

State of California  
Natural Resources Agency  
Department of Fish and Wildlife

# **WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD**

## **2021 YEAR IN REVIEW**



*Photo: Truckee Springs*



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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: Puma Canyon*

## 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: American River Ranch (Soil Born Farm)*

## WCB IN 2021

WCB contributed to 160 projects in the 2021 calendar year, allocating approximately \$162.8 million in funding including:

**\$76.5 million** for habitat restoration and enhancement of over 17,000 acres.

**\$43.7 million** for protection of over 30,000 acres of wildlife habitat.

**\$42.6 million** was spent on planning, studies and public access.

# A YEAR IN REVIEW

## Competitive Solicitations

In 2021, 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. Four of these five programs funded 66 projects totaling over \$85.7 million.

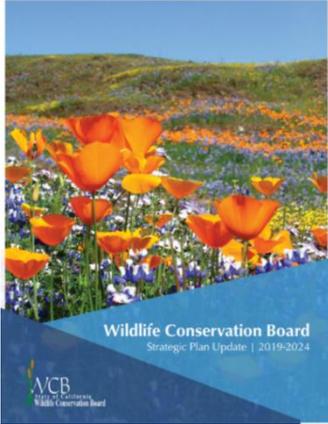
**Table 1: Applications Received and Recommended Per Each Program**

Program	# Full Apps	Amount	Recommended	Amount
Wildlife Corridor/Fish Passage (Prop 68/General Fund)	17	\$36,527,917	10	\$27,318,743
Sierra Nevada/Cascade Mountains (Prop 68)	23	\$33,585,695	TBD in 2022	TBD in 2022
Pacific Flyway (Prop 68)	34	\$29,890,777	15	\$13,739,000
Public Access (Prop 68)	17	\$6,795,935	10	\$4,912,720
Stream Flow Enhancement (Prop 1)	67	\$97,067,375	31	\$39,788,527
<b>Totals</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>\$203,867,699</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>\$85,758,990</b>



Photo: Mountain Meadows

## 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 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 2021 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.

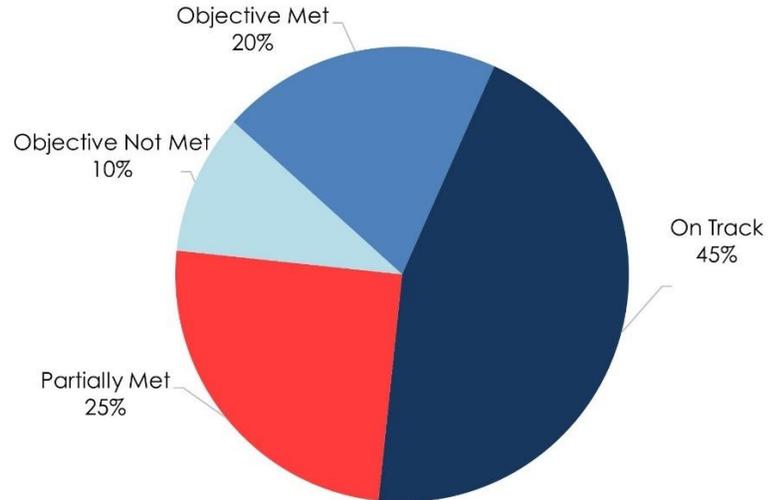
# STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVES REPORT

These graphs and tables summarize the Strategic Plan objectives met in 2021. Some of the plan objectives are short term and measured annually, while others are long term measured every five years.



Photo: Carr Lake Restoration Planning

## STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVES MET IN 2021



**Table 2: Strategic Plan Objectives Reported in 2021 – Annual Target**

Objective	Description	Target	Approved Projects
1.1	Wildlife under or over crossing project	3	8
1.6	Upper watershed project for resilience to climate change	5	6
2.2	Advance targets in conservation plans	5	22
2.3	Addresses CA Water Action Plan priorities (Prop 1)	10	35
4.1	Upper watershed ecosystem services	5	9
4.2	Native pollinator habitat	3	2

**Table 3: Strategic Plan Objectives Reported in 2021 – Five Year Target**

Objective	Description	Target	Approved Projects
1.2	Connectivity projects	5	59
1.4	Provides long-term carbon sequestration	5	7
2.1a	Oak woodlands projects	10	7
2.1b	Riparian habitat projects	10	20
2.1c	Rangeland projects	10	4
3.2	Boating/Fishing/Hunting Access for DAC	5	5
3.3	Hunting/Fishing opportunities	10	14
3.4	Non-consumptive wildlife recreation	10	35
4.3	Lower watershed ecosystem services benefits	5	5
5.1	Safe Harbor Program projects	3	0

**Table 4: Strategic Plan Objectives – Staff Activities in 2021**

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Target Status</b>
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
7.5	Refine priority conservation areas for programs and report	Objective Met
1.5	Catastrophic natural resource events criteria for solicitations	On Track
5.3	Coordinate 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
8.2	Monitor completed projects and post summary on website	On Track
8.3	Monitoring survey platform accessible on website	On Track
8.5	Update 60-Year Assessment	On Track
3.5	Meetings for Public Access Program	Partially Met
6.6	Sponsor 5 conferences or workshops	Partially Met
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
8.1	Define criteria for effectiveness monitoring	Objective Not Met
8.4	Monitoring data in annual report by county and SWAP habitat	Objective Not Met



Photo: Golden Gate Monarch Butterfly Habitat

## 2021 PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

### **Chollas Creek at Federal Boulevard Riparian Restoration**

Groundworks San Diego - Chollas Creek received \$2,730,000 for a cooperative project with the California Natural Resources Agency, the California Department of Water Resources, and the City of San Diego to remove a concrete channel and restore riparian habitat on Chollas Creek in the City of San Diego.



*Photo: Chollas Creek*

### **Buena Vista Lagoon Restoration Planning**

San Diego Association of Governments received \$3,000,000 for a planning project to provide initial designs and engineering studies necessary to enhance the biological function and recreational values of Buena Vista Lagoon by restoring tidal connectivity and addressing increased sedimentation, invasive vegetation encroachment, and degraded water quality in San Diego County.



*Photo: Buena Vista Lagoon*

### **Ventura River Parkway**

The Trust for Public Land received a \$4.75 million grant for a cooperative project with the California Natural Resources Agency and the Ventura Land Trust to acquire approximately 29 acres of riparian and floodplain habitat along the Ventura River and to provide the potential for wildlife-oriented, public-use opportunities near Ventura in Ventura County.



*Photo: Ventura River*

### **Attiyeh Ranch Conservation Easements**

The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County received a \$3.88 million grant for a cooperative project with the California Department of Conservation and the California State Coastal Conservancy to acquire a conservation easement over approximately 7,682 acres of Attiyeh Ranch to protect habitat, migration corridors, and wildlife connectivity within the Nacimiento River watershed in San Luis Obispo County.



*Photo: Attiyeh Ranch*

### **River West Eaton Trail**

The City of Fresno received a \$3,104,831 grant to develop final engineering designs and secure permitting to extend the existing Lewis S. Eaton Trail, build three access points, and other public access amenities located in the San Joaquin River Parkway in the City and County of Fresno. The project will connect and provide public access to nearly 500 acres of open space in the Parkway.



*Photo: River West Eaton Trail*

### **Mariposa Creek Parkway Riparian Restoration**

Mariposa County received a \$415,000 grant for a cooperative project with the Resource Conservation District of Mariposa County and the Sierra Foothill Conservancy to restore 8 acres of riverine and riparian woodland habitat along Mariposa Creek in the City and County of Mariposa. The project will incorporate Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation traditional ecological knowledge and culturally significant native plants, as well as interpretive panels in English and Southern Sierra Miwuk languages.



*Photo: Mariposa Creek*

### **Hudeman Slough Boat Launch**

Sonoma County Regional Parks received a \$754,000 grant for a cooperative project with the California Department of Boating and Waterways to replace a damaged boat launch and construct other public amenities located on Hudeman Slough in Sonoma County.



*Photo: Hudeman Slough Boat Launch*

### **Camp Pendola Forest Restoration**

The National Forest Foundation received \$1,381,000 for a cooperative project with the U.S. Forest Service to enhance forest health and reduce risk of catastrophic wildfire through selective thinning and invasive plant control on 550 acres in the Tahoe National Forest in the North Yuba River watershed of Yuba County.



*Photo: Camp Pendola Forest Restoration*

### **Truckee Springs**

The Truckee Donner Land Trust received a \$2 million grant for a cooperative project with CNRA to acquire in fee approximately 25 acres of land to preserve riparian and wildlife corridors and habitat linkages, and to provide wildlife-oriented, public-use opportunities in the town of Truckee in Nevada County.



*Photo: Truckee Springs*

### **Lone Pine Ranch, Phase 1**

The Wildlands Conservancy received a \$4.9 million grant to acquire approximately 7,344 acres of land for the protection of oak woodlands, annual grassland and open meadow areas along with a mixed conifer forest, including riparian corridors and salmonid streams near the community of Alderpoint in Mendocino and Trinity Counties.



*Photo: Lone Pine Ranch*

### **Redwoods Rising Forest Restoration**

Save the Redwoods League received \$1,500,000 for a cooperative project with the National Parks Service and the California Department of Parks and Recreation to improve forest health through road removal and selective thinning on 1,000 acres in Redwoods National and State Parks within the Greater Prairie Creek and Greater Mill Creek watersheds of Humboldt and Del Norte Counties.



*Photo: Redwoods Rising Forest Restoration*

### **Salmonid Habitat Acquisition and Instream Flow**

The Wildlands Conservancy received a \$3.2 million grant for a cooperative project with The Trust for Public Land to acquire the 6,095-acre Hayden Ranch and dedicate instream flows for the East Fork Scott River located near Callahan in Siskiyou County. The project will provide instream flow enhancements to improve summer rearing conditions for juvenile coho salmon and migration for fall run Chinook salmon.



*Photo: East Fork Scott River*

## **Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Overpass Crossing**

The National Wildlife Federation received \$20,000,000 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)*

## **Highway 17 Crossings Planning and Design**

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District received \$5,000,000 to develop designs and environmental documentation for a wildlife undercrossing and regional trails overcrossing of Highway 17, south of Los Gatos in Santa Clara County.



*Photo: Highway 17 Crossing Site*

## **Grizzly Island Wildlife Area Pond 12 and Field 13 Enhancement**

California Waterfowl Association received \$1,580,000 for a cooperative project with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to enhance 680 acres of seasonal wetlands and 169 acres of upland nesting habitat for the benefit of migratory birds at the Grizzly Island Wildlife Area in Solano County.



*Photo: Grizzly Island Wildlife Area*

## 2021 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 2021, \$162.8 million of WCB grant expenditures were matched by nearly \$126.8 million in partner contributions.

**Table 5: 2021 Project Partner Funding**

Project Partner	Funding Amount
State (non-WCB)	\$41.9 Million
Federal	\$50.8 Million
Local	\$7.1 Million
Non-Profit	\$16.4 Million
Private	\$10.5 Million



*Photo: Western Pond Turtle*



*Photo: Yellow Legs*

**Table 6: WCB Allocations by Fund Source**

Fund Source	Allocation Amount
GF	\$33.6 Million
GGRF	\$2.9 Million
HCF	\$18.8 Million
P1	\$33.5 Million
P12	\$21.6 Thousand
P40	\$2.5 Million
P50	\$3.2 Million
P68	\$58.2 Million
P84	\$10.2 Million

## 2021 Total Acreage Protected or Restored and WCB Allocation by County

In 2021, WCB protected or restored a total of approximately 47,000 acres with a total allocation of \$120.2 million covering 46 counties. An additional \$42.6 million was spent on public access, plans, and studies. Counties not listed in the tables below had no projects approved in 2021.

**Table 7: Fee Title**

County	Acres	Allocation
Colusa	170	\$70,000
Contra Cost	80	\$56,000
El Dorado	40	\$180,000
Fresno	21	\$2,230,000
Mariposa	226	\$750,000
Mono	160	\$340,000
Napa	35	\$110,000
Nevada	145	\$2,185,000
Orange	108	\$4,230,000
Riverside	238	\$2,712,500
Sacramento	19	\$1,660,000
San Bernardino	417	\$3,305,700
San Diego	343	\$1,671,650
San Luis Obispo	485	\$100,000
Santa Clara	182	\$1,085,000
Siskiyou	6,095	\$3,020,000
Sonoma	47	\$1,340,000
Stanislaus	24	\$140,000
Trinity	7,479	\$4,940,000
Ventura	29	\$4,864,500
Yuba	3	\$75,000
<b>Totals</b>	<b>16,346</b>	<b>\$35,065,350</b>

**Table 8: Conservation Easements**

County	Acres	Allocation
Humboldt	762	\$50,000
Lassen	2,476	\$950,000
Marin	135	\$2,130,000
San Luis Obispo	7,681	\$3,880,000
Santa Barbara	339	\$394,306
Shasta	2,098	\$815,000
Yolo	202	\$376,720
<b>Totals</b>	<b>13,693</b>	<b>\$8,596,026</b>

**Table 9: Restoration and Enhancement**

<b>County</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Allocation</b>
Butte	148	\$614,000
Contra Costa	420	\$133,000
Del Norte		\$1,500,000
El Dorado	2,000	\$756,648
Lassen	1,636	\$1,783,500
Los Angeles	11	\$20,381,000
Marin		\$493,000
Mariposa	1,773	\$4,654,244
Mendocino	7	\$2,065,410
Merced	102	\$1,140,000
Orange	202	\$422,000
Plumas	47	\$504,002
Sacramento	3	\$297,949
San Diego	140	\$7,796,192
San Luis Obispo	56	\$157,494
San Mateo	2	\$5,119,208
Santa Clara	370	\$2,302,000
Sierra	3,156	\$3,747,458
Siskiyou	2,173	\$1,107,000
Solano	2,302	\$2,332,000
Sonoma		\$4,878,992
Tehama		\$328,659
Ventura	20	\$991,000
Yuba	2,645	\$6,992,560
Multiple Counties		\$6,000,000
<b>Totals</b>	<b>17,213</b>	<b>\$76,497,316</b>



Photo: West Coyote Hills

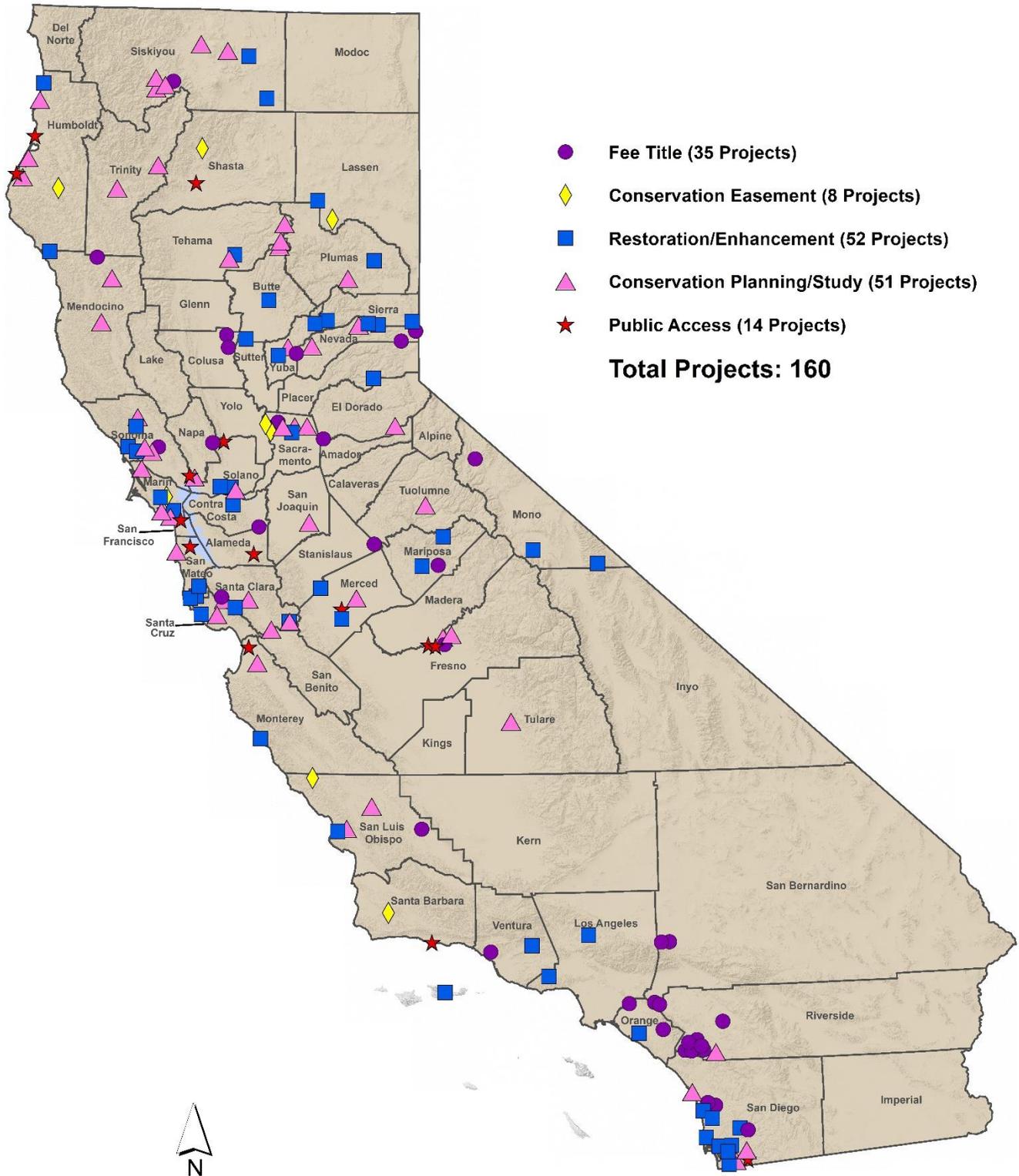
**Table 10: Project Planning, Studies and Public Access**

<b>County</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Allocation</b>
Alameda	1	\$300,000
Butte	320	\$196,071
El Dorado	160	\$125,000
Fresno	374	\$4,948,148
Humboldt	912	\$1,218,463
Inyo		\$299,550
Madera		\$1,050,000
Marin	13	\$2,510,650
Mendocino		\$1,753,913
Merced	13	\$120,000
Mono		\$320,000
Monterey	74	\$1,608,788
Nevada	625	\$219,000
Plumas	80	\$110,000
Riverside	2	\$1,331,000
Sacramento	8	\$410,325
San Benito		\$221,600
San Diego	6,670	\$6,022,162
San Joaquin		\$931,000
San Luis Obispo		\$150,154
San Mateo	10	\$671,000
Santa Barbara	4	\$1,216,129
Santa Clara	12	\$5,700,000
Santa Cruz	1	\$618,915
Shasta	2	\$311,000
Sierra	100	\$260,000
Siskiyou	5	\$1,927,061
Solano	26	\$460,000
Sonoma	376	\$1,663,520
Tehama	16,100	\$3,807,430
Trinity		\$853,576
Tuolumne	67	\$219,000
Yuba		\$865,456
Statewide		\$272,000
<b>Totals</b>	<b>25,955</b>	<b>\$42,690,911</b>



Photo: Attiyeh Ranch

# WCB Projects Awarded in 2021



## 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 2021. We look forward to future successful partnerships in 2022.

American Forests  
American River Conservancy  
Audubon Canyon Ranch  
Audubon Society  
Bella Vista Foundation  
Big Sur Land Trust  
Blue Forest Finance, Inc.  
Bonneville Environmental Foundation  
Butte County Resource Conservation District  
Cal Poly Corporation  
California Botanic Garden  
California Coastal Conservancy  
California Conservation Corps  
California Deer Association  
California Department of Conservation  
California Department of Boating and Waterways  
California Department of Conservation  
California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection  
California Department of Parks and Recreation  
California Department of Transportation  
California Department of Water Resources  
California Invasive Plant Council  
California Native Plant Society  
California Natural Resources Agency  
California Office of Emergency Services  
California State Coastal Conservancy  
California State Parks  
California Trout, Inc  
California Rangeland Trust  
California Waterfowl Association  
Chaparral Lands Conservancy  
City of Chula Vista  
City of Fresno  
City of Fullerton  
City of Newman  
City of Pacifica  
City of Redding  
City of Sacramento  
City of San Diego  
Coast Range Watershed Institute  
Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District

Collins Products, LLC  
County of Mariposa  
County of Sacramento  
County of San Diego  
County of San Diego, Department of Parks and Recreation  
County of San Francisco  
County of San Luis Obispo  
County of San Mateo  
Creek Lands Conservation  
Deer Creek Irrigation District  
Ducks Unlimited, Inc.  
Earth Discovery Institute  
East Bay Regional Park District  
East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy  
Elkhorn Slough Foundation  
Endangered Habitat Conservancy  
Escondido Creek Conservancy  
Feather River Land Trust  
Fresno Building Healthy Communities  
Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy  
Grassland Resource Conservation District  
Grassland Water District  
Greater Farallones Association  
Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary  
Groundworks San Diego – Chollas Creek  
Harmony Union School District  
Hicks Law  
Humboldt County  
Humboldt County Resource Conservation District  
Land Trust for Santa Barbara County  
Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County  
Laural Foundation  
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power  
Marin Community Foundation  
Marin County Community Development Agency  
Marin County Parks  
Marin Open Space Trust  
Mendocino County Resource Conservation District  
Metropolitan Transportation Commission  
Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District  
Modoc Timber Lands, LLC  
Monterey Bay Salmon and Trout Project  
Morro Bay National Estuary Program  
Morro Coast Audubon Society  
Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority  
Mojave Desert Land Trust  
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
National Forest Foundation

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
National Park Service  
National Wildlife Federation  
Natural Resource Conservation Service  
Nature Collective  
Nevada Irrigation District  
North Coast Resource Conservation and Development Council  
Ore-Cal Resource Conservation and Development Area Council  
Pacific Forest Trust  
Peninsula Open Space Trust  
Plumas Corporation  
Point Blue Conservation Science  
Reclamation District 2092  
Resource Conservation District of Mariposa County  
River Partners  
Rivers & Lands Conservancy  
Round Valley Indian Tribes  
Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency  
San Diego Association of Governments  
San Dieguito River Valley Land Conservancy  
San Francisco Zen Center  
San Joaquin River Conservancy  
San Luis Obispo County  
San Mateo County Resource Conservation District  
Sanctuary Forest  
Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency  
Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority  
Santa Clara Valley Water District  
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission  
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Save the Redwoods League  
Seadrift Homeowners Association  
Sierra Foothill Conservancy  
Sierra Institute for Community and Environment  
Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
Sierra Pacific Industries  
Sierra Streams Institute  
Siskiyou Land Trust  
Soil Born Farms  
Solano County Resource Conservation District  
Sonoma County Regional Parks  
Sonoma County Water Agency  
Sonoma Resource Conservation District  
South Yuba River Citizens League  
SPHERE Institute  
Stanford-Vina Irrigation District  
Tahoe National Forest Service  
Tehama County Resource Conservation District

Teichert Materials  
The Nature Conservancy  
The Trust for Public Land  
The Wildlands Conservancy  
Transition Habitat Conservancy  
Trout Unlimited  
Truckee Donner Land Trust  
Truckee River Watershed Council  
Tuolumne River Trust  
U.S. Bureau of Land Management  
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
U.S. Forest Service (USDA)  
U.S. Green Building Council Central California  
University of California, Berkeley  
University of California, Irvine  
University of California, Los Angeles  
University of California, San Diego  
University of California, Santa Barbara  
University of California, Santa Cruz  
Ventura Land Trust  
Watershed Research and Training Center  
Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority  
Western Transportation Institute – Montana State University  
Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation  
Yolo Habitat Conservancy  
Yosemite Conservancy  
Yosemite National Park  
Yuba Water Agency



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