

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

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

2020 YEAR IN REVIEW



Photo: Coyote Valley



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WCB MISSION

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



Photo: Crocker Meadows Wildlife Area

WCB VISION

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



Photo: Pilgrim Creek

WCB IN 2020

WCB contributed to 143 projects in the 2020 calendar year, allocating approximately \$138.5 million in funding including:

- **\$53 Million** for habitat restoration and enhancement of nearly 28,000 acres
- **\$66.8 Million** for purchase or conservation easement on nearly 50,000 acres of wildlife habitat

A YEAR IN REVIEW

Competitive Solicitations

In 2020, WCB implemented multiple competitive grant solicitations. Most solicitations used a two-step process of a simple pre-application that was reviewed and then applicants that were most closely aligned with the solicitation priorities were asked to submit a full application. These five programs funded 78 projects totaling over \$69 million.

Table 1: Applications Received and Recommended Per Each Program

Program	# Full Apps	Amount	Recommended	Amount
Wildlife Corridor/Fish Passage (Prop 68)	21	\$15,713,000	10	\$8,284,000
Sierra Nevada/Cascade Mountains (Prop 68)	31	\$32,318,802	23	\$25,333,526
Public Access (Prop 68)	29	\$10,826,659	12	\$3,650,745
Climate Adaptation and Resiliency (GGRF)	25	\$15,127,575	14	\$7,633,717
Stream Flow Enhancement (Prop 1)	27	\$43,704,789	19	\$24,331,263
Totals	133	\$117,690,825	78	\$69,233,251

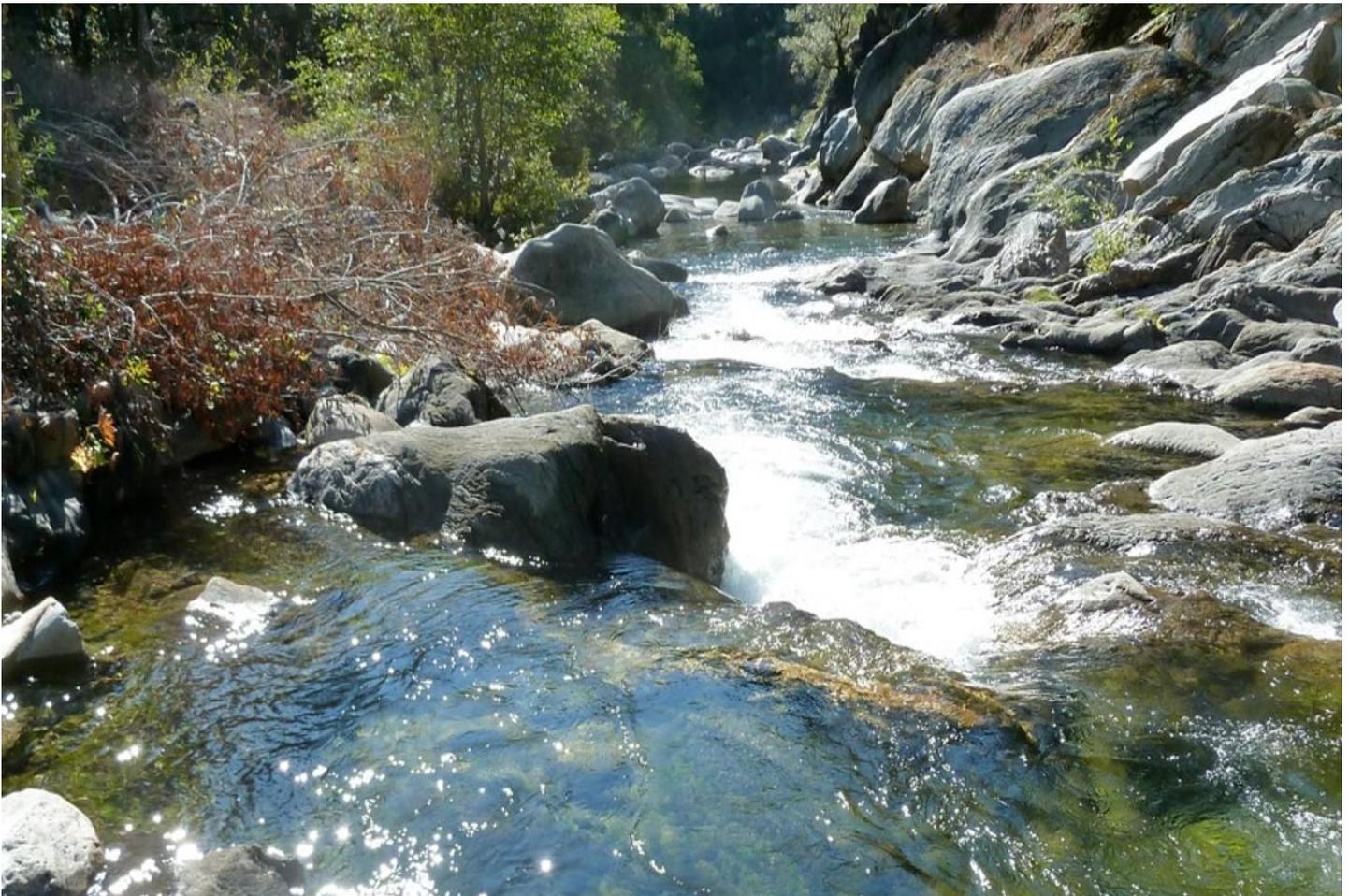
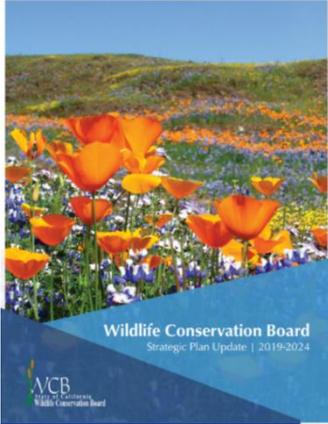


Photo: Middle Fork American River

STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVES



Objectives were implemented under the 2019 Strategic Plan Update in the following eight Strategic Initiatives:

Climate Change Adaptation, Resiliency, and Mitigation

WCB invested in projects that mitigate the effects of climate change, provide connectivity among and between intact landscapes, and provide habitat and species resiliency.

Biodiversity Actions

WCB focused on conserving California's unparalleled biodiversity and helped meet the state's biodiversity goals.

Public Access and Wildlife-Oriented Recreation

WCB provided public access and wildlife-oriented opportunities for Californians in natural and wild areas including projects which improved access for disadvantaged communities.

Partnerships

WCB continued to collaborate with partners, maintaining and strengthening existing partnerships while exploring and securing new ones.

Organization and Transparency

WCB provided transparency and expanded communication by making Board meetings accessible online in 2020 and saw increases in public participation.

Natural Resources Conservation Leadership

WCB provided leadership and continued coordinating priorities among agencies for competitive grant solicitations and continued participation in statewide policy development for topics such as forest management.

Monitoring and Program Evaluation

Implementation of the WCB monitoring program was limited in 2020 due to COVID-19 travel restrictions. Work continues to develop a more robust implementation and effectiveness monitoring program.

Ecosystem Services

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

STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVES REPORT

These graphs and tables summarize the Strategic Plan objectives met in 2020. Some objectives are annual and some are for the 5-year time-frame of the Plan.



Photo: San Joaquin River Parkway

STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVES MET IN 2020

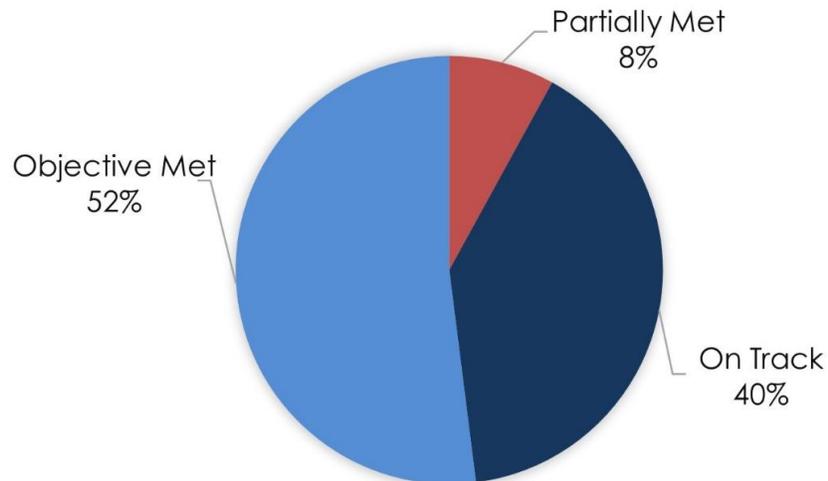


Table 2: Strategic Plan Objectives Reported in 2020 – Annual Target

Objective	Description	Target	Approved Projects
1.1	Wildlife under or over crossing project	3	4
1.6	Upper watershed project for resilience to CC	5	17
2.2	Advance targets in conservation plans	5	26
2.3	Addresses CWAP priorities (Prop 1)	10	32
4.1	Upper watershed ecosystem services	5	19
4.2	Native pollinator habitat	3	2

Table 3: Strategic Plan Objectives Reported in 2020 – Five Year Target

Objective	Description	Target	Approved Projects
1.2	Connectivity projects	5	33
1.4	Provides long-term carbon sequestration	5	10
2.1a	Oak woodlands projects	10	2
2.1b	Riparian habitat projects	10	13
2.1c	Rangeland projects	10	14
3.1	Public Access for disadvantaged communities (DAC)	5	21
3.2	Boating/Fishing/Hunting Access for DAC	5	11
3.3	Hunting /Fishing opportunities	10	17
3.4	Non-consumptive wildlife recreation	10	45
4.3	Lower watershed ecosystem services benefits	5	4
5.1	Safe Harbor Program projects	3	2

Table 4: Strategic Plan Objectives – Staff Activities in 2020

Objective	Description	Target Status
3.5	Meetings for Public Access Program	Objective Met
5.2	Outreach meetings with new partners	Objective Met
6.1	WCB Meetings accessible online	Objective Met
6.5	WCB Program/Feedback workshop	Objective Met
6.6	Sponsored conferences or workshops	Objective Met
1.5	Catastrophic natural resource events criteria for solicitations	On Track
5.3	Coordinated multi-organization solicitation	On Track
7.1	Coordinate Conservancies/Agencies, re. habitat solicitation priorities	On Track
7.2	Attend Working Lands, State Safeguarding, and Scoping Plan meetings	On Track
7.3	CDFW's acquisition priorities and project review process	On Track
7.4	Policy meetings for fire resiliency (Forest Mgmt. Task Force)	On Track
7.5	Refine priority conservation areas for programs and report	On Track
8.1	Define criteria for effectiveness monitoring	On Track
8.2	Monitor completed projects and post summary on website	On Track
8.3	Monitoring survey platform accessible on website	On Track
8.4	Monitoring data in annual report by county and SWAP habitat	On Track
8.5	Update 60-Year Assessment	On Track
6.2	Standardize solicitations and develop online portal	Partially Met
6.3	Program goals on website	Partially Met
6.4	Maps on website illustrating project/program relationships	Partially Met



Photo: Morongo Basin

2020 PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Planning

The Ventura County Watershed Protection District received \$5,025,000 to complete final design plans for Matilija Dam removal and for three downstream levee construction/rehabilitation projects as essential components of the Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Project, a watershed-scale dam removal initiative and one of California's largest dam removal efforts.



Photo: Matilija Dam

Where Are We on the Parkway?

The American River Parkway Foundation received a \$270,875 grant to develop and install 23 new wayfinding signs at every mile along the 23-mile paved bike trail that meanders through the lower American River Parkway (Parkway) in Sacramento County. The new signage will bring directional awareness to Parkway users and highlight historical and interpretive sites within the Parkway.



Photo: Lower American River Parkway

Avila Pier Rehabilitation

The Port San Luis Harbor District received a \$1,250,000 grant to restore the deteriorating Avila Pier in San Luis Obispo County. This project will repair and replace piles and decking, repair a boat launch, and create an Americans with Disabilities Act accessible pathway. Since 1908, the pier has provided residents and visitors opportunities for fishing, birding, boating, whale watching, and a place to watch the sunset.



Photo: Avila Pier

Parks Creek Flow Enhancement and Fish Passage

California Trout, Inc. received a \$3,807,868 grant for a large-scale restoration project at the Cardoza Ranch in Siskiyou County, providing benefits to stream flow, irrigation efficiency, and fish passage. The project will remove a water impoundment and replace the existing diversion with a pump and fish screen on the Shasta River, one mile downstream from the confluence with Parks Creek. Relocating the point of diversion 2.8 miles downstream and removing the impoundment will result in enhanced stream flow.



Photo: Cardoza Ranch

Carmel River Floodplain Restoration and Enhancement

Monterey County Resource Management Agency received \$2,500,000 for a cooperative project with the Department of Water Resources, State Coastal Conservancy, and Big Sur Land Trust to recover the natural functions and values of the Carmel River floodplain by restoring hydrologic function across the 135-acre project site and connectivity between the lower Carmel River and its southern floodplain. Approximately 80 acres of riparian and upland habitat will be restored within the southern floodplain providing habitat for sensitive species in Monterey County.



Photo: Carmel River Floodplain

Frog Lake

The Truckee Donner Land Trust received a \$1,300,000 grant to acquire fee title to 201± acres to preserve montane meadow, wildlife corridors and habitat linkages, and to provide wildlife-oriented, public-use opportunities near Truckee in Nevada County.



Photo: Frog Lake

Upper Mokelumne Forest Restoration

The Calaveras Healthy Impact Product Solutions received \$1,932,000 for a cooperative project with Eldorado National Forest and Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority to enhance forest health and reduce hazardous fuels through selective thinning, prescribed fire, and replanting activities on 1,915 ± acres of mixed conifer forest in Eldorado National Forest in Amador County.



Photo: Upper Mokelumne Forest

Yosemite Area Forest Restoration

Mariposa County Resource Conservation District received \$1,362,000 for a cooperative project with CAL FIRE to enhance forest health and reduce hazardous fuels through selective thinning, prescribed fire, and replanting activities on 1,000± acres of mixed conifer forest in Yosemite National Park and Sierra National Forest in Madera and Mariposa counties.



Photo: Yosemite National Park

Temescal Ranch

A \$3.5 million grant to The Nature Conservancy received a \$3,500,000 grant to acquire fee title to 3,148± acres for the protection of deer, mountain lion and special status species habitat, and to increase protection of regional wildlife habitat corridors in the Tehachapi Mountain Range located near Bakersfield in Kern County.



Photo: Temescal Ranch

Somoa Dunes and Wetlands

The Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District received a \$700,000 grant for a cooperative project with SCC and the California Natural Resources Agency to acquire fee title to 341± acres of land for the protection of coastal dunes, Sitka spruce and beach pine forest habitats in order to promote the recovery of threatened and endangered species, and provide future wildlife-oriented, public-use opportunities in the community of Somoa in Humboldt County.



Photo: Somoa Dunes

Coyote Valley

The Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority received a \$10,000,000 grant for a cooperative project with the Peninsula Open Space Trust and State Coastal Conservancy to acquire fee title to 235± acres of land to protect a critical linkage both for movement of wildlife and for species adaptation to climate change, and the protection of a natural floodplain located in Coyote Valley in Santa Clara County.



Photo: Coyote Valley

Liberty Canyon Wildlife Overpass Crossing

The National Wildlife Federation received \$5,000,000 for a cooperative project with the Caltrans, CDFW, SCC, the City of Agoura Hills, and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy to construct a wildlife crossing over U.S. Highway 101 to facilitate wildlife migration near Agoura Hills in Los Angeles County.



Photo: Highway 101 near Agoura Hills (with drawing of what crossing will look like)

2020 BY THE NUMBERS

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

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

In 2020, approximately \$138.5 million of WCB grant expenditures were matched by nearly \$132.5 million in partner contributions.

Table 5: 2020 Project Partner Funding

Project Partner	Funding Amount
State (non-WCB)	\$46.7 Million
Federal	\$50.8 Million
Local	\$7.1 Million
Non-Profit	\$16.7 Million
Private	\$11.2 Million



Photo: Male Sage-Grouse



Photo: Peninsular Bighorn Sheep

Table 6: WCB Allocations by Fund Source

Fund Source	Allocation Amount
GF	\$1.3 Million
GGRF	\$5.6 Million
HCF	\$32.4 Million
P1	\$24.4 Million
P12	\$735 Thousand
P40	\$6.8 Million
P50	\$6.1 Million
P68	\$46.4 Million
P84	\$14.1 Million

2020 Total Acreage Protected or Restored and WCB Allocation by County

In 2020, WCB protected or restored a total of approximately 77,000 acres with a total allocation of \$138.5 million covering 44 counties. Counties not listed in the tables below had no projects approved in 2020.

Table 7: Fee Title

County	Acres	Allocation
Butte	24	\$15,000
Colusa	37	\$618,000
Contra Costa	3	\$115,000
Fresno	76	\$3,610,000
Humboldt	471	\$700,000
Kern	6,952	\$5,826,297
Los Angeles	1,193	\$1,285,000
Madera	35	\$1,035,000
Napa	1,278	\$1,040,000
Nevada	200	\$1,040,000
Orange	26	\$1,083,129
Placer	769	\$1,333,000
Plumas	232	\$399,000
Riverside	196	\$2,267,220
San Bernardino	634	\$2,356,000
San Diego	1,407	\$11,868,316
San Luis Obispo	2,613	\$7,138,100
Santa Clara	3,502	\$15,575,000
Sierra	976	\$910,000
Tehama		\$709,618
Yuba	20	\$105,000
Totals	20,644	\$59,028,680

Table 8: Conservation Easements

County	Acres	Allocation
Colusa	2,416	\$508,000
Fresno	8	\$175,000
Humboldt	7,484	\$1,545,000
Mendocino	3,659	\$40,000
Mono	4,100	\$1,245,000
San Luis Obispo	717	\$760,000
Sierra	632	\$370,500
Siskiyou	9,865	\$3,155,000
Totals	28,881	\$7,798,500

Table 9: Restoration and Enhancement

County	Acres	Allocation
Alpine	120	\$351,240
Amador	1,915	\$1,932,000
Contra Costa	232	\$1,258,000
Fresno	23	\$588,000
Humboldt	802	\$150,000
Kern	173	\$719,000
Lassen	140	\$670,000
Los Angeles	8	\$5,245,500
Madera	2	\$200,000
Mariposa	1,040	\$1,703,000
Mendocino	1	\$879,000
Merced	3,624	\$816,000
Modoc	1,359	\$991,000
Mono	1,465	\$1,277,337
Monterey	135	\$2,500,000
Orange	25	\$844,000
Placer	1,600	\$970,000
Sacramento	199	\$665,000
San Diego	14	\$394,000
San Mateo		\$2,371,369
Sierra	350	\$2,086,000
Siskiyou	693	\$7,306,311
Sonoma		\$2,608,871
Tulare	185	\$1,557,873
Tuolumne	6,434	\$4,700,000
Ventura	3	\$5,368,000
Yolo	3,187	\$3,621,858
Various	600	\$1,210,000
Totals	24,329	\$52,983,359

*Photo: Samoa Dunes*

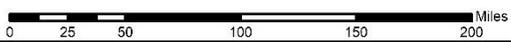
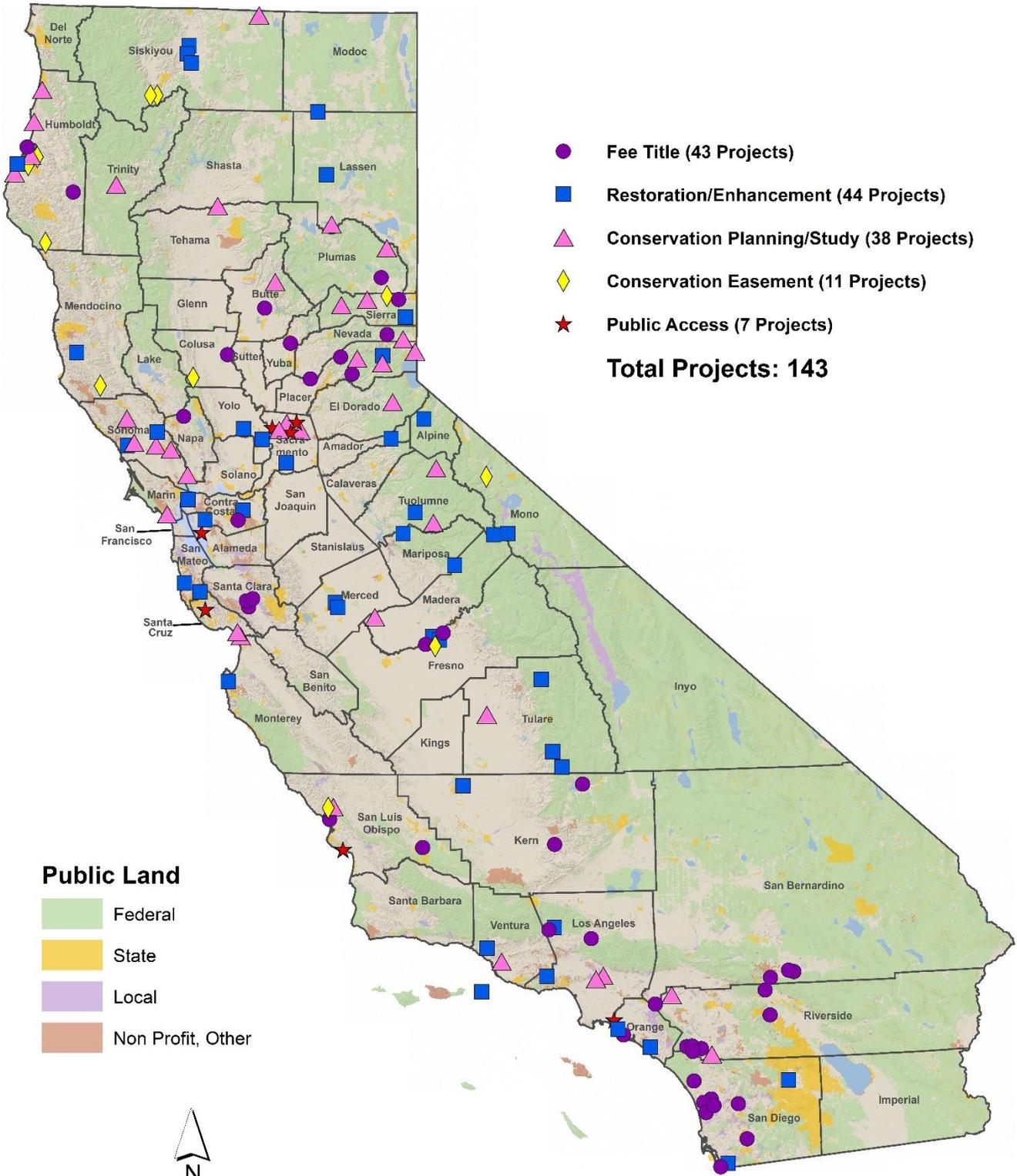
Table 10: Public Access, Plans and Studies

County	Acres	Allocation
Alameda		\$750,000
Butte	800	\$180,000
El Dorado	160	\$633,828
Fresno		\$1,097,905
Humboldt		\$1,101,413
Lassen	1,541	\$398,000
Los Angeles	2	\$600,000
Marin		\$497,779
Nevada	45	\$309,000
Orange		\$689,000
Placer		\$1,944,879
Riverside		\$915,158
Sacramento	3	\$2,310,106
San Diego		\$57,000
San Luis Obispo	5	\$1,250,000
Santa Cruz		\$1,472,000
Sierra	131	\$740,143
Siskiyou		\$206,000
Sonoma		\$1,779,193
Statewide		\$300,000
Trinity		\$236,287
Tulare		\$515,330
Tuolumne	230	\$275,000
Ventura		\$299,185
Various		\$140,000
Totals	2,917	\$18,697,206



Photo: Frog Lake

WCB Projects Awarded in 2020



THANK YOU

WCB would like to thank our project partners and organizations who contributed vision, effort, funds, creativity, passion and commitment to the success of projects funded by WCB in 2020. We look forward to future successful partnerships in 2021.

Alpine Watershed Group
American River Conservancy
American River Natural History Association
American River Parkway Foundation
American Rivers, Inc.
Audubon Society
Avila Beach Community Foundation
Bella Vista Foundation
Big Sur Land Trust
Blue Forest Finance, Inc.
Bolsa Chica Conservancy
Bolsa Chica Land Trust
Bureau of Land Management
Butte County Resource Conservation District
Cache Creek Conservancy
Calaveras Healthy Impact Product Solutions
CAL FIRE
California Academy of Sciences
California Coastal Conservancy
California Deer Association
California Department of Boating and Waterways
California Department of Conservation
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
California Department of Parks and Recreation
California Department of Transportation
California Department of Water Resources
California Institute of Environmental Studies
California Natural Resources Agency
California Ocean Protection Council
California Sea Grant
California State Coastal Conservancy
California State University, Sacramento
California Trout, Inc.
California Waterfowl Association
Center for Natural Lands Management
City of Agoura Hills
City of Aliso Viejo
City of Carlsbad
City of Eureka
City of Los Angeles
City of San Diego
Coachella Valley Mountain Conservancy

County of Monterey
County of Orange
County of Sacramento
County of Tuolumne
Creek Lands Conservation
Department of Defense
Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
Eagle Aerial
East Bay Regional Park District
East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy
East Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency
East Merced Resource Conservation District
Eastern Sierra Land Trust
Endangered Habitat Conservancy
Environmental Defense Fund
Escondido Creek Conservancy
Feather River Land Trust
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Forest Legacy Program
Friends of Avila Pier, Inc.
Friends of the Desert Mountains
Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy
Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation
Grace Us Foundation
Honey Lake Resource Conservation District
Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District
Humboldt County Resource Conservation District
James Lawrence and Leonard Paul Lawrence Trust of 1991
Kern Community Foundation
Kern River Valley Heritage Foundation
Laguna Canyon Foundation
Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County
Land Trust of Napa County
Land Trust of San Luis Obispo County
Land Trust of Santa Cruz County
Mojave Desert Land Trust
Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District
Moore Foundation
Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
National Forest Foundation
National Park Service
National Wildlife Federation
New Current Water and Land, LLC
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
North Coast Resource Conservation and Development Council
North Coast Resource Partnership
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Pacific Life Foundation
Peninsula Open Space Trust
Pepperwood Foundation
Placer Land Trust
Plumas Corporation
Point Blue Conservation Science
Port San Luis Harbor District
Redwood Community Action Agency
Resource Conservation District of Mariposa County
Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County
River Partners
Riverside County Regional Parks and Open Space District
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy
Salo Sciences
San Diego State University
San Dieguito River Valley Land Conservancy
San Joaquin River Conservancy
San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust, Inc.
San Luis Obispo County
Sanctuary Forest
Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department
Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency
Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
Save Oswit Canyon, Inc.
Save The Redwoods League
Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District
Sierra Foothill Conservancy
Sierra Nevada Conservancy
Sierra Pacific Industries
Signal Landmark, Inc.
Siskiyou Land Trust
Solano County Resource Conservation District
Sonoma County Regional Parks
Sonoma County Water Agency
Sonoma Ecology Center
Sonoma Resource Conservation District
Sonoma Valley Ground Water Sustainability Agency
Sonoma Water
South Yuba River Citizens League
State Water Resources Control Board
Tahoe Conservancy
The Acorn Group
The Nature Conservancy
Trinidad Coastal Land Trust
Trinity River Restoration Program
Trout Unlimited

Truckee Donner Land Trust
Truckee River Watershed Council
Trust for Public Land
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Forest Service
University of California, Irvine
Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority
Ventura County Watershed Protection District
W.M. Beaty & Associates
Warne Family Charitable Foundation
Watershed Progressive
Watershed Research and Training Center
Weeden Foundation
Western Riverside County RCA
Yolo County Planning and Public Works Department
Yolo County Resource Conservation District
Yosemite National Park Service



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