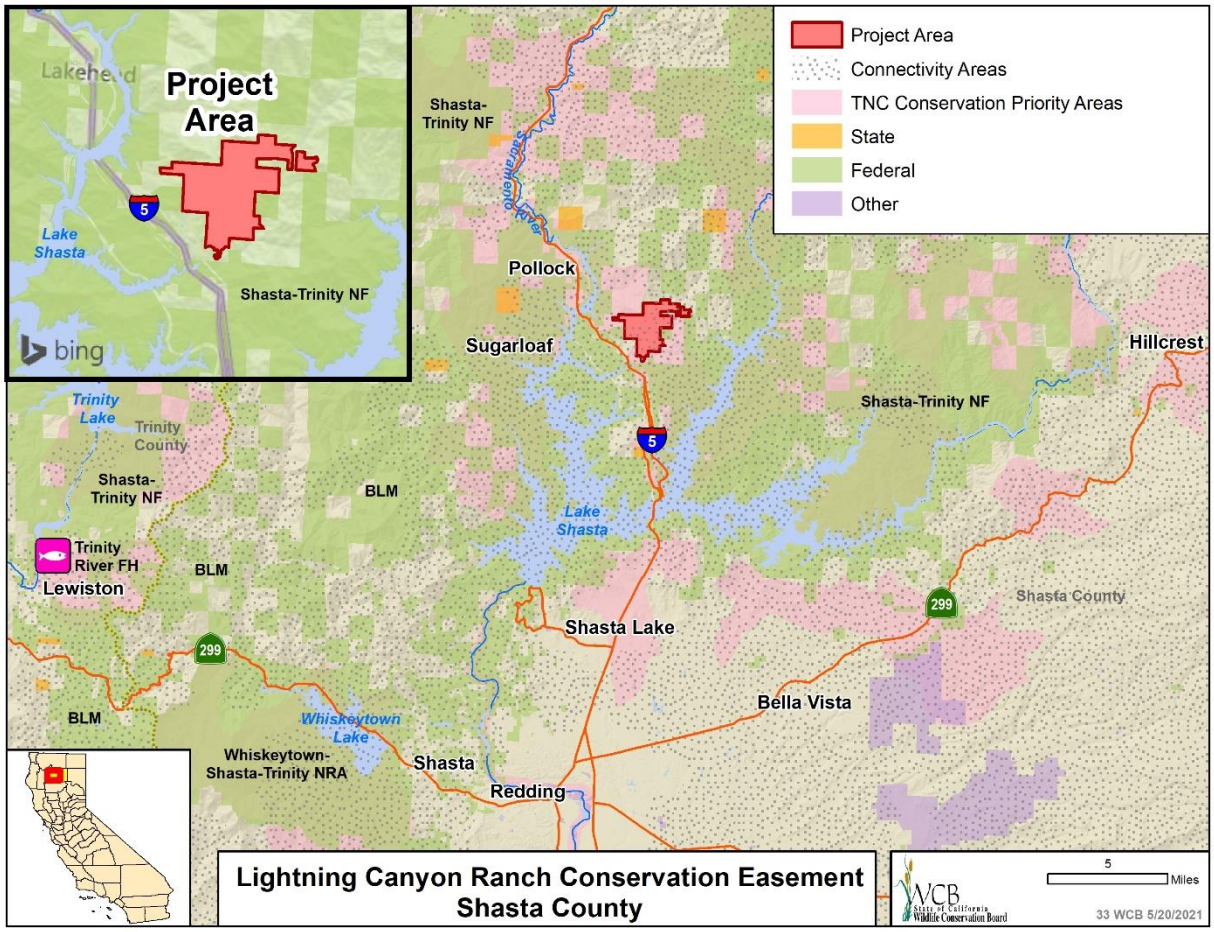
MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS
PFT will hold, manage, and be responsible for the monitoring of the Easement in perpetuity per the WCB grant terms. If this project is approved, a baseline report will be completed by the Grantee and approved by the WCB. The Easement permits access to the subject Property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

Under the terms of the Easement, the landowner will be responsible for the cost of maintenance and operation of the Property. Management of the forests on the Property will be guided by a management plan.

PROJECT FUNDING
The DGS approved fair market value is $1,060,000.00. The landowner has agreed to sell the Easement for $795,000. The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	$795,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	$795,000

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, an NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.


Project Area
Connectivity Areas
TNC Conservation Priority Areas
State
Federal
Other
Project Area
Lakehead
Lake Shasta
Shasta-Trinity NF
bing
Shasta-Trinity NF
Sacramento River
Pollock
Sugarloaf
Hillcrest
Shasta-Trinity NF
Trinity Lake
Trinity County
Shasta-Trinity NF
BLM
Lake Shasta
Trinity River FH
Lewiston
BLM
Shasta Lake
Shasta County
299
299
BLM
Whiskeytown Lake
Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity NRA
Shasta
Redding
Bella Vista
Lightning Canyon Ranch Conservation Easement
Shasta County
WCB State of California Wildlife Conservation Board
5
Miles
33 WCB 5/20/2021

34. Mountain Meadows (Home Ranch)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION
Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate $950,000 from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, Budget Act, Chapter 14 and 249, Statutes of 2017 for the grant to the Trust for Public Land as Grantee and Feather River Land Trust (FRLT) as Successor Grantee; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Mountain Meadows (Home Ranch)
Project Type:	Conservation Easement (2,476± acres)
Grantee:	Trust for Public Land
Successor Grantee:	Feather River Land Trust
Amount Recommended:	$950,000
Funding Partners:	Sierra Nevada Conservancy
County:	Lassen
Program:	Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program
Funding:	Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund
Strategic Plan:	Goals: A.1, A.2, A.4 Objectives: SI 1.2, 2.4
Disadvantaged Community:	Within a disadvantaged community

LOCATION
The property (Property), known locally as Home Ranch, is a 2,476± acre property located in southwestern Lassen County and cradled between the Sierra and Cascade ranges at an elevation of just over 5,000 feet. The Property is 3 miles east of the town of Westwood, 15 miles east of Chester, and 17 miles west of Susanville. The Property lies directly along Lassen Volcanic Scenic Byway in Lassen County.

The Property encompasses a significant portion of the 42 square mile Mountain Meadow watershed which contains Goodrich Creek, considered a tributary to the East Branch of the North Fork of the Feather River within the Upper Feather River watershed. Goodrich Creek originates from Bald Mountain and traverses the Property as a braided channel system before entering Mountain Meadows Reservoir. Surface water in this watershed ultimately flows through the Hamilton Branch of the Feather River into Lake Almanor, approximately seven miles away. The outlet of that reservoir is the North Fork Feather River, which is then impounded at Lake Oroville, which represents eight percent of California's reservoir capacity.

In addition to being a successful candidate in WCB’s Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Fund Program, the Property is also identified as a high priority for conservation in the CDFW Mountain Meadows Watershed CAPP. The proposed conservation easement (Easement) will provide numerous benefits to the habitat, including protection of wet meadow and montane riparian habitat, landscape-scale protected areas to offset impacts to natural communities from development,

connection and expansion of critical movement corridors, and preservation of the scenic viewsheds along State Route 36. The CAPP describes the importance of this ecosystem as "one of the largest remaining examples of montane meadow in the state" and states that “due to the large size of the meadow complex, the relatively undisturbed condition of the upper watershed, and the lack of development in and around the meadows, the potential for large-scale habitat restoration is exceptional.”

The Mountain Meadows watershed is a critical movement corridor for various wildlife species such as pine marten, black bear, northern goshawk, and mountain lion. The habitat and water quality impacts of this conservation easement are anticipated to significantly enhance this landscape’s capacity to support habitat for numerous listed species, including the state-endangered willow flycatcher and bald eagle, and the state-threatened Sierra Nevada red fox and greater sandhill crane. The region is also important fawning area for the Doyle herd of mule deer and the federally listed gray wolf.

Healthy upper watershed meadows can provide increased water reliability in a warming climate by storing spring floodwaters and releasing flows in late summer. The Home Ranch meadow could not be more strategically located for this job. It is in the headwaters of the North Fork of the Feather River, the primary tributary to Lake Oroville—the largest reservoir of the State Water Project and its principal storage facility. The Property sits at 5,000 feet, in the mid-altitude range that research suggests will experience especially high temperature increases and less enduring snowpack. As such, safeguarding water storage in this meadow will benefit both species struggling with climate change and the state’s water supplies.

Wet meadow corridors are lifelines for wildlife in the face of climate change, and the proposed project will protect and passively restore a very large one in a biodiversity hotspot. Sitting as it does where the Sierra Nevada and Cascade mountains and the Great Basin and the Modoc Plateau overlap, the surrounding area supports a diverse assemblage of rare wildlife and plant species, including 7 threatened and endangered species, 33 bird and mammal species of special concern, and 6 rare plant species.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
The proposed Easement includes approximately one-third of the 5,200±-acre meadow complex that is the second largest montane meadow in the Sierra and the largest montane meadow in the North Fork of the Feather River watershed. An existing conservation easement held by FRLT already protects 840 meadow acres. The Easement will also permanently prohibit the development and subdivision of over 1,000 acres of upland forest habitats thereby reducing the potential for disturbance and sedimentation to the meadow below.

The Property sits near the top of the Upper Feather River watershed in the headwaters of the North Fork of the Feather River, the primary tributary to Lake Oroville. Home Ranch is located near the bottom of the Mountain Meadows

watershed, named for its extensive network of meadows. Goodrich Creek flows through the Property, into Mountain Meadows Reservoir and then into Lake Almanor and ultimately Lake Oroville. About 45 percent of the watershed is already conserved by public and private entities.

Per CDFW's ACE 3 tool, the Property ranks high for terrestrial climate change resilience (4-5) and moderate to high (3-4) for species biodiversity. A recent large-scale analysis found that the Property's meadows are connected and provide refugia along several different climate axes, with little change in mean annual temperature, mean temperature of the coldest quarter, and climatic water deficit over the past century, suggesting that these meadows may serve as important refugia for plants and wildlife under climate change.

By protecting the meadow, the project safeguards the existing hydrological connectivity to the network of streams and meadows of Mountain Meadows watershed for the benefit of numerous plant and animal species. Montane meadows are particularly important habitat for birds and amphibians. During summer months, they are considered the single most important habitat type in the Sierra Nevada for resident and migrating birds. Streams flowing through these meadows are also important habitat for aquatic biota and contribute in a major way to fisheries in the area.

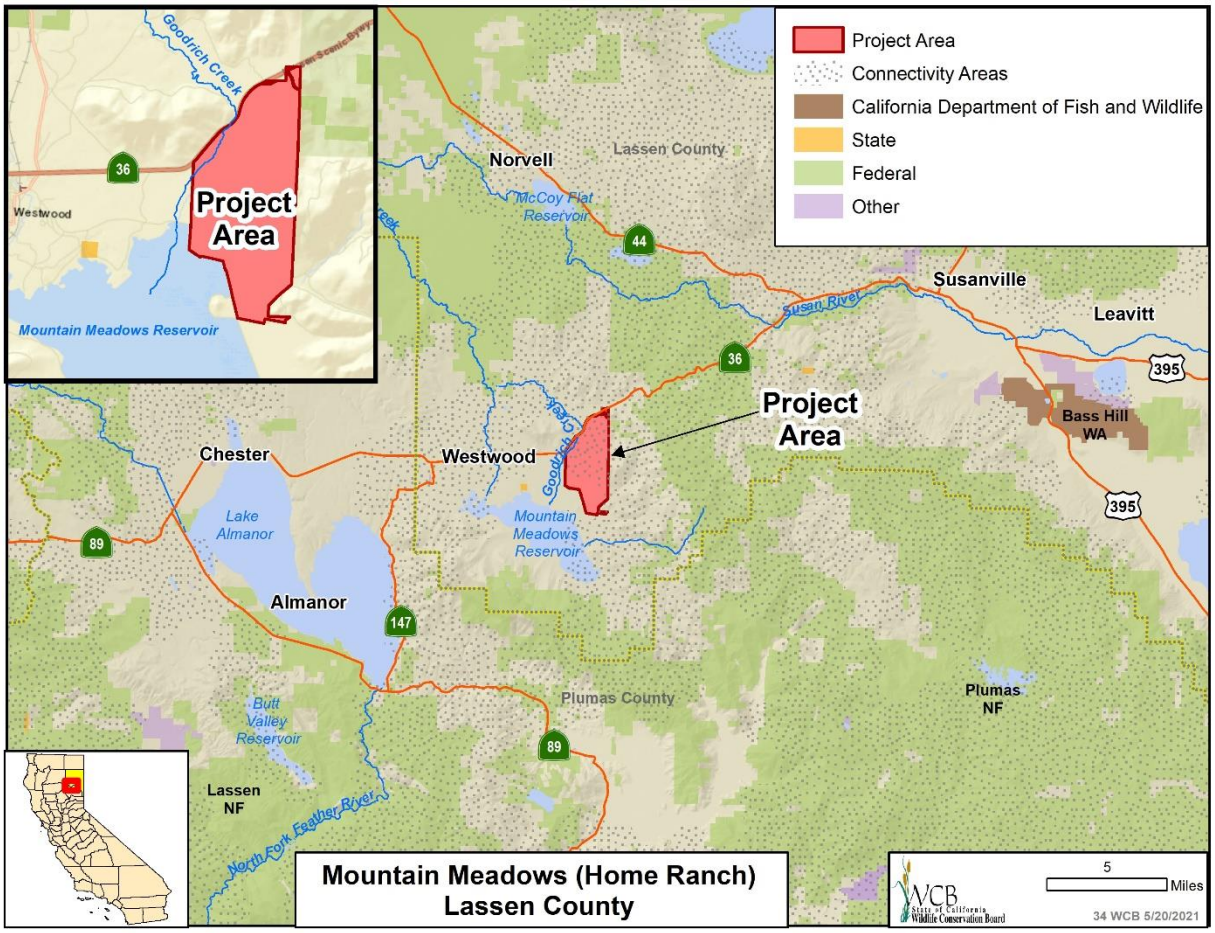
MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS
The Easement will ultimately be held by FRLT. Point Blue will be in charge of monitoring, and is committed to ongoing stewardship, monitoring and enforcement of the easement terms. The landowner has already demonstrated its good intentions at the Property with significant investments toward improving the ecological health of the Property. The Easement will ensure that these improvements remain. The landowner has committed $150,000 toward the ongoing stewardship and monitoring of the Easement.

PROJECT FUNDING
The DGS approved fair market value is $1,600,000. The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	$950,000
Sierra Nevada Conservancy	$650,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	$1,600,000

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS
The project has been reviewed for compliance with CEQA requirements and is proposed as exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15313, Class 13, as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes, and Section 15325, Class 25, as a transfer of an ownership interest in land to preserve open space and existing

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



35. Robbers Creek Watershed Restoration

STAFF RECOMMENDATION
Staff recommends that the WCB adopt the written findings and approve this project as proposed; allocate $1,783,500 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:	Robbers Creek Watershed Restoration
Project Type:	Implementation
Applicant/Grantee:	Sierra Institute for Community and Environment
Amount Recommended:	$1,783,500
Funding Partners:	U.S. Forest Service, Point Blue Conservation Science
Landowner(s):	U.S. Forest Service
Counties:	Lassen and Plumas
Program:	Forest Conservation Program
Funding:	Proposition 68
Strategic Plan:	Goals: B.1 Objectives: SI 1.2, 1.3, 2.1
Disadvantaged Community:	Within a severely disadvantaged community

LOCATION
Robbers Creek Watershed Restoration project (Project) is comprised of 1,200 acres within the Swain Management Area of the Almanor Ranger District in Lassen National Forest. The Project area encompasses ten miles of Robbers Creek within the Upper North Fork Feather River watershed. The southern extent of the Project boundary is located approximately 2.5 miles north of Westwood in Lassen County. The Project is primarily within Lassen County with a small portion in Plumas County.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
The Project was developed through collaboration among diverse partners in the South Lassen Watersheds Group which strives to increase the pace and scale of forest and meadow restoration in the headwaters of the Feather River. The South Lassen Watersheds Group is a collaborative of 25 different organizations including industrial timberland businesses, environmental non-governmental organizations, USFS, NPS, state and local public agencies, and the Maidu Summit Consortium.

Past land use practices in the Robbers Creek watershed severely altered forest structure, hydrologic function, fire effects, and wildlife habitat. Fire suppression and timber harvest practices have increased forest density, resulting in a shift to more shade-tolerant fire prone tree species, and an accumulation of surface and ladder fuels. For example, extensive surveys by Lassen National Forest in the Project area indicate that tree stem densities are 2.5 times greater and tree diameters 42 percent smaller today than in 1880. The pre-settlement fire return interval (time

between fires in an area) in the dominant forest types in the Project area was 11 years; today 89 percent of the Robbers Creek project area has a fire return interval of 111 years. The result is forests extremely susceptible to stand-replacing fire, disease, insects, and drought, all of which are exacerbated by climate change.

In addition, extensive conifer encroachment into meadows due to fire suppression and stream channel incision from overgrazing, ditching, and old roads have degraded meadow habitat (e.g., Swain Meadow) in the Project area. The Project will thin conifers and hydrologically reconnect Robbers Creek to its floodplain to restore meadow habitat in Swain Meadow. Restoring Swain Meadow will improve critical wildlife habitat and key ecosystem services, and facilitate climate adaptation.

Project restoration activities will prepare the landscape for the return of fire, a crucial step in sustaining the recovery of the mixed-conifer forests, aspen stands, and meadow habitat. Treatments will increase forest stand heterogeneity, reduce ladder fuels, and increase the proportion of larger conifers within treatment units, resulting in improved forest resiliency, wildlife habitat, and reduced risk of stand replacing fire. The large number, extent, and riparian association of aspen habitat in Robbers Creek suggest that restoration will result in a strong aspen regeneration and wildlife response.

In summary, the Project entails four tasks restoring approximately 1,200 acres in Lassen National Forest:

- Restore hydrology (e.g., reconstruct riffles in incised channels and install beaver dam analogs) in Swain Meadow (174 acres).
- Remove encroaching conifers from meadow habitat (526 acres).
- Remove encroaching conifers and fence aspen stands (162 acres).
- Remove encroaching conifers in upland forest (335 acres).

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

Lassen National Forest has adopted a Management Plan that guides management actions for the property, including management of the Project area. If at any time during the 25-year life of the Project, Sierra Institute for Community and Environment 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.

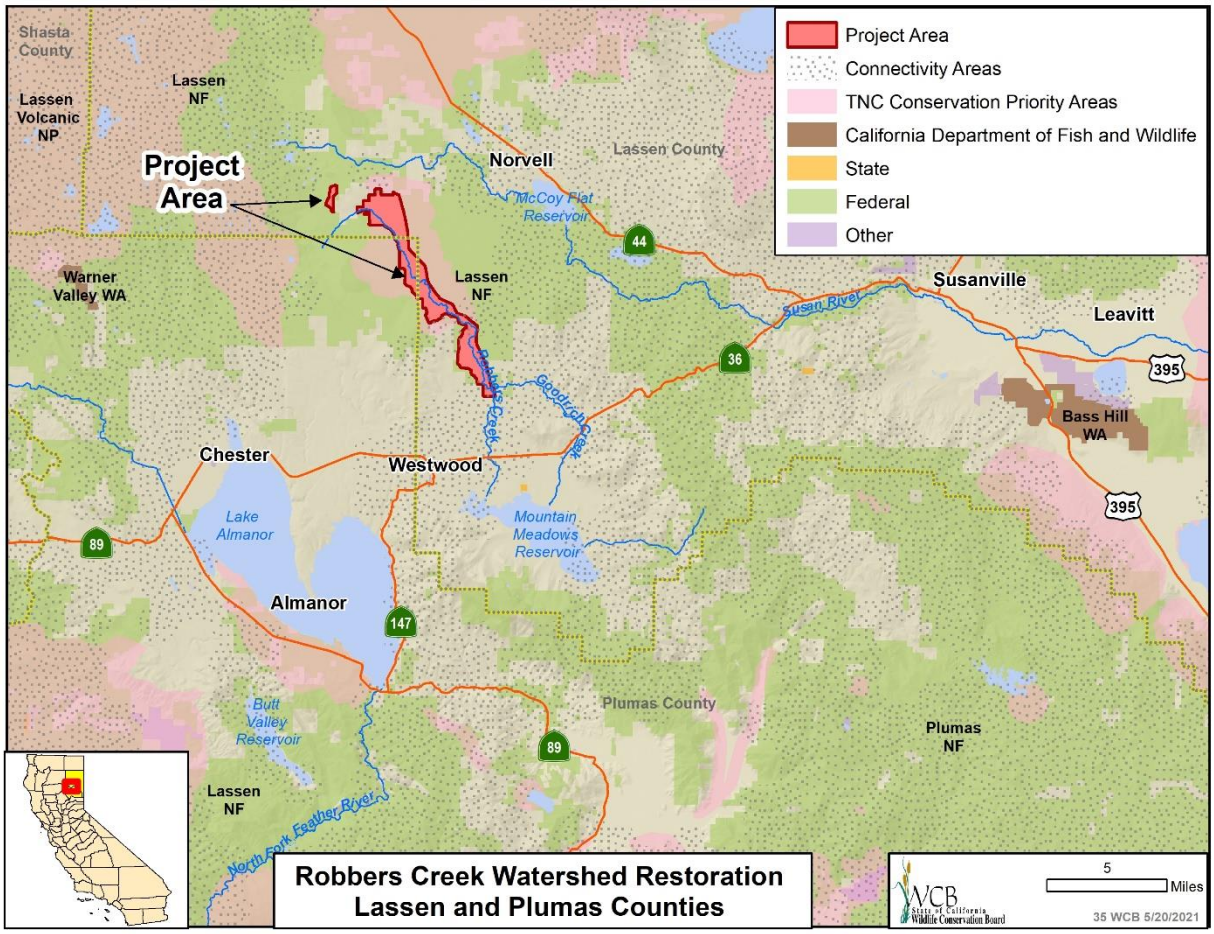
PROJECT FUNDING
The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	Total Cost	WCB	Non-WCB Funds
Project Management	$377,585	$227,585	$150,000
Restoration	$2,562,185	$1,454,385	$1,107,800
Indirect Costs	$101,530	$101,530	---
Total	$3,041,300	$1,783,500	$1,257,800

Costs associated with WCB funding 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.
- 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 Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, as lead agency, prepared an MND for the Project pursuant to the provisions of the CEQA. Staff considered the MND and has prepared proposed, written findings documenting WCB's compliance with CEQA. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOD will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.


Project Area
Connectivity Areas
TNC Conservation Priority Areas
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
State
Federal
Other
Shasta County
Lassen Volcanic NP
Lassen NF
Project Area
Norvell
Lassen County
McCoy Flat Reservoir
Warner Valley WA
Lassen NF
Susanville
Leavitt
Susan River
Bass Hill WA
Chester
Westwood
Goodrich Creek
Lake Almanor
Mountain Meadows Reservoir
Almanor
Butt Valley Reservoir
Plumas County
Plumas NF
Lassen NF
North Fork Feather River
Robbers Creek Watershed Restoration
Lassen and Plumas Counties
5
Miles
35 WCB 5/20/2021

36. Grizzly Island Wildlife Area Pond 12 and Field 13 Enhancement

STAFF RECOMMENDATION
Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate $1,580,000 from (Habitat Conservation Fund, PRC Section 2786dIWCP); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Grizzly Island Wildlife Area Pond 12 and Field 13 Enhancement
Project Type:	Implementation
Applicant/Grantee:	California Waterfowl Association
Amount Recommended:	$1,580,000
Funding Partners:	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Landowner(s):	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
County:	Solano County
Program:	Inland Wetlands Conservation Program
Funding:	Habitat Conservation Fund
Strategic Plan:	Goals: B.1, C.1 Objectives: SI 1.2, 2.1, 3.3, 4.2
Disadvantaged Community:	Within a severely disadvantaged community

LOCATION
The Grizzly Island Wildlife Area Pond 12 and Field 13 Enhancement project (Project) is located on CDFW owned Grizzly Island Wildlife Area (GIWA), in Suisun City within Solano County. GIWA lies in the heart of the Suisun Marsh and has been managed for wildlife habitat since CDFW acquired the property in 1931. GIWA contains approximately 5,800 acres of wetlands, all of which are open to public hunting, except for Pond 12. Pond 12 is a regionally critical wetland area, as it is the only waterfowl sanctuary within the entire eastern half of Suisun Marsh.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
GIWA is protected from tidal inundation by perimeter levees that allow the wetland units to be flooded and drained as desired, to support wetland habitat management.

In the 1980s, Pond 12 was converted from an agricultural field to managed wetlands by installing water management infrastructure. This infrastructure needs repair, replacement, and/or redesign to function optimally. In addition to the aging infrastructure, a wildfire in 2019 destroyed most of the water control structures in Pond 12, functionally draining the area. This project will provide a complete overhaul and simplification of all water management and distribution infrastructure throughout Pond 12 which will result in larger wetland areas, greater habitat diversity, and infrastructure that is easier to operate and maintain.

Field 13 is traversed by linear ditches and levees that are relics of previous farming infrastructure. By removing some of these artificial features in the Project area, the Project will create a 130-acre contiguous block of native uplands adjacent to summer-flooded wetlands, which will result in increased nesting success and

recruitment of target waterfowl and other upland nesting bird species. Field 13 will be planted in native perennial grasses in year one, then overseeded with native forbs (pollinator mix) in year three to provide both waterfowl nesting and pollinator habitat.

Waterfowl nesting effort and success has been monitored and studied on GIWA since 1985. Using the available U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and California Waterfowl Association (CWA) datasets, USGS will analyze past WCB upland habitat enhancements by evaluating vegetation response and duck nesting response to habitat treatments. The Project team will also analyze the influence of summer water availability on future duckling recruitment. These results will help guide this and future upland enhancement efforts, and habitat management, of the GIWA upland complex.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS
CDFW has adopted a Management Plan that guides management actions for the property, including management of the Project. If at any time during the 25-year life of the Project, CWA 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	$139,000	$139,000	---
Pond 12 Construction	$570,000	$570,000	---
Field 13 Enhancement	$443,000	$398,000	$45,000
Nesting Data Analysis	$328,000	$328,000	---
Indirect Costs	$145,000	$145,000	---
Total	$1,625,000	$1,580,000	$45,000

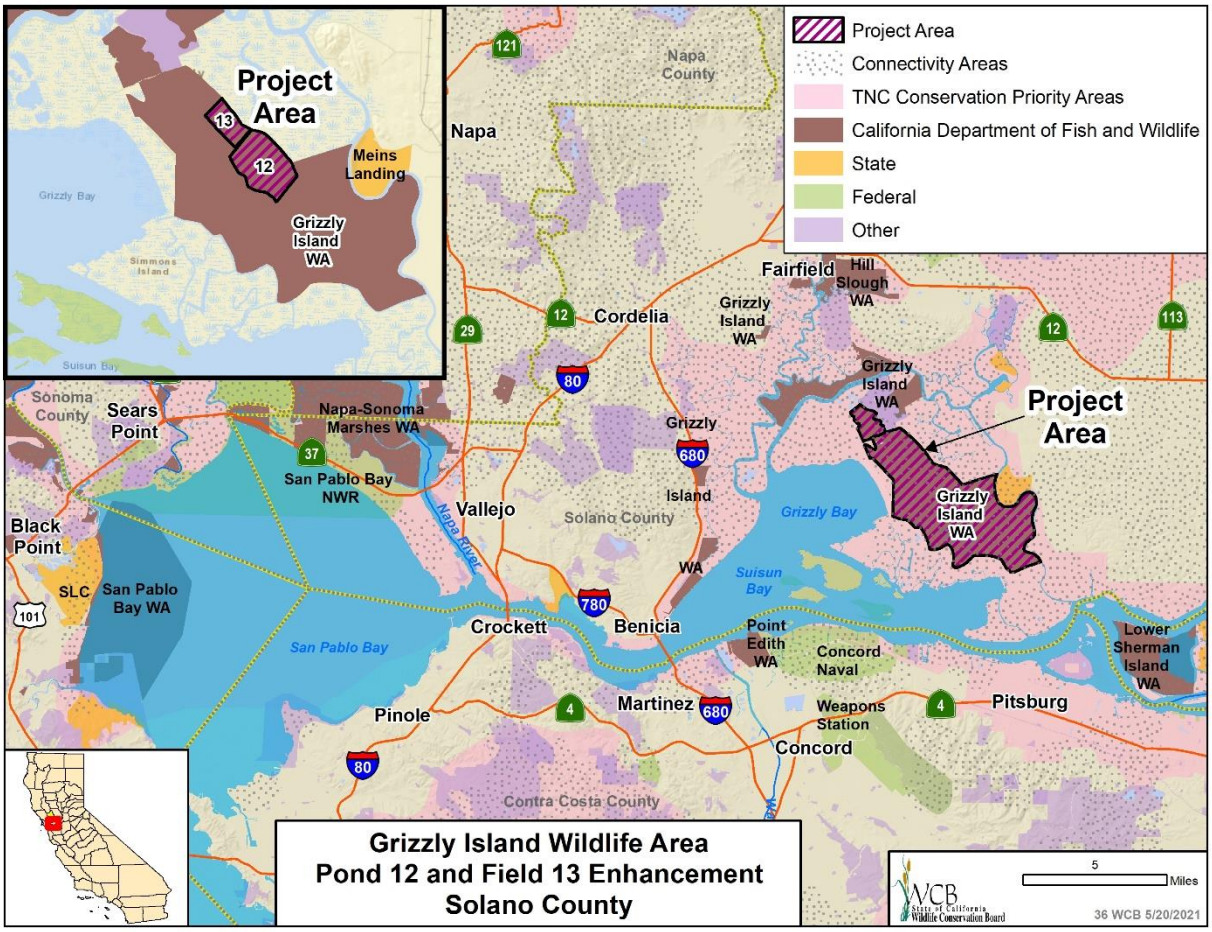
Costs associated with WCB funding include:

- Project Management: Management of subcontracts, invoicing, payroll tracking, materials purchasing, and operating expenses.
- Pond 12 Construction: Conduct topographic surveys, complete earthwork to grade and construct wetland features such as swales, islands and potholes, and replace water control structures.
- Field 13 Enhancement: Conduct topographic surveys and complete earthwork to combine smaller units and remove relic agricultural features. The Project will complete invasive plant removal and native perennial grass and native forb seeding.
- Nesting Data Analysis: Subcontractor USGS will analyze historic nesting data and summer water availability. USGS will complete a manuscript of results, submitted to a peer-reviewed journal.

- Indirect Costs: Incidental or indirect costs not to exceed 18.9 percent of the total direct WCB award, minus subcontractor and equipment costs.

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

The Project is proposed as exempt from the CEQA pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15301, Class 1, Existing Facilities, as repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing public facilities and topographical features, Section 15302, Class 2, Replacement or Reconstruction, as replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities, and Section 15304, Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land, as minor public alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.



37. Mindego Creek Fish Passage Restoration

STAFF RECOMMENDATION
Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate $748,000 from the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68), Public Resources Code Section 80132(e)(1); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Mindego Creek Fish Passage Restoration
Project Type:	Implementation
Applicant/Grantee:	San Mateo County Resource Conservation District
Amount Recommended:	$748,000
Funding Partners:	County of San Francisco, Natural Resource Conservation Service, San Mateo County Resource Conservation District, State Coastal Conservancy
Landowner(s):	County of San Francisco
County:	San Mateo
Program:	Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Program
Funding:	Proposition 68
Strategic Plan:	Goals: B.1 Objectives: SI 1.2, 4.1
Disadvantaged Community:	Not within a disadvantaged community

LOCATION
The Mindego Creek Fish Passage Restoration project (Project) is located on Mindego Creek, approximately 21 miles southeast of the city of Half Moon Bay. The site is on the Log Cabin Ranch property, owned by the City and County of San Francisco Juvenile Probation Department. The barrier to be remediated is 0.5 miles upstream of the confluence with Alpine Creek, the main tributary to San Gregorio Creek.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
The Project will restore fish passage for federally threatened steelhead trout and federally endangered coho salmon along five miles of Mindego Creek. The creek is in the San Gregorio watershed which is the second largest watershed in coastal San Mateo County, draining approximately 33,000 acres. Coho salmon and steelhead trout historically flourished in this watershed, but a severe drought in 1976–1977 dramatically reduced populations through the late 1970s to early 1980s.

The San Gregorio watershed's coho now belong to the Central California Coast (CCC) Coho Salmon Evolutionary Significant Unit (ESU), which is listed as endangered at both the federal and state level. The federal Central California Coast Coho Recovery Plan identifies San Gregorio watershed as a focus population for protection, and the CDFW Recovery Strategy for California Coho

Salmon adds that the watershed has 33 miles of potentially usable coho rearing habitat. Steelhead trout are federally endangered and the independent San Gregorio population is also listed as “essential” to recovery of the species.

Mindego Creek has a large amount of quality habitat for these species, but access is impaired by a 6-foot-high concrete dam, Denil-style fish ladder, and water diversion infrastructure about 0.5 miles upstream of the confluence with Alpine Creek. The fish ladder is prone to clogging, which frequently renders it unpassable to fish. When this happens, the hydraulic drop over the dam is a complete fish passage barrier.

This dam and fish ladder were designated as a high priority barrier for remediation by the Integrated Watershed Restoration Program (IWRP), a collaborative species recovery effort that works to meet the need for a coordinated, regional process to improve fish and wildlife habitat. CDFW and National Marine Fisheries Service personnel working through the IWRP process identified the Project site as the top priority within San Mateo County.

The Project will remove the channel-spanning dam and ladder. Relocate the diversion intake to an instream pool to allow for the installation of a fish screen and gravity flow diversion pipe to the pump vault. The concrete building and other elements of the water diversion will remain intact to provide the necessary infrastructure to support continued pumping to Log Cabin Ranch.

Once the barrier is removed, approximately 310 linear feet of channel will be reconstructed. The channel design will mimic the natural stream characteristics for fish passage, sediment transport, and flood and debris conveyance present immediately upstream and downstream of the current passage barrier. This includes construction of two rock weir pools to provide resting habitat and two large woody debris installations that will enhance habitat complexity and capture sediment. Material will be salvaged from the channel where feasible to limit the need for imported material.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS
The San Mateo County Resource Conservation District (SMCRCD) has adopted a Management Plan that guides management actions for the property, including management of the project area. If at any time during the 25-year life of the Project, SMCRCD 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.

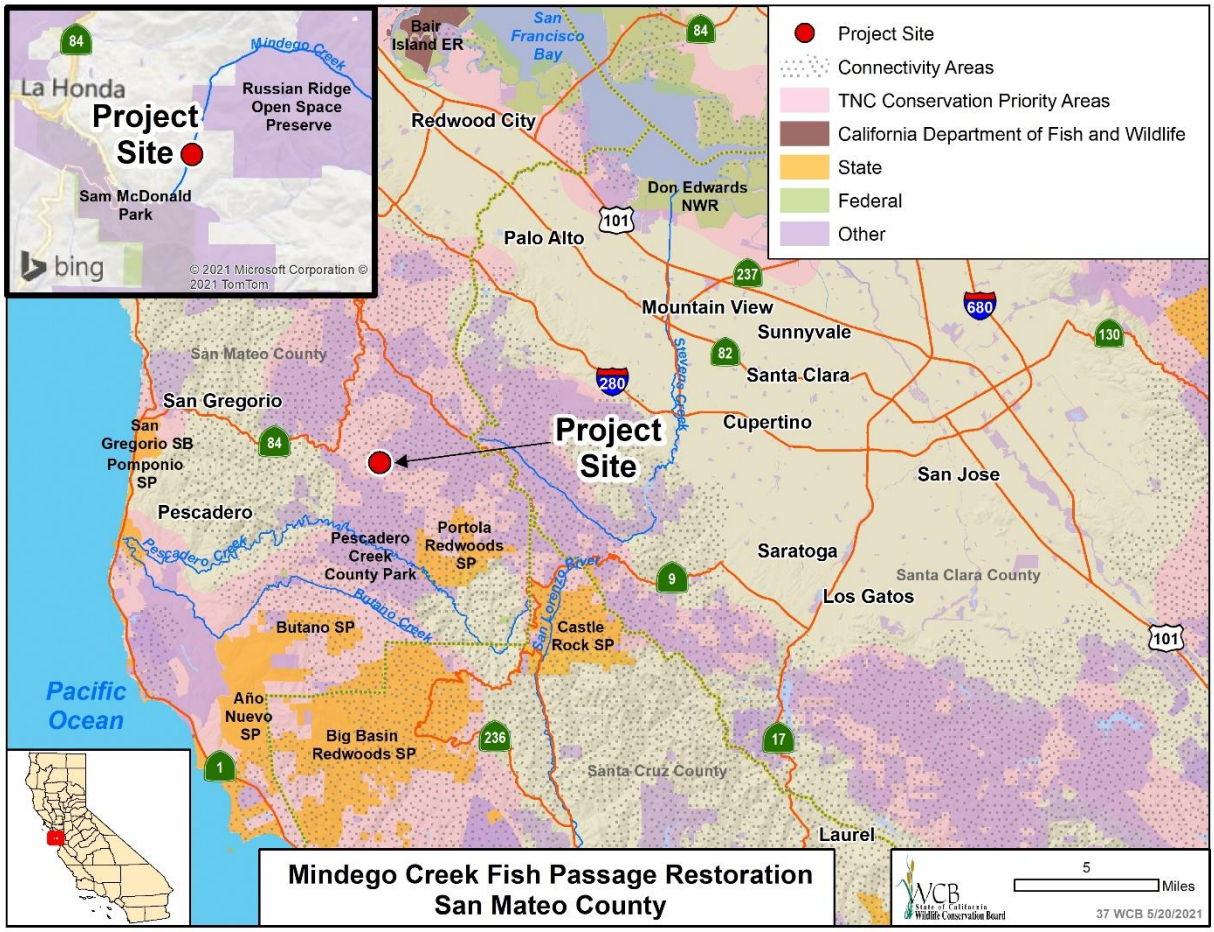
PROJECT FUNDING
The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	Total Cost	WCB	Non-WCB Funds
Project Management	$69,767	$44,209	$25,558
Permitting	$15,388	$15,388	---
Monitoring and Surveys	$20,684	$20,684	---
Construction	$669,719	$667,719	$2,000
Design Development	$44,154	---	$44,154
CEQA and Environmental Documents	$3,540	---	$3,540
TOTAL	$823,252	$748,000	$75,252

Costs associated with WCB funding include:

- Project Management: Contracting, bid process, interagency communications and coordination, convening, reporting, and data management.
- Permitting: Developing and finalizing permits and the preparation of other necessary environmental documents.
- Monitoring and Surveys: Pre-construction species monitoring, support for fish relocation, contractor training, and monitoring of construction as per permit requirements.
- Construction: Removal of the fish passage barrier and restoration of the stream channel.

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 five acres in size to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of habitat for fish, plants, or wildlife. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.


Project Site
Connectivity Areas
TNC Conservation Priority Areas
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
State
Federal
Other
La Honda
Project Site
Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve
Sam McDonald Park
Mindego Creek
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Bair Island ER
San Francisco Bay
Redwood City
Don Edwards NWR
Palo Alto
Mountain View
Sunnyvale
Santa Clara
Cupertino
San Jose
Saratoga
Los Gatos
Santa Clara County
San Mateo County
San Gregorio
San Gregorio SB Pomponio SP
Pescadero
Pescadero Creek County Park
Portola Redwoods SP
Butano SP
Castle Rock SP
Año Nuevo SP
Big Basin Redwoods SP
Santa Cruz County
Laurel
Pacific Ocean
Project Site
Mindego Creek Fish Passage Restoration
San Mateo County
5
Miles
37 WCB 5/20/2021

38. Keyhole Acquisition

STAFF RECOMMENDATION
Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate $1,075,000 from the General Fund, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Provision for the grant to Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Keyhole Acquisition
Project Type:	Fee Title (182± acres)
Grantee:	Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
Amount Recommended:	$1,075,000
Funding Partners:	Property Owner
County:	Santa Clara
Program:	Land Acquisition Program
Funding:	General Fund
Strategic Plan:	Goals: A.3 Objectives: SI 1.2, 2.2, 2.4
Disadvantaged Community:	Not within a disadvantaged community

LOCATION
The property (Property) is located near Linda Vista Drive, Overlook Road, and Sheldon Roads, bordering the El Sereno Open Space Preserve, south of State Route 9 and west of State Route 17 near the city of Los Gatos. Surrounding land use is primarily open space preserves, county parks, and water utilities.

The Property is part of the Santa Clara Valley Natural Community Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan (NCCP/HCP) adopted in 2013. Part of the NCCP/HCP conservation strategy is to acquire land for the benefit of covered species to ensure long-term protection of wildlife and rare and endangered species. Some of the species covered by the NCCP/HCP are the bay checkerspot butterfly, Metcalf canyon jewelflower, red-legged frog and California tiger salamander.

The Property will support the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District's (District) project to link the open space lands on the west side of State Route 17 with the lands on the east side via a new wildlife crossing. WCB approved funding for this development project in February 2021.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
The Property is irregular in shape and the terrain ranges from sloping to very steep with dense growth of mature foliage. The current zoning is HSd1- Hillside Districts. The current use is open space hillside with ecological characteristics but there is speculative residential development that could be allowed on the eastern parcel.

The Property will add to the surrounding 1,433± acre El Sereno Open Space Preserve, including a segment of the District's Aquinas Trail, designated as Bay Area Ridge Trail. The Property will also support a new wildlife undercrossing on

State Route 17. The Property plays a key role in maintaining habitat connectivity, and it lies within a natural corridor path for mountain lions, deer, coyotes, bobcats, and a wide variety of other species. The primary objective of the wildlife undercrossing is to improve motorist safety by reducing the potential for collisions with wildlife and maintaining healthy wildlife populations through habitat connectivity. Mountain lions in the Santa Cruz mountains will be one of the biggest beneficiaries of the increased connectivity provided by the undercrossing. Habitat connectivity is important for the health of the species and will become even more important with the unpredictable future consequences of climate change.

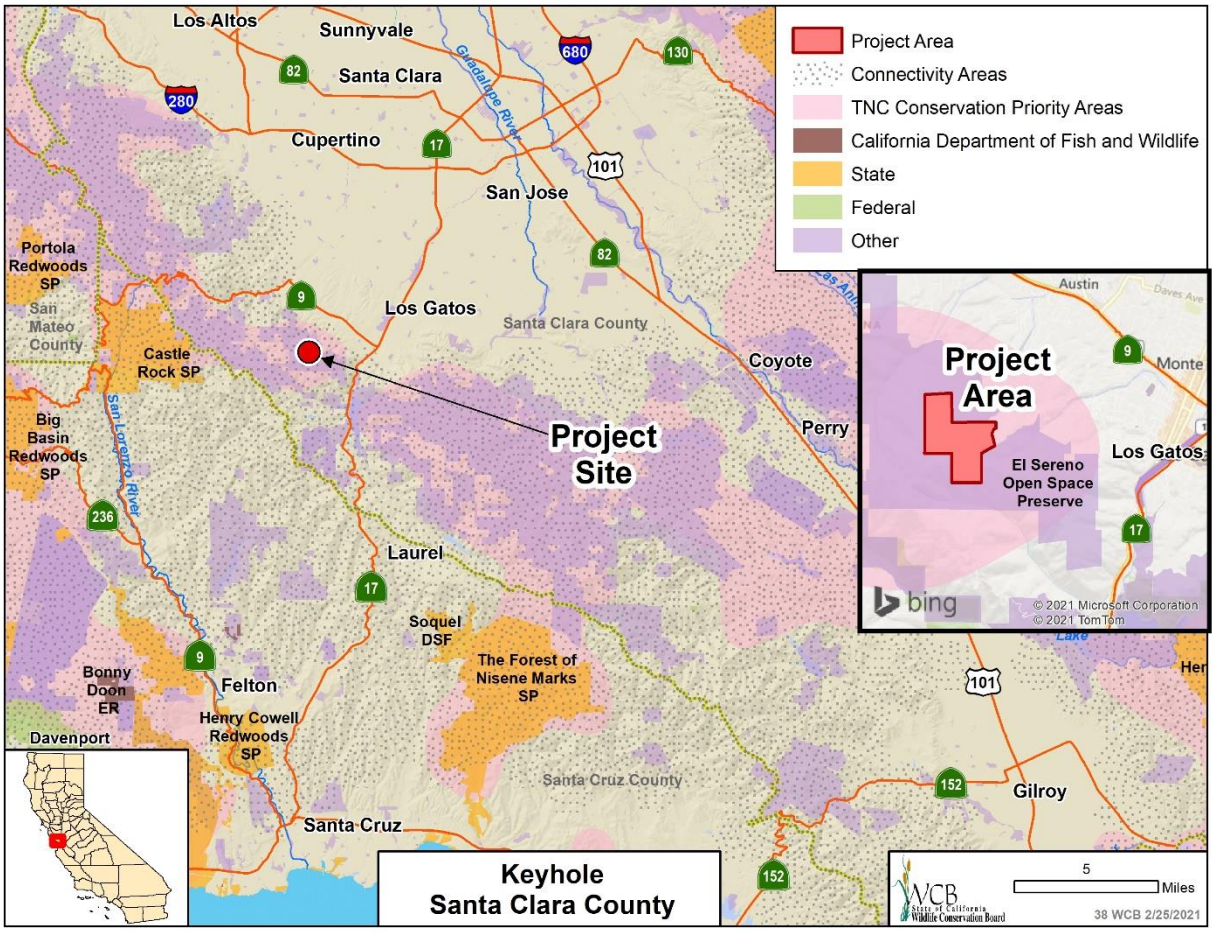
The Property is watershed land, contributing to both the Los Gatos and Saratoga Creek watersheds, with sloping to steep terrain and creeks that run throughout the Property. The Property has primarily brush and scrubs, including California bay laurel, chamise, and coyote bush. There are some wooded areas on the Property closest to the creeks which support various salamander and frog species.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS
The District will own and manage the Property similar to its adjacent protected parcel to the west, the El Sereno Open Space Preserve. Adding this Property into its already preserved management will have minimal costs and no endowment is needed. The District's Aquinas Trail already crosses the Property, and it will continue to be open to the public after the acquisition. The portion of the Aquinas Trail that crosses the Property is anticipated to be dedicated as part of the Bay Area Ridge Trail in late 2021. In addition, this portion of the Aquinas Trail is critical for the District's public trail crossing project over State Route 17. The District owns and manages over 65,000 acres of public open space in 26 open space preserves that are open to the public for hiking, biking, and equestrian.

PROJECT FUNDING
The DGS approved fair market value is $1,450,000. The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	$1,075,000
Landowner bargain sale	$375,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	$1,450,000

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, an NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.


Project Area
Connectivity Areas
TNC Conservation Priority Areas
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
State
Federal
Other
Los Altos
Sunnyvale
Santa Clara
Cupertino
San Jose
Guadalupe River
Portola Redwoods SP
San Mateo County
Castle Rock SP
Los Gatos
Santa Clara County
Coyote
Perry
Project Site
Big Basin Redwoods SP
San Lorenzo River
Laurel
Soquel DSF
The Forest of Nisene Marks SP
Bonny Doon ER
Felton
Henry Cowell Redwoods SP
Davenport
Santa Cruz
Santa Cruz County
Gilroy
Project Area
El Sereno Open Space Preserve
Austin
Monte
Keyhole
Santa Clara County
5
Miles
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39. San Joaquin River Parkway, Western Reaches Access, Planning

STAFF RECOMMENDATION
Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate $1,519,000 from the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75050(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:	San Joaquin River Parkway, Western Reaches Access, Planning
Project Type:	Planning
Applicant/Grantee:	Fresno Building Healthy Communities
Amount Recommended:	$1,519,000
County:	Fresno
Program:	Public Access Program
Funding:	Proposition 84
Strategic Plan:	Goals: B.1, B.5, C.1 Objectives: SI 3.1
Disadvantaged Community:	Not within a disadvantaged community

LOCATION
The San Joaquin River Parkway (Parkway) is comprised of approximately 5,900 acres on both sides of a 22-mile-long reach of the San Joaquin River (River) between Friant Dam to the east and SR 99 to the west, in Fresno and Madera counties.

The San Joaquin River Parkway, Western Reaches Access, Planning project (Project) is located in the northwest corner of the city of Fresno. This Project is focused primarily on the Camp Pashayan boundary area and extends eastward to North Millburn Avenue, encompassing the entire western extent of the Parkway on the Fresno side of the River. A corridor of approximately one-quarter mile wide is envisioned to be the focus, from southern extents of the Parkway boundary up to and including the River. This corridor traverses undeveloped land, residential neighborhoods, a golf course, an existing park, and a wildlife preserve. To the north of the Project area, the River is bounded by primarily agricultural land. The River itself is relatively slow moving and quiet, and accessible by small craft such as canoes and kayaks.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
The Project focuses on the Parkway's Master Plan Update Areas 6 and 7, which are priority areas for the San Joaquin River Conservancy (SJRC), as much of the land is readily available and already controlled solely by the SJRC or in partnership with local jurisdictions. Additionally, while this part of the River currently has limited access points, there is no connectivity to other sections of the Parkway. Areas 6 and 7 also sit in proximity to many underserved communities in the city of Fresno, which will easily be able to access the site due to its location alongside State

Route 99. Critically, the Master Plan Update also identifies the River reach of Area 7 to be a Habitat Focus Area, which means any planning for public access will need to carefully consider environmental implications, including natural water level fluctuations, riparian habitat protection, migratory patterns, stormwater management, and opportunities for interpretation and education around these and other topics.

Planning will be divided into two sub-project areas: Camp Pashayan, with its public access facilities and riparian enhancements, and the River Trail design, which will identify the appropriate alignment and design for the four-mile trail to Millburn Overlook. The Project will identify and re-envision Camp Pashayan as a new trailhead facility and river destination, with parking, park amenities, and new trails and water connections eastward to the Schneider Use Area, Riverside Trailhead area, Riverbottom Park, Liddell Property, and Milburn use areas. Together, these efforts will provide new opportunities for enjoyment of the River for underserved communities in Fresno and Madera counties. Additionally, the Project will include ecological enhancements to the River's edge, offering protections for sensitive habitat and native riparian vegetation. This Project will complete 65 percent planning and design documents, and file a CEQA document, which is expected to tier off the Master Plan Update Final EIR.

The Grantee will split the engagement effort between the two sub-projects, as they address different communities with diverse strengths and challenges. Currently, Camp Pashayan is a closed area, and the engagement process will identify opportunities to bring various community groups to the site for more in-depth exposure and connection. The River Trail segment encompasses different stakeholder and community interests and has distinct unique challenges that the Project team will address through targeted engagement efforts. These outreach efforts will create a comprehensive foundation for the advancement of the Project, which upon completion will deliver a project that is ready for implementation and sets the standard for additional Master Plan projects along the River corridor.

PROJECT FUNDING
The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	Total Cost	WCB
Project Management	$230,300	$230,300
Inventory and Analysis	$181,100	$181,100
Outreach and Community Engagement	$241,700	$241,700
Planning and Design	$373,200	$373,200
CEQA Documentation	$114,700	$114,700
Cost Estimate and Implementation Strategy	$93,000	$93,000
Plan Document	$120,800	$120,800
Supplies and Local Travel (5%)	$67,740	$67,740

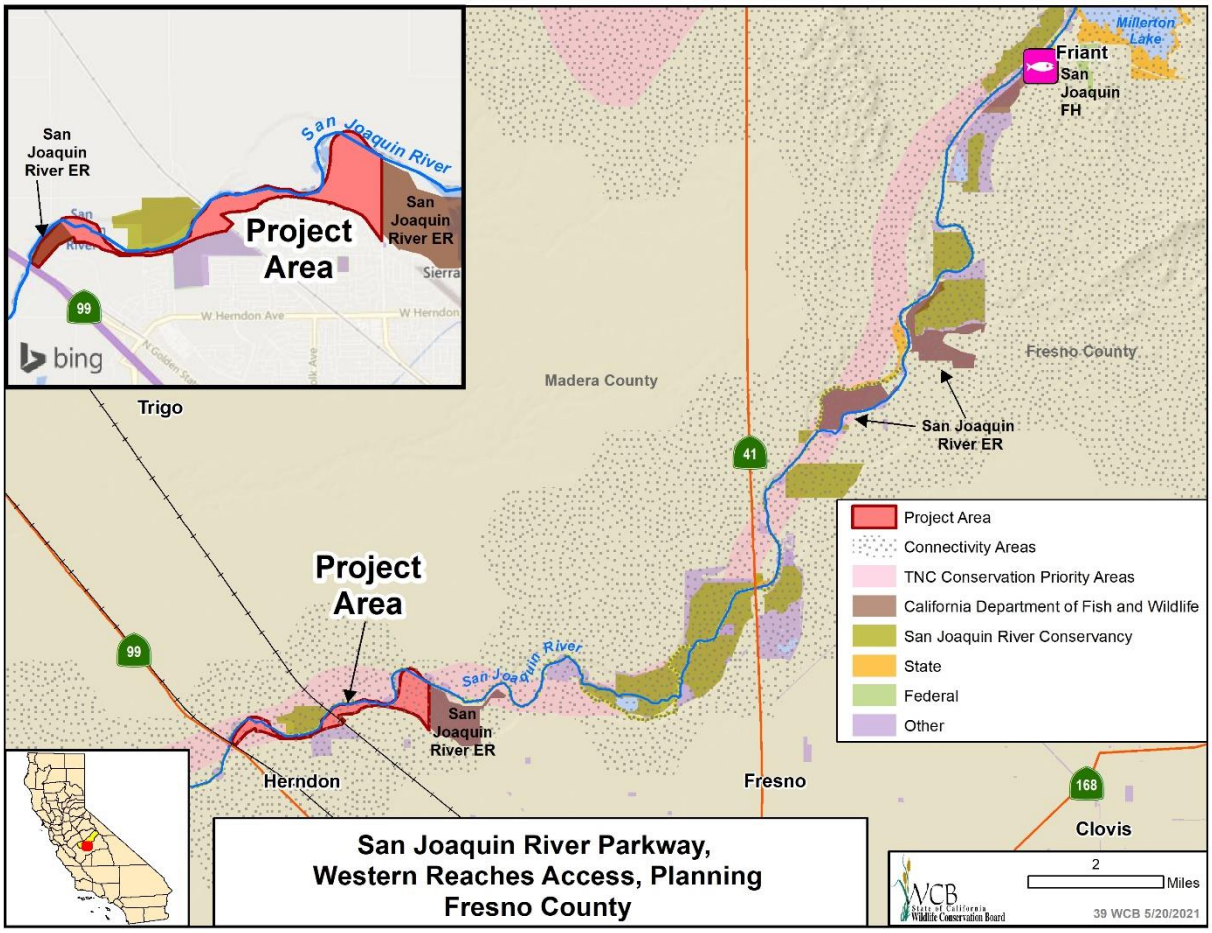
Project Task	Total Cost	WCB
Indirect (10%)	$24,087	$24,087
Contingency (5%)	$72,373	$72,373
Total	$1,519,000	$1,519,000

Costs associated with WCB funding include:

- Project Management: Initial project set up, invoicing, communications, and graphic standards, etc.
- Inventory and Analysis: Existing document review; site surveys; mapping; Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats analysis; and an ecological enhancement and restoration opportunities analysis.
- Outreach and Community Engagement: Stakeholder list and outreach development, virtual or in-person engagement activities, capturing progress and summarizing public input.
- Planning and Design: Conceptual design, 30% designs, and 65% designs.
- CEQA Documentation: Completion of necessary CEQA document and filing.
- Cost Estimate and Implementation Strategy: Construction cost estimates and timelines.
- Plan Document: Activation plan document development.
- Supplies and Local Travel: Project-related supplies and local travel.
- Indirect Costs: Incidental or indirect costs not to exceed 20% of the total direct WCB award, minus subcontractor and equipment costs.
- Contingency: Unanticipated project costs associated with WCB-funded tasks only, requires WCB staff approval prior to use.

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


San Joaquin River ER
San Joaquin River
Project Area
San Joaquin River ER
Sierra
W Herndon Ave
W Herndon
99
bing
Trigo
Madera County
Millerton Lake
Friant
San Joaquin FH
Fresno County
San Joaquin River ER
41
Project Area
Connectivity Areas
TNC Conservation Priority Areas
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
San Joaquin River Conservancy
State
Federal
Other
Project Area
San Joaquin River
San Joaquin River ER
99
Herndon
Fresno
168
Clovis
San Joaquin River Parkway,
Western Reaches Access, Planning
Fresno County
2
Miles
WCB
State of California
Wildlife Conservation Board
39 WCB 5/20/2021

40. Chino Hills 80

STAFF RECOMMENDATION
Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate $600,000 from the Habitat Conservation Fund for the grant to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Chino Hills 80
Project Type:	Fee Acquisition (80± acres)
Grantee:	Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority
Amount Recommended:	$600,000
County:	San Bernardino
Program:	Land Acquisition Program
Funding:	Habitat Conservation Fund
Strategic Plan:	Goals: A.1, A.3, A.4 Objectives: SI 1.2, 1.3, 2.1, 2.4, 3.4
Disadvantaged Community:	Not within a disadvantaged community

LOCATION
The 80± acre property (Property) is located approximately 33 miles southeast of Los Angeles in a southern rural portion of the city of Chino Hills, just outside the city's eastern boundary in San Bernardino County. Primary access to the area is provided by the Riverside 91 freeway located less than one mile south of the Property along with the Corona 71 freeway lying just two miles to the east. Interior access is provided by an unimproved road on the west side of State Route 71 north of the 91 Freeway interchange.

The Property is situated in an area known as Chino hills, a landscape of mostly mountainous rugged steep terrain with areas of open natural landscape. The Property's eastern boundary abuts the 320± acre MRCA property known as Eastridge, purchased in part with WCB funds approved at the February 2020 board meeting. The Property's northern, southern, and western borders are completely encompassed by the Chino Hills State Park (Park). The Park is a significant part of this area, containing approximately 14,000 acres of rolling, grassy hills and valleys, dotted with stands of oaks and sycamores. The Park is a critical link in the Puente-Chino Hills biological corridor which stretches nearly 31 miles from the Whittier Hills to the Santa Ana Mountains. More than 200 species of birds and mammals, numerous reptiles and amphibians, and thousands of types of insects and other invertebrates live in the Park. Some of these animals, including the least Bell's vireo, the California gnatcatcher, and the coastal cactus wren, are considered rare, threatened, or endangered. Also, the Park provides over 90 miles of trails creating recreational opportunities in the form of wildlife viewing, hiking, camping, and horseback and bike riding.

The Property is identified as a high priority for protection in the Puente/Chino Hills CDFW Tonner CAPP. The CAPP identified private lands adjacent to the Park, that

if acquired, would expand the areas existing preserve system of 18,000 acres, increase wildlife connectivity, and permanently protect occupied habitat for threatened and endangered species.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
The Property is comprised of one undeveloped rectangular shaped parcel of land with topography that ranges in elevation from 485 to 800 feet above sea level, characterized by rolling-to-moderately and steeply sloping hillside. The Property is mostly comprised of grasslands, coastal sage scrub, coast live oak woodland, and mulefat scrub. The Property is currently zoned as agriculture-ranch which allows for single family residences, equestrian facilities, agricultural uses, cattle grazing, and passive recreational use. Historically the Property has been used for recreation and at one time may have been used for cattle grazing.

This acquisition would permanently protect the Property from development and will directly support CDFW's Tonner CAPP by aiding in the expansion of the 31-mile Puente-Chino Hills biological corridor, increasing wildlife connectivity, and protecting occupied habitat for threatened and endangered species. The Property will also provide a crucial connection between the Chino Hills State Park (14,000 acres) and the Prado Wetlands (4,000 acres), located just one mile northeast. Wildlife movement from this area has been well-documented by the US Geological Survey. Fencing to guide wildlife under State Route 71 is in place.

Species likely to benefit from protection of the Property include the least Bell's vireo, coastal California gnatcatcher, southwest willow flycatcher, yellow warbler, coastal cactus wren, grasshopper sparrow, loggerhead shrike, white tailed kite, northern harrier, various bat species, northern red-diamond rattlesnake, orange-throated whiptail, and deer.

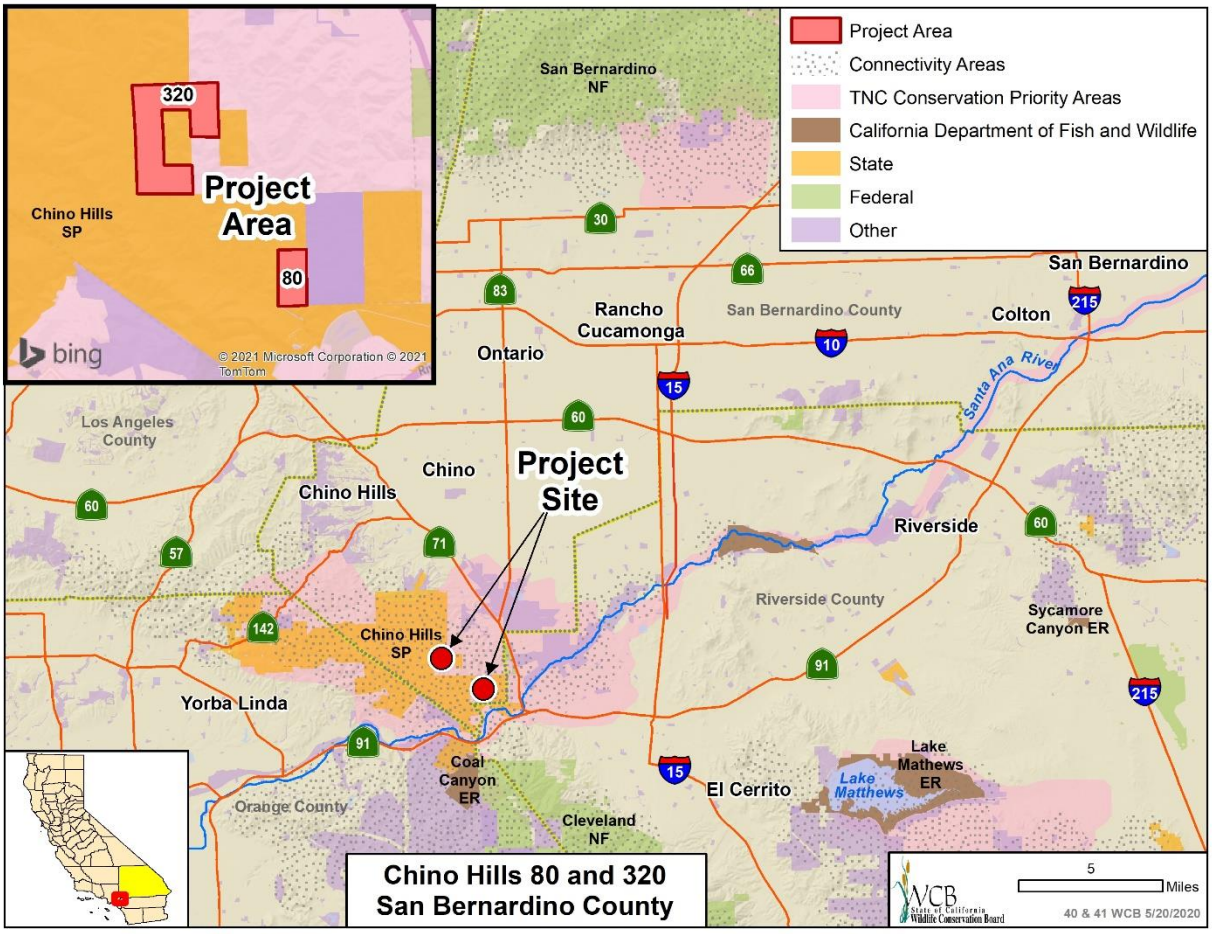
MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS
The Property will be owned, managed, and maintained by MRCA and will be incorporated into the assemblage of existing protected lands. MRCA will own and operate the Property as part of its extensive land holdings in San Bernardino, Los Angeles, and Ventura counties. MRCA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

PROJECT FUNDING
The DGS approved fair market value is $600,000. The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	$600,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	$600,000

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

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



41. Chino Hills 320

STAFF RECOMMENDATION
Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate $2,560,000 from the Habitat Conservation Fund for the grant to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation authority (MRCA); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Chino Hills 320
Project Type:	Fee Acquisition (320± acres)
Grantee:	Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority
Amount Recommended:	$2,560,000
County:	San Bernardino
Program:	Land Acquisition Program
Funding:	Habitat Conservation Fund
Strategic Plan:	Goals: A.1, A.3, A.4 Objectives: SI 1.2, 1.3, 2.1, 2.4, 3.4
Disadvantaged Community:	Not within a disadvantaged community

LOCATION
The 320± acre property (Property) is located approximately 30 miles southeast of Los Angeles in a southern rural portion of the city of Chino Hills, just outside the city limits in San Bernardino County. Primary access to the area is provided by the Riverside 91 freeway located approximately two miles south of the Property along with the Corona 71 freeway lying just one mile to the east. Access to the Property will be provided by a granted access easement through the adjacent property to the north.

The Property is situated in an area known as Chino Hills, a landscape of mostly mountainous rugged steep terrain with areas of open natural landscape. The Property's northern boundary abuts private land while its western, eastern, and southern boundaries border the Chino Hills State Park (Park). The Park is a significant part of this area, containing approximately 14,000 acres of rolling, grassy hills and valleys, dotted with stands of oaks and sycamores. The Park is a critical link in the Puente-Chino Hills biological corridor which stretches nearly 31 miles from the Whittier Hills to the Santa Ana Mountains. More than 200 species of birds and mammals, numerous reptiles and amphibians, and thousands of types of insects and other invertebrates live in the Park. Some of these animals, including the least Bell's vireo, the California gnatcatcher, and the coastal cactus wren, are considered rare, threatened, or endangered. Also, the Park provides over 90 miles of trails creating recreational opportunities in the form of wildlife viewing, hiking, camping, and horseback and bike riding.

The Property is identified as a high priority for protection in the CDFW Puente/Chino Hills Tonner CAPP. The CAPP identified private lands adjacent to the Park, that if acquired would expand the area's existing preserve system of

18,000 acres, increase wildlife connectivity, and permanently protect occupied habitat for threatened and endangered species.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
The Property consists of three contiguous undeveloped parcels forming an irregular tract of land. The topography is characterized as gently sloping to steep mountainous terrain with elevation ranges from 550 to 950 above sea level, supporting habitat that includes oak and walnut woodlands, chaparral, coastal sage scrub, cactus scrub, and grasslands. The Property is currently zoned as agriculture-ranch which allows for single family residences, equestrian facilities, agricultural uses, cattle grazing, and passive recreational use. Historically, the Property has been used for recreation and at one time may have been used for cattle grazing.

This acquisition would permanently protect the Property from development and will directly support CDFW's CAPP by aiding in the expansion of the 31-mile Puente-Chino Hills biological corridor, increasing wildlife connectivity, and protecting occupied habitat for threatened and endangered species. The Property will also provide a crucial connection between the Park and the Prado Wetlands (4,000 acres), located just one mile east. Wildlife movement from this area has been well-documented by the US Geological Survey. Fencing to guide wildlife under State Route 71 is in place.

Species likely to benefit from protection of the Property include the least Bell's vireo, coastal California gnatcatcher, southwest willow flycatcher, yellow warbler, coastal cactus wren, grasshopper sparrow, loggerhead shrike, white tailed kite, northern harrier, various bat species, northern red-diamond rattlesnake, orange-throated whiptail, and deer.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS
The Property will be owned, managed, and maintained by MRCA and will be incorporated into the assemblage of existing protected lands. The current landowner has agreed to provide an endowment to MRCA in the amount of $150,000 to support the on-going management and maintenance of the Property. MRCA will own and operate the Property as part of its extensive land holdings in San Bernardino, Los Angeles, and Ventura counties. MRCA is a joint powers authority and owns thousands of acres of open space across the region and has many years of experience in managing similar properties. The acquisition of the Property will provide an opportunity for MRCA to protect and preserve the Property's open space and natural resource values, and potentially afford recreational opportunities to the public such as hiking, biking, and wildlife viewing.

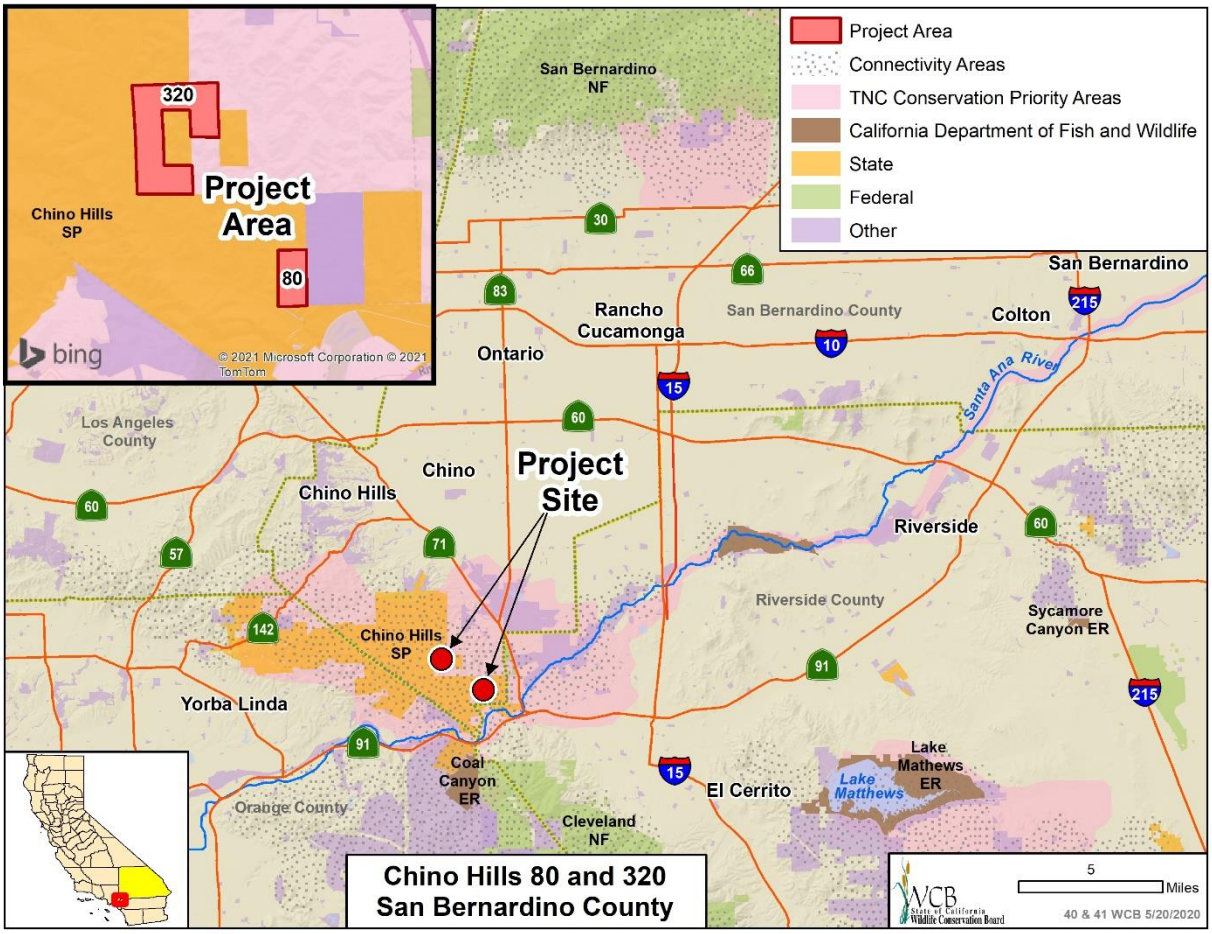
PROJECT FUNDING

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

Partners	Amount
WCB	$2,560,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	$2,560,000

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

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



42. Santa Cruz Island Infrastructure

STAFF RECOMMENDATION
Staff recommends that WCB adopt the written findings and approve this project as proposed; allocate $925,111 from the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68), Public Resource Code Section 80111(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:	Santa Cruz Island Infrastructure
Project Type:	Implementation
Applicant/Grantee:	University of California, Santa Barbara
Amount Recommended:	$925,111
Funding Partners:	University of California, Santa Barbara
Landowner(s):	The Nature Conservancy
County:	Santa Barbara County
Program:	UC Reserves Program
Funding:	Proposition 68
Strategic Plan:	Goals: B.5 Objectives: SI 3.4
Disadvantaged Community:	Not within a disadvantaged community

LOCATION
The Santa Cruz Island Infrastructure project (Project) is located at the Santa Cruz Island Reserve (SCIR) on Santa Cruz Island, within the Channel Islands in Santa Barbara County.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
Existing SCIR field station facilities are well maintained, but aging, and housing to accommodate SCIR staff members is limited and without any ADA compliant options for research-support personnel. SCIR has been, and continues to be, a prime location for long-term, intensive, and collaborative research on important environmental and resource management problems. In recent years there has been an enormous expansion in long-term, field-based research to determine the effects of climate change on the distribution of species and the functioning of ecosystems. Currently, the field station facilities that support SCIR staff include an aging mobile unit (approximately 50 years in age) with an adjacent composting toilet. This unit houses one staff member. Other SCIR staff (e.g., Research manager, steward, mechanic) camp or stay in overnight facilities intended to support SCIR users when they are on-island, which requires staff to share communal kitchen and bathroom facilities with SCIR users. This decreases the available space for researchers or university-level classes at the field station. Additional staff housing has been identified as a critical need for the SCIR for decades.

The Project will construct two new staff residences on a site currently occupied by a single residential unit, which will be removed from the site. The new 2-bedroom,

2-bathroom residences will provide approximately 1,200 and 1,000 square feet and each includes a bathroom and kitchen to support long term occupation. The larger unit will also contain a laundry facility and office. These residences will utilize prefabricated modular units, similar to shipping container homes. These units are cost efficient, mobile, rodent resistant, and durable. All new buildings will be fire sprinklered and/or will contain a California Building Code compliant fire suppression system. Domestic water will be provided to the units by two wells that serve both the SCIR and The Nature Conservancy facilities. A photovoltaic system will be installed providing service to the new staff housing. The system will include PV panels, racks, inverters, and batteries for storage. A propane system will be installed for cooking, heating, and backup hot water needs. The existing on-site wastewater treatment system for the staff residence does not have the capacity to handle wastewater from additional facilities. A new system will be installed to support the two new staff residences, consisting of a fiberglass septic tank with capacity of 2,000 gallons and dual dispersal leach fields. Further, to reduce environmental impact, and to achieve cost and schedule efficiencies, this project will also install an additional leach field for a future planned project to construct new research-support accommodations.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS
The University of California, Santa Barbara has adopted a Management Plan that guides management actions for the property, including management of SCIR. If at any time during the 25-year life of the Project, University of California, Santa Barbara 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 Administration	$10,000	---	$10,000
Design and Permitting	$107,640	---	$107,640
Wastewater Treatment System	$192,000	$49,751	$142,249
Staff Housing	$875,360	$875,360	---
Total	$1,185,000	$925,111	$259,889

Costs associated with WCB funding include:

- Wastewater Treatment System: Construct new wastewater treatment system and associated infrastructure and construct an additional leach field for a future staff residence.
- Staff Housing: Construct and install two prefabricated shipping container homes, including solar, water, wastewater, and fire suppression systems.

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

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

43. Watson Property

STAFF RECOMMENDATION
Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate $21,574 from the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Fund (Proposition 12), Public Resources Code Section 5096.350(a)(6), and $1,394,426 from the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68), Public Resources Code Section 80111(b) for the grant to Rivers & Lands Conservancy (RLC); approve the acceptance of the Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition grant from USFWS in the amount of $3,500,000 and approve the subgrant of the federal funds to Rivers and Lands 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:	Watson Property
Project Type:	Fee Title (98± acres)
Grantee:	Rivers & Lands Conservancy
Amount Recommended:	$1,416,000
Funding Partners:	USFWS Section 6
County:	Orange
Program:	Land Acquisition Program
Funding:	Proposition 12 and Proposition 68
Strategic Plan:	Goals: A.1, A.3 Objectives: SI 1.2, 1.3, 2.2, 2.4
Disadvantaged Community:	Not within a disadvantaged community

LOCATION
The property (Property) is located north of Live Oak Avenue, east of Santiago Canyon Road, in the community of Silverado and in the Trabuco Canyon area of unincorporated Orange County.

The Property is within the Foothill/Trabuco Specific Plan Area (FTSP), which was adopted in 1991 and comprises 6,500± acres of undeveloped land that serves as a buffer between suburban development and the Cleveland National Forest. Land within the FTSP is known for its significant landform, biological and scenic resources, as well as for its recreational opportunities. Approximately 50-75 percent of the subject property is within the approved Central-Coastal Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Communities Conservation Plan (HCP/NCCP).

In addition to its location within FTSP, the Property is also contiguous to more than 80,000 acres of Cleveland National Forest lands comprising a diverse range of wildlife, habitat, and public trails.

The Property compliments HCP/NCCP and the Orange County Transportation Authority HCP/NCCP. The Property is adjacent to the prior conserved 306±-acre Saddle Creek Property.

Acquisition of this Property would secure a large portion of a wildlife corridor associated with southern Orange County from Trabuco Canyon to Cleveland National Forest. Corridors have been designated in FTSP to ensure linkages among the following large habitat areas: Cleveland National Forest, Arroyo Trabuco, O'Neill Regional Park, Whiting Ranch Wilderness Regional Park, and Santiago Creek. Large mammals using habitat that occurs within these corridors include mule deer, mountain lions, bobcats, coyotes, gray foxes, badgers, raccoons, and skunks.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
The Property is of irregular shape and consists of two assessor parcel numbers totaling approximately 98 acres. The terrain is rolling to steep and is zoned UAR – Upper Aliso Residential District which allows for one dwelling unit per two acres. The property owner has an un-approved tentative subdivision map that proposes 49 single-family lots on the Property.

The Property consists of high-quality oak woodland, cactus scrub, and coastal sage scrub which have been classified as critical habitat and wildlife resources by numerous state and federal agencies. Prior to entering into a Purchase Contract, the Property was intended to be developed by the property owner as a residential housing tract. By conserving this property, a variety of critical habitats and species will be permanently protected.

A creek stretches through much of the Property from the north flowing south. This natural, unchanneled drainage supports a dense canopy of native coast live oaks and old growth woodland.

Under the conservation goals of the abovementioned HCP/NCCP, species to be conserved pursuant to the acquisition of this Property include, but are not limited to, protection of habitat for the coastal California gnatcatcher, cactus wren, intermediate mariposa lily, Coulter's matilija poppy, and other sensitive and federally listed species.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS
The Property will be owned and managed by RLC, which is a 32-year-old non-profit organization based in Southern California near the Property. RLC was formed in 1989 with the specific mission to protect southern California landscapes that provide habitat and open space for wildlife and people for all future generations. During its lengthy history, RLC has been instrumental in acquiring and preserving over 12,000 acres of open space valued at over $82 million. RLC works cooperatively with cities, special districts, agencies, and property owners in pursuing common conservation goals.

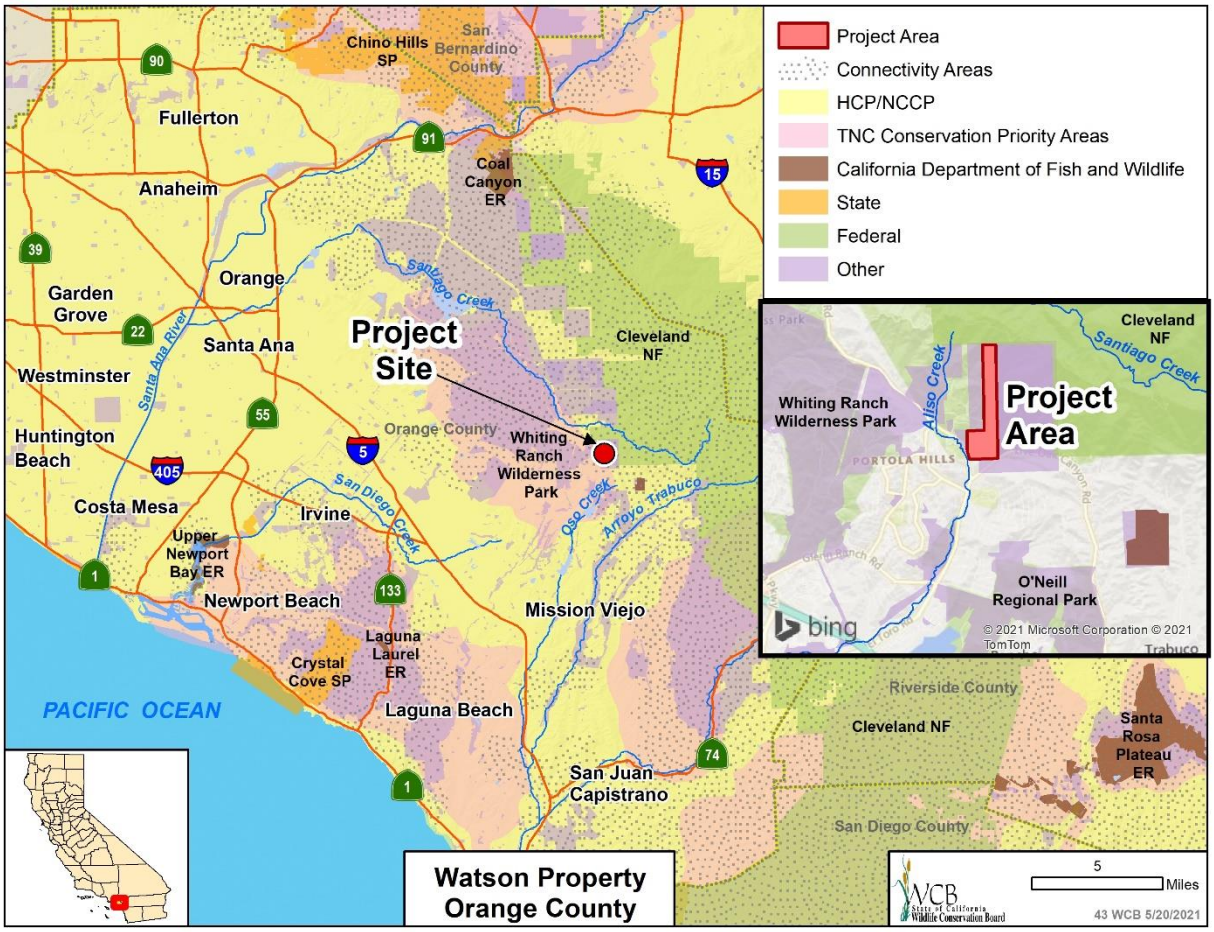
Along with this property, RLC also manages the contiguous Saddle Creek Property. The property owner will provide a $105,000 non-wasting endowment to RLC to manage the Property's sensitive resources. The Property's endowment will be complemented by an approximately $450,000 endowment for the adjacent

Saddle Creek Property. These combined endowments and RLC's ownership and management of both properties will create meaningful economies of scale to provide the best conservation outcomes possible for both properties, in an integrated manner.

PROJECT FUNDING
The DGS approved fair market value is $4,916,000. The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	$1,416,000
USFWS	$3,500,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	$4,916,000

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, an NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.


Project Area
Connectivity Areas
HCP/NCCP
TNC Conservation Priority Areas
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
State
Federal
Other
Project Site
Project Area
Whiting Ranch Wilderness Park
Chino Hills SP
San Bernardino County
Fullerton
Anaheim
Coal Canyon ER
Orange
Garden Grove
Santa Ana
Westminster
Huntington Beach
Costa Mesa
Irvine
Upper Newport Bay ER
Newport Beach
Crystal Cove SP
Laguna Laurel ER
Laguna Beach
Mission Viejo
San Juan Capistrano
Cleveland NF
Orange County
Riverside County
San Diego County
Santa Rosa Plateau ER
O'Neill Regional Park
PACIFIC OCEAN
Santiago Creek
Santa Ana River
San Diego Creek
Aliso Creek
Arroyo Trabuco
Osa Creek
PORTOLA HILLS
Trabuco
bing
© 2021 Microsoft Corporation © 2021 TomTom
Watson Property
Orange County
5
Miles
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44. State Route 94 Wildlife Corridor, Planning

STAFF RECOMMENDATION
Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate $692,000 from the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68), Public Resources Code Section 80132(e)(1); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	State Route 94 Wildlife Corridor, Planning
Project Type:	Planning
Applicant/Grantee:	River Partners
Amount Recommended:	$692,000
Funding Partners:	Bureau of Land Management, River Partners
Landowner(s):	CDFW, Bureau of Land Management, California Department of Transportation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
County:	San Diego
Program:	Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Program
Funding:	Proposition 68
Strategic Plan:	Goals: B.1 Objectives: SI 1.1, 1.2
Disadvantaged Community:	Not within a disadvantaged community

LOCATION
The State Route 94 Wildlife Corridor, Planning project (Project) is located between post miles 15.27 and 30.00 of State Route 94 (SR-94) in the community of Rancho San Diego on the west and the community of Dulzura on the east in San Diego County.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
The rural, mostly two-lane, portion of SR-94 through Jamul, Dulzura, and Rancho San Diego bisects one of the largest contiguous blocks of conserved land in San Diego County. Since its construction, residential development, road improvements, and a new casino in Jamul have both increased traffic on the route and altered the hydrologic flows of the adjacent creeks and rivers. Current conditions result in wildlife road mortality and potential creation of population sinks for animals that do not or cannot avoid the road due to inherent spatial habitat and migratory needs. The Project aims to improve habitat integrity and ecosystem function by enhancing wildlife movement corridors, as measured by reduced road mortality and increased use of wildlife crossing structures. The Project area has been identified as a top priority for remediation by CDFW's 2020 Wildlife Movement Barrier Priorities list.

The Project will design multiple infrastructure improvements identified in the Wildlife Infrastructure Plan for State Route 94 that will enable large and small animal movement between the San Diego National Wildlife Refuge, Lawrence and Barbara Daley Preserve, Otay Mountain Ecological Reserve, McGinty Mountain

Ecological Reserve, Hollenbeck Canyon Wildlife Area, and Rancho Jamul Ecological Reserve.

This Project will plan specific actions to restore habitat along existing migration corridors, increasing functionality of existing crossings by replacing poorly functioning crossings where needed, installing fencing, gates, cattle-guards, and jump-outs to keep animals off the roadway and direct them to crossings.

Together, the corridor improvements will increase habitat integrity and ecosystem function for one of the largest expanses of remaining conserved coastal habitat in Southern California, composed of coastal sage scrub, maritime succulent scrub, chaparral, riparian woodlands, vernal pools, and grasslands. It will also benefit large mammals such as deer and mountain lions, the Otay genetic subunit of the coastal cactus wren (a CDFW species of special concern), and multiple species of amphibians, which currently experience high road mortality. For these rare species, and a wide variety of common wildlife, project improvements will also improve climate change adaptation and resilience by providing a high-quality corridor connecting wildlife to newly suitable habitat.

PROJECT FUNDING
The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

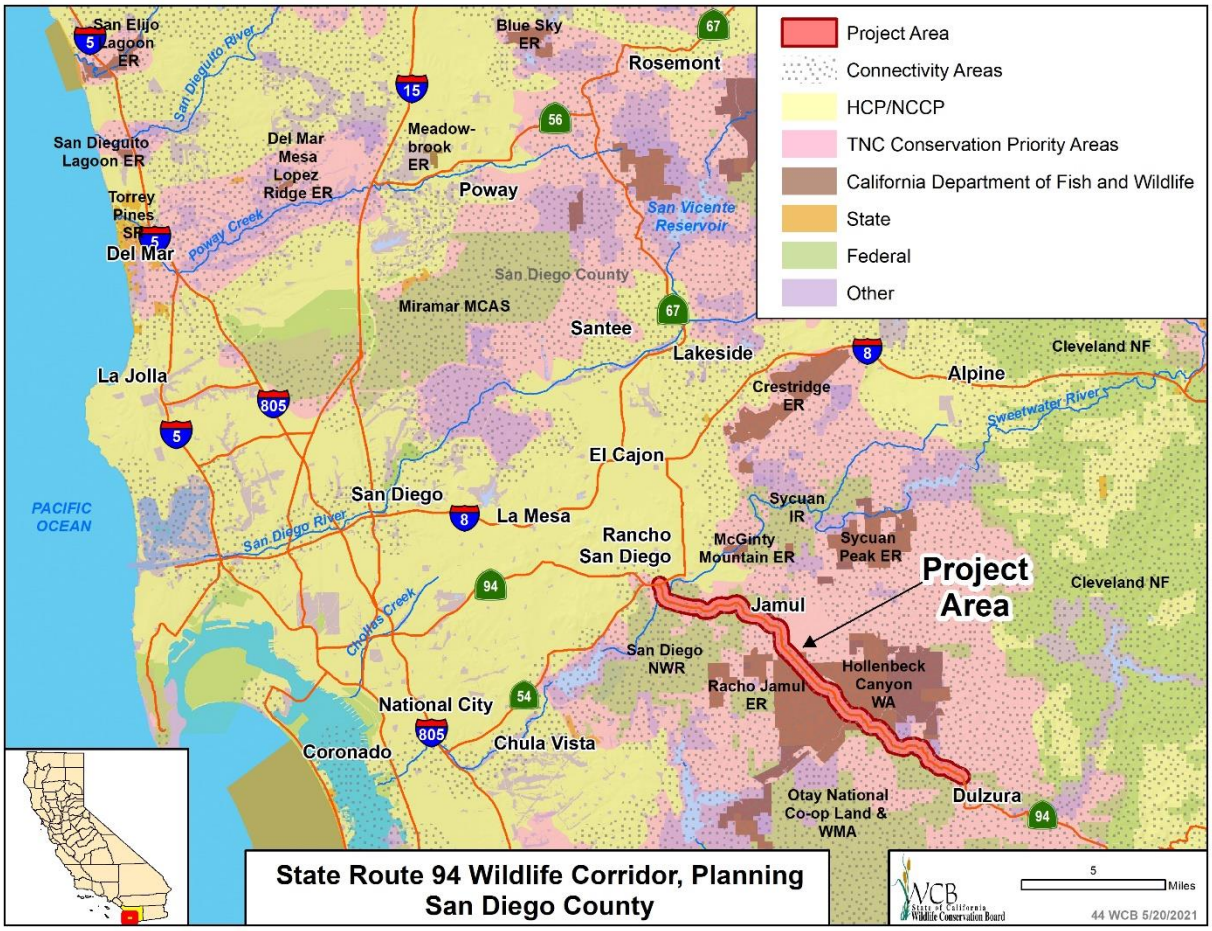
Project Task	Total Cost	WCB	Non-WCB Funds
Project Management	$78,068	$78,068	---
Outreach and Coordination	$60,825	$60,825	---
Baseline Studies	$123,748	$123,748	---
Design and Project Development	$239,359	$219,359	$20,000
CEQA and Permitting	$281,300	$210,000	$71,300
Indirect Cost	$43,645	---	$43,645
Total	$826,945	$692,000	$134,945

Costs associated with WCB funding include:

- Project Management: Producing quarterly reports, project invoices, executed subcontracts, and right-of-entry agreements with project landowners.
- Outreach and Coordination: Coordinate public outreach and agency meetings with stakeholders, expert review of designs and plans and solicit community and expert input.
- Baseline Studies: Conduct baseline studies/surveys for sensitive birds, pollinators, and existing undercrossing utilization. Identify opportunities for carbon sequestration, complete vegetation mapping, and soil samples.
- Design and Project Development: Complete wildlife corridor restoration plans and designs for wildlife infrastructure improvements and collect native seeds (for use in future corridor restoration).

- CEQA and Permitting: Prepare necessary CEQA documents and permit applications.

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

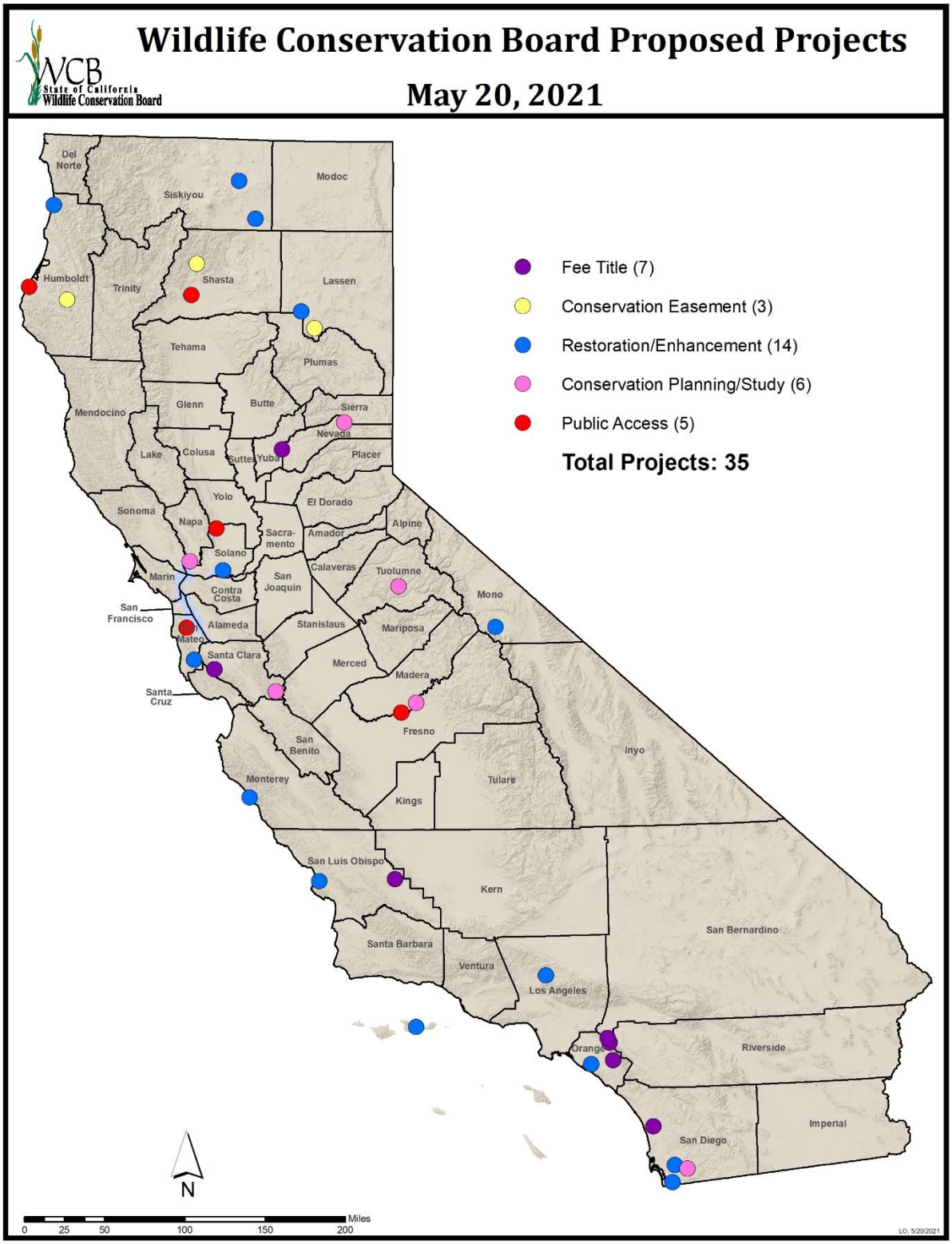


45. Executive Session (Not Open to the Public)

The Board may meet in closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 11126(e)(2)(C) to confer regarding Albert Thomas Paulek, et al. v. California Department of Fish and Wildlife et al., Riverside County Superior Court, Case No. RIC2003634 (California Environmental Quality Act). After closed session, the Board will reconvene in public session, which may include announcements about actions taken during closed session.

Adjourn

ATTACHMENT A – MAP OF MAY 2021 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 TRANSPAREN-CY (PLAN GOALS D AND E)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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