



**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 26, 2022, 10:00 a.m.

Natural Resources Building, First Floor Auditorium  
715 P Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Board meeting will be available via Zoom. A recording will be posted after the meeting.

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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  
Gayle Miller, Member  
Chief Deputy Director, Policy, Department of Finance  
Damon Nagami, Public Member  
Fran Pavley, Public Member  
Kathryn Phillips, Public Member  
Samantha Murray  
President Fish and Game Commission

Joint Legislative Advisory Committee

Senator Andreas Borgeas  
Senator Nancy Skinner  
Senator Henry Stern  
Assemblymember Luz Rivas  
Assemblymember Laura Friedman – Alternate  
Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan  
Assemblymember Miguel Santiago – Alternate  
Assemblymember Steve Bennett  
Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia – Alternate

Executive Director

John P. Donnelly

**2. Discussion and Selection of new Board Chairman**

**3. Public Forum for Items not on this Agenda**

This item provides an opportunity for the general public to share comments or concerns on topics that are not included in this agenda. Speakers shall be limited to two minutes. 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:

<b>HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (0262)</b>	<b>\$49,755,605.85</b>
May 2022 Board Meeting Allocation:	(10,286,280.00)
Total Project Development:	(7,462,903.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	<b>\$32,006,422.85</b>

<b>SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS, CLEAN WATER, CLEAN AIR, AND COASTAL PROTECTION BOND FUND (Proposition 12) (0005)</b>	<b>\$845,790.00</b>
May 2022 Board Meeting Allocation:	(0.00)
Total Project Development:	(0.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	<b>\$845,790.00</b>

<b>CALIFORNIA CLEAN WATER, CLEAN AIR, SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS AND COASTAL PROTECTION BOND FUND (Proposition 40) (6029)</b>	<b>\$5,180,550.52</b>
May 2022 Board Meeting Allocation:	(0.00)
Total Project Development:	(4,095,000.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	<b>\$1,085,550.52</b>

<b>WATER SECURITY, CLEAN DRINKING WATER, COASTAL AND BEACH PROTECTION FUND OF 2002 (Proposition 50) (6031)</b>	<b>\$14,204,900.86</b>
May 2022 Board Meeting Allocation:	(6,070,000.00)
Total Project Development:	(4,413,955.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	<b>\$3,720,945.86</b>

<b>SAFE DRINKING WATER, WATER QUALITY AND SUPPLY, FLOOD CONTROL, RIVER AND COASTAL PROTECTION FUND OF 2006 (Proposition 84) (6051)</b>	<b>\$8,243,008.56</b>
May 2022 Board Meeting Allocation:	(0.00)
Total Project Development:	(5,415,877.41)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	<b>\$2,827,131.15</b>
<b>WATER QUALITY, SUPPLY, AND INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT FUND (Proposition 1) (6083)</b>	<b>\$57,971,162.69</b>
May 2022 Board Meeting Allocation:	(7,924,635.00)
Total Project Development:	(5,884,367.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	<b>\$44,162,160.69</b>
<b>THE CALIFORNIA DROUGHT, WATER, PARKS, CLIMATE, COASTAL PROTECTION, AND OUTDOOR ACCESS FOR ALL ACT OF 2018 (Proposition 68) (6088)</b>	<b>\$117,957,338.72</b>
May 2022 Board Meeting Allocation:	(28,148,208.00)
Total Project Development:	(31,214,035.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	<b>\$58,595,095.72</b>
<b>GENERAL FUND (0001)</b>	<b>\$147,592,250.00</b>
May 2022 Board Meeting Allocation:	(10,619,460.00)
Total Project Development:	(17,823,700.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	<b>\$119,149,090.00</b>
<b>GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION FUND (3228)</b>	<b>\$5,553,014.67</b>
May 2022 Board Meeting Allocation:	0.00
Total Project Development:	(4,494,600.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	<b>\$1,058,441.67</b>
<b>TOTAL – ALL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$407,303,648.87</b>
Grand Total – May 2022 Board Meeting Allocation:	(63,048,583.00)
Grand Total - Project Development:	(80,804,437.41)
Grand Total Projected Unallocated Balance:	<b>\$263,450,628.46</b>

## Consent Items

Items 5-28 are part of the Consent Calendar

**5. Recovery of Funds, Thursday, May 26, 2022**

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*

<b>Fund Name</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Habitat Conservation Fund	\$105,567.78
Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund	\$0.00
California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Fund	\$0.00
Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002	\$3,216,084.37
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006	\$107,130.10
Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Fund of 2014	\$10,532.23
The California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018	\$3,469.00
<b>Total Recoveries for All Funds</b>	<b>\$3,442,783.48</b>

*Table 2 - Habitat Conservation Fund*

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Allocated</b>	<b>Expended</b>	<b>Balance</b>
Eel River WLA, Ocean Ranch Unit, Planning and Design	\$150,000.00	\$148,409.35	\$1,590.65
Eel River WLA, Ocean Ranch Unit, Planning and Design, Augmentation	\$150,000.00	\$148,422.12	\$1,577.88
Ventura River Parkway	\$4,864,500.00	\$4,762,100.75	\$102,399.25
West Coyote Hills	\$2,804,000.00	\$2,804,000.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Recoveries to Habitat Conservation Fund</b>			<b>\$105,567.78</b>

*Table 3 - Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund*

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Allocated</b>	<b>Expended</b>	<b>Balance</b>
Audubon Conservation Ranching Program	\$512,000.00	\$512,000.00	\$0.00
Northern California Climate Adaptation Project	\$118,000.00	\$118,000.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Recoveries to Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund</b>			<b>\$0.00</b>

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

<b>Project Name</b>	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Eel River WLA, Ocean Ranch Unit, Planning and Design	\$600,000.00	\$600,000.00	\$0.00
Sacramento River Boating Access, Red Bluff River Park	\$720,000.00	\$720,000.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Recoveries California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Fund</b>			<b>\$0.00</b>

*Table 5 - Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002*

<b>Project Name</b>	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Red Hill Bay Shallow Water Habitat	\$1,850,000.00	\$126,915.63	\$1,723,084.37
Red Hill Bay Shallow Water Habitat, Augmentation	\$1,493,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,493,000.00
<b>Total Recoveries to Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002</b>			<b>\$3,216,084.37</b>

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

<b>Project Name</b>	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Dry Creek Forest Restoration Project	\$350,000.00	\$303,219.97	\$46,780.03
Rim Fire Forest Restoration	\$3,510,000.00	\$3,461,778.25	\$48,221.75
Sacramento River Valley, Safe Harbor Agreements	\$450,000.00	\$437,871.68	\$12,128.32
<b>Total Recoveries to Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006</b>			<b>\$107,130.10</b>

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

<b>Project Name</b>	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Putah-Cache Watershed Arundo Eradication	\$373,616.27	\$373,616.27	\$0.00
San Joaquin River - Grayson Property Project	\$122,448.00	\$122,448.00	\$0.00
Sonoma County Coastal Rainwater Catchment and Forbearance	\$851,806.00	\$841,273.77	\$10,532.23
<b>Total Recoveries to Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Fund of 2014</b>			<b>\$10,532.23</b>

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

Project Name	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Western Riverside MSHCP (2017) Stoddard	\$269,000.00	\$265,531.00	\$3,469.00
<b>Total Recoveries to The California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All, Act of 2018</b>			<b>\$3,469.00</b>

- 6. Fund Shifts for Previously Approved Projects** **\$1,215,000**  
 To consider an alternative funding source for up to five previously Board approved projects as a result of original fund sources expiring on June 30, 2022.

**Willow Creek Wildlife Area Meadow Enhancement**

On November 21, 2019, WCB approved a \$216,000 grant to Ducks Unlimited, Inc. to replace water control structures and plant riparian vegetation on the Willow Creek Wildlife Area, located in Lassen County. Topographic surveys were completed in Fall 2021 and construction is set to begin in Summer/Fall of 2022. A portion of the project (\$111,741) was funded with Habitat Conservation Fund 2786dOW (1E) funds which will revert on June 30, 2022. To allow completion of the work through the end of the grant, December 31, 2023, staff recommend shifting those funds to Habitat Conservation Fund 2786(d)OW which also supports this type of work.

**Taylor Yard G2 Early Activation Project**

The Taylor Yard G2 Early Activation Project was approved by WCB on May 20, 2022, for \$250,000 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund (WRF) to complete planning and designs for an educational and nature programming facility in Los Angeles County. To date, \$0 have been spent and \$250,000 remain. Since the WRF funds will revert on June 30, 2022, and therefore will no longer be accessible, staff recommend that the remaining funds of \$250,000 be shifted to the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 fund (Proposition 68) (Public Resources Code Section 80132(a), Enactment Years 2018 and 2019) to allow the project to be completed.

**Avila Pier Rehabilitation Project**

The Avila Pier Rehabilitation Project was approved by WCB on May 20, 2020, for \$1,250,000 from WRF and the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68) fund, Public Resources Code Section 80132(a). The project is located in San Luis Obispo County and will replace or repair approximately 40 pilings of the pier, replace decking pile caps and stringers, and construct an ADA corridor on the pier. To date, \$0 have been spent and \$1,250,000 remain. Since the \$750,000 of WRF funds will revert on June 30, 2022, and will no longer be accessible, staff recommend that the remaining funds of \$750,000 be shifted to Proposition 68 funding (Public Resources Code Section 80132(a), Enactment Year 2019) to allow the project to be completed.

**Carmel River Floodplain Restoration and Enhancement Project**

The Carmel River Floodplain Restoration and Enhancement Project was approved by the Board on February 26, 2020, for \$2,500,000 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (HCF) to complete final designs for floodplain restoration and construct 135 acres of habitat restoration along the Carmel River in Monterey County. To date, \$4,787.57 have been spent and \$2,495,212.43 remain. Since \$100,647.43 from HCF Enactment Years 2011 and 2012 will revert on June 30, 2022, and therefore will no longer be accessible, staff recommend that up to \$100,647.43 be shifted to the HCF Enactment Year 2013 to allow the project to be completed.

## 7. Lake Earl Wildlife Area - Tax Default Properties

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) approve this project as proposed; 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:	Lake Earl – Tax Default Properties
Project Type:	CDFW Fee Title (38± acres)
Amount Recommended:	\$0
Funding Partners:	State Coastal Conservancy (SCC)
County:	Del Norte County
Program:	Land Acquisition
Funding:	None
Strategic Plan:	Goals: A.2 Objectives: SI 1.3, 2.1
Disadvantaged Community:	Not within a disadvantaged community

### LOCATION

This proposal is to consider the acquisition of 38± acres of land (Property) that is currently owned by Del Norte County as former tax-default parcels, located in the Pacific Shores subdivision on the north shore of Lake Earl and adjacent to Tolowa Dunes State Park and existing state-owned parcels. The Property is approximately four miles north of Crescent City in Del Norte County and lies in the Smith River plain. The acquired parcels would be added to the CDFW Lake Earl Wildlife Area (LEWA) to allow for the further protection of Lake Earl and its associated coastal dune, wetland, upland, and forest habitats, the continued development of the LEWA, and the protection and enhancement of threatened and endangered species habitat.

Pacific Shores is a 1,535-lot subdivision consisting largely of sensitive dune and wetland habitat; the land was subdivided in the 1960s into approximately half-acre lots, sold to individual owners, and approximately 27 miles of subdivision roads and an electric transmission line were constructed. However, the sensitive habitat, natural hazards, and water quality concerns made development and infrastructure, such as sewage and water systems, impractical and therefore the subdivision was never developed. The Pacific Shores subdivision remains in the California Coastal Commission's (CCC) permit jurisdiction. CCC has not approved any residential development within the subdivision, and except for the road system that crosses dunes and wetlands, some unpermitted campsites with trailers, and one home (constructed pre-Coastal Act and subsequently purchased by the state), the subdivision remains undeveloped.

The LEWA and associated Lake Earl Wildlife Area Conceptual Area Protection Plan has been identified by CDFW as a state acquisition priority since 1975. Beginning in 1977, a series of public acquisitions began to preserve and protect sensitive habitat land, leading to the designation of CDFW's LEWA in 1979. However, due to the complexity of negotiating with over 1,000 individual property

owners, and continuing controversy over development proposals, the Pacific Shores lots remained largely in private hands until the early 2000s. In addition to the CAPP, the project also meets important 30x30 pathways. The project contributes to the goals of 30x30 California by aligning with Pathway 2: Execute Strategic Land Acquisitions.

To date WCB has acquired approximately 557 acres in the Pacific Shores subdivision on behalf of CDFW. The proposed acquisition will allow WCB to continue pursuing its goal of preserving important habitat by acquiring an additional 38-acres from Del Norte County as former tax default parcels.

Lake Earl is a shallow estuarine lagoon that supports a variety of wetland plant communities, including submerged aquatic life in the deeper, relatively freshwater areas of the estuary. Freshwater aquatic plants are used extensively by migrating waterfowl. These wetland communities provide habitat for a large number of water-associated species especially as rearing areas for young salmonid species. Lake Earl is fed by heavy winter rains, several creeks in the coastal plain, and extensive groundwater sources, and is periodically open to the ocean. A large sandbar separates the lagoon from the Pacific Ocean, which periodically breaches, either naturally or mechanically, opening the lagoon to the ocean. The sand then builds back up over time, and the lagoon closes. This lagoon and its surrounding wetlands were identified as one of California's 19 most productive wetlands.

The Lake Earl complex has been an important northern California, wintering stopover and nesting area for migratory shorebirds and waterfowl. Sitka spruce grows to the edge of the lake shore and is used by both the Peregrine falcon and the bald eagle. The nonnative perennial grasses are managed on the LEWA as foraging habitat for the Aleutian Canada goose. Over 95 percent of the Aleutian Canada goose population stages in the agricultural fields on or adjacent to LEWA. The Property provides habitat for at least 14 federally listed, California Species of Special Concern, or rare and endemic species, including bald eagle, Peregrine falcon, western snowy plover, marbled murrelet, sand dune phacelia, Oregon silverspot butterfly, seaside hoary elfin and greenish blue butterflies, tidewater goby, green sturgeon, coho salmon, steelhead, and coastal cutthroat trout. The California Species of Special Concern list includes 40 bird species found at Lake Earl.

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Historically, SCC and the Smith River Alliance have been instrumental in their assistance to help develop LEWA by providing funding and assisting in the initial pre-acquisition activities that has resulted in the success of LEWA. Again, through funding from SCC, and with invaluable assistance from Smith River Alliance, this proposal considers the acquisition of 26 half-acre parcels and one 25-acre parcel of irregular shape that are currently owned by Del Norte County as tax default parcels.

**MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS**

Acquisition of the Property will assist in securing these unique resources, facilitate lake level management and habitat protection and restoration, and would add significant acreage to the existing LEWA. Additional costs to CDFW for management and operation of the parcels are expected to be negligible. SCC with the collaboration of Smith River Alliance will assist with any costs and coordination associated with minor cleanup of any of the parcels prior to transfer to CDFW's name.

**PROJECT FUNDING**

The Department of General Services (DGS) approved fair market value is \$292,000. The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$0
State Coastal Conservancy	\$292,000
<b>TOTAL Purchase Price</b>	<b>\$292,000</b>

**PROJECT LETTERS OF SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION**

Support:

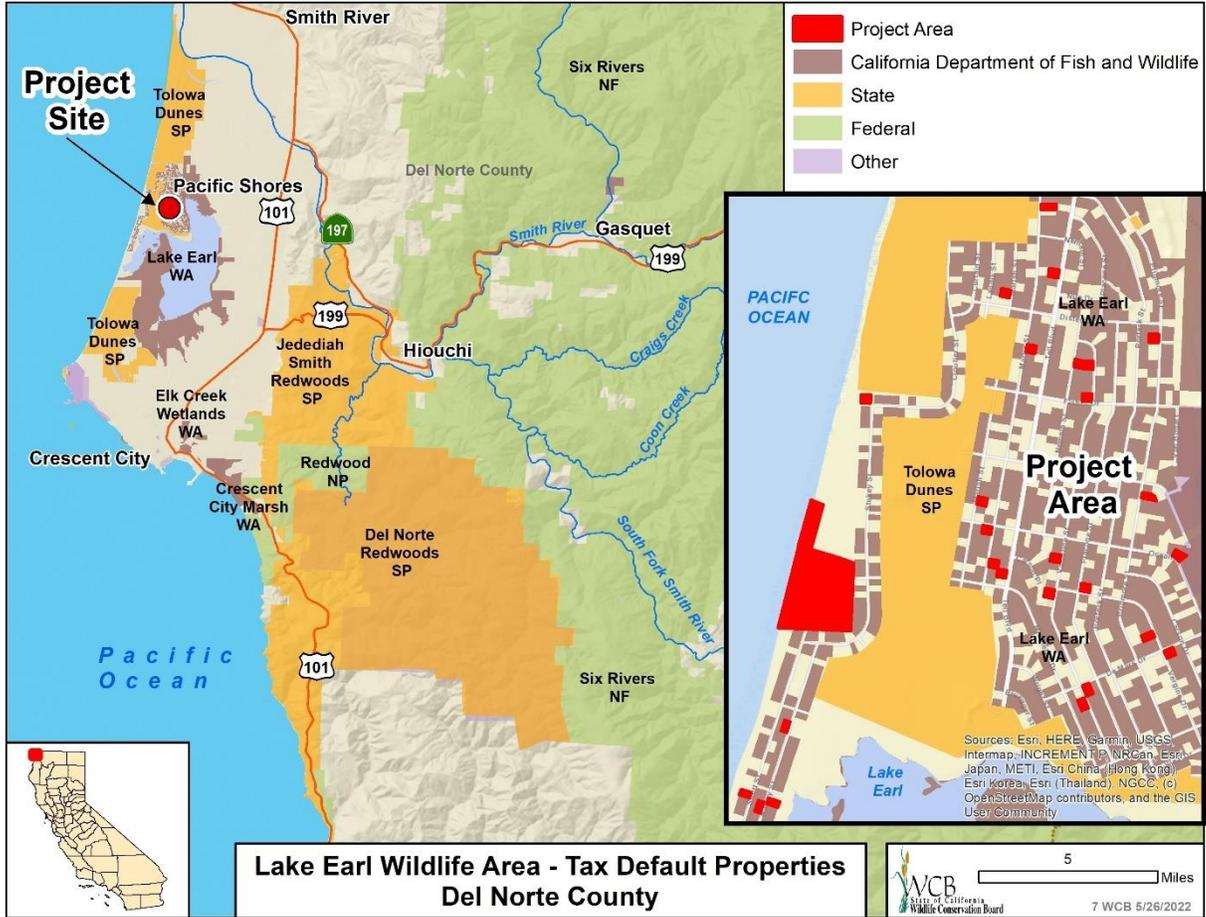
- None received

Opposition:

- None received

**CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS**

The project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (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 Notice of Exemption (NOE) with the State Clearinghouse and the county clerk.



**8. Lake Earl Wildlife Area - Expansion 36**

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; including accepting future lots when they become available through acquisition by the Smith River Alliance over time; 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 Earl Exp. 36
Project Type:	CDFW Fee Title (460± acres)
Amount Recommended:	\$0
Funding Partners:	State Coastal Conservancy (SCC)
County:	Del Norte County
Program:	Land Acquisition
Funding:	None
Strategic Plan:	Goals: A.2 Objectives: SI 1.3, 2.1
Disadvantaged Community:	Not within a disadvantaged community

**LOCATION**

This proposal is to consider the acquisition of up to 455± acres of privately owned land and 5± acres of land that is currently owned by Smith River Alliance (collectively, the Property), located in the Pacific Shores subdivision on the north shore of Lake Earl and adjacent to Tolowa Dunes State Park and existing state-owned parcels. The Property is approximately four miles north of Crescent City in Del Norte County and lies in the Smith River plain. The acquired parcels would be added to CDFW’s Lake Earl Wildlife Area (LEWA) to allow for the further protection of Lake Earl and its associated coastal dune, wetland, upland, and forest habitats, the continued development of the LEWA, and the protection and enhancement of threatened and endangered species habitat.

Pacific Shores is a 1,535-lot subdivision, consisting largely of sensitive dune and wetland habitat, the land was subdivided in the 1960s into approximately half-acre lots, sold to individual owners, and approximately 27 miles of subdivision roads and an electric transmission line were constructed. However, the sensitive habitat, natural hazards, and water quality concerns made development and infrastructure, such as sewage and water systems, impractical and therefore the subdivision was never developed. The Pacific Shores subdivision remains in California Coastal Commission’s (CCC) permit jurisdiction. CCC has not approved any residential development within the subdivision, and except for the road system that crosses dunes and wetlands, some unpermitted campsites with trailers, and one home (constructed pre-Coastal Act and subsequently purchased by the state), the subdivision remains undeveloped.

The LEWA and associated Lake Earl Wildlife Area Conceptual Area Protection Plan has been identified by CDFW as a state acquisition priority since 1975. Beginning in 1977, a series of public acquisitions began to preserve and protect sensitive habitat land, leading to the designation of CDFW’s LEWA in 1979.

However, due to the complexity of negotiating with over 1,000 individual property owners, and continuing controversy over development proposals, the Pacific Shores lots remained largely in private hands until the early 2000s. In addition to the CAPP, the project also meets important 30x30 pathways. The project contributes to the goals of 30x30 California by aligning with Pathway 2: Execute Strategic Land Acquisitions.

To date, WCB has acquired approximately 557 acres in the Pacific Shores subdivision on behalf of CDFW. The proposed acquisition will allow WCB to continue pursuing its goal of preserving important habitat by acquiring an additional 5 acres from the Smith River Alliance which acquired the 5 acres using funding from SCC. There are a remaining approximately 430 lots, or 455 acres, that are still in private ownership. Smith River Alliance, with funding from SCC, is pursuing acquisition of the 430 lots. Upon acquisition, Smith River Alliance will transfer at no cost, those lots to CDFW for inclusion in LEWA as part of this proposal.

Lake Earl is a shallow estuarine lagoon that supports a variety of wetland plant communities, including submerged aquatic life in the deeper, relatively freshwater areas of the estuary. Freshwater aquatic plants are used extensively by migrating waterfowl. These wetland communities provide habitat for a large number of water-associated species especially as rearing areas for young salmonid species. Lake Earl is fed by heavy winter rains, several creeks in the coastal plain, and extensive groundwater sources, and is periodically open to the ocean. A large sandbar separates the lagoon from the Pacific Ocean, which periodically breaches, either naturally or mechanically, opening the lagoon to the ocean. The sand then builds back up over time, and the lagoon closes. This lagoon and its surrounding wetlands were identified as one of California's 19 most productive wetlands.

The Lake Earl complex has been an important northern California, wintering stopover and nesting area for migratory shorebirds and waterfowl. Sitka spruce grows to the edge of the lake shore and is used by both the Peregrine falcon and the bald eagle. The nonnative perennial grasses are managed on the LEWA as foraging habitat for the Aleutian Canada goose. Over 95 percent of the Aleutian Canada goose population stages in the agricultural fields on or adjacent to LEWA. The Property provides habitat for at least 14 federally listed, California Species of Special Concern, or rare and endemic species, including bald eagle, Peregrine falcon, western snowy plover, marbled murrelet, sand dune phacelia, Oregon silverspot butterfly, seaside hoary elfin and greenish blue butterflies, tidewater goby, green sturgeon, coho salmon, steelhead, and coastal cutthroat trout. The California Species of Special Concern list includes 40 bird species found at Lake Earl.

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Historically, SCC and the Smith River Alliance have been instrumental in their assistance to help WCB and CDFW develop LEWA by providing funding and assisting in the initial pre-acquisition activities that has resulted in the success of

LEWA. Again, through funding from SCC and with invaluable assistance from Smith River Alliance this proposal considers the acquisition of 8 half-acre parcels and 1 full-acre parcel that is currently owned by Smith River Alliance and for which the acquisition of those parcels was funded by and through SCC. In addition, this proposal also considers CDFW's acceptance of an additional 430 lots, totaling approximately 455 acres, from Smith River Alliance upon opportunity from willing sellers to acquire all remaining lots over time.

#### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

Acquisition of the Property will assist in securing these unique resources, facilitate lake level management and habitat protection and restoration, and would add significant acreage to the existing LEWA. Additional costs to CDFW for management and operation of the parcels are expected to be negligible. SCC, with the collaboration of Smith River Alliance, will assist with any costs and coordination associated with minor cleanup of any of the parcels prior to transfer to CDFW.

#### PROJECT FUNDING

The DGS approved fair market value is \$45,000. The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$0
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$0

#### PROJECT LETTERS OF SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION

Support:

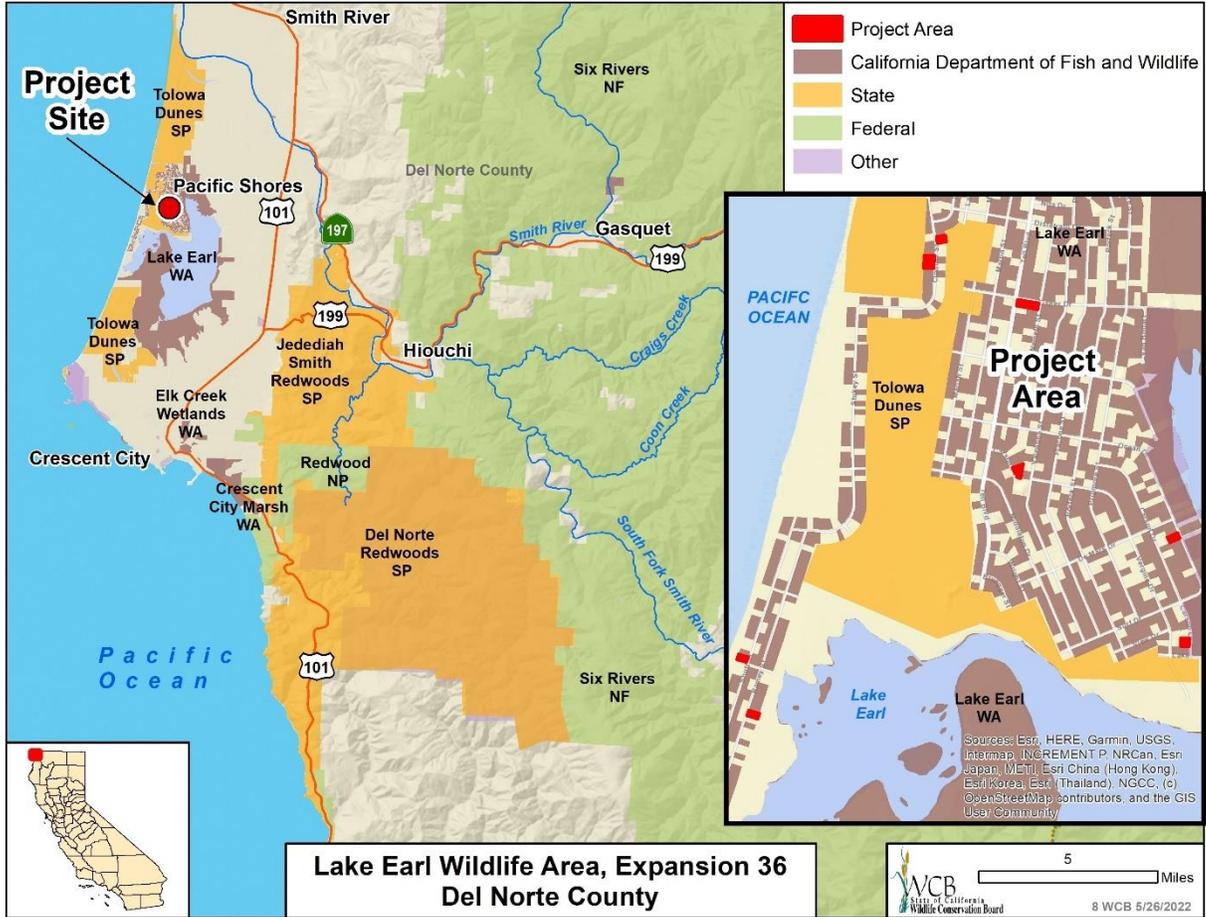
- None received

Opposition:

- None received

#### 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.



**9. Evan’s Spring Analysis and Design, Phase 2**

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$283,119 from the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Proposition 1), Public Resources Code Section 79733; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Evan’s Spring Analysis and Design, Phase 2
Project Type:	Planning
Applicant/Grantee:	California Trout, Inc.
Amount Recommended:	\$283,119
Funding Partners:	California Trout, Inc.
Landowner(s):	Private landowner
County:	Siskiyou
Program:	Stream Flow Enhancement
Funding:	Proposition 1
Strategic Plan:	Goals: B.1 Objectives: SI 2.3
Disadvantaged Community:	Within a disadvantaged community

**LOCATION**

The Evan’s Spring planning project (Project) is located in the Shasta River watershed where Evan’s Spring emerges and historically flowed into the Little Shasta River on land that is in private ownership. The Project site is currently an irrigation ditch near the town of Montague in Siskiyou County.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

This Project will work toward dedicating up to 2.36± cfs instream to the Little Shasta River by engaging with a private landowner (the Harts) to identify further opportunities for enhancing instream flows and improving water quality in the Little Shasta River. As such, this Project will develop a plan to return flow from Evan’s Spring back to the Little Shasta River, improving important habitats for all aquatic species, but particularly anadromous fish species of state and federal concern. Further, the grantee will develop a plan to increase irrigation efficiencies on the Hart Ranch, allowing the cold, clean, nutrient-rich Evan’s Spring water to be left instream to benefit fish and wildlife all the way to the mouth of the Little Shasta River, adding roughly 1,710 acre-feet of water per year to the system.

This Project will build on Phase 1 “Advancing Fish Passage in the Little Shasta Watershed,” funded by CDFW Proposition 68 which includes 1) an alternatives analysis for the reconnection of Evan’s Spring to the Little Shasta River, and completion of preliminary (~30%) design plans for the preferred alternative, and 2) an alternatives analysis for on-ranch irrigation improvements for the Hart Ranch, and completion of preliminary (~30%) design plans for the preferred alternative.

Phase 2 (the current proposed project) will take both sets of preliminary designs to 90-100% and create drafts of the necessary environmental permitting, NEPA, and

CEQA documentation for future implementation. Phase 1 of this Project (preferred alternatives to 30% design) is nearly complete. The Project end date is June 30, 2022, with final reports and designs due May 15, 2022.

This Project contributes to the goals of Pathways to 30x30 California by aligning with Pathway 6: Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship and Pathway 9: Advance and Promote Complementary Conservation Measures.

### PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Total Cost
Project Management	\$94,266	\$37,919	\$132,185
Reconnect Evan’s Spring Final Design	\$50,000	\$25,000	\$75,000
On-Ranch Irrigation Improvements Final Design	\$60,000	\$25,000	\$85,000
Permitting and Implementation Planning	\$60,000	\$20,000	\$80,000
Indirect	\$18,853	\$32,866	\$51,719
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$283,119</b>	<b>\$140,785</b>	<b>\$423,904</b>

Costs associated with WCB funding include:

- Project management: Establishment of subcontracts, stakeholder outreach, project reporting, and preparation of invoices.
- Reconnect Evan’s Spring Final Design: Using the existing 30% design plans to reconnect flow from Evan’s Spring to the Little Shasta River, develop final 90%-100% design plans that are ready to go out for bid.
- On-Ranch Irrigation Improvements Final Design: Using the existing 30% design plans for preferred irrigation improvements on Hart Ranch, develop final 90%-100% design plans that are ready to go out for bid.
- Permitting and Implementation Planning: Complete drafts of necessary permit applications, CEQA, and NEPA documents (full versions of these documents will be pursued once implementation funding is secured); and work to secure implementation funds.

### PROJECT LETTERS OF SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION

Support:

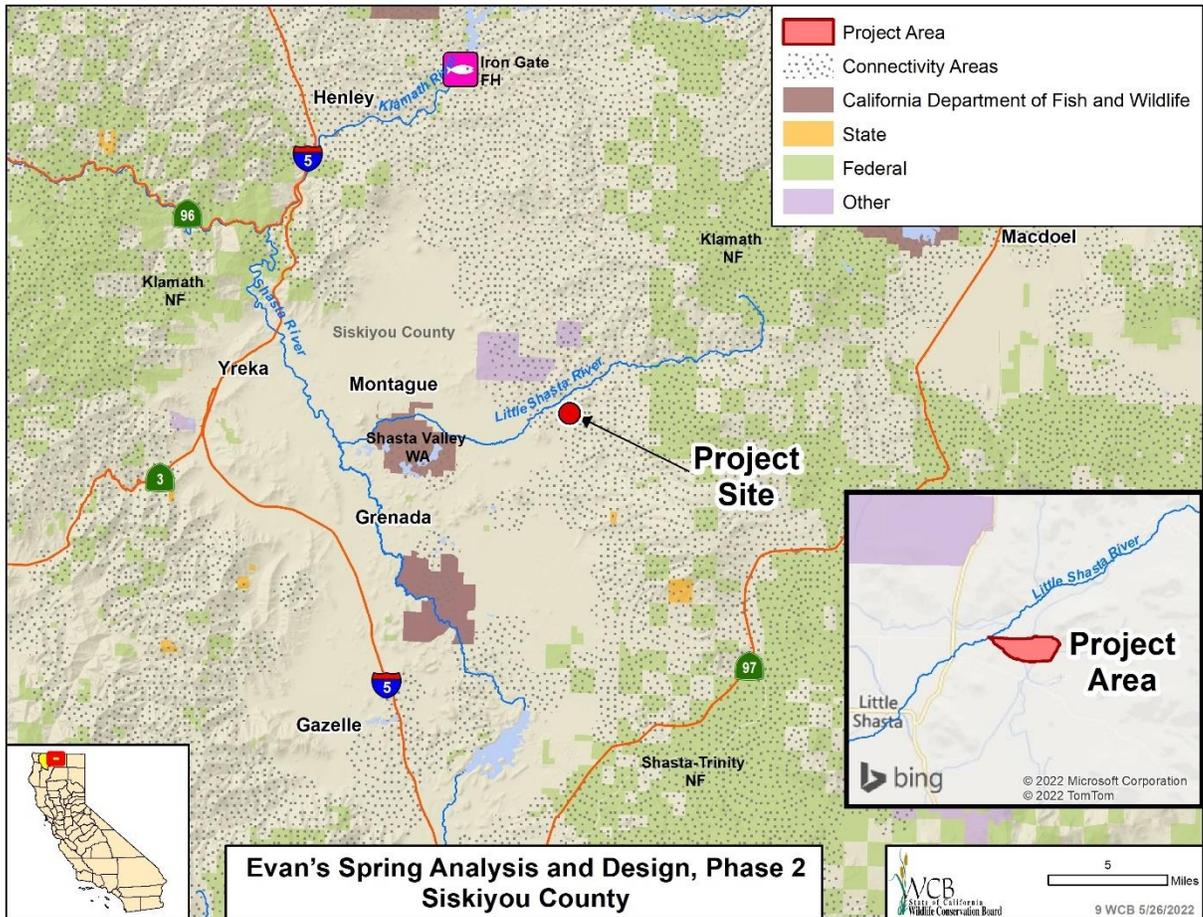
- Matthias St. John, Executive Officer, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Jenny Ericson, Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Yreka Fish and Wildlife Office
- Blair and Susan Hart, Landowner, Hart Ranch
- Amy Campbell, Project Director, The Nature Conservancy

Opposition:

- None received

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.



## 10. Huseman Ditch Association Pipeline, Phase 3

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$212,402 from the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Proposition 1), Public Resources Code Section 79733; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Huseman Ditch Association Pipeline, Phase 3
Project Type:	Planning
Applicant/Grantee:	Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District
Amount Recommended:	\$212,402
Funding Partners:	Bureau of Reclamation, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Landowner(s):	Private landowner
County:	Siskiyou
Program:	Stream Flow Enhancement
Funding:	Proposition 1
Strategic Plan:	Goals: B.1 Objectives: SI 2.3
Disadvantaged Community:	Within a disadvantaged community

### LOCATION

The Huseman Ditch Association Pipeline project (Project) is located in the Shasta River watershed, near the town of Grenada in Siskiyou County. The Project site starts from the end of the current piped irrigation system to the end of Huseman Ditch, on land that is in private ownership.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Project is one of many projects needed to improve instream flows for endangered salmon species, specifically endangered coho salmon, and many other species of fish and wildlife in the Shasta Valley.

An existing pipeline (installed in 2011) brings water from the Shasta River and terminates at the edge of Huseman Ditch. Huseman Ditch is currently an open earthen irrigation ditch, and this Project would plan for the installation of additional pipe that would connect to the existing pipeline and continue it to the end of Huseman Ditch. The Project would require planning and environmental compliance for the eventual installation of 13,500 feet of pipeline. This pipeline would reduce loss of water from evaporation and ditch leakage which would reduce the amount of water diversion needed.

In exchange for the extended pipeline, the participants will permanently reduce Huseman Ditch's diversion from a maximum of 11.9 cfs to 9.4 cfs, conserving 2.5 cfs. This would result in roughly 1,811 acre-feet of conserved water that will remain in the Shasta River and will provide instream benefits for threatened and endangered salmonids. To ensure that these benefits occur and are maintained,

the grantee will work with the Huseman Ditch Association to submit a 1707 change petition to the State Water Resources Control Board.

This Project contributes to the goals of Pathways to 30x30 California by aligning with Pathway 6: Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship and Pathway 9: Advance and Promote Complementary Conservation Measures.

#### PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB	Total Cost
Project Management	\$31,629	\$31,629
Pipeline Design	\$50,000	\$50,000
Resource Surveys	\$35,000	\$35,000
Permitting	\$5,000	\$5,000
Water Rights	\$62,000	\$62,000
Indirect Costs	\$1,663	\$1,663
Equipment	\$7,800	\$7,800
Contingency	\$19,310	\$19,310
Total	\$212,402	\$212,402

Costs associated with WCB funding include:

- Project Management: Staff time, establishment of subcontracts, oversight of subcontractors, project reporting, and preparation of invoices.
- Pipeline Design: Hiring of a qualified engineer to prepare the pipeline design plans and develop those design plans to 100% completion.
- Resource Surveys: Establish subcontracts and oversee subcontractors to conduct wildlife, botanical, and cultural resource surveys.
- Permitting: Complete and submit all environmental permits and CEQA/NEPA documents.
- Water Rights: Establish subcontracts and oversee subcontractors to prepare and submit 1707 change petition documents. Water transfer options will be discussed and possible mechanism for transferring water will be explained in a report to be submitted to the grantor.
- Indirect Costs: 10% of staff and material costs.
- Equipment: Water quality monitors will be purchased and installed for collecting data on dissolved oxygen, temperature and other water quality parameters both pre- and post-project.
- Contingency: In case costs of labor, consultants, permits, and/or staff wages increase.

#### PROJECT LETTERS OF SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION

Support:

- James R. Patterson, District Conservationist, USDA-NRCS Yreka
- Jim Simondet, Klamath Branch Chief, NOAA

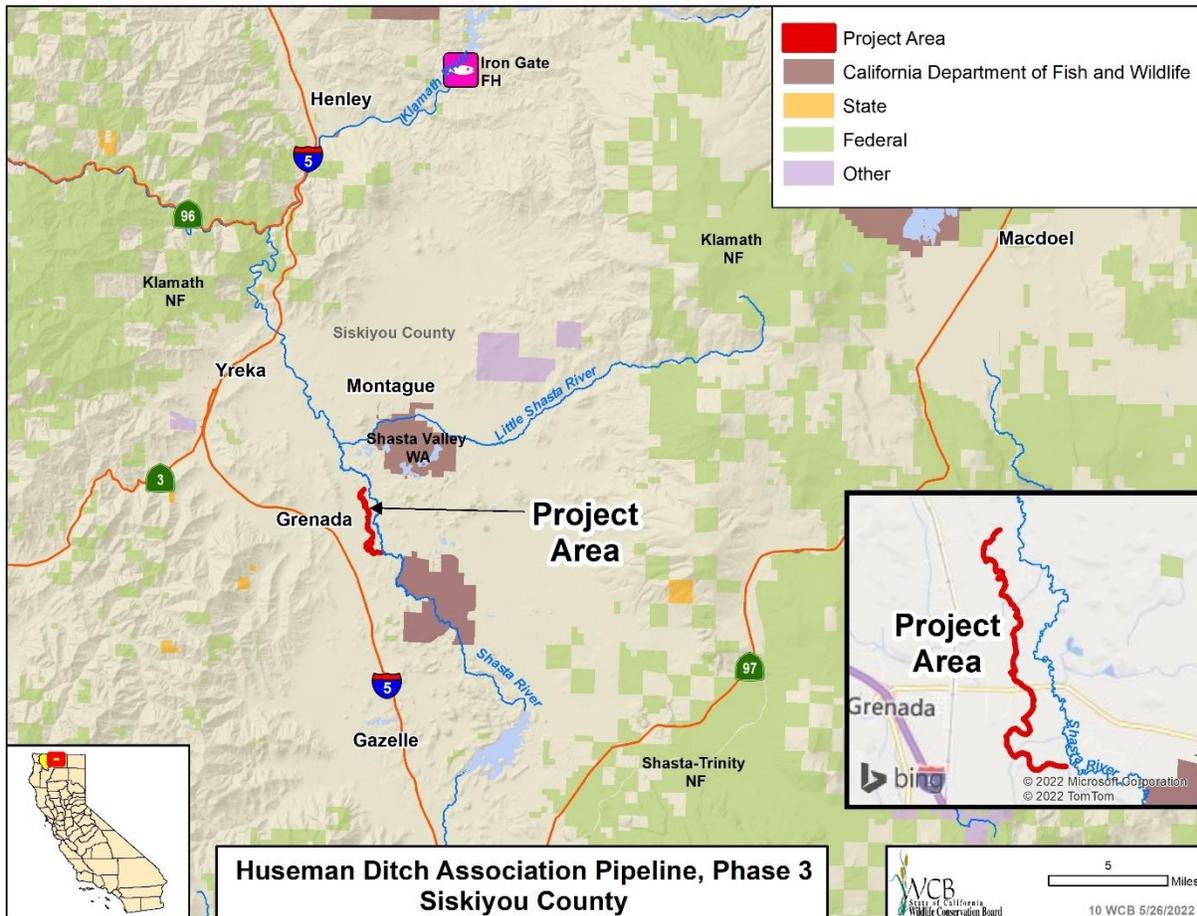
- Matthias St. John, Executive Officer, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

Opposition:

- None received

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



## 11. Scott Bar Mill Creek Fish Passage Improvement

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB adopt the written findings and approve this project as proposed; allocate \$844,000 from General Fund, Budget Act of 2021; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Scott Bar Mill Creek Fish Passage Improvement
Project Type:	Implementation
Applicant/Grantee:	California Trout, Inc
Amount Recommended:	\$844,000
Funding Partners:	CDFW
Landowner(s):	Private landowners
County:	Siskiyou
Program:	Habitat Enhancement and Restoration
Funding:	General Fund
Strategic Plan:	Goals: B.1 Objectives: SI 1.2, 2.1
Disadvantaged Community:	Within a severely disadvantaged community

### LOCATION

The Scott Bar Mill Creek Fish Passage Improvement project (Project) is located within the Scott Bar Mill Creek watershed, which enters the mainstem Scott River 3.3 river-miles from the confluence with the Klamath River. The watershed is a narrow, low gradient valley consisting of private pastureland, timberland, and residential properties giving way to U.S. Forest Service (USFS) land in the upland areas. Mill Creek runs through the center of the abandoned Quartz Hill mining claim located in the rural community of Scott Bar in Siskiyou County.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Scott River is one of four major tributaries of the Klamath River, draining 813.4 square miles. The system includes the Scott Valley and Scott Bar sub-watersheds and is an essential native coho salmon river in the interior Klamath River region. The National Marine Fisheries Service identified the Scott River watershed as an essential contributor to geographically limited salmonid habitat, as it sustains a core, functionally independent Southern Oregon Northern California Coho (SONCC) population. SONCC coho salmon were listed as a threatened species under the federal ESA in 1997 and under the California ESA in 2004.

The Project will restore anadromy to Mill Creek, a perennial tributary of the Scott River in the Klamath watershed near the town of Scott Bar. Mill Creek was historically anadromous habitat for coho salmon, steelhead, and other fishes. However, the creek is now completely inaccessible to anadromous fish due to a man-made weir and ford crossing within the first 200 feet of its confluence with the Scott River. Combined, the 3-foot cascade at the weir and channel-spanning ford crossing fully restrict more than three miles of coho salmon habitat identified through intrinsic potential modeling.

The Project will remove the ford crossing and replace it with a free-span bridge, and realign the lower portion of Mill Creek to facilitate fish passage. Stream realignment at the mouth includes constructing a rock and engineered streambed material berm along the existing bank of the Scott River, which will be tied into the bedrock outcrop that occurs along the current left bank. The new channel will be excavated into native material with a bottom width of 12 feet to match conditions found elsewhere in the project reach.

Mill Creek is unique in the year-round, cold-water quality and quantity it supplies, and the system is one of few options for coho spawning and thermal refugia in the lower Scott River. The system also affords several advantageous habitat characteristics for coho such as annual stream flow connectivity, complex in-stream shelter, pool diversity, and spawning gravels—all of which are currently inaccessible. Removing the barriers on Mill Creek will improve the ability of the fishes of the Scott River to be drought resilient and adapt to climate change by allowing access to three miles of perennial cold-water and spawning habitat that may become vital if climate change projections for the region are borne out.

This Project contributes to the goals of Pathways to 30x30 California by aligning with Pathway 6: Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship and the conservation priority to “Protect and Restore Biodiversity” by restoring river corridors that are essential to fish and wildlife movement and that serve as climate refugia for native species.

#### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

California Trout, Inc. 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, California Trout, Inc. does not manage and maintain the project improvements, the Grant Agreement requires that it refund to the state of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the Project life.

#### PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Total Cost
Project management	\$95,421	\$ 18,550	\$113,971
Permitting	\$34,567	\$ 12,300	\$46,867
Construction management	\$52,500	\$ 30,000	\$82,500
Construction	\$601,152	\$ 765,610	\$1,366,762
Revegetation	\$60,360	\$ 58,400	\$118,760
Total	\$844,000	\$884,860	\$1,728,860

Costs associated with WCB funding include:

- Project management: Oversight of all project elements and tasks including construction, grant administration, financial management, reporting, and partnership coordination.
- Permitting: Technical studies and application development for any necessary permits.
- Construction management: Coordination of subcontractors, scheduling construction dates, tracking progress, maintaining weekly communications with resource agencies, and ensuring regulatory compliance.
- Construction: Ford-crossing demolition, bridge installation, channel grading, and associated in-stream work.
- Revegetation: Restoration of riparian habitat within the Project footprint.

#### PROJECT LETTERS OF SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION

Support:

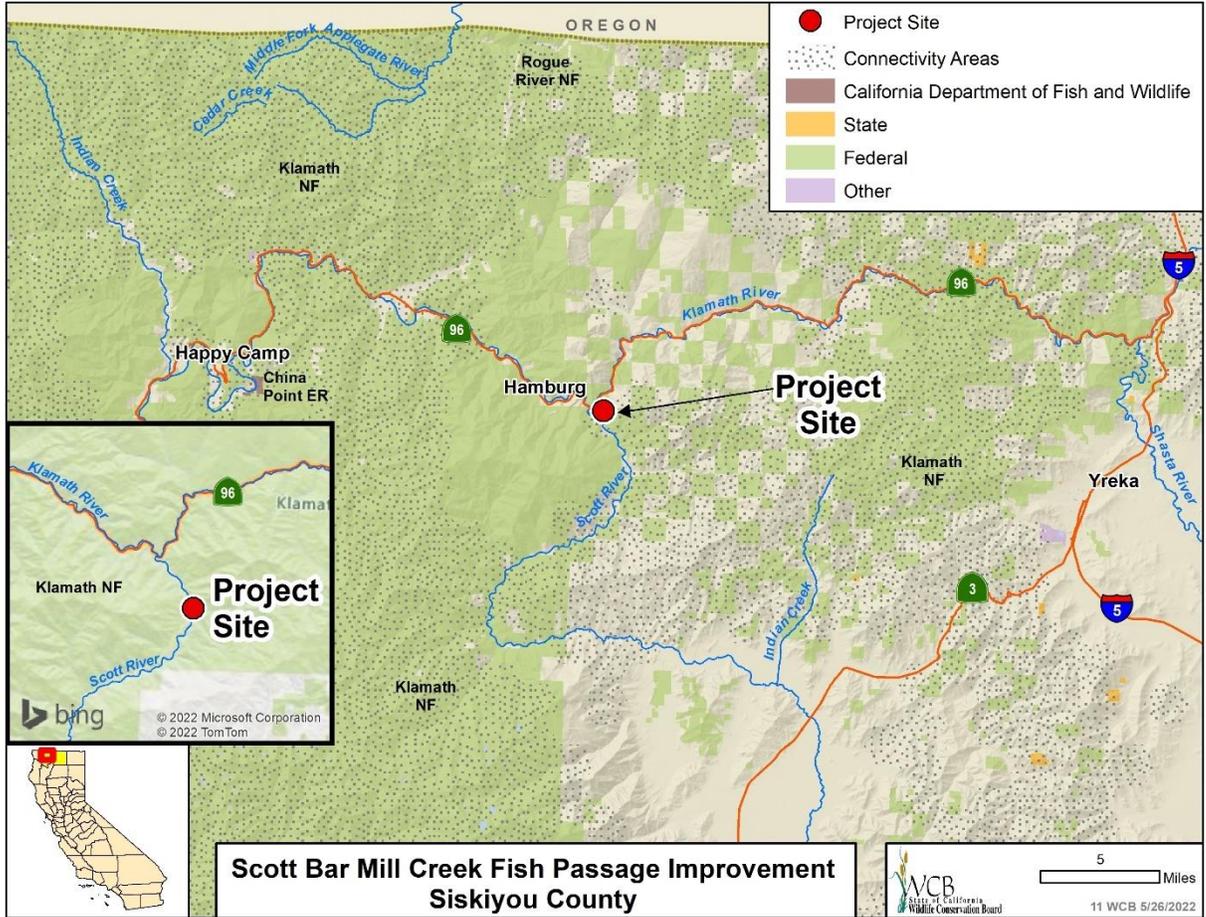
- Tammy Barden, District Manager, Siskiyou Resource Conservation District
- Gina Glenne, Acting Field Supervisor, USFS
- Dave Krell, Board President, Scott River Water Trust
- Bob Pagliuco, Habitat Restoration Specialist, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Toz Soto, Fisheries Program Manager, Karuk Tribe

Opposition:

- None received

#### CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

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



## 12. Studies Following Klamath Dam Removal

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$529,772 from the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Fund of 2014 (Proposition 1), Water Code Section 79733; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Studies Following Klamath Dam Removal
Project Type:	Scientific Study
Applicant/Grantee:	Cal Poly Humboldt
Amount Recommended:	\$529,772
Funding Partners:	Humboldt State University Sponsored Programs Foundation, Resource Environmental Solutions
County:	Siskiyou
Program:	Stream Flow Enhancement
Funding:	Proposition 1
Strategic Plan:	Goals: B.1 Objectives: SI 2.3
Disadvantaged Community:	Within a disadvantaged community

### LOCATION

Four major dams on the Klamath River are slated for removal: Iron Gate Dam and Copco Dams 1 and 2 in California, and J.C. Boyle Dam in Oregon. Sampling for this scientific study will occur at six sites (three pairs) at varying distances downstream from the lowest dam (Iron Gate Dam). Three study sites are located on tributaries with known salmonid presence: Bogus Creek, Beaver Creek and Grider Creek. Each tributary has a corresponding study site on the mainstem Klamath near the confluence for comparison.

The Bogus Creek sites are  $\pm 8$  miles east of Hornbrook, CA and Interstate 5. The Beaver Creek sites are  $\pm 23$  miles northwest of Yreka, CA along State Route 96. The Grider Creek sites are  $\pm 24$  miles northeast of Happy Camp, CA, also along State Route 96.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The removal of four large hydroelectric dams on the Klamath River will be the largest dam removal effort in history and presents a unique opportunity to study the stream flow enhancement associated with a large-scale multi-dam removal project. Since the dams' establishment, the Klamath River ecosystem has faced fragmented habitat, altered flow regimes, degraded habitat and water quality, and the decline and extirpation of many of the Klamath Basin's native species including critically important anadromous salmonids. After dam removal, it is expected that the effects of enhanced stream flow will extend 193 river-miles downstream of Iron Gate Dam. In addition, approximately 420 miles of river habitat upstream of the dams will become available for anadromous fish including steelhead trout, Pacific lamprey, Southern Oregon/Northern California coast coho salmon, and Klamath-Trinity spring-run Chinook. Dam removal is predicted to have short-term negative

effects (e.g., increased turbidity and suspended sediment), but long-term benefits to water quality and lower incidences of cyanobacteria, fish disease, and parasites. Stream flow enhancement from Klamath dam removal will also bring about cultural revitalization to local Native Tribes that rely on salmon for food, ceremony and identity.

This scientific study seeks to understand the effectiveness of stream flow enhancement associated with Klamath dam removal by examining the water quality, food web dynamics, salmonid food resources, and diet in the mainstem Klamath River and associated tributaries before, during, and after Klamath dam removal. Six study sites will be sampled each spring for salmonids and invertebrates. Biological samples will be transported to UC Davis for stable isotope analysis of food web constituents. This research will benefit Disadvantaged Indigenous communities by evaluating the effects of dam removal on culturally important salmon. The Karuk and Yurok tribes contributed to the development of this study and the Karuk Tribe is a subcontractor on the project to conduct the fish sampling. The outcomes of this scientific study are designed to inform future decisions regarding dam removal, restoration, and adaptive management. The project contributes to the goals of Pathways to 30x30 California by aligning with Pathway 10: Evaluate Conservation Outcomes and Adaptively Manage.

#### PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Total Cost
Project Management/ Invertebrate and Water Quality Sampling	\$287,228	\$205,362	\$492,590
Fish Diet and Fin Clip Sampling	\$26,334	---	\$26,334
Stable Isotope Analysis	\$158,765	---	\$158,765
Indirect Costs	\$57,445	\$78,987	\$136,432
Total	\$529,772	\$284,349	\$814,121

Costs associated with WCB funding include:

- Project Management/ Invertebrate and Water Quality Sampling: Project management, oversight, and reporting; collection and analysis of invertebrate samples (Cal Poly Humboldt).
- Fish Diet and Fin Clip Sampling: Fish seining surveys, collection of fin clips and fish diet samples via nonlethal gastric lavage (Karuk Tribe).
- Stable Isotope Analysis: Sampling food web constituents and conducting stable isotope analysis (UC Davis).
- Indirect Costs: Incidental or indirect costs not to exceed 20 percent of the total direct WCB award, minus subcontractor and equipment costs.

## PROJECT LETTERS OF SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION

### Support:

- Jim Simondet, Klamath Branch Chief, NOAA Fisheries
- Roberto Beltran, District Ranger, Klamath National Forest
- Supervisors Mike Wilson and Steve Madrone, Humboldt County Board of Supervisors
- Miles Slattery, City Manager, City of Eureka
- Barry McCovey, Jr., Fisheries Department Director, Yurok Tribe
- Randy Turner, Klamath Basin Monitoring Program Coordinator, San Francisco Estuary Institute
- Mark Bransom, Chief Executive Officer, Klamath River Renewal Corporation
- Will Harling, Director, Mid Klamath Watershed Council
- Lyra Cressey, Associate Director, Salmon River Restoration Council
- Darren Mierau, North Coast Director, California Trout
- Dr. Darren Ward, Department of Fisheries Biology, Humboldt State University
- Dr. Julie Alexander, Department of Microbiology, Oregon State University
- Dr. Kim Brewitt, Senior Instructor of Biology, University of South Carolina Upstate
- Laurel Genzoli, PhD Student and Consulting Aquatic Ecologist, University of Montana
- David Coffman, Klamath Restoration Program Manager, Resource Environmental Solutions
- Demian Ebert, Klamath Program Manager, PacifiCorp

### Opposition:

- None received

## CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

The project is proposed as exempt from CEQA pursuant to the state CEQA Guidelines, Section 15306, Class 6, Information Collection. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.



### 13. Carlson Park Improvement and Mad River Access

#### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB adopt the written findings and approve this project as proposed; allocate \$691,000 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:	Carlson Park Improvement and Mad River Access
Project Type:	Implementation
Applicant/Grantee:	City of Arcata
Amount Recommended:	\$691,000
Funding Partners:	City of Arcata
Landowner(s):	City of Arcata
County:	Humboldt
Program:	Public Access
Funding:	Proposition 68
Strategic Plan:	Goals: C.1 Objectives: SI 3.1, 3.2
Disadvantaged Community:	Within a severely disadvantaged community

#### LOCATION

The Carlson Park Improvement and Mad River Access project (Project) is located 0.3 miles east of Highway 101 and 0.3 miles east of Highway 299 at the cross streets of Carlson Park Drive and Mad River Parkway East. Carlson Park is a 19-acre park located within Arcata's city limits. It is bordered by the Mad River on the north side, private parcels on the south side, and private gravel operations on the west and east sides. The park's wooded riverfront location has potential to be a popular family destination.

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The city of Arcata (City) is bordered by the Mad River to the north, but the City currently has no formal public access to the Mad River for residents or visitors. The Mad River is a highly sought-after steelhead angling destination for both local anglers as well as tourists. The development of free public river access at Carlson Park would provide the only official access within city limits for fishing, swimming, and water play. Development would also provide kayak and stand-up paddle board water access and opportunities to bird watch and enjoy nature. The Project includes an ADA accessible path and river observation deck providing wildlife viewing opportunities for everyone, including people with mobility impairments.

The Project will create 3,800 feet of trail, including a pathway for kayaks, canoes and paddleboards; an ADA river lookout trail and observation deck; upgrades to the parking lot; bilingual interpretive signage; a boat staging area; the area's only public access restroom facility which will be ADA accessible; and two access points to the Mad River. The Project will also include invasive species removal and native species revegetation.

The City does not use any pesticides or herbicides on City properties. Invasive species removal will be by hand or by mechanical means.

The Project is within a severely disadvantaged community. This Project provides free river-related recreational opportunities within walking and biking distance of the severely disadvantaged community while also serving the wider region.

This Project contributes to the goals of the Pathways to 30x30 California initiative. In particular, this Project supports a key objective to expand access to nature.

**MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS**

The City of Arcata has adopted a Management Plan that guides management actions for the property, including management of the Carlson Park. If at any time during the 25-year life of the Project, City of Arcata 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	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Total Cost
Legal Administration	---	\$ 33,143	\$33,143
Environmental Permitting	---	\$ 7,669	\$ 7,669
Engineering and Design	\$ 38,345	---	\$38,345
Construction	\$652,655	\$145,688	\$798,343
Riparian Enhancement	---	\$ 6,500	\$ 6,500
Total	\$691,000	\$193,000	\$884,000

Costs associated with WCB funding include:

- Engineering and Design: Finalization of engineering and design plans and development of bid package specifications.
- Construction: Construction of project elements: trails and pathways, river access points, ADA river trail and observation deck, parking lot updates, boat staging areas, and restroom.

**PROJECT LETTERS OF SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION**

Support:

- Senator Mike McGuire
- Assemblymember Jim Wood
- Mike Wilson, Supervisor, Humboldt County Board of Supervisor
- Oscar Mogollon, Directive Coordinator, Comunidad Unida del Norte de Arcata, a project of Cooperation Humboldt
- Karen Underwood, Board Member, Humboldt Trails Council
- Brenda Sutter, Administrator, Laurel Tree Charter School

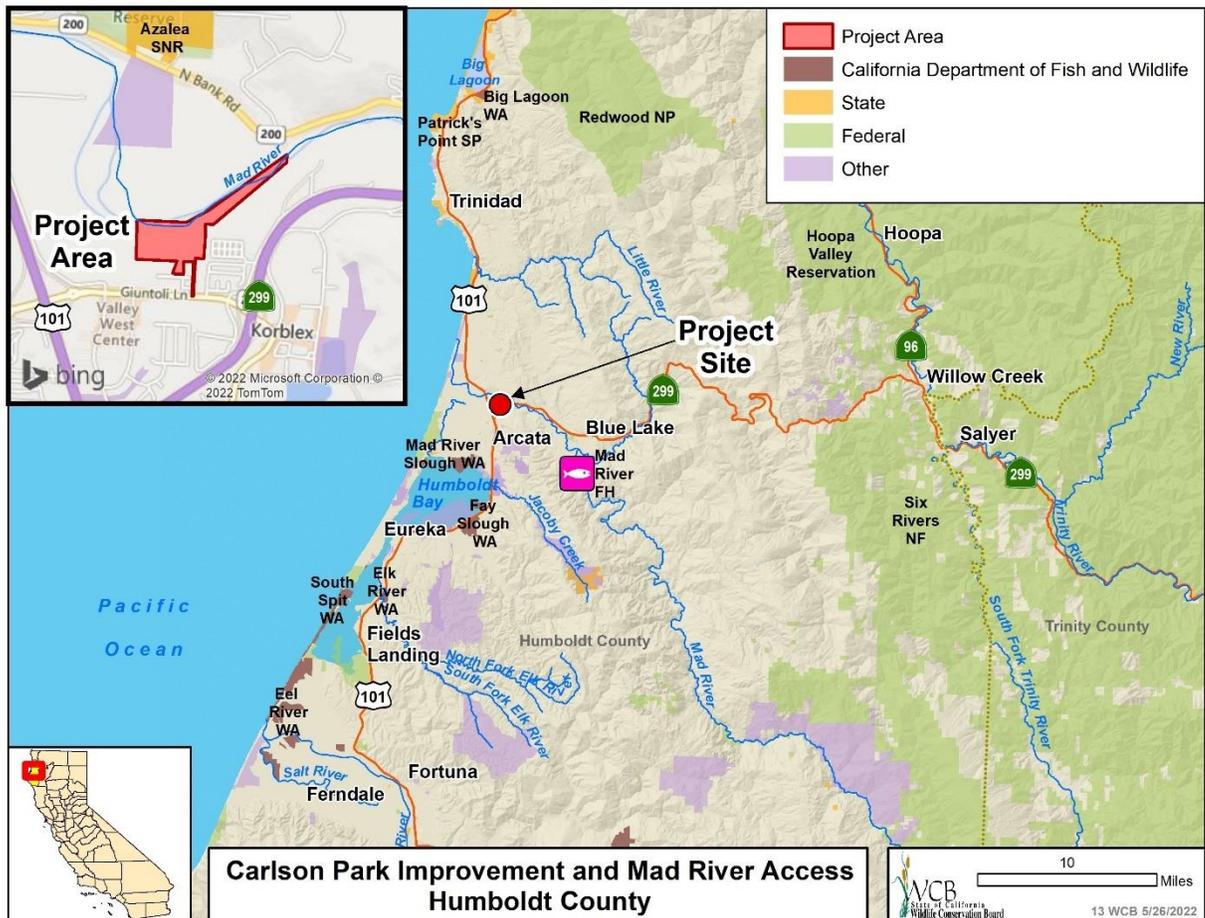
- Ev Drakoulias, Administrator, Six Rivers Montessori
- Jennifer Johnson, Owner, Adventure's Edge

Opposition:

- None received

### CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

The City of Arcata, as lead agency, prepared a Negative Declaration (ND) for the project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA. Staff considered the ND 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.



#### 14. Reading Island Boat Ramp Planning

##### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$636,000 from the General Fund, Budget Act of 2021; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Reading Island Boat Ramp Planning
Project Type:	Planning
Applicant/Grantee:	Chico State Enterprises
Amount Recommended:	\$636,000
Funding Partners:	Bureau of Land Management, Chico State Enterprises
County:	Shasta
Program:	Public Access
Funding:	General Fund
Strategic Plan:	Goals: C.1 Objectives: SI 3.1, 3.2
Disadvantaged Community:	Within a severely disadvantaged community

##### LOCATION

The Reading Island Boat Ramp Planning project (Project) is located in Bureau of Land Management (BLM)'s Sacramento River Bend Area unit, approximately four miles east of Cottonwood. The Project site is on Anderson Creek, near its confluence with the Sacramento River. BLM currently provides facilities for this popular fishing site including a picnic area, vault toilets, potable water, and a group camp site.

##### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The existing boat ramp is deteriorated, does not have facilities such as a floating dock or separate non-motorized access, and ADA access is limited. The Project provides the opportunity to restore and improve boating access to the site that was previously choked with non-native, invasive aquatic vegetation. This Project leverages the success of a multi-million-dollar habitat restoration project just upstream. In 2019, Chico State Enterprises (CSE) received Central Valley Project Improvement Act program funding through a cooperative agreement to excavate 4,000 linear feet of side channel upstream. The side channel project connected the Sacramento River with Anderson Creek to restore juvenile salmonid rearing habitat. The restored side channel has increased flows and decreased temperatures in the portion of Anderson Creek where the boat ramp is located resulting in a reduction of invasive aquatic vegetation, making boating access feasible again.

CSE will lead a collaborative planning effort that includes outreach and engagement with stakeholders and Tribal governments, development of an operations and maintenance framework and plan, creation of engineered design alternatives, and the completion of necessary CEQA and NEPA environmental documents, required consultation and permits. The cross-organizational

collaborative includes Western Shasta Resource Conservation District, BLM, the Department of Water Resources and the Sacramento River Forum.

The Reading Island Boat Ramp project is an important equity project. The Project seeks to restore motorized and, potentially, non-motorized boat access with ADA accommodation within a severely disadvantaged community. The Reading Island site provides direct access to popular salmon and trout fishing locations such as Barge Hole. Recreational fishing, particularly salmon fishing, contributes to the economy along the Sacramento River. The Project would generate economic benefits to disadvantaged communities by increasing recreational visitors from the surrounding communities and destination visitors while improving access to local residents. This Project contributes to the goals of the Pathways to 30x30 California initiative. In particular, this Project supports a key objective to expand access to nature.

#### PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Total Cost
Outreach	\$49,000	---	\$49,000
Design and O&M Plan	\$142,000	\$7,600	\$149,600
Environmental Review and Permitting	\$253,000	\$13,000	\$266,000
Project Management	\$139,000	---	\$139,000
Indirect	\$53,000	\$41,400	\$94,400
Total	\$636,000	\$62,000	\$698,000

Costs associated with WCB funding include:

- Outreach: Complete an Outreach Plan and solicit public input on design.
- Design and O&M Plan: Complete 90% design and Operations and Maintenance Plan.
- Environmental Review and Permitting: Complete site assessments, CEQA, NEPA, and additional required permits.
- Project Management: Grant administration, invoicing, reporting, coordinating with project team and consultants, and overseeing all aspects of the Project.
- Indirect Costs: Incidental or indirect costs not to exceed 20 percent of the total direct WCB award, minus subcontractor and equipment costs.

#### PROJECT LETTERS OF SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION

Support:

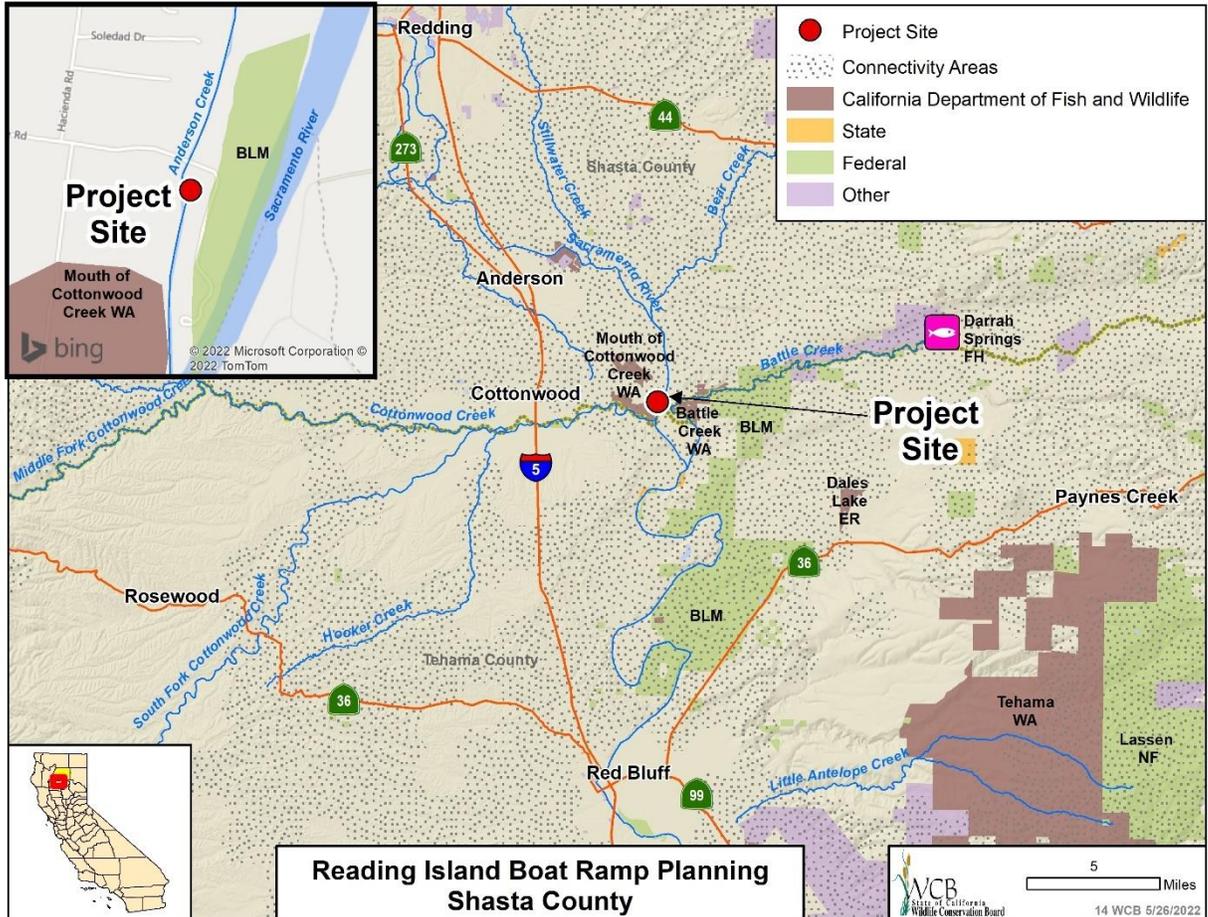
- None received

Opposition:

- None received

**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.



## 15. Outlet Creek Flow Enhancement Design

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$726,604 from the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Fund of 2014 (Proposition 1), Water Code Section 79733; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Outlet Creek Flow Enhancement Design
Project Type:	Planning
Applicant/Grantee:	Trout Unlimited
Amount Recommended:	\$726,604
Funding Partners:	Trout Unlimited
County:	Mendocino
Program:	Stream Flow Enhancement
Funding:	Proposition 1
Strategic Plan:	Goals: B.1 Objectives: SI 2.3
Disadvantaged Community:	Within a disadvantaged community

### LOCATION

The Outlet Creek Flow Enhancement Design project (Project) will develop plans for projects located on multiple tributaries to Outlet Creek, in and around the city of Willits in Mendocino County. Outlet Creek is a tributary to the middle mainstem Eel River and is the primary stream for the middle mainstem Eel River coho population. The tributaries where planning activities will occur are Baechtel Creek, Ryan Creek, Shoestring Creek, and Broaddus Creek.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Outlet Creek historically supported large runs of coho salmon. Impacts from historic logging, goldmining, agriculture, and the construction of railroads and dams reduced wild salmonid populations and altered the natural hydrology of the region. Insufficient instream flow, unsuitable water temperatures, and insufficient summer- and winter-rearing habitat are the most important limiting factors to salmonid productivity in the middle mainstem Eel River. Multiple Outlet Creek tributaries have high intrinsic potential and have been identified as “Key Streams” in the State of California’s Coho Recovery Strategy.

In 2017, WCB awarded a planning grant to Trout Unlimited (TU) to begin landowner outreach, baseline data collection, and project identification and development in the Outlet Creek watershed. Over the course of that project, TU identified and produced conceptual designs for multiple projects. This Project will fund final designs and permits for the four highest-priority stream flow enhancement projects, plus explore the feasibility of additional potential projects that have not yet been developed, including opportunities on Davis, Willits, Mill, and Sherwood creeks. When implemented, these individual projects will enhance summer stream flows and improve aquatic habitat conditions along critical reaches for multiple aquatic species including coho salmon and steelhead. This Project

contributes to the goals of Pathways to 30x30 California by aligning with Pathway 6: Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship.

Individual project descriptions:

Upper Baechtel Creek: Construct two new 97,000-gallon storage tanks to serve three single-family homes, eliminating summer diversion from springs, and reconnect Baechtel Creek to three acres of floodplain habitat using low-tech process-based restoration techniques. Together, these improvements will enhance flows by approximately 17 gpm or 0.04 cfs.

Upper Ryan Creek: Construct storage to eliminate summer diversion from a near-stream well, and restore natural floodplain functions by addressing incision and improving habitat complexity. Together, these improvements will enhance flows by approximately 22 gpm or 0.05 cfs.

Outlet Creek and Shoestring Creek: Restore the incised channel of Shoestring Creek and functioning of the adjacent alluvial fan, construct a new five-acre-foot pond for the purpose of releasing 2.5 acre-feet of water over three months into Outlet and Shoestring creeks, and reduce wildfire fuels through forest thinning. These benefits are expected to reduce mortality of rearing juvenile salmonids in Outlet Creek.

Broaddus Creek: Conduct a flow release pilot study using an existing pond. Flow enhancement is expected to extend downstream to rearing pools in Broaddus Creek.

#### PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Total Cost
Project Management	\$85,130	---	\$85,130
Design	\$545,680	---	\$545,680
Permitting	\$28,627	---	\$28,627
Indirect Costs	\$19,752	\$72,670	\$92,422
Contingency	\$47,415	---	\$47,415
Total	\$726,604	\$72,670	\$799,274

Costs associated with WCB funding include:

- Project Management: Project coordination; reporting and accounting; travel; project signage.
- Design: Final designs for four projects; feasibility studies and conceptual designs for additional projects.
- Permitting: Archaeological and other field surveys; water rights submittals; CEQA compliance and other regulatory permits.

- Indirect Costs: Incidental or indirect costs not to exceed 20 percent 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.

### PROJECT LETTERS OF SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION

#### Support:

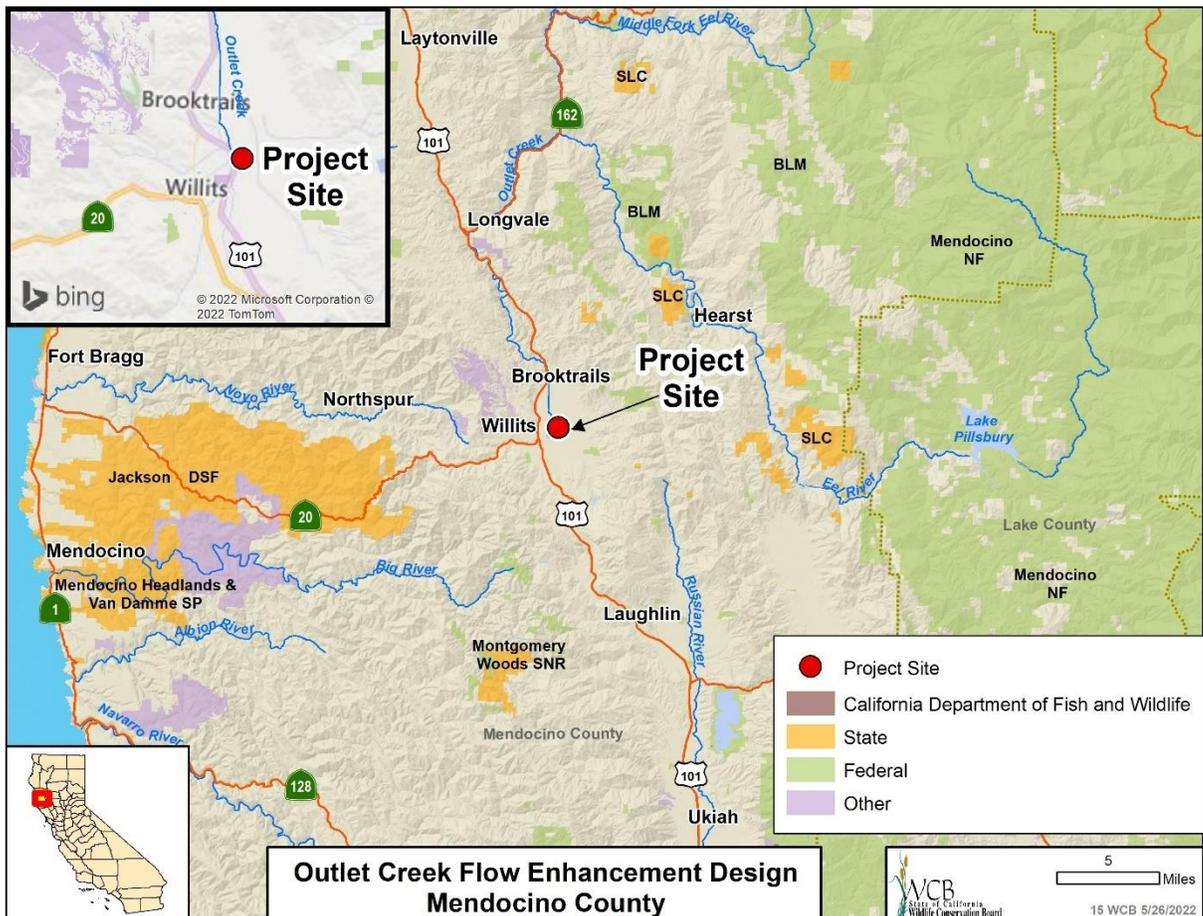
- Joe Scriven, Fisheries Biologist and Interim Executive Director, Resource Conservation District of Mendocino County
- Dusty Whitney, Landowner
- Sara Grusky and Michael Foley, Landowners

#### Opposition:

- None received

### 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.



**16. Upper Butte Basin Wildlife Area Llano Seco Unit Canal Improvement**  
**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$645,000 from the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68), Public Resources Code Section 80132(c), authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Upper Butte Basin Wildlife Area Llano Seco Unit Canal Improvement
Project Type:	Implementation
Applicant/Grantee:	Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
Amount Recommended:	\$645,000
Funding Partners:	Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
Landowner(s):	CDFW, Llano Seco Ranch
County:	Butte
Program:	Habitat Enhancement and Restoration
Funding:	Proposition 68
Strategic Plan:	Goals: B.1 Objectives: SI 2.5
Disadvantaged Community:	Within a severely disadvantaged community

**LOCATION**

The Upper Butte Basin Wildlife Area Llano Seco Unit Canal Improvement project (Project) is located on the Llano Seco Unit of the Upper Butte Basin Wildlife Area (UBBWA) and Llano Seco Ranch (LSR) in Butte County. The area's wetlands provide critical breeding, migration, and wintering habitat for Pacific Flyway waterfowl, shorebirds, and other waterbirds. These wetlands support a peak wintering population of over 600,000 ducks. UBBWA also provides habitat for 14 special-status wildlife species.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The major water delivery canal that delivers water to UBBWA – Llano Seco Unit is located on LSR. It was constructed in 1926 and is badly degraded and failing. As a result, adequate quantities of water cannot be delivered to the UBBWA – Llano Seco Unit in an efficient or timely manner. Currently, the canal system has been delivering only 2-3 cubic feet/second (cfs) of water to UBBWA-Llano Seco Unit. This amount of water is well under the 30 cfs needed to optimally flood wetlands within the Llano Seco Unit. The Project will improve the quality of wetland habitat on LSR by enhancing 140 acres of wetland habitat and provide a functional lift to the wetlands on the UBBWA – Llano Seco Unit by improving 14,200 linear feet of the water delivery canal and installing new water control structures to deliver and distribute 30 cfs of water to the UBBWA – Llano Seco Unit. The Project will provide the water delivery capabilities necessary to manage approximately 1,500 acres of wetlands at desirable water depths, increase food production, support a desirable mix of open water and emergent vegetation, and provide high-quality wetland

habitat for migrating and wintering waterfowl, shorebirds, and other wetland-dependent wildlife species.

This Project contributes to the goals of Pathways to 30x30 California by aligning with Pathway 6: Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship and the conservation priorities to “Protect and Restore Biodiversity” by restoring degraded habitats in wetlands.

#### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

CDFW and Llano Seco Ranch have 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, Ducks Unlimited, Inc. does not manage and maintain the project improvements, the Grant Agreement requires that it refund to the state of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the Project life.

#### PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Total Cost
Project Management	\$53,959	---	\$53,959
Construction	\$315,750	---	\$315,750
Materials	\$264,506	---	\$264,506
Indirect Costs	\$10,785	\$16,000	\$26,785
Total	\$645,000	\$16,000	\$661,000

Costs associated with WCB funding include:

- Project Management: Management of subcontracts, invoicing, payroll tracking, materials purchasing, operating expenses, surveys, and design.
- Construction: Earthwork, wetland recontouring, rebuild levee, and install water control structures.
- Materials: Purchase water control structures, gravel, and survey materials.
- Indirect Costs: Incidental or indirect costs not to exceed 20 percent of the total direct WCB award, minus subcontractor and equipment costs.

#### PROJECT LETTERS OF SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION

Support:

- James Cogswell, Coordinator, Central Valley Joint Venture

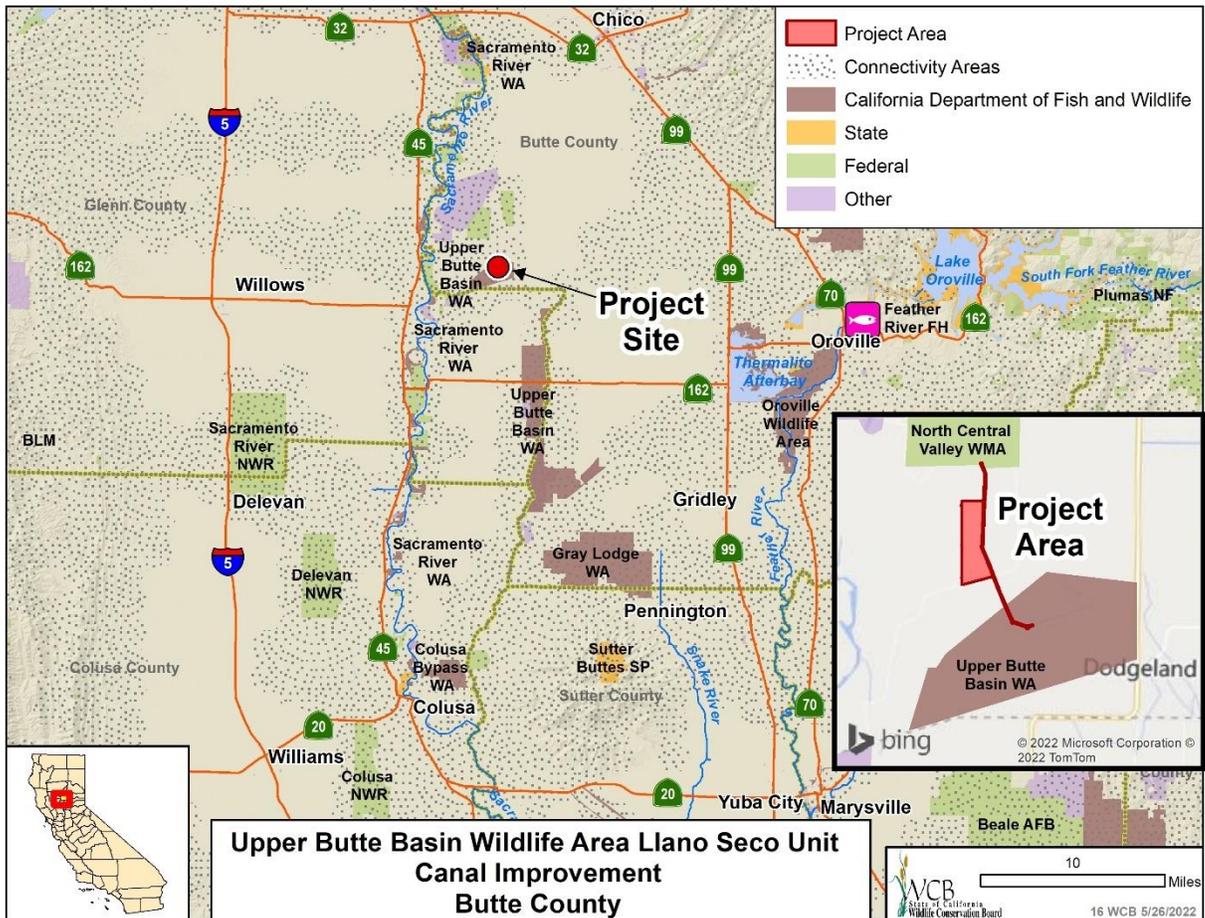
Opposition:

- None received

#### CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

The Project is proposed as exempt from 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.



## 17. Donner Lake Lagoon Access Improvement

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$372,662 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:	Donner Lake Lagoon Access Improvement
Project Type:	Implementation
Applicant/Grantee:	Truckee River Watershed Council
Amount Recommended:	\$372,662
Funding Partners:	California Department of Parks and Recreation
Landowner(s):	California Department of Parks and Recreation
County:	Nevada
Program:	Public Access
Funding:	Proposition 68
Strategic Plan:	Goals: C.1 Objectives: SI 3.2
Disadvantaged Community:	Not within a disadvantaged community

### LOCATION

The Donner Lake Lagoon Access Improvement project (Project) is located in the eastern Sierra within the Truckee city limits at Donner Memorial State Park. The Project encompasses approximately 300 feet of shoreline (approximately 1.5 acres) along the east side of the Donner Lake Lagoon at an existing developed day use area. The Lagoon is one of only three exclusively non-motorized aquatic recreation areas on Donner Lake. It is a unique backwater wetland supporting wildlife resources, particularly for osprey, bald eagle, and waterbirds, and is an important nursery and cover habitat for juvenile fish and invertebrates. Recreation and wildlife viewing in the area is supported by picnic tables, restrooms, and a lakeside interpretive trail featuring panels focusing on the natural and cultural resources in the area. The Project is within one mile of a disadvantaged community.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Years of heavy undirected recreation, in concert with a significant increase in visitation in 2020, has resulted in poor recreational access, user conflicts, and streambank destabilization at the day use area along the Donner Lake Lagoon.

Activities such as boating, fishing, wildlife viewing, and picnicking are leading to trampling of vegetation, vegetation loss, denuded soil, erosion, and undercutting along 300 feet of streambank (approximately 1.5 acres). This degrades the user experience, riparian and wetland vegetation (which is already scarce), trees, wildlife habitat, and water quality.

The Project will improve recreational access and protect wildlife resources. The Project will stabilize 300 feet of shoreline to prevent further erosion, construct loading, staging, and launching areas for non-motorized boats, revegetate damaged areas, conduct picnic area improvements, install interpretive signage, and conduct outreach.

This Project contributes to the goals of Pathways to 30x30 California by aligning with Pathway 6: Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship.

**MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS**

The Truckee River Watershed Council has adopted a Management Plan that guides management actions for the property, including management of Donner Lake. If at any time during the 25-year life of the Project, Truckee River Watershed Council 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	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Total Cost
Project Management	\$ 83,270	---	\$ 83,270
Construction	\$262,492	\$26,700	\$289,192
Outreach	\$ 10,000	\$ 3,200	\$ 13,200
Indirect Costs	\$ 16,900	---	\$ 16,900
Total	\$372,662	\$29,900	\$402,562

Costs associated with WCB funding include:

- Project Management: The grantee is responsible for project management, project team coordination, ensuring needed studies are completed and bid packages are prepared, and grant management.
- Construction: The grantee will hire a contractor, ensure needed materials are purchased, ensure permits are in place, and oversee construction of the Project elements.
- Outreach: Design, manufacture, and installation of interpretive and way finding signage, and staff time to provide interpretive information and monitor user access during peak usage times.
- Indirect Costs: Incidental or indirect costs not to exceed 20 percent of the total direct WCB award, minus subcontractor and equipment costs.

**PROJECT LETTERS OF SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION**

Support:

- Dan Shaw, Senior Environmental Scientist, California Department of Park and Recreation



**18. Climate Smart Restoration at River Garden Farms**

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$644,887 from the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68), Public Resources Code Section 80132(c); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Climate Smart Restoration at River Garden Farms
Project Type:	Implementation
Applicant/Grantee:	Audubon California
Amount Recommended:	\$644,887
Funding Partners:	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Audubon California, River Garden Farms, Center for Land-based Learning, River Partners
Landowner(s):	River Garden Farms
County:	Yolo
Program:	Habitat Enhancement and Restoration
Funding:	Proposition 68
Strategic Plan:	Goals: B.1, B.5 Objectives: SI 2.1
Disadvantaged Community:	Within a severely disadvantaged community

**LOCATION**

The Climate Smart Restoration at River Garden Farms project (Project) is located within a 15,000-acre privately-owned farm (River Garden Farms), along the Sacramento River, four miles north of Knights Landing and 24 miles northwest of Sacramento.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Starting in late 2018, a comprehensive planning effort was initiated, led by American Rivers, to develop a Farm Restoration Plan (Plan) to advance practices at River Garden Farms that would enhance the conservation value of the farm and contribute to the habitat objectives of the Central Valley Joint Venture. The Plan includes restoration design plans for seven different sites totaling 550 acres including floodplain, wetland, and riparian habitat. Collaborators on the Plan include Audubon California, River Partners, Environmental Defense Fund, and Ducks Unlimited, Inc.

The Project is an element of the Plan and will install native plants along two, linear strips on River Garden Farms on either side of Road 98A. On the west side of the road is a 275-foot-wide irrigation canal with little vegetation between it and the road. To the east side of the road are crops and a relatively new, but sparsely planted hedgerow that the Project will substantially enhance to create riparian habitat. The planting design has been carefully crafted to maximize the climate resiliency of the habitat for the long-term benefit of wildlife. The Project will also

create riparian habitat connectivity between the Sacramento River and the existing, large area of protected wetlands on Roosevelt Ranch, south of the Project.

Additionally, a series of three, hands-on field days will be held to help students develop knowledge and skills in science, habitat restoration, environmental stewardship, and basic tool use. The Student and Landowner Education and Watershed Stewardship Program serves high school students ages 14-18 that reside in the Sacramento Valley region, including Sacramento, Yolo, and Solano counties. Many of the participating schools are located in disadvantaged communities in Sacramento and rural agricultural communities.

This Project contributes to the goals of Pathways to 30x30 California by aligning with Pathway 6: Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship.

#### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

Audubon California 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, Audubon California 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	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Total Cost
Project Management	\$122,102	\$4,375	\$126,477
Implementation	\$256,953	\$83,398	\$340,351
Monitoring	\$107,601	\$7,876	\$115,477
Maintenance	\$125,680	---	\$125,680
Community Engagement	\$9,360	\$5,580	\$14,940
Indirect Costs	\$23,181	---	\$23,181
Total	\$644,877	\$101,229	\$746,106

Costs associated with WCB funding include:

- Project Management: Project scheduling, budgeting, invoicing, contracting, reporting, coordination, and data management.
- Implementation: Site preparation, irrigation installation, plantings, and training for volunteer workdays.
- Monitoring: Vegetation monitoring including weed monitoring, mowing, and weed control.
- Community Engagement: Three field days with Student and Landowner Education and Watershed Stewardship Program participants.

- Indirect Costs: Incidental or indirect costs not to exceed 20 percent of the total direct WCB award, minus subcontractor and equipment costs.

#### PROJECT LETTERS OF SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION

##### Support:

- James Cogswell, Coordinator, Central Valley Joint Venture
- Jeffrey McCreary, Director of Operations, Western Region, Ducks Unlimited
- Lewis Bair, General Manager, Reclamation District 108

##### Opposition:

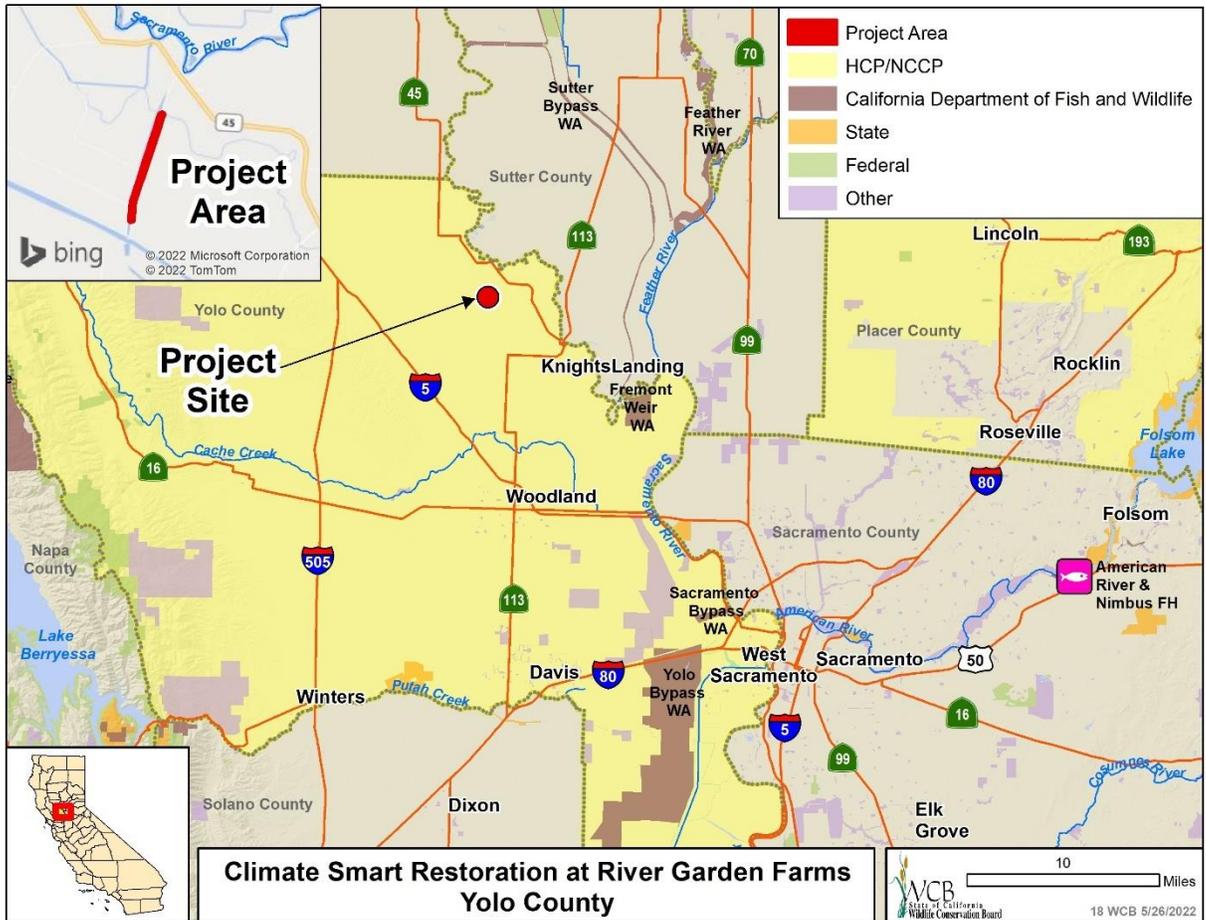
- None received

#### CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

The Project is statutorily exempt from CEQA pursuant to the Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects (SERP), Public Resources Code section 21080.56, as a project that meets all of the following conditions: (1) the Project is exclusively to conserve, restore, protect, or enhance, and assist in the recovery of California native fish and wildlife, and the habitat upon which they depend; or is exclusively to restore or provide habitat for California native fish and wildlife; (2) the Project may have public benefits incidental to the Project's fundamental purpose; (3) the Project will result in long-term net benefits to climate resiliency, biodiversity, and sensitive species recovery; and includes procedures and ongoing management for the protection of the environment; and (4) Project construction activities are solely related to habitat restoration.

WCB's independent determination of exemption is based on the Project as described in the Lead Agency Determination and request for concurrence submitted to CDFW by the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy. CDFW determined that the Project meets the qualifying criteria for a SERP exemption and issued a Concurrence. There have been no subsequent changes to the Project or changes in condition that could affect the Lead Agency Determination, therefore the CDFW Concurrence remains in effect and no separate concurrence from CDFW is required. Records of concurrence are archived in the CDFW Environmental Permit Information Management System (EPIMS) Document Repository.

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



## 19. Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Restoration Planning

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$649,400 from the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68), Public Resources Code Sections 80132(f) and 80111(d); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Restoration Planning
Project Type:	Planning
Applicant/Grantee:	Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority
Amount Recommended:	\$649,400
Funding Partners:	USFS, Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority
Landowner(s):	USFS
County:	Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Tuolumne
Program:	California Forest Conservation
Funding:	Proposition 68
Strategic Plan:	Goals: B.1 Objectives: SI 1.2, 2.1
Disadvantaged Community:	Within a severely disadvantaged community

### LOCATION

The Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Restoration Planning project (Project) is located within the Upper Mokelumne River watershed on the Amador Ranger District, El Dorado National Forest and the Calaveras District, Stanislaus National Forest. The Upper Mokelumne River watershed is a headwaters area of statewide significance, supplying water to over 1.3 million downstream users, generating essential baseload hydroelectricity and maintaining a diversity of plant and animal species, including several special-status species.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Upper Mokelumne River watershed has experienced extensive conifer encroachment into aspen communities because of historic fire suppression, drought, and climate change, while simultaneously experiencing catastrophic wildfires over the past two decades. Taken together, these factors have led to a marked decrease in aspen regeneration and stand condition, affecting the distinct wildlife and plants species that are associated with this habitat type.

Presently, there is no existing aspen mapping exercises in California which encompasses the headwater areas of the Mokelumne River, exposing aspen in the region to continued degradation and high fire risk. The Project will address this issue by completing critical aspen stand mapping and a condition assessment. This work will form the basis to generate shovel-ready aspen restoration projects on a watershed scale through creation of stand specific treatment recommendations and completion of NEPA and CEQA planning documents.

This Project benefits from, and will build on, lessons learned from a similar WCB-funded aspen restoration planning project in the Yuba watershed and led by the South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL). Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority (UMRWA) consulted with SYRCL to prepare this proposal and intends to utilize the tools they developed to the maximum extent possible throughout this Project. Like the SYRCL project, UMRWA propose to identify existing stands, assess their condition, prioritize stands for restoration, and recommend treatment methods. UMRWA’s team will incorporate the NEPA and CEQA expertise to accomplish the critical step of NEPA and CEQA readiness.

This Project contributes to the goals of Pathways to 30x30 California by aligning with Pathway 6: Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship.

**PROJECT FUNDING**

The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Total
Project Management	\$57,000	\$10,000	\$67,000
Mapping and Assessment	\$199,000	---	\$199,000
Baseline Monitoring	\$122,500	\$18,160	\$140,660
Restoration Design/ Prioritization Tool	\$50,000	---	\$50,000
Environmental Compliance	\$184,500	\$260,000	\$444,500
Indirect	\$36,400	---	\$36,400
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$649,400</b>	<b>\$288,160</b>	<b>\$937,560</b>

Costs associated with WCB funding include:

- Project Management: Technical and administrative services associated with performing and completing the work for this Project.
- Mapping and Assessment: Consolidate all known aspen stand geospatial data and Assessment Plan, and create an assessment protocol emphasizing quantitative metrics.
- Baseline Monitoring: Collect baseline data on the forest stand structure, composition, causes of problematic conditions, and unique stand management conditions.
- Restoration Design/Prioritization Tool: Determine stands in greatest need and complete restoration design plans.
- Environmental Compliance: Complete necessary biological and archeological surveys and reports in order 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.

### PROJECT LETTERS OF SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION

#### Support:

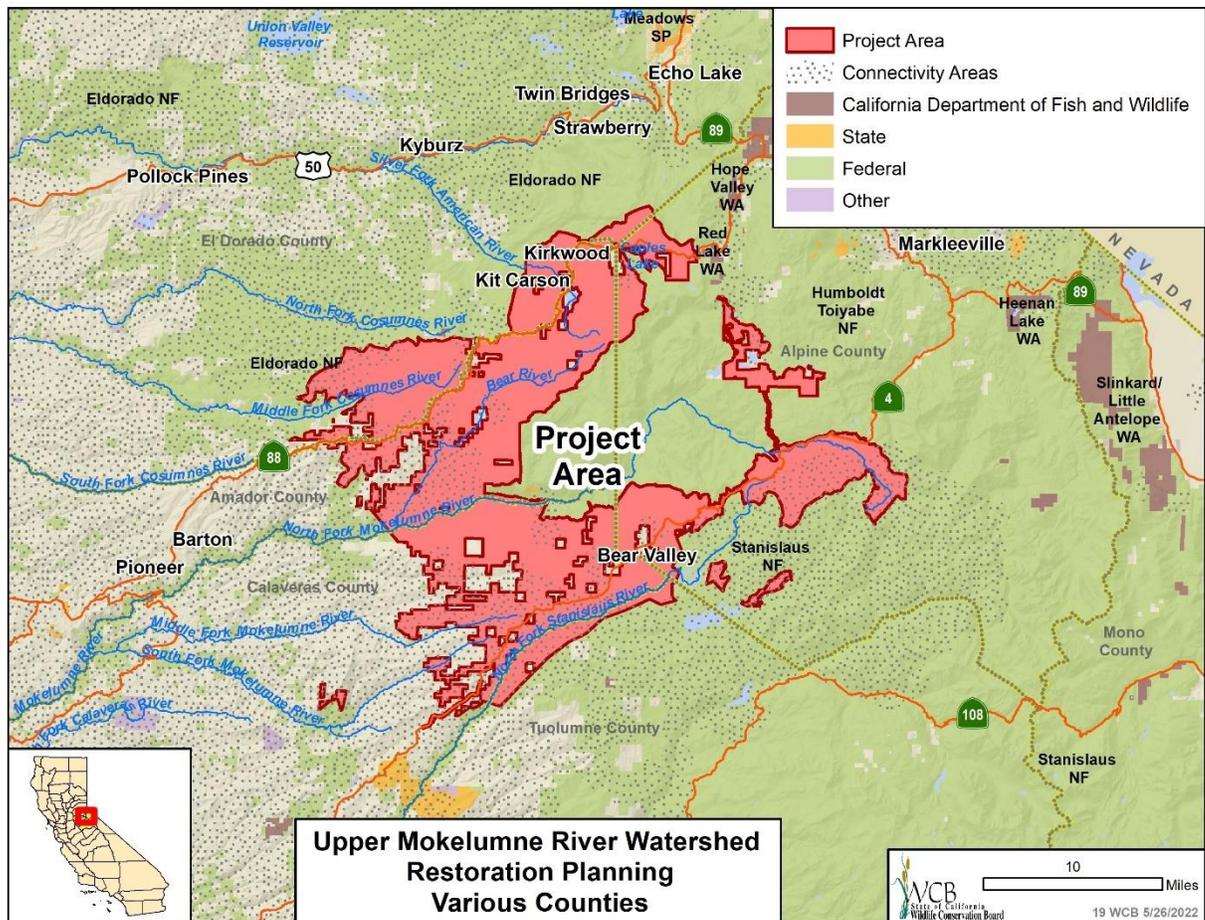
- Richard Sykes, Executive Officer, Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority
- Becky Estes, Central Sierra Province Ecologist, USFS
- Michael T. Tognolini, Director of Water and Natural Resources, East Bay Municipal Utility District
- Larry B. McKenney, General Manager, Amador Water Agency
- Michael Minkler, General Manager, Calaveras County Water District

#### Opposition:

- None received

### 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.



## 20. Mattley Meadow and Riparian Restoration

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB adopt the written findings and approve this project as proposed; allocate \$538,314 from Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(e)(f); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Mattley Meadow and Riparian Restoration
Project Type:	Implementation
Applicant/Grantee:	Plumas Corporation
Amount Recommended:	\$538,314
Funding Partners:	Plumas Corporation, Private landowner, USFS, Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority
Landowner(s):	Private landowner, USFS
County:	Calaveras
Program:	California Riparian Habitat Conservation
Funding:	Habitat Conservation Fund
Strategic Plan:	Goals: B.1 Objectives: SI 2.1, 4.1
Disadvantaged Community:	Within a severely disadvantaged community

### LOCATION

The Mattley Meadow and Riparian Restoration project (Project) is located on a 45-acre upper alpine meadow in the headwaters of Mattley Creek, a tributary to the North Fork Mokelumne River in the Stanislaus National Forest (Project Area). Mattley Meadow was identified as a target meadow for restoration in the Amador Calaveras Consensus Group Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project because it is one of the largest meadows in the headwaters of the Mokelumne River watershed, the municipal water for more than 1.4 million East Bay area residents and is in a degraded condition. In addition to providing high-quality water for agriculture, domestic, and industrial uses, the watershed, and specifically Mattley Meadow, provides occupied habitat for the state and federally listed Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog (SNYLF). In 2017, WCB's Stream Flow Enhancement Program contributed Proposition 1 funds to Plumas Corporation to implement the Sierra Meadow Hydrology Monitoring Program (SMHMP) which includes Mattley Meadow. Current land uses include livestock grazing and dispersed summer and fall recreation (e.g., OHV and hunting).

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The purpose of the Project is to restore ecosystem function in the currently degraded channel floodplain system in Mattley and Mattley Creek meadows. Historically, the Mattley meadow complex lacked deep stream channels and water travelled as sheet flow and through shallow swales on the surface of the meadows. Existing remnant vegetation indicates Mattley Meadow once supported a large aspen stand and a vigorous wet meadow plant community. However, natural and human caused disturbances over the past 100 years have caused the formation of three large gully channels in Mattley Meadow and one gully in Mattley Creek

Meadow which have resulted in meadow degradation and impaired ecological function.

The Project seeks to restore the natural hydrologic functions of the Mattley Meadow system to provide improved water quality and timing of flows, increased extent and vigor of meadow vegetation and aspen stands, and enhanced aquatic and terrestrial habitats onsite and downstream. The Project will meet these objectives by filling gullies within the meadow utilizing the partial fill or “pond and plug” meadow floodplain restoration technique. Local fill will be taken from meadow margins or other elevated features and “borrow ponds” will be enhanced with habitat features for SNYLF (varying water depths, semi-submerged boulders, islands, basking logs, etc.). Large woody debris will be installed to reduce flow velocities and channel scour. An existing OHV trail will be decommissioned and re-routed to outside the Project Area. 7,200 feet of permanent wildlife-friendly fencing will be installed, and all disturbed areas will be revegetated with salvaged live meadow vegetation (sod mats and willow wads) and native seed mix. Cattle grazing will be restricted within the Project Area for a minimum of three years until the sites have revegetated and stabilized. The Project will restore approximately 45 acres of riparian and meadow habitat, enhancing conditions on 31 acres of montane meadow, creating 1.6 acres of palustrine open water, and reconnecting 1,926 feet of creek channel with the meadow floodplain. Hydrology monitoring will continue through 2025 building upon the data collected since 2017 for the SMHMP.

The Project will not provide direct benefits or services to the Project Area’s severely disadvantaged community. However, the services of the California Conservation Corps will be used for the fence installation and native plant revegetation.

This Project contributes to the goals of Pathways to 30x30 California by aligning with Pathway 6: Expand and accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship, Pathway 8: Align Investments to Maximize Conservation Benefits, and Pathway 10: Evaluate Conservation Outcomes and Adaptively Manage.

#### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

As part of the Project, the Plumas Corporation will develop a Long-term Management Plan that guides management actions for the property, including management of the Project. This plan will describe measures for ensuring livestock management practices do not interfere with or degrade the restored meadow conditions. If at any time during the 25-year life of the Project, Plumas Corporation 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	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Total Cost
Project Management	\$25,725	---	\$25,725
Restoration	\$364,000	\$30,350	\$394,350
Monitoring	\$43,704	\$23,360	\$67,064
Operating Expenses: General	\$64,466	---	\$64,466
Indirect	\$40,419	\$5,148	\$45,567
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$538,314</b>	<b>\$58,858</b>	<b>\$597,172</b>

Costs associated with WCB funding include:

- Project Management: Project coordination, contracting, invoicing, preparing reports, and developing long-term management plan.
- Restoration: Site preparation, mobilization/demobilization, earthwork, fencing, trail construction and removal, revegetation, and construction oversight.
- Monitoring: Collect pre-project and post-project hydrologic conditions, complete annual California Rapid Method Assessments, assess project performance consistent with the Project’s Monitoring, Maintenance, and Reporting Program, develop adaptive management strategies, and upload all data to state repositories.
- General Operating Expenses: travel, lodging, per diem, permit fees, and field supplies.
- Indirect Costs: Incidental or indirect costs not to exceed 20 percent of the total direct WCB award, minus subcontractor and equipment costs.

**PROJECT LETTERS OF SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION**

Support:

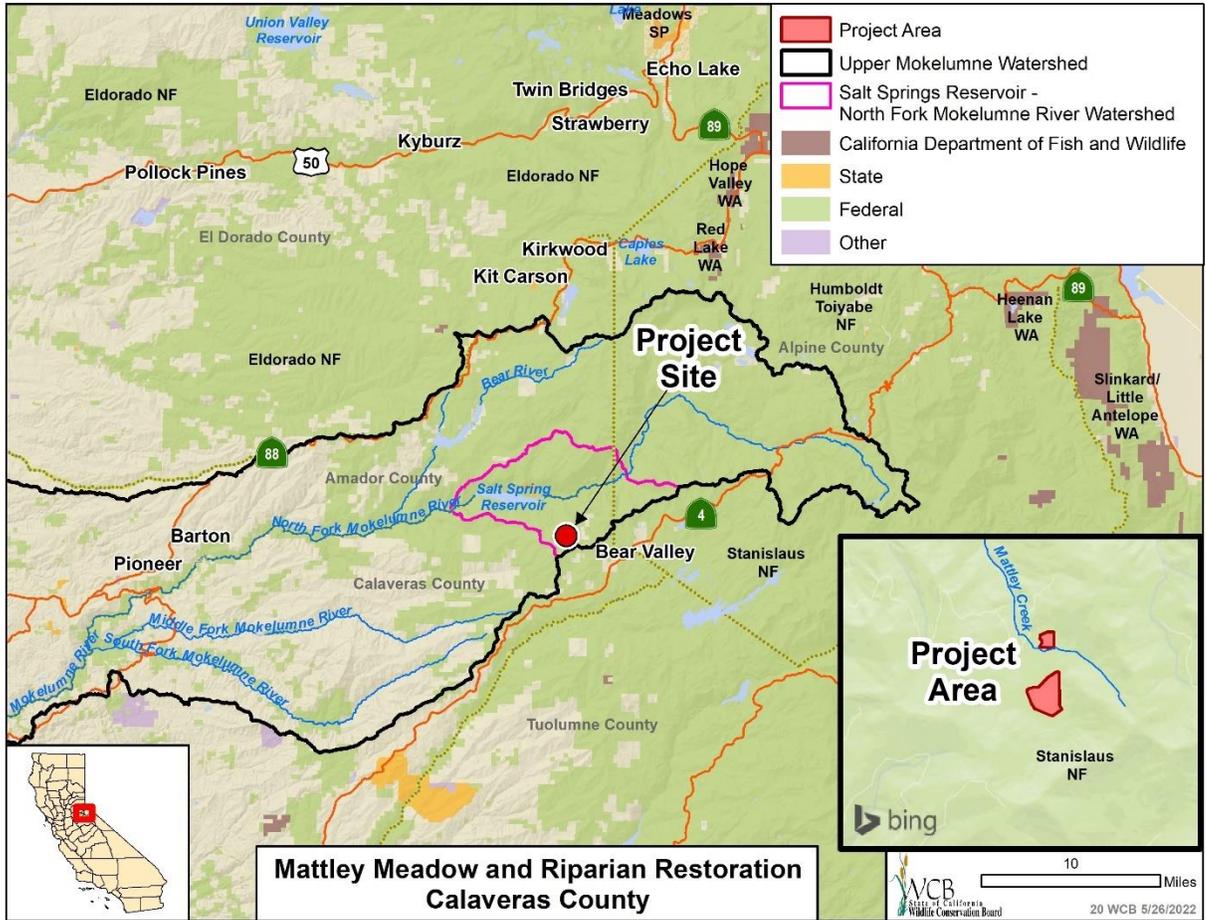
- Ray Cablayan, District Ranger, Calaveras Ranger District, Stanislaus National Forest
- Richard Sykes, Executive Director, Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority
- Megan Layhee, Administrator, Amador-Calaveras Consensus Group
- Stan Dell’Orto, Project Landowner

Opposition:

- None received

**CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS**

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



## 21. Pickel Meadow Restoration Planning

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$162,000 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:	Pickel Meadow Restoration Planning
Project Type:	Planning
Applicant/Grantee:	American Rivers
Amount Recommended:	\$162,000
Funding Partners:	American Rivers, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
County:	Mono
Program:	California Forest Conservation
Funding:	Proposition 68
Strategic Plan:	Goals: B.1 Objectives: SI 1.2, 1.3
Disadvantaged Community:	Within a disadvantaged community

### LOCATION

Pickel Meadow Restoration Planning (Project) is located in Pickel Meadow, a 450-acre mountain meadow in the Walker River watershed directly adjacent to Highway 108 across from the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center approximately five miles west of Sonora Junction (intersection with Highway 395), and 18 miles north of the city of Walker. The Project site is managed by both CDFW and USFS.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In 2014, CDFW, USFS, American Rivers, California Trout, Inc. (CalTrout), and other stakeholders identified the site as a priority for restoration due to its impaired hydrologic and ecological condition, as well as the potential restoration benefits for species including willow flycatcher (WIFL), yellow warbler, and native fish. Specifically, Pickel Meadow was identified by the Institute for Bird Populations as a priority restoration site for WIFL. The species has current breeding sites immediately downstream of the Project site (within their 10km dispersal distance). Pickel Meadow supports yellow warbler, another meadow focal species, though at low population density due to the poor habitat quality.

The meadow and the West Walker River within the Project site are significantly altered and impaired. An artificial berm at the head of the meadow constricts the river and blocks flow into the historic alluvial fan, which prevents surface water from entering the upper meadow. Downstream of the historic alluvial fan, the river channel is wide and incised, with minimal riparian or other structural cover for aquatic species. The river has limited connectivity to its natural floodplain, which further impairs the meadow hydrology, resulting in loss of shallow groundwater,

and altering the natural sediment transport and deposition dynamics. This altered hydrology reduces riparian shrub cover and structure in the meadow, which are critical to focal bird populations, who rely on these vegetation structures for cover.

The Project will develop a shovel-ready meadow restoration project at Pickel Meadow by completing planning, pre-project monitoring, design, permitting, and environmental compliance. The Project will build upon previous restoration planning completed by CalTrout which included a geomorphic assessment, conceptual restoration designs, and some pre-project monitoring.

The long-term goal of the greater project is to restore fundamental ecological processes at Pickel Meadow. Restoration of the site will be designed to reestablish hydrologic function and floodplain connectivity, improve riparian and wet meadow habitat conditions to support WIFL and Yellow Warbler, improve aquatic habitat, and increase groundwater levels and water quality.

This Project contributes to the goals of Pathways to 30x30 California by aligning with Pathway 6: Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship and the “Conservation Priorities to Protect and Restore Biodiversity by designing restoration of degrade habitats in wetlands.

#### PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Total Cost
Project Management	\$39,130	\$73,292	\$112,422
Pre-Project Monitoring	\$43,300	\$30,308	\$73,608
Restoration Design, Permitting, Environmental Compliance	\$60,000	\$114,070	\$174,070
Outreach	\$6,300		\$6,300
Indirect Costs	\$13,270	\$13,777	\$27,047
Total	\$162,000	\$231,447	\$393,447

Costs associated with WCB funding include:

- Project Management: Management of grant and all project activities including subcontractors.
- Pre-Project Monitoring: Inform project design and to establish pre-project conditions to evaluate project success and quantify ecological benefits following implementation.
- Restoration Design, Permitting, Environmental Compliance : Work to develop 30%, 65%, and 100% restoration designs, and permitting and environmental compliance.
- Outreach: Convene stakeholder meeting and solicit feedback on restoration designs, planning, and pre-project monitoring

- Indirect Costs: Incidental or indirect costs not to exceed 20 percent of the total direct WCB award, minus subcontractor and equipment costs.

### PROJECT LETTERS OF SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION

#### Support:

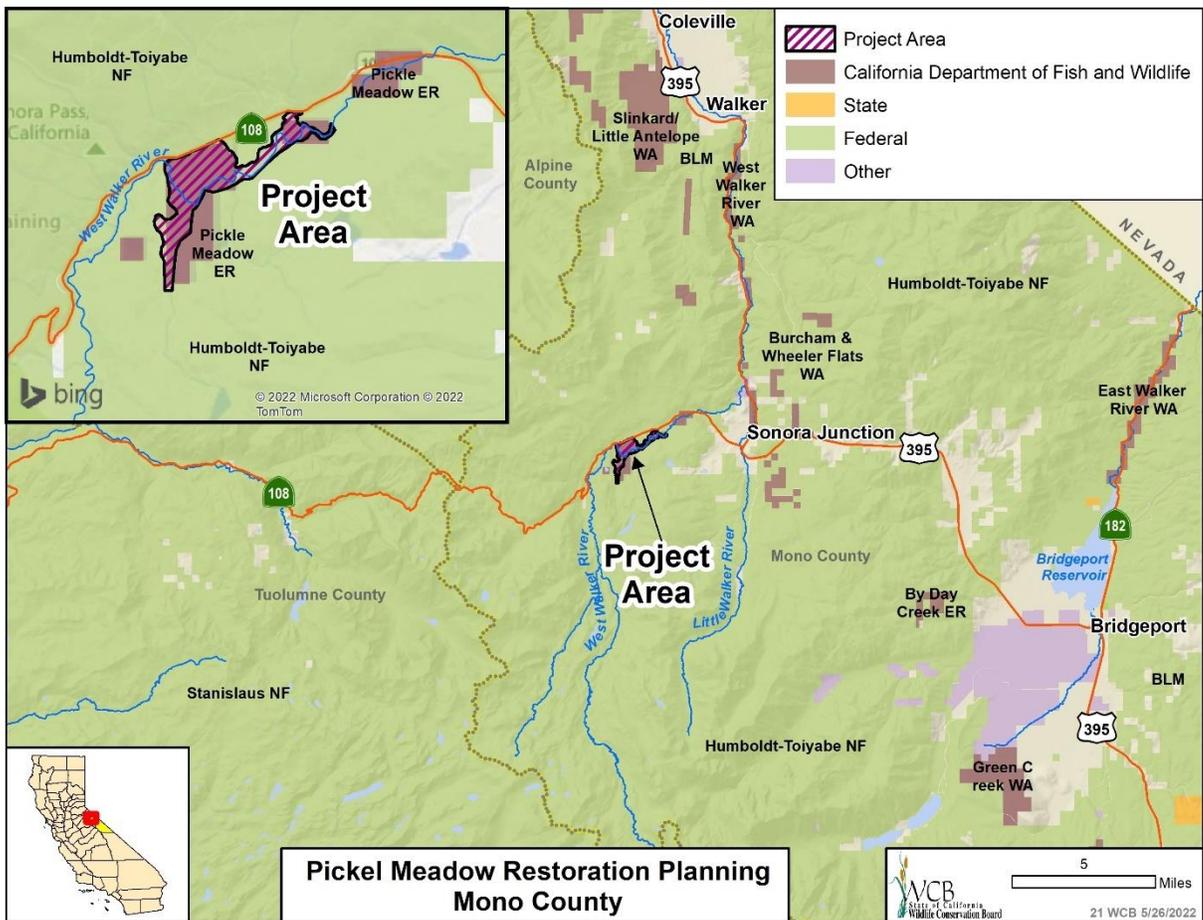
- Duncan Leao, Acting District Ranger, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest.
- Helen Loffland, Meadow Species Specialist, The Institute for Bird Populations
- Sandra Jacobson, Ph.D., Director, South Coast and Sierra Regions, CalTrout

#### Opposition:

- None received

### 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.



## 22. Pacheco Pass Wildlife Linkage and Connectivity Improvements

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB adopt the written findings and approve this project as proposed; allocate \$400,000 from the General Fund, Budget Act of 2021; 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 Pass Wildlife Linkage and Connectivity Improvements
Project Type:	Implementation
Applicant/Grantee:	Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency
Amount Recommended:	\$400,000
Funding Partners:	Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency
Landowner(s):	Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency
County:	Santa Clara
Program:	Habitat Enhancement and Restoration
Funding:	General Fund
Strategic Plan:	Goals: B.1 Objectives: SI 1.2
Disadvantaged Community:	Not within a disadvantaged community

### LOCATION

The Pacheco Pass Wildlife Linkage and Connectivity Improvements project (Project) is located along State Route 152 (SR-152) in an area known as Pacheco Pass, 13 miles east of the city of Gilroy. The Project site is on the northwest side of SR-152 and is characterized by riparian sycamore woodland habitat. This location is a part of the Pacheco Creek Reserve in Santa Clara County.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Pacheco Pass is an established wildlife corridor that supports all species guilds and is essential to connectivity between the Diablo Range and Inner Coast Range. This has made the area a conservation priority for local, state, and federal agencies. It is on CDFW's 2020 Wildlife Movement Barrier Priorities list and is also identified as a priority for connectivity by the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Conservation Plan, California State Wildlife Action Plan, California Essential Habitat Connectivity Plan, and the draft Santa Clara County Regional Conservation Investment Strategy.

Wildlife connectivity studies have documented SR-152 within Pacheco Pass as a major wildlife hazard with high wildlife mortality. Small, medium, and large mammals have been detected traveling through SR-152 underpasses; however, the same species are often found dead on the highway in large numbers. In an effort to minimize the harm to wildlife, WCB approved the SR-152 Pacheco Creek Wildlife Connectivity and Corridor Enhancement Project (PCWCCE) in February 2021. The PCWCCE will improve the utility of a SR-152 undercrossing by making multiple structural improvements to the road infrastructure that will improve the ability of wildlife to migrate to habitat on either side of the roadway. One of these

improvements will be the installation of directional fencing to guide wildlife to the culvert underpass.

The proposed Project will build upon the efforts of the PCWCCE and build additional fencing that will increase the effectiveness of the underpass improvement efforts. The directional fencing will be 10 feet in height, chain link, and stained to give it a weathered brown appearance. It will feature an 18-inch “outrigger” that supports three-strand barbwire to prevent wildlife from climbing over. The fence will be buried 24 inches to prevent animals such as coyotes, badgers, and pigs from digging under, and will be placed along the same alignment as the current Caltrans five-strand barbwire fence which will be removed. For any animals that still find their way onto the roadway, fire-proof jump-out ramps at half-mile intervals will be included as an escape route back to open space.

The fencing design is modeled after wildlife fencing used along a 6-mile stretch of the State Route 241 Toll Road in Orange County, California. This fence design is considered the best available technology for wildlife fencing. In the three years of post-construction monitoring along SR-241, the fence eliminated (100% reduction) wildlife-vehicle collisions for three of the target species (mountain lion, bobcat, and deer) and reduced them over 90% for the fourth species (coyote).

This Project contributes to the goals of Pathways to 30x30 California by aligning with Pathway 6: Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship.

#### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency 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, Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency 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	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Total Cost
Final designs	---	\$2,500	\$2,500
Construction	\$383,800	\$97,500	\$481,300
Monitoring	\$16,200	---	\$16,200
Project Management	---	\$16,640	\$16,640
Total	\$400,000	\$116,640	\$516,640

Costs associated with WCB funding include:

- Construction: Installation of approximately a half mile of wildlife directional fencing.
- Monitoring: Wildlife mortality monitoring to gauge project effectiveness.

**PROJECT LETTERS OF SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION**

Support:

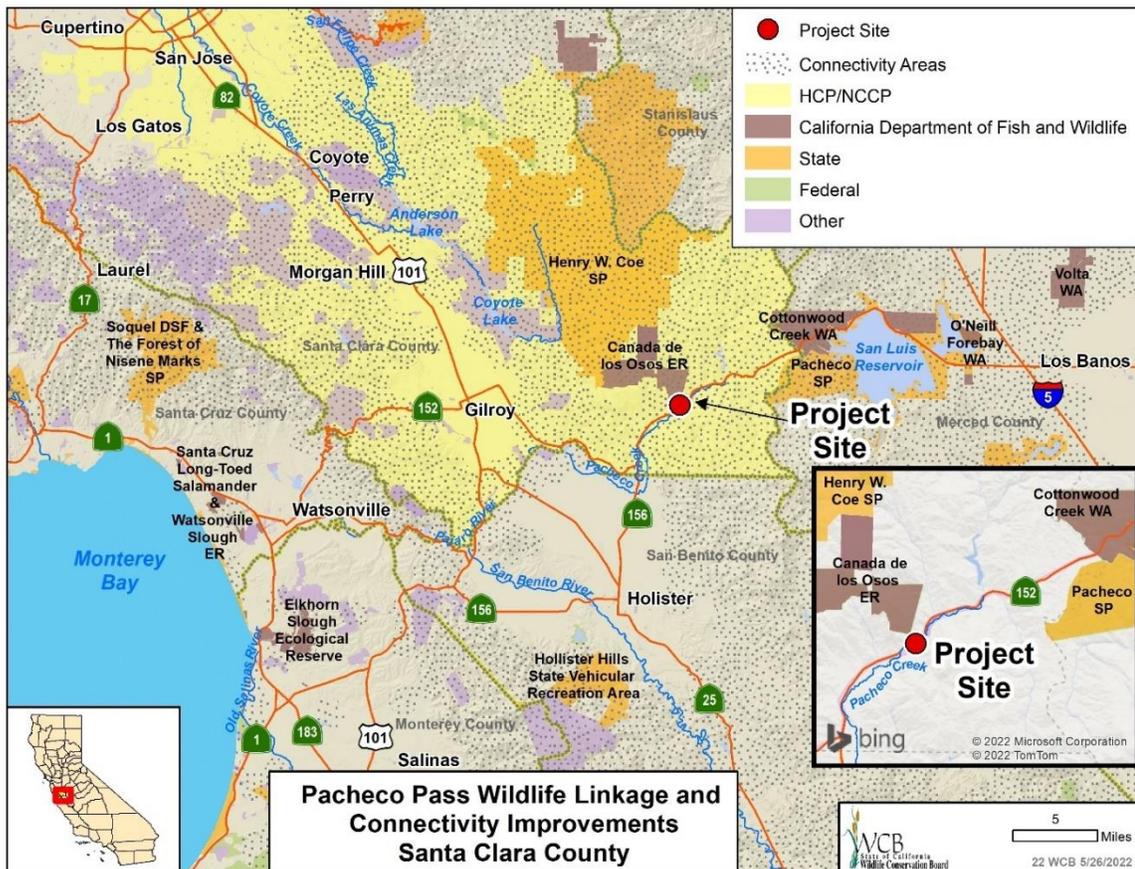
- Ann Calnan, Environmental Programs Manager, Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority
- Mari Galloway, California Program Manager, Wildlands Network
- Lindsey Vivian, Environmental Analysis Office Chief, Caltrans

Opposition:

- None received

**CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS**

Santa Clara County, as lead agency, prepared an EIR for the project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA. Staff considered the EIR and has prepared proposed, written findings documenting WCB’s compliance with CEQA. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOD will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.



### 23. Jackass Creek Watershed and Fish Passage Improvement Planning

#### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$406,000 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:	Jackass Creek Watershed and Fish Passage Improvement Planning
Project Type:	Planning
Applicant/Grantee:	Trout Unlimited
Amount Recommended:	\$406,000
Funding Partners:	Kern Community Foundation, Trout Unlimited, USFS
County:	Tulare
Program:	California Forest Conservation
Funding:	Proposition 68
Strategic Plan:	Goals: B.1 Objectives: SI 1.2
Disadvantaged Community:	Within a disadvantaged community

#### LOCATION

The Jackass Creek Watershed and Fish Passage Improvement Planning (Project) is 15 miles east of the unincorporated community of Johnsondale and 4 miles southwest from the unincorporated community of Kennedy Meadows located on the Kern Plateau, in Sequoia National Forest (SNF). Jackass Creek watershed is a 3.4 square mile sub-watershed of the Fish Creek watershed.

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In 2019, as part of their ongoing Forest Plan Revision Process, SNF reassessed and updated its Watershed Condition Framework for all watersheds on the forest. It was found that 43 percent of watersheds are properly functioning, 52 percent are “functioning at risk”, and 5 percent have “impaired” function. Habitat fragmentation, flow alteration, exotic species, road density, and road proximity to water were the most common stressors affecting watersheds that are not properly functioning. The Project site watershed, Fish Creek, is identified as “functioning at risk,” due to habitat disconnect, sedimentation from roads, degraded meadows, and high forest fuel loads. The Project addresses all four above-listed system stressors in Jackass watershed, as sub-watershed of Fish Creek.

The Project’s overarching goal is to improve ecosystem function, resilience, and climate adaptation mechanisms in Jackass Creek. The Project will complete restoration planning, design, and environmental compliance and permitting for the following activities:

- Restoration of 80 acres of degraded montane meadow habitat.
- 270 acres of forest health-fuels reduction treatment.

- Two miles of roads maintenance/decommissioning located in sensitive riparian habitat.
- Removal of a fish passage barrier.

Once implemented, this Project will address SNF’s watershed improvement needs through watershed-scale restoration. This Project will specifically increase the pace and scale of watershed improvement in an area recently designated a USFS “Priority Watershed” for restoration due to its critical degraded condition.

This Project contributes to the goals of Pathways to 30x30 California by aligning with Pathway 6: Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship and the “Conservation Priorities to Protect and Restore Biodiversity by designing restoration of degrade habitats in wetlands.

**PROJECT FUNDING**

The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Total Cost
Project Management	\$19,254	---	\$19,254
Technical Restoration Design	\$168,310	---	\$168,310
Environmental Compliance and Permitting	\$176,868	\$25,000	\$201,868
Monitoring and Adaptive Management	\$30,565	\$45,000	\$75,565
Indirect Cost	\$11,414	\$42,859	\$54,273
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$406,411</b>	<b>\$112,859</b>	<b>\$519,270</b>

Costs associated with WCB funding include:

- Project Management: Technical and administrative services associated with performing and completing the work for this Project.
- Technical Restoration Design: Develop a restoration design plan for the removal of a fish passage barrier, roads maintenance/decommissioning, and meadow restoration.
- Environmental Compliance and Permitting: NEPA document development and coordination for CEQA compliance.
- Monitoring and Adaptive Management: Finalizing Pre-implementation Baseline Monitoring Plan to collect monitoring data for comparative purposes.
- Indirect Costs: Incidental or indirect costs not to exceed 20 percent of the total direct WCB award, minus subcontractor and equipment costs.

**PROJECT LETTERS OF SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION**

Support:

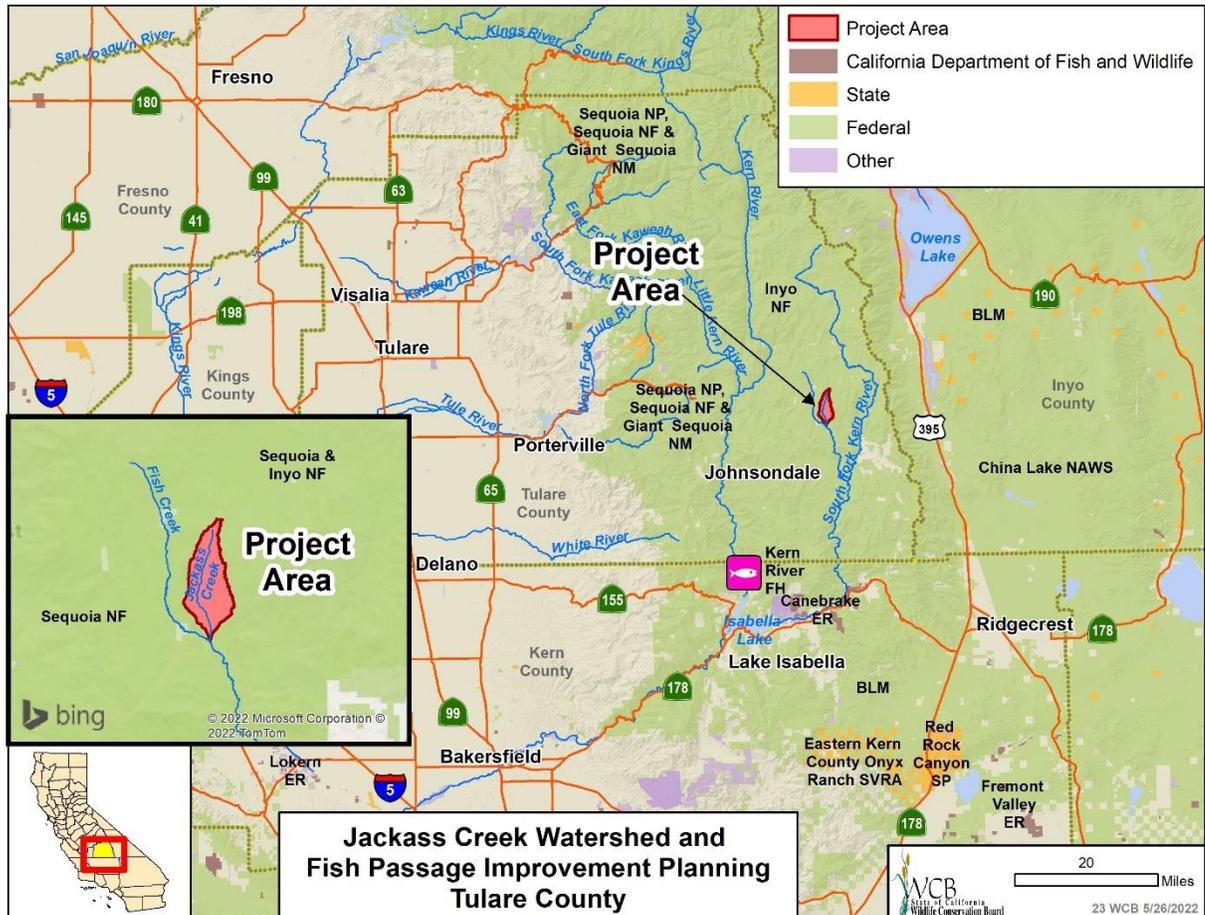
- Teresa Benson, Forest Supervisor, Sequoia National Forest.

Opposition:

- None received

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



## 24. San Luis Obispo Creek Stream Flow Enhancement and Protection Planning

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$219,104 from the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Fund of 2014 (Proposition 1), CWC Section 79733; 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 Luis Obispo Creek Stream Flow Enhancement and Protection Planning
Project Type:	Planning
Applicant/Grantee:	Creek Lands Conservation
Amount Recommended:	\$219,104
Funding Partners:	Creek Lands Conservation, Hicks Law, City of San Luis Obispo, Cal Poly
County:	San Luis Obispo
Program:	Stream Flow Enhancement
Funding:	Proposition 1
Strategic Plan	Goals: B.1 Objectives: SI 2.3
Disadvantaged Community:	Not within a disadvantaged community

### LOCATION

The San Luis Obispo Creek Stream Flow Enhancement and Protection Planning project (Project) is in San Luis Obispo Creek and its tributaries, Brizzolari Creek and Reservoir Canyon Creek, within the city of San Luis Obispo.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Project goal is to make meaningful advances toward long-term, sustained stream flow enhancement for the San Luis Obispo (SLO) Creek watershed. SLO Creek and its tributaries contain critical habitat for south-central California coast steelhead trout, a threatened species. Inadequate dry season flows due to cumulative land and water-use impacts have contributed to the declines of steelhead populations in the Project area. The Project will enhance and protect stream flows in SLO Creek by preparing instream dedications for at least three water rights. This will be accomplished through Section 1707 instream flow dedication petitions or other appropriate forbearance agreement with water rights holders.

Collectively, dedication of the identified water rights could generate up to 520 acre-feet per year of flow enhancement in SLO Creek. Ultimately, this Project could permanently protect instream flow and provide critical steelhead rearing habitat in multiple locations spanning from the headwaters to lower reaches and covering all major salmonid life-cycle habitats in the watershed. In addition to water rights outcomes, strategic outcomes include steps toward creation of a framework to facilitate long-term, sustained stream flow enhancement for the SLO Creek

watershed through a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) analysis and development of Landowner Streamflow and Enhancement Memos.

This Project contributes to the goals of Pathways to 30x30 California by aligning with Pathway 6: Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship.

#### PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Total Cost
Project Management and Administration	\$23,198	\$12,212	\$35,410
Water Use and Hydrology Assessment	\$52,284	\$1,590	\$53,874
Water Rights Transfers	\$112,041	\$47,550	\$159,591
Indirect Costs	\$12,380	---	\$12,380
Contingency	\$19,201	---	\$19,201
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$219,104</b>	<b>\$61,352</b>	<b>\$280,456</b>

Costs associated with WCB funding include:

- Project Management and Administration: Technical and administrative services associated with performing and completing work for this Project, including managing the grant agreement, administering subcontracts, invoicing, and reporting.
- Water Use and Hydrology Assessment: Information gathering from historic and current water use records and upstream and downstream monitoring to quantify project benefits and legally protect water rights for each landowner/water right holder. The information will be used to inform the water rights transfers and develop strategic memos for each landowner.
- Water Rights Transfers:
  - Legal due diligence to prepare a petition of instream flow dedication (Section 1707) or other appropriate forbearance agreement for each of the landowner’s water rights
  - Development of Landowner Stream Flow and Enhancement Memos
  - SWOT analysis to inform facilitation of long-term, sustained stream flow enhancement
- Indirect Costs: Incidental or indirect costs not to exceed 20 percent 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.

#### PROJECT LETTERS OF SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION

Support:

- Freddy Otte, City Biologist, City of San Luis Obispo

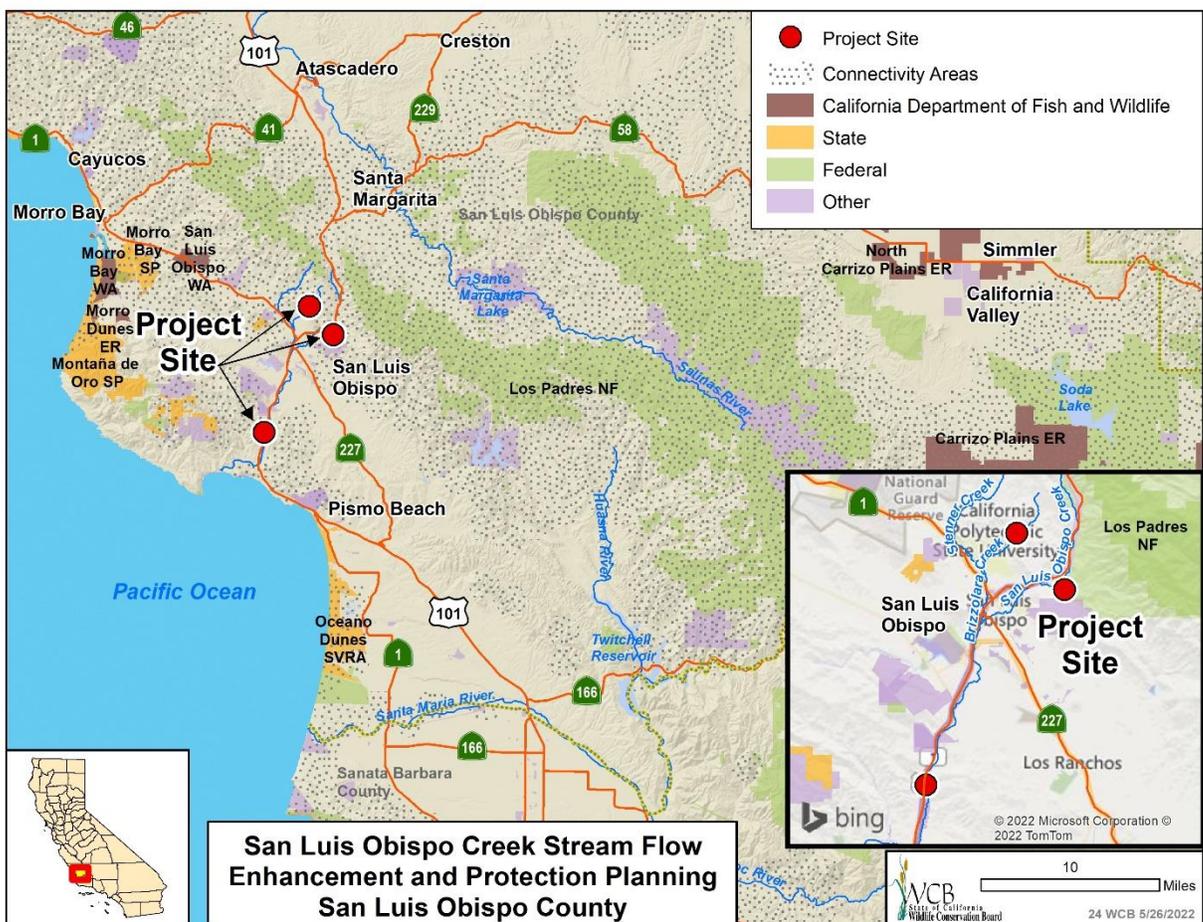
- Hallie Richard, Conservation Programs Manager, Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District
- Kaila Dettman, Executive Director, The Lands Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County
- Dan Silver, Executive Director, Endangered Habitats League

Opposition:

- None received

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.



**25. Stream Flow Enhancement and Protection Plan for the Arroyo Seco**

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$427,488 from the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Fund of 2014 (Proposition 1), CWC Section 79733; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Stream Flow Enhancement and Protection Plan for the Arroyo Seco
Project Type:	Scientific Study
Applicant/Grantee:	Arroyo Seco Foundation
Amount Recommended:	\$427,488
Funding Partners:	Arroyo Seco Foundation and Fisheries Resource Volunteer Corps
County:	Los Angeles
Program:	Stream Flow Enhancement
Funding:	Proposition 1
Strategic Plan	Goals: B.1 Objectives: SI 2.3, 4.1
Disadvantaged Community:	Not within a disadvantaged community

**LOCATION**

The Stream Flow Enhancement and Protection Plan for the Arroyo Seco (Project) will be located within the city of Pasadena and in the Angeles National Forest.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The Project objective is to improve stream flows and remove impediments for fish passage on the Arroyo Seco, a major tributary to the Los Angeles River. The Arroyo Seco is habitat for the endangered southern steelhead trout. This Project will systematically map and analyze stream flow barriers and other limiting conditions to improve stream flow and prioritize additional stream flow enhancement projects in the upper Arroyo Seco watershed.

The Arroyo Seco Foundation intends to support future implementation projects with the deliverables of this scientific study project. The Project deliverables include: (1) a plan that reviews all barriers and impediments in the upper Arroyo Seco and prioritizes barrier modifications or removal to benefit stream health, (2) instream environmental flow guidance for the City of Pasadena to benefit native fish and other sensitive aquatic species, and (3) modification and/or removal alternatives for Brown Mountain Dam, the major fish passage barrier in the upper watershed and ongoing risk to downstream water quality and environmental flows.

This Project contributes to the goals of Pathways to 30x30 California by aligning with Pathway 6: Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship.

**PROJECT FUNDING**

The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Total Cost
Project Management and Administration	\$43,806	---	\$43,806
Technical Advisory Committee	\$32,180	---	\$32,180
Arroyo Seco Watershed Assessment and Implementation Plan	\$66,480	\$87,200	\$153,680
Instream Flow Assessment	\$47,668	---	\$47,668
Brown Mountain Dam Feasibility Study	\$155,574	---	\$155,574
Community Outreach	\$81,780	\$170,000	\$251,780
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$427,488</b>	<b>\$257,200</b>	<b>\$684,688</b>

Costs associated with WCB funding include:

- Project Management and Administration: Technical and administrative services associated with performing and completing work for this Project, including managing the grant agreement, administering subcontracts, invoicing, and reporting.
- Technical Advisory Committee: A technical advisory committee of technical experts and stakeholders will guide technical review and decision criteria at key project milestones, including review of the Watershed Assessment and Implementation Plan and the Instream Flow Assessment.
- Arroyo Seco Watershed Assessment and Implementation Plan: Develop the Watershed Assessment and Implementation Plan to evaluate the potential for stream flow enhancement opportunities in the Arroyo Seco.
- Instream Flow Assessment: Develop guidance for environmental flows and an instream flow agreement with the City of Pasadena.
- Brown Mountain Dam Feasibility Study: Conduct a feasibility study for the removal of Brown Mountain Dam.
- Community Outreach: Public outreach to engage, inform, and solicit feedback from local stakeholders, legislative staff, and government agencies.

**PROJECT LETTERS OF SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION**

Support:

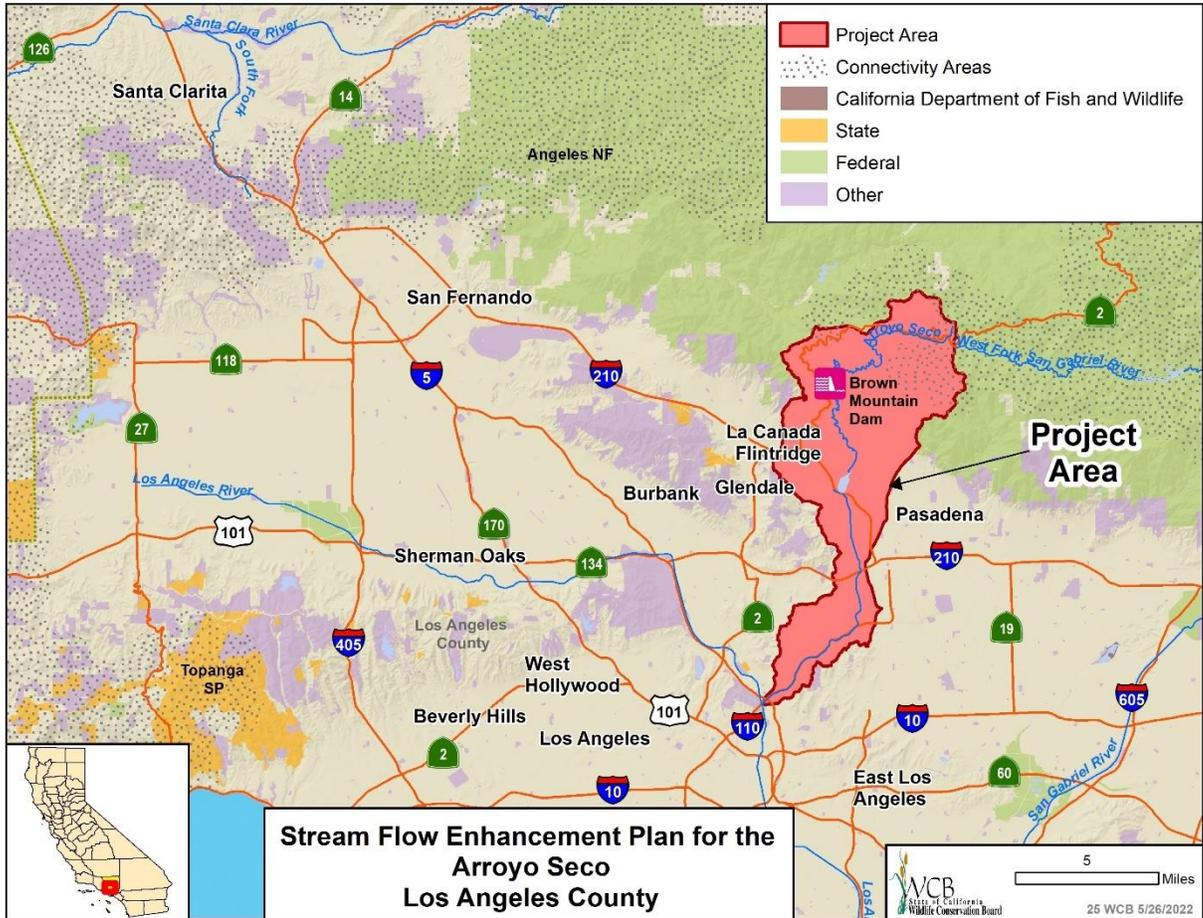
- Jerome E. Perez, Forest Supervisor, Angeles National Forest
- Ara Maloyan, Director of Public Works, City of Pasadena
- Mitchell S. Dion, Assistant General Manager, Pasadena Water and Power
- Jeffrey Kightlinger, Interim General Manager, Pasadena Water and Power
- Dan Silver, Executive Director, Endangered Habitats League

Opposition:

- None received

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.



## 26. West Coyote Hills, Phase II

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$1,000,000 from the General Fund, Budget Act of 2021, for the West Coyote Hills Property, expansion 1 planning project for an Independent Appraisal and due diligence costs. This interagency agreement will fund the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy planning for a future purchase of the second phase of the West Coyote Hills project. WCB staff seeks approval to authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	West Coyote Hills, Phase II
Project Type:	Planning
Grantee:	San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy
Amount Recommended:	\$1,000,000
County:	Orange
Program:	Land Acquisition
Funding:	General Fund
Strategic Plan:	Goals: A.3 Objectives: SI 1.3, 2.2
Disadvantaged Community:	Not within a disadvantaged community

### LOCATION

The property (Property), known as the West Coyote Hills Neighborhoods 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9, is located in the northwestern portion of the City of Fullerton (City) in the West Coyote Hills. It is west of Euclid Street, east of South Beach Boulevard, north of Rosecrans Avenue, and south of the city of La Habra's West Nicklaus Avenue.

The West Coyote Hills was a major oil field that operated for the majority of the twentieth century; however, extraction ceased in the 1970s. The Property is part of an approximately 510-acre tract of prime real estate for residential development since it is the largest remaining tract of undeveloped land in north Orange County. The owner intended to develop this 510-acre site with a total of 757 homes over 179 acres.

The Property is located within the Central/Coastal Orange County Natural Community Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan (NCCP/HCP). The NCCP/HCP focuses on creating a multiple-species, multiple-habitat subregional reserve system, and implementing a long-term adaptive management program that will protect coastal sage scrub and other habitats and species within the coastal sage scrub habitat mosaic, while providing for economic uses that will meet the social and economic needs of the communities within the subregion. This project contributes to the goals of Pathways to 30x30 California by aligning with Pathway 2: Execute Strategic Land Acquisitions.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Since West Coyote Hills ceased oil production in the 1970s, the City has been working to implement a comprehensive redevelopment plan for the site. In 2015, the City approved a Vesting Tentative Tract Map (VTTM) that allows for the subdivision of the 510-acre site into 775 lots. These lots were divided and identified as nine different neighborhoods in West Coyote Hills.

In December 2021, the City acquired Neighborhoods 1,2, and 3, approximately 43 acres of the 510-acre site. The acquisition of Neighborhood 1 was partially funded by a WCB grant approved at the November 18, 2021, WCB Board meeting.

Presently, the owner has expressed interest in selling an additional 483 acres, including Neighborhoods 4 through 9. This project will provide WCB general funds to the Grantee for procuring an appraisal and other due diligence related activities associated with the potential acquisition of the Property. This project will provide WCB general funds to the Grantee for procuring an appraisal, along with associated due diligence related activities, of the Property, for potential future acquisition. Due diligence activities may include tasks such as environmental review, DGS review, independent appraisal review, legal review, and title review.

Ultimately, if the Property is acquired for conservation purposes, habitat including coastal sage scrub, clustered tarweed, elderberry woodland, southern cactus scrub, and toyon sambucus chaparral would be preserved. The Property also supports habitat for the federally threatened Coastal California gnatcatcher and sensitive Coastal cactus wren. Other benefits would include public access and recreation, protection of open space, restoration of urban watershed health, and facilitating environmental education and stewardship.

### PROJECT FUNDING

The funding for this project is a direct line item in this year's California State Budget for 21/22. The amount was provided to WCB as an appropriation for appraisal work and other due diligence activities specifically for West Coyote Hills. The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB Funds
Appraisal and Due Diligence Costs	\$1,000,000
TOTAL	\$1,000,000

### PROJECT LETTERS OF SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION

Support:

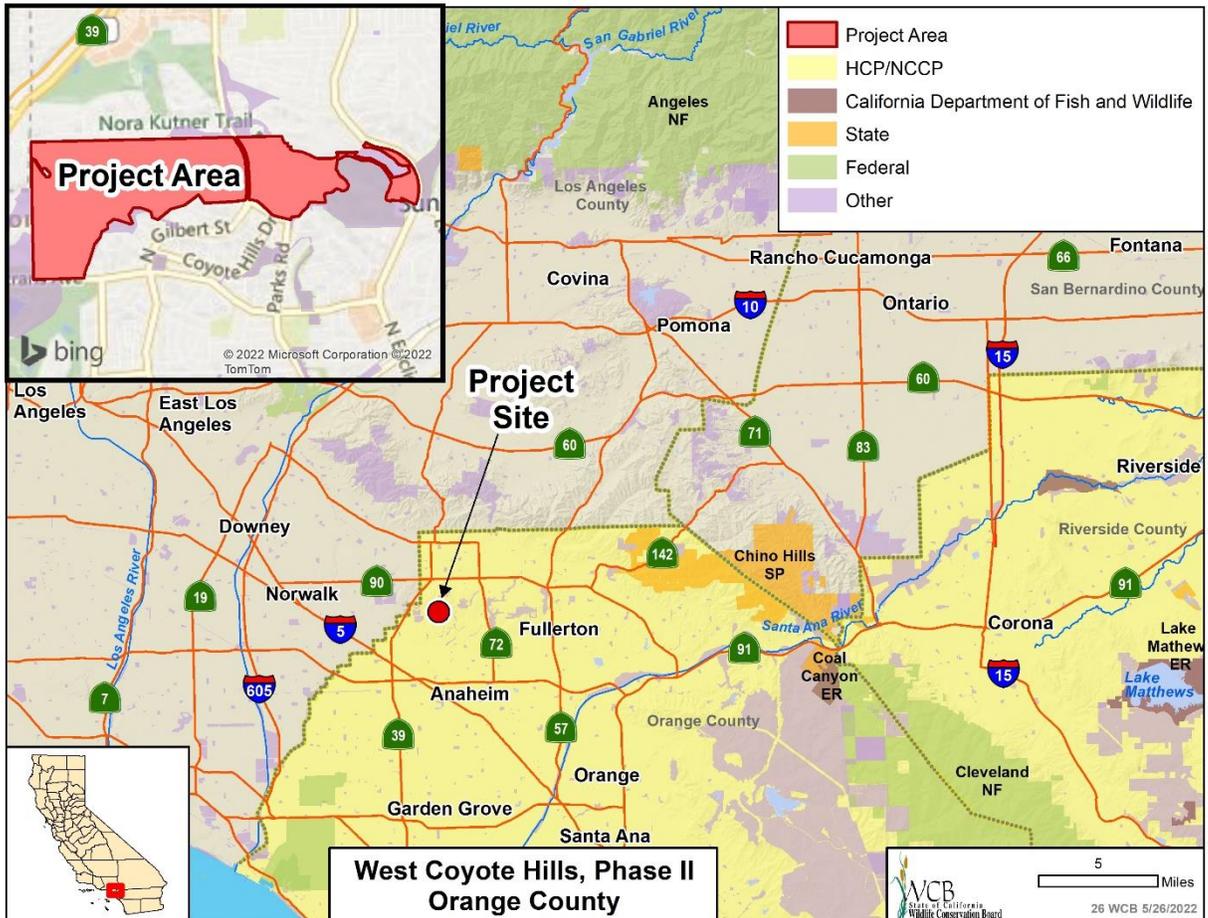
- Dan Silver, Executive Director, Endangered Habitats League

Opposition:

- None received

### 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.



**27. Peninsular Bighorn Sheep-Recovery Land Acquisition, Mesquite Ridge**  
STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; approve the acceptance of the Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition grant from USFWS in the amount of \$1,165,327 and approve the subgrant of the federal funds to Subgrantee; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Peninsular Bighorn Sheep-Recovery Land Acquisition, Mesquite Ridge
Project Type:	Fee Title (30± acres)
Grantee:	Oswit Land Trust (OLT)
Amount Recommended:	\$0
Funding Partners:	Natural Resources Agency – Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program (EEMP) and USFWS Section 6
County:	Riverside
Program:	Land Acquisition
Funding:	Proposition 68
Strategic Plan:	Goals: A1, A.3, A.4 Objectives: SI: 1.2,1.3, 2.2, 2.4
Disadvantaged Community:	Within a disadvantaged community

**LOCATION**

The property (Property) is located in the City of Palm Springs (City) against the eastern foothill slopes of the San Jacinto Mountains. The Property resides on the City's western boundary and is approximately one mile southwest of downtown Palm Springs. California State Route 111 is the main thoroughfare that intersects the City and provides access to the Property by way of W. Mesquite Avenue, a major access road for the highly developed western portion of Palm Springs. Immediately to the west and south of the Property is open space land primarily under the ownership of Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians and the Bureau of Land Management. These lands make up the transition zone between the valley floor and the San Jacinto and Santa Rosa mountain ranges, while to the east and north, a continuous swath of residential and commercial properties occupies the landscape.

This City is undergoing a development surge that threatens the Property. Entitlements for the Property had previously been approved by the City that would have allowed for the development of a 90-unit condominium community but have since expired. The Oswit Land Trust (OLT) has been actively protecting this area from development threats and recently received WCB funding at the August 2020 meeting. These WCB funds allowed them to purchase a 114± acre property known as Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area located two miles south of this Property.

The Property is in a region known as the Coachella Valley (Valley), which extends for approximately 45 miles in Riverside County southeast from the San Bernardino Mountains to the northern shore of the Salton Sea. The Valley is bounded by the San Jacinto Mountains on the west, the Santa Rosa Mountains on the south, and the Little San Bernardino Mountains on the north and east. Approximately 100 miles east of Los Angeles, the Valley is considered one of the fastest growing areas in the ever-expanding Riverside County. The Valley's urban and residential development has been growing quickly, with a population of nearly 600,000 people, and is part of the Inland Empire, the 13<sup>th</sup> largest metropolitan area in the United States.

The Property is within and complements the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area, a designated conservation area within the Coachella Valley Multi Species Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan (CV MSHCP/NCCP) area approved for the Coachella Valley portion of Riverside County. The purpose of the CV MSHCP/NCCP is to provide a regional vision for balanced growth to meet the requirements of federal and state endangered species laws, while promoting enhanced opportunities for recreation and tourism. The CV MSHCP/NCCP aims to conserve an additional 240,000 acres of open space to support the 500,000 acres of pre-existing conservation land for the protection of 27 plant and animal species. With the support of other conservation partners, the state and the federal government have helped conserve approximately 98,000 acres within the CV MSHCP/NCCP. This project contributes to the goals of Pathways to 30x30 California by aligning with Pathway 2: Execute Strategic Land Acquisitions.

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property consists of two contiguous undeveloped parcels, totaling approximately 29 acres, characterized by natural desert terrain consisting mostly of native vegetation, identified as alluvial fan Sonoran Creosote bush scrub, as well as important Sonoran mixed woody and succulent scrub habitat. The topography is described as level to rolling to severe upslope with nearby alluvial fans that descend from the east, from the higher elevations of the San Jacinto Mountains.

Peninsular Bighorn Sheep (PBS), a federally endangered species, inhabit the San Jacinto Mountains and have been documented on the Property. One unique aspect of PBS is they frequent lower elevation alluvial fan areas, compared to other desert bighorn sheep species that stay in higher elevations areas. Alluvial fans in the canyon provide nutritious forage that is important to PBS during lambing season, in drought conditions, and throughout the year. Unfortunately for the PBS, alluvial fans in the Coachella Valley also represent some of the more desirable development areas, abutting up to the mountains and having slightly higher elevations, that places them outside the windier areas of the valley floor and provide superior views. Within the Coachella Valley most of the alluvial fan areas have already been impacted by development.

This acquisition would permanently protect the Property, preventing future development and habitat fragmentation, while providing core habitat linkages and foraging corridors for the PBS. PBS are endangered by widespread habitat loss and degradation, particularly in the San Jacinto and Santa Rosa mountains, which border the rapidly developing City. Conservation of habitat along the urban-wildland interface is a high priority for PBS conservation. The Property's linkages and corridors that will connect other surrounding protected core habitat areas will allow for range shifts and migration in light of climate change. Along with the PBS, the acquisition will benefit the federally threatened desert tortoise and least Bell's vireo as well as the at-risk species of yellow warbler and summer tanager.

#### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

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

#### PROJECT FUNDING

The DGS approved fair market value is \$1,833,000 with the landowner providing a bargain sale at 1,800,000. The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Partners	Amount
USFWS Section 6	\$1,165,327
Natural Resources Agency	\$634,673
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$1,800,000

#### PROJECT LETTERS OF SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION

Support:

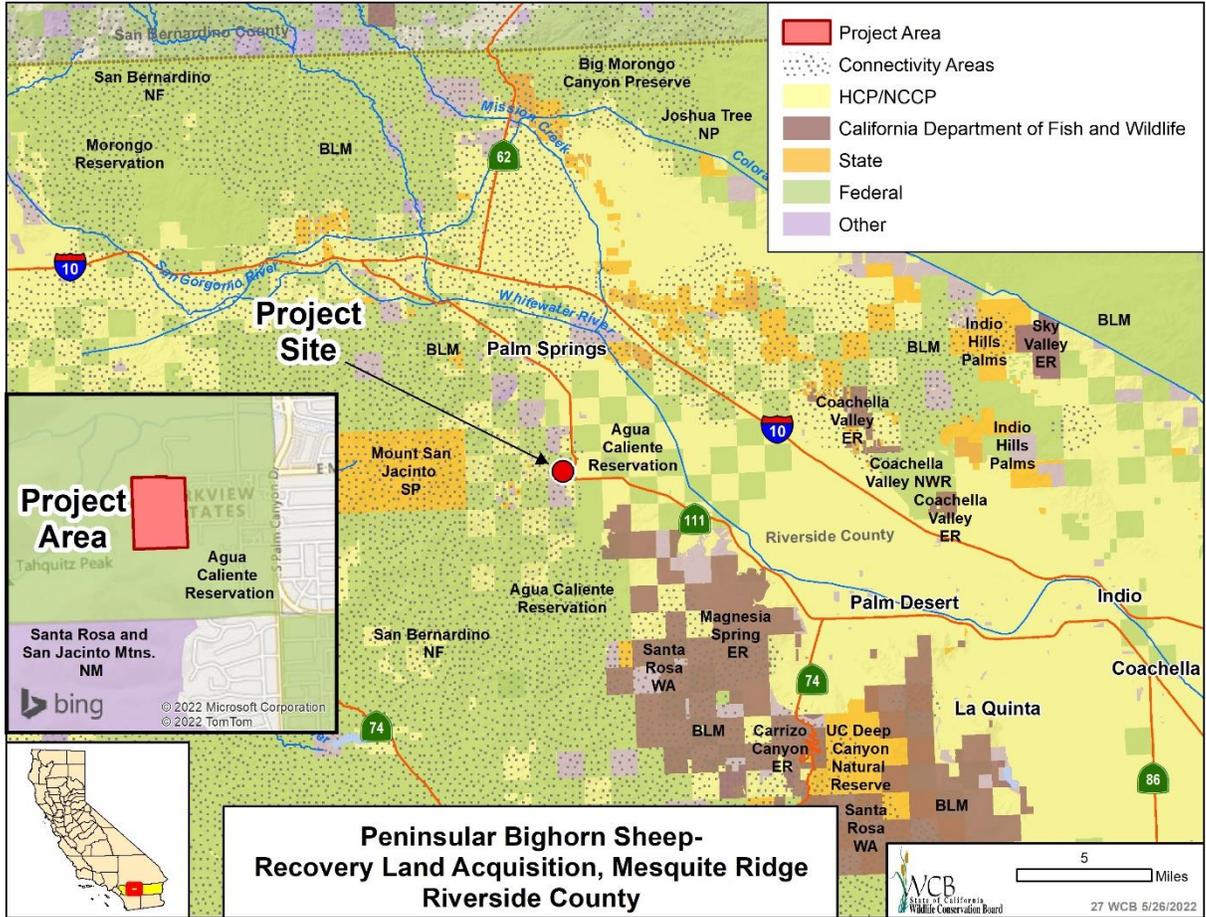
- Dan Silver, Executive Director, Endangered Habitats League

Opposition:

- None received

#### 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.



## 28. Sunnyslope Creek Riparian Restoration Planning

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$392,500 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(e)(f); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Sunnyslope Creek Riparian Restoration Planning
Project Type:	Planning
Applicant/Grantee:	San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District
Amount Recommended:	\$392,500
Funding Partners:	San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District
County:	Riverside
Program:	California Riparian Habitat Conservation
Funding:	Habitat Conservation Fund
Strategic Plan:	Goals: B.1, B.5 Objectives: SI 2.1, 2.2
Disadvantaged Community:	Not within a disadvantaged community

### LOCATION

The Sunnyslope Creek Riparian Restoration Planning project (Project) is located in the city of Jurupa Valley in Riverside County. The Project area encompasses approximately 290 acres of predominantly riparian habitats associated with Sunnyslope Creek, an unnamed drainage, and the Santa Ana River floodplains in the heart of the Inland Empire. These habitats are surrounded by a matrix of urban development.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Sunnyslope Creek historically supported a range of native species including breeding populations of species listed under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) and Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA), as well as those listed as state species of special concern. However, because of the degraded condition of the site, it no longer supports this range of habitats or species. Due to lack of management funding and the approximately 350-acre "46-Fire" that burned through a majority of the site in 2019, a large portion of the Project area has been invaded by nonnative plant species. The Project is within designated critical habitat for the federally threatened Santa Ana sucker and federally endangered least Bell's vireo. Both of these species were observed in the Project area in 2020.

The area is also located along the Pacific Flyway, and restoration of riparian and wetland habitats, including freshwater ponds, Sunnyslope Creek, the unnamed drainage, and the Santa Ana River, within the Project area will provide enhanced forage and breeding habitat opportunities for migratory bird species to utilize as a stop-over along their migration or as a migratory destination. Many riparian obligate bird species migrate to or through the Project area during breeding season.

The Project will conduct planning, design, and permitting that will lead to restoration of riparian, aquatic, and transitional habitats located within the Project area. This includes the development of a master plan for the Project area, accompanying “shovel-ready” individual plans and specifications packages, and associated environmental compliance and permitting. Completion will ultimately culminate in the development of a bid package that will be used to hire qualified professionals to implement the riparian restoration measures within the Project area. This Project contributes to the goals of Pathways to 30x30 California by aligning with Pathway 6: Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship.

**PROJECT FUNDING**

The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Total Cost
Studies and Analysis	\$200,000	\$242,500	\$442,500
Master Plan	\$12,500	\$37,500	\$50,000
Permitting and Design	\$155,000	\$345,000	\$500,000
Outreach	\$15,000	\$85,000	\$100,000
Project Management	\$10,000	\$90,000	\$100,000
Total	\$392,500	\$800,000	\$1,192,500

Costs associated with WCB funding include:

- Studies and Analyses: Complete historic and existing conditions analysis and an opportunities and constraints analysis.
- Master Plan: Complete a Master Plan document.
- Permitting and Design: Complete necessary permit applications and 65% design.
- Outreach: Solicit input from public and key stakeholders on the plan and design phases.
- Project Management: Grant administration, invoicing, reporting, coordinating with project team and consultants, and overseeing all aspects of the Project.

**PROJECT LETTERS OF SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION**

Support:

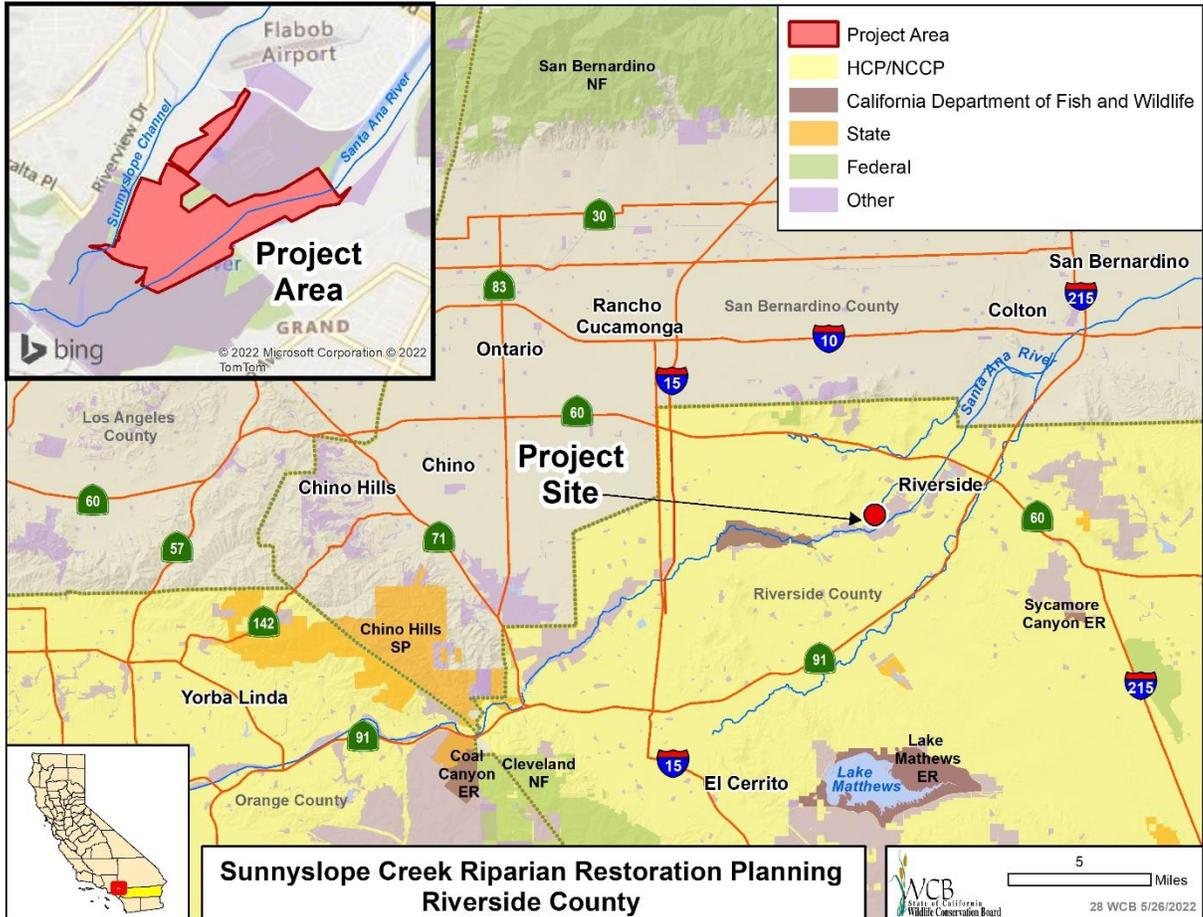
- Jennifer Alford, PhD, Associate Professor, California State University San Bernardino
- Boykin Witherspoon III, Executive Director, CSU Water Resources and Policy Initiatives
- Dan Silver, Executive Director, Endangered Habitats League

Opposition:

- None received

### 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.



## Presentation Items

### 29. Redwood National and State Parks Riparian Restoration and Trails Gateway

#### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB adopt the written findings and approve this project as proposed; allocate \$5,951,136 from the Habitat Conservation Fund [(Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(e)(f) (\$2,133,462)], and the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 [(Proposition 68), Public Resources Code sections 80111(d) (\$3,023,674) and 80132(a) (\$794,000)]; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Redwood National and State Parks Riparian Restoration and Trails Gateway
Project Type:	Implementation
Applicant/Grantee:	SCC
Amount Recommended:	\$5,951,136
Funding Partners:	California Ocean Protection Council, Save The Redwoods League, SCC, USFWS
Landowner(s):	Save The Redwoods League
Successor Landowner:	National Park Service
County:	Humboldt
Programs:	California Riparian Habitat Conservation, Public Access
Funding:	Habitat Conservation Fund and Proposition 68
Strategic Plan:	Goals: B.1, B.5 Objectives: SI 2.1, 2.2, 2.5, 3.1, 3.4, 4.3
Disadvantaged Community:	Within a severely disadvantaged community

#### LOCATION

The Redwood National and State Parks Riparian Restoration and Trails Gateway project (Project) is located on the former Orick Mill, a 125-acre timber mill that operated from 1960 to 2009. It is immediately adjacent to Redwood National and State Park (RNSP) which is a world heritage site and provides 132,000 acres of contiguous protected open space, encompasses 39,000 acres of old-growth forest, is co-managed by the National Park Service (NPS) and California State Parks (State Parks), and comprises Redwood National Park (adjacent to the Project site), Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park, and Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park. The Project site is within Yurok Tribe ancestral territory and is in the lower portion of the 282-square-mile Redwood Creek watershed, an anadromous fish bearing watershed. In 2019, WCB's Stream Flow Enhancement (Proposition 1) Program contributed funds for the planning and design of the Project's stream and floodplain restoration. Upon completion of the Project, the site will be transferred to NPS for inclusion in RNSP, with a vision to

construct a new visitor center on the property to replace the nearby Thomas H. Kuchel Visitor Center.

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Demand for access to RNSP has been increasing over the last decade and access can be difficult because of its sheer size and location. Accessibility varies, with insufficient parking spaces and wildlife-viewing opportunities. Furthermore, the Thomas H. Kuchel Visitor Center is past its useful life, lies in the tsunami zone, and does not have trail connectivity to the rest of the park units.

Although the site's former timber mill was demolished in 2010, over 20 acres of asphalt, elevated pasture, a deeply incised channel with failing stream banks and disconnected floodplain, and multiple invasive plants remain onsite that limit the site's interpretive opportunities and its ecological functions and habitat values for several sensitive species including three listed salmonids, coastal cutthroat trout, marbled murrelet, bald eagle, up to 39 migratory bird species, southern torrent salamander, and Pacific fisher.

The goals of the Project are twofold: 1) to construct the initial public access infrastructure and accessible amenities to support the future construction of a new southern gateway to RNSP that will include a world-class visitor center and other amenities to facilitate public access, education, and cultural enrichment, and 2) to restore floodplain connectivity along Prairie Creek, provide high quality habitat, and enhance climate change resilience for the benefit of several listed salmonids and other common and special-status species.

The Project will restore 11.5 acres of riparian habitat by restoring floodplain connectivity along 1,000 feet of incised channel, creating 800 feet of new stream channel, backfilling 500 feet of existing channel, and creating 1 acre of slow water refugia. Specifically, the Project will remove, minimize, monitor, and manage invasive plants, increase native plant richness and complexity, increase stream length and fish habitat complexity, provide off-channel habitat, and create continuous corridors of riparian vegetation and transitional ecotones to support fish and wildlife habitat, food webs and other ecosystem functions such as longer hydroperiods and improved water quality. Integrated pest management practices will be used to control highly invasive, noxious plant species. WCB funds will only be used for manual and mechanical control methods. Herbicide purchase and its application will be funded with partner funds. The Project will remove a portion of the 20 acres of asphalt which will expose river run gravel for use in creating the new channel and will enable the efficient reuse of materials onsite. It will also provide an onsite location for placement of fill material that will be used to establish the footprint of the future Yurok village site and other public access improvements.

The Project will pave an entry road to the southern gateway amenities and future visitor center site and will include 21 parking spaces on a gravel shoulder. A 30-car parking lot will also be constructed that includes three ADA-compliant spaces. An 11,458 square-foot accessible plaza and wildlife viewing area will be constructed

and a kiosk will be installed in the plaza with orientation, wayfinding, and interpretive information. Four redwood trunk benches will be constructed and installed in the plaza from trees reclaimed during onsite restoration.

The Project will provide direct benefits and services to the severely disadvantaged community by providing public access to, and educational opportunities at, a site that has been off limits for over 60 years, and by creating jobs for members of the severely disadvantaged community, including Yurok Tribe members and a local California Conservation Corps crew.

The Project advances Pathways to 30x30 California strategy by supporting Pathway 6: Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship, Pathway 7: Strengthen Coordination Among Governments and Key Partners, and Pathway 10: Evaluate Conservation Outcomes and Adaptively Manage the Project site.

#### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

SCC 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, SCC 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	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Total Cost
Project Management	\$68,200	\$10,497	\$78,697
Final Designs	\$267,247	\$131,240	\$398,487
Site Preparation, Monitoring, and Adaptive Management	\$920,452	\$137,260	\$1,057,712
Construction	\$3,699,865	\$1,350,000	\$5,049,865
Contingencies	\$995,372	---	\$995,372
Total	\$5,951,136	\$1,628,997	\$7,580,133

Costs associated with WCB funding include:

- Project Management: Grant project oversight, administration, coordination, contracting, invoicing, and reporting.
- Final Designs: Complete 100% designs for habitat restoration and public access improvements.
- Site Preparation, Monitoring, and Adaptive Management: Mobilization/demobilization, biological and vegetation monitoring, permit compliance, invasive plant control, plant procurement, asphalt removal, and grading.

- Contingency: Unanticipated project costs associated with WCB-funded tasks only, requires WCB staff approval prior to use.

#### PROJECT LETTERS OF SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION

##### Support:

- Jim Wood, Assemblymember, 2<sup>nd</sup> District
- Steve Madrone, 5<sup>th</sup> District Supervisor, Humboldt County Board of Supervisors
- Steven Mietz, National Park Superintendent, Redwood National and State Parks
- Victor Bjelajac, District Superintendent, North Coast Redwoods District, California Department of Parks and Recreation
- Su Corbaley, Project Manager North Coast Region, SCC
- Joseph L. James, Chairman, Yurok Tribe
- Lucy Salazar, President, Cumbre Humboldt
- Denise Newman, Projects Coordinator, Redwood Community Action Agency

##### Opposition:

- None received

#### CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

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



### 30. **Navarro River Stream Flow Enhancement Implementation Project**

#### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$1,327,757 from the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Proposition 1), Public Resources Code Section 79733; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Navarro River Stream Flow Enhancement Implementation Project
Project Type:	Implementation
Applicant/Grantee:	Mendocino County Resource Conservation District
Amount Recommended:	\$1,327,757
Funding Partners:	Mendocino County Resource Conservation District, Trout Unlimited
Landowner(s):	Private landowners
County:	Mendocino
Program:	Stream Flow Enhancement
Funding:	Proposition 1
Strategic Plan:	Goals: B.1 Objectives: 2.3
Disadvantaged Community:	Within a severely disadvantaged community

#### LOCATION

The Navarro River Stream Flow Enhancement Implementation project (Project) is located in the Navarro River watershed at the confluence of the North Fork Navarro River and Flynn Creek on land that is in private ownership by Camp Navarro and the Mendocino Redwood Company. The Project site is the Camp Navarro lodge where rainwater will be captured and an off-channel area to be used for groundwater infiltration near the town of Fort Bragg in Mendocino County.

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This implementation project is focused on increasing dry season flows in the Navarro River watershed guided by recommendations in federal recovery plans for central California coastal coho salmon, southern Oregon/northern California coastal coho salmon, and northern California coast steelhead. Recovery plans have identified dry season flows as a key limiting factor to salmonid recovery, noting that juvenile fish face inadequate stream shelter and summer pool volumes, elevated summer stream temperatures, and decreases in summer baseflow conditions in many locations.

High priority recovery actions that have been identified as likely to yield stream flow benefits by increasing dry season flow include decreasing dry season water diversions, increasing off-stream water storage capacity, and increasing water dedications for instream flow.

This Project will: A) implement a 120,000-gallon rainwater catchment and storage system, including irrigation use efficiency upgrades for landscape and lawn, and

the development and implementation of a water management agreement that will provide guidance on how the stored water will be used so that the need for diversions from the North Fork Navarro can be reduced; B) implement a groundwater infiltration project (this will increase groundwater storage capacity); and C) conduct long term monitoring by maintaining the associated gauge network and collecting infiltration baseline data. These Project components are intended to reduce summer diversions and improve dry season stream flows for the benefit of coho salmon and steelhead trout.

This Project contributes to the goals of Pathways to 30x30 California by aligning with Pathway 6: Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship.

#### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The Mendocino County Resource Conservation District and Camp Navarro have signed a 20-year access agreement and will sign a 20-year water management agreement prior to grant execution. The Mendocino County Resource Conservation District and the Mendocino Redwood Company have signed a 10-year access agreement and if this proposal is funded will sign a supplemental agreement extending access to a total of 20-years prior to the execution of a grant agreement.

The Mendocino County Resource Conservation District has submitted a draft long-term management plan and will include a finalized and executed long-term management plan to guide management actions for the properties. If at any time during the 20-year life of the Project, the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District 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	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Total Cost
Project Management	\$81,474	\$224,382	\$305,856
Camp Navarro	\$673,816	---	\$673,816
Flynn Creek Infiltration	\$509,243	\$14,070	\$523,313
Contingency	\$63,224	---	\$63,224
Total	\$1,327,757	\$238,453	\$1,566,210

Costs associated with WCB funding include:

- Project Management: Establishment of subcontracts, construction oversight, project reporting, and preparation of invoices.

- Camp Navarro: Site preparation, subcontractor oversight, design completion, building permit, rainwater catchment system construction and installation, post project monitoring, and the preparation of a water management agreement.
- Flynn Creek Infiltration: Site preparation, subcontractor oversight, permit fees, installation of large woody debris, and post project monitoring.

#### PROJECT LETTERS OF SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION

##### Support:

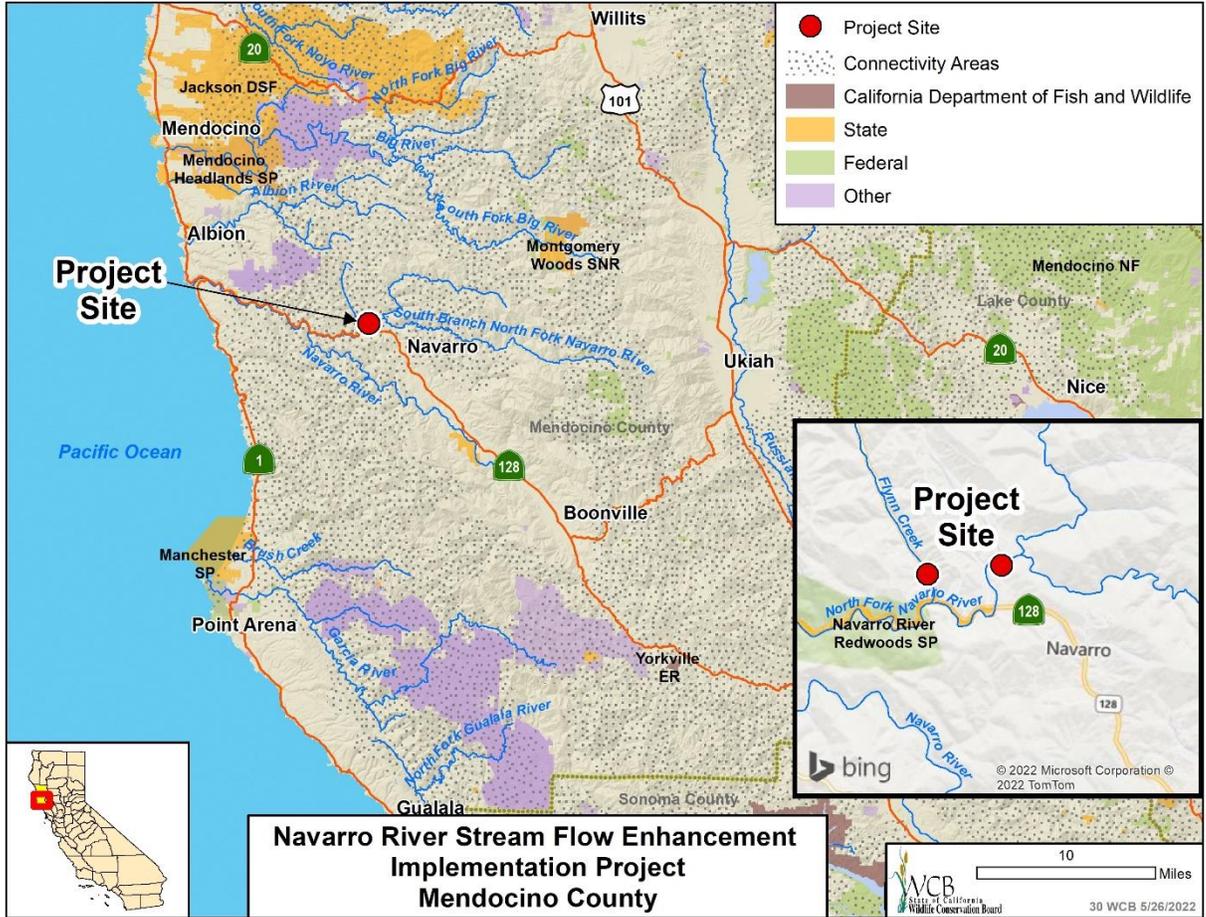
- Jared Huffman, Congressperson, 2<sup>nd</sup> District, U.S. House of Representatives
- Mike McGuire, Senator, 2<sup>nd</sup> District, California State Senate
- Jim Wood, Assemblymember, 2<sup>nd</sup> District, California State Assembly
- Matthias St. John, Executive Officer, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Monty Schmitt, Healthy Rivers Project Director, The Nature Conservancy
- Yoriko Kishimoto, President, Anderson Valley Land Trust

##### Opposition:

- None received

#### CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

The Project is proposed as exempt from CEQA pursuant to the state CEQA Guidelines, Section 15301 Class 1, Existing Structures Projects; Section 15303 Class 3, New Construction or Conversion Small Structures; and 15304 Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land Projects. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.



### 31. Honey Lake Wildlife Area Wetland Enhancement

#### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$1,030,000 from the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68), Public Resources Code Section 80132(c); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Honey Lake Wildlife Area Wetland Enhancement
Project Type:	Implementation
Applicant/Grantee:	Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
Amount Recommended:	\$1,030,000
Funding Partners:	Ducks Unlimited, Inc., USFWS
Landowner(s):	CDFW
County:	Lassen
Program:	Habitat Enhancement and Restoration
Funding:	Proposition 68
Strategic Plan:	Goals: B.1 Objectives: SI 2.5
Disadvantaged Community:	Within a severely disadvantaged community

#### LOCATION

The Honey Lake Wildlife Area Wetland Enhancement project (Project) is located at the Honey Lake Wildlife Area (HLWA), approximately 20 miles east of Susanville within Lassen County. Habitat at HLWA includes freshwater and alkali wetland, alkali meadow, alkali playa, grassland, desert scrub, desert dune, and riparian scrub habitats as well as agricultural lands. Wetlands at HLWA are managed to provide habitat for waterfowl and other migratory birds. Public uses at HLWA include waterfowl and upland game bird hunting, birdwatching, and wildlife viewing.

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Over the last several years, various projects have been implemented to improve water availability and conveyance efficiency on HLWA through well rehabilitations, pipeline installations, and ditch cleaning. However, on the Fleming Unit, wetland and upland units suffer from limited management capabilities. Degraded levees limit the water holding capacity of wetlands. Undersized water control structures and degraded swale systems limit water management and conveyance capabilities, and the lack of swale systems limit water conveyance within wetland units. The Project will improve levees on various wetland units to improve the water holding capacity of these units. Material used to improve the levees will be generated through wetland recontouring and construction of swales within wetland units, which will improve moist-soil plant management capabilities and improve delivery and drainage of water throughout the wetland units. These improvements, coupled with upgraded water control structures, will drastically improve the ability of the wildlife area to manage these units for the benefit of migratory and resident waterfowl and other waterbirds.

The Project will improve climate resiliency of the wetlands by installing overflow weirs on the levees of the wetland units adjacent to Honey Lake proper to help mitigate the impacts of flooding and ice flows when the lake is full. Past flooding events have significantly degraded and damaged levees to the point where the unit can no longer hold water for wetland management purposes. In rehabilitating these levees, these features will increase the resiliency of levee infrastructure and preclude frequent repairs to allow the levees to function properly over the long term. Lastly, the Project will provide enhanced nesting cover through native grass plantings which will improve breeding habitat for resident waterfowl.

This Project contributes to the goals of Pathways to 30x30 California by aligning with Pathway 6: Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship and the conservation priorities to “Protect and Restore Biodiversity” by restoring degraded habitats in wetlands.

#### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

CDFW has adopted a Management Plan that guides management actions for the property, including management of the Wildlife Area (Honey Lake Wildlife Area Management Plan, 1993). If at any time during the 25-year life of the Project, the Grantee 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	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Total Cost
Project Management	\$103,845	\$18,142	\$121,987
Construction	\$781,211	\$59,315	\$840,526
Materials	\$46,130	---	\$46,130
Indirect Costs	\$20,693	\$47,543	\$68,236
Contingency	\$78,121	---	\$78,121
Total	\$1,030,000	\$125,000	\$1,155,000

Costs associated with WCB funding include:

- Project Management: Management of subcontracts, invoicing, payroll tracking, materials purchasing, and operating expenses.
- Construction: Earthwork for levees and swales, purchase and installation of water control structures, and purchase and planting of upland native plants.
- Materials: Cost of water control structures and associated pipe/fittings.
- Indirect Costs: Incidental or indirect costs not to exceed 20 percent 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.

### PROJECT LETTERS OF SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION

Support:

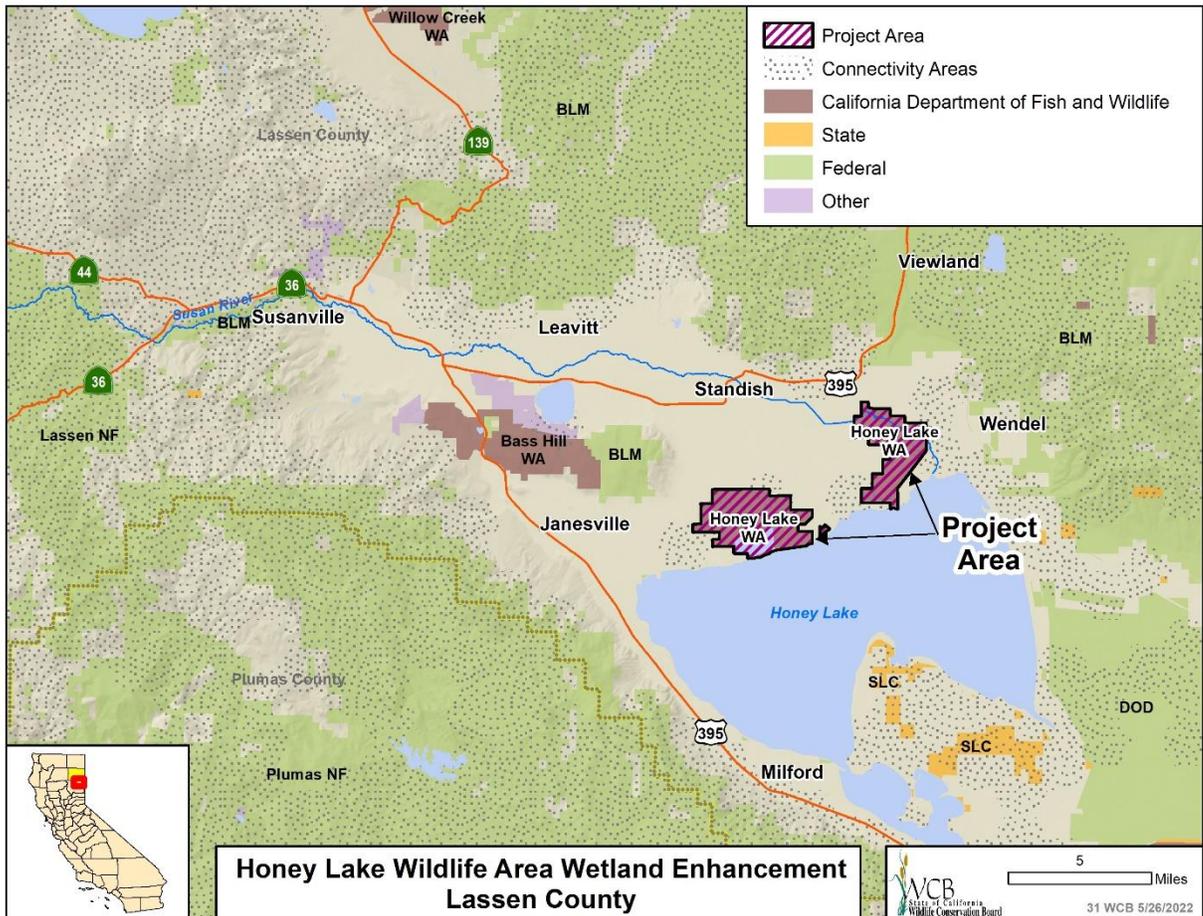
- None received

Opposition:

- None received

### CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

The Project is proposed as exempt from CEQA pursuant to the state CEQA Guidelines, Section 15301, Class 4, Existing Facilities, for the repair of existing public or private structures or topographical features. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.



### 32. Cedar Creek Hatchery Dam Removal

#### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate a total of \$1,676,400 as follows: \$460,460 from the General Fund, Budget Act of 2021, and \$1,216,540 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:	Cedar Creek Hatchery Dam Removal
Project Type:	Implementation
Applicant/Grantee:	California Trout, Inc
Amount Recommended:	\$1,677,000
Funding Partners:	CDFW, California Trout, Inc
Landowner(s):	Private landowner
County:	Mendocino
Program:	Habitat Enhancement and Restoration
Funding:	General Fund and Proposition 68
Strategic Plan:	Goals: B.1 Objectives: SI 1.2, 2.1
Disadvantaged Community:	Within a severely disadvantaged community

#### LOCATION

The Cedar Creek Hatchery Dam Removal project (Project) is located in the South Fork Eel River watershed at the mouth of Cedar Creek on land that was formerly owned by CDFW and is now in private ownership. The Project site is a derelict hatchery dam on Cedar Creek that blocks anadromous fish passage to upstream habitat near the town of Leggett in Mendocino County.

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

CDFW built the Cedar Creek Experimental Station in 1949 near the mouth of Cedar Creek, with long-term plans for a combination fish hatchery, and stream improvement and fish rescue headquarters. The hatchery was closed after a 1964 flood, and partially demolished in the 1970s. What remained was a concrete diversion dam that currently allows only partial migration of large adult salmon and steelhead, while juvenile migration is not possible past the dam structure at any streamflow. Improving passage over the remnant dam on Cedar Creek is a high priority due to the presence of Chinook salmon, steelhead trout, and coho salmon in the creek.

The Cedar Creek Hatchery Dam is the final fish passage barrier in the Cedar Creek watershed, blocking miles of prime habitat. There are three native salmonid populations in the South Fork Eel River, all of which are listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act, including the California Coastal Chinook salmon, the Southern Oregon and Northern California coho salmon, and the Northern California steelhead trout. Removal of migration barriers, such as the

derelict hatchery dam on Cedar Creek which blocks access to many miles of ancestral habitat, is critically important to the recovery of these imperiled species.

The Project will remove the hatchery dam and restore the stream channel to a close approximation of its original character. This will allow fish passage to approximately nine miles of previously inaccessible, high-quality (i.e., suitable substrate size range, low embeddedness) spawning habitat for adult Chinook salmon, coho salmon, and steelhead trout. Cedar Creek also has an unusually high summer baseflow that is not currently impaired by excessive streamflow diversions from cannabis farming or domestic water uses, providing salmonids much needed cold-water summer rearing habitat.

This Project contributes to the goals of Pathways to 30x30 California by aligning with Pathway 6: Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship and the conservation priority to “Protect and Restore Biodiversity” by restoring river corridors that are essential to fish and wildlife movement and that serve as climate refugia for native species.

#### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

California Trout, Inc. 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, California Trout, Inc. does not manage and maintain the project improvements, the Grant Agreement requires that it refund to the state of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the Project life.

#### PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Total Cost
Project Management	\$110,456	\$3,852	\$114,308
Permitting	---	\$36,250	\$36,250
Construction	\$1,432,819	\$80,926	\$1,513,745
Revegetation	\$68,750	\$6,250	\$75,000
Monitoring	\$29,123	\$53,750	\$82,873
Construction Management	\$35,852	---	\$35,852
Total	\$1,677,000	\$181,028	\$1,858,028

Costs associated with WCB funding include:

- Project Management: Establishment of subcontracts, construction oversight, project reporting, and preparation of invoices.
- Construction: Site preparation, dam removal, channel grading, and installation of large woody debris.
- Revegetation: Restoration of the project site with native riparian vegetation.



### 33. Marshall Ranch Flow Enhancement

#### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB adopt the written findings and approve this project as proposed; allocate \$4,198,589 from the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Fund of 2014 (Proposition 1), Water Code Section 79733; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Marshall Ranch Flow Enhancement
Project Type:	Implementation
Applicant/Grantee:	Salmonid Restoration Federation
Amount Recommended:	\$4,198,589
Funding Partners:	Landowner
Landowner(s):	The Marshall Ranch LLC
County:	Humboldt
Program:	Stream Flow Enhancement
Funding:	Proposition 1
Strategic Plan:	Goals: B.1 Objectives: SI 2.3
Disadvantaged Community:	Not within a disadvantaged community

#### LOCATION

The Marshall Ranch (Ranch) is a privately-owned 2,942-acre ranch in the community of Briceland, approximately 5.5 miles west of Garberville. The Ranch is adjacent to Redwood Creek, a tributary to the South Fork Eel River. The Ranch is protected by a conservation easement which is managed by the California Rangeland Trust.

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Aquatic habitat in Redwood Creek is impaired due to a variety of factors including low dry-season flows, high water temperatures, excessive fine sediment, and lack of habitat complexity. These conditions are compounded by unpermitted water diversions and the legacy impacts of logging, road networks, and rural subdivisions. These existing conditions impact threatened species including coho salmon and steelhead. Last year, 2021, was the driest year on record in Redwood Creek, with no flow for much of the season. As a result, pools of juvenile coho salmon were stranded. Despite its dire condition, Redwood Creek is still recognized as having high habitat value for salmonid recovery.

The Marshall Ranch Flow Enhancement project (Project) addresses the key limiting factor of low dry-season flows by capturing winter runoff during the wet season and strategically releasing the stored water to enhance flows in a critical reach of Redwood Creek during the dry season. A total of 10 million gallons of water storage is proposed in two ponds and five tanks, designed to fill with rainwater (3.5 million gallons) and water diverted from two Redwood Creek tributaries during the wet season (6.5 million gallons). Appurtenant structures to be implemented include the plumbing infrastructure, a solar power system to support operation, cattle exclusion fencing, and a passive cooling and infiltration gallery to

address water quality and temperature concerns. The project will release cool water from the bottom of the ponds directly to Redwood Creek during the five-month dry season providing increased flows of approximately 30 gpm along the 5.5-mile stream reach between Briceland and the confluence with the South Fork Eel River. This flow augmentation will result in significant and measurable habitat improvements for coho salmon and steelhead in Redwood Creek. In addition, the Project will implement large wood habitat enhancement and bank stabilization in the Redwood Creek channel, as well as stabilization of two gullied tributaries.

The Salmonid Restoration Federation (SRF) has been monitoring dry season flows in the Redwood Creek watershed for the past nine years, and the Marshall Ranch emerged as a site uniquely suited for a large stream flow enhancement project. It is the largest privately-owned parcel in the watershed and contains some of the most gentle and stable topography. The proposed pond site is a broad terrace located just outside of the floodplain and at a high enough elevation to deliver the stored water to the creek by gravity. For comparison, the proposed 10-million gallons is equivalent to two-hundred storage and forbearance projects with 50,000-gallon tanks on different properties dispersed throughout the watershed, which could take decades to accomplish. In addition, the landowner Marshall Ranch LLC fully supports the Project, and the conservation easement guarantees that the Ranch will not be subdivided and will be managed for conservation in perpetuity. This Project contributes to the goals of Pathways to 30x30 California by aligning with Pathway 6: Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship.

#### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

SRF has adopted a Management Plan that guides management actions for the property, including management of the flow augmentation system. If at any time during the 20-year life of the Project, SRF 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.

Post-construction project operations and management will be overseen by the newly incorporated 501(c)(3) organization, Marshall Conservation Preserve (Preserve). The Preserve will receive and disburse funds to subcontractors for the purpose of long-term operations, maintenance and monitoring. Thus far, the Preserve has received a commitment of \$500,000 from the WDH Foundation to support the long-term operations and maintenance of the Project.

**PROJECT FUNDING**

The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Total Cost
Project Management	\$120,000	---	\$120,000
Technical Advisory Committee and Outreach	\$110,000	---	\$110,000
Pre-construction Preparation	\$115,000	---	\$115,000
Construction	\$3,252,480	\$100,000	\$3,352,480
Post-construction Monitoring, Operations and Adaptive Management	\$340,480	---	\$340,480
Indirect Costs	\$60,696	---	\$60,696
Contingency	\$199,933	---	\$199,933
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,198,589</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>\$4,298,589</b>

Costs associated with WCB funding include:

- Project Management: Project oversight and grant administration.
- Technical Advisory Committee and Outreach: The TAC will continue to meet over the course of the Project, and SRF will produce educational and outreach materials for the community.
- Pre-construction Preparation: Acquiring permits, site preparation, and securing the long-term maintenance agreement.
- Construction: Implementation of the ponds, tanks, solar array, flow delivery system and other appurtenances, and instream habitat structures.
- Post-construction Monitoring, Operations and Adaptive Management: Monitoring the site and operation of the flow release infrastructure, and refining of the O&M Plan.
- Indirect Costs: Incidental or indirect costs not to exceed 20 percent 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.

**PROJECT LETTERS OF SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION**

Support:

- Representative Jared Huffman, U.S. House of Representatives
- Matthias St. John, Executive Officer, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

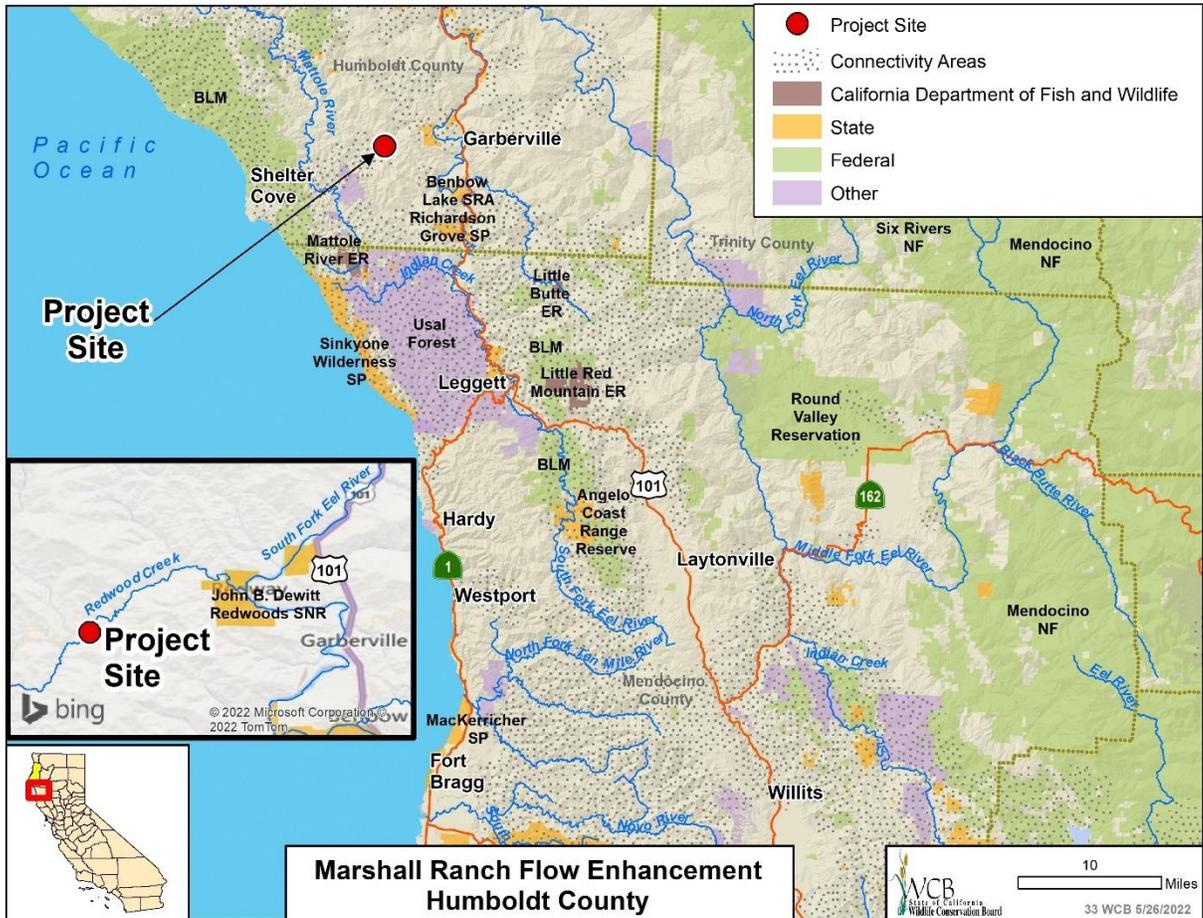
Opposition:

- None received

**CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS**

Humboldt County, as lead agency, prepared an MND for the Project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA. Staff considered the MND and has prepared proposed,

written findings documenting WCB's compliance with CEQA. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOD will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.



### 34. Childs Meadow Restoration

#### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB adopt the written findings and approve this project as proposed; allocate \$1,164,055 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:	Childs Meadow Restoration
Project Type:	Implementation
Applicant/Grantee:	Point Blue Conservation Science
Amount Recommended:	\$1,164,055
Funding Partners:	CAL FIRE, Collins Pine Company, Point Blue Conservation Science, Tehama Resource Conservation District, The Nature Conservancy, USFWS
Landowner(s):	Collins Pine Company
County:	Tehama
Program:	California Forest Conservation
Funding:	Proposition 68
Strategic Plan:	Goals: B.1, B.5, C.4 Objectives: SI 1.3, 1.6, 2.4, 2.5, 4.1
Disadvantaged Community:	Within a severely disadvantaged community

#### LOCATION

Childs Meadow is a privately-owned, 406-acre, 5-mile-long meadow complex situated at the headwaters of Deer Creek approximately 10 miles west of the town of Mineral, and located at the ecologically unique intersection of the Sierra Nevada and Cascade ranges.

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Childs Meadow is in a degraded state, primarily from over 100 years of livestock grazing and ditching, diversions, and other flow consolidation to accommodate grazing, roads, and timber harvest. These activities have led to stream channel incision, active head cutting, conifer encroachment, alterations to stream flow, and desiccation of peat soils, which are impacting hydrologic function, habitat quality, and the meadow's climate mitigation potential.

CDFW identified Deer Creek as a priority for the recovery and preservation of anadromous fisheries in the Central Valley, as this is one of only three watersheds that support spring-run Chinook salmon. Childs Meadow also has one of the largest populations of Cascades frog south of the Pit River and breeding willow flycatcher and greater sandhill cranes. It has numerous large, carbon-rich wetland areas and at least eight listed rare plants. The site is also fawning grounds and a migratory corridor for the Tehama deer herd. For these reasons, Childs Meadow has high potential to provide significant ecological benefits at local, landscape, and

regional scales. CDFW previously funded a 30-acre pilot restoration project in Childs Meadow.

The Childs Meadow watershed also burned at mixed severity in the 2021 Dixie Fire. Many of the ecological benefits from Childs Meadow have been diminished by its impaired condition, are at risk of continued degradation, and can be greatly enhanced through restoration.

This project will restore and promote natural hydrological, biological, and geomorphic processes of Childs Meadow by increasing meadow resilience to climate change and other stressors, improving habitat for wildlife, fish, and plants, and increasing the carbon storage capacity of the meadow. Proposed actions include installation of livestock exclusion fencing to protect sensitive fens and soils, decommissioning and recontouring roads to restore natural drainage patterns, eliminating ditches and incised channels in fens and discharge slope meadows that are currently capturing and transporting groundwater offsite, and re-dispersing flows concentrated by highway culverts. The project will also include installation of beaver dam analogs within floodplains and post-assisted log structures in transport reaches, revegetation of riparian and fen habitats, and removal of conifers that have encroached into the meadow footprint.

In support of the environmental benefits, the project will connect the community to its watershed to promote long-term resilience and ensure the durability of the investment by increasing community buy-in through meaningful engagement. Through Point Blue Conservation Science's award-winning Students and Teachers Restoring a Watershed program, outreach materials, presentations, and field tours, the Grantee will engage hundreds of K-12 students, teachers, community members, landowners, managers, restoration practitioners, and agency staff in this project.

Once implemented, the project should provide benefits to multiple threatened and endangered wildlife, fish, and plant species, provide water quality and quantity benefits, and improve soil health while increasing net carbon storage. In addition, the project contributes to the goals of Pathways to 30x30 California by aligning with Pathway 6: Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship and the conservation priorities to "Protect and Restore Biodiversity" by restoring degraded habitats in wetlands.

#### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

Point Blue Conservation Science has adopted a Management Plan that guides management actions for the property, including management of Childs Meadow. If at any time during the 25-year life of the project, Point Blue Conservation Science 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	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Total Cost
Project Management	\$67,800	---	\$67,800
Restoration Implementation	\$450,279	\$366,390	\$816,669
Outreach	\$76,459	\$17,215	\$93,674
Monitoring	\$499,182	\$48,123	\$547,305
Indirect Costs	\$70,335	\$52,751	\$123,086
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,164,055</b>	<b>\$484,479</b>	<b>\$1,648,534</b>

Costs associated with WCB funding include:

- Project Management: Technical and administrative services associated with completing the following: grant management, permitting, subcontractor oversight, invoicing, and reporting.
- Restoration Implementation: Coordinate restoration, implementation, and subcontracting.
- Outreach: Develop, disseminate, and present outreach materials. Host two site field tours.
- Monitoring: Monitoring, annual monitoring reports, and final technical monitoring and performance reports.
- Indirect costs: Not to exceed 20 percent of the total direct WCB award, minus subcontractor and equipment costs.

**PROJECT LETTERS OF SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION**

Support:

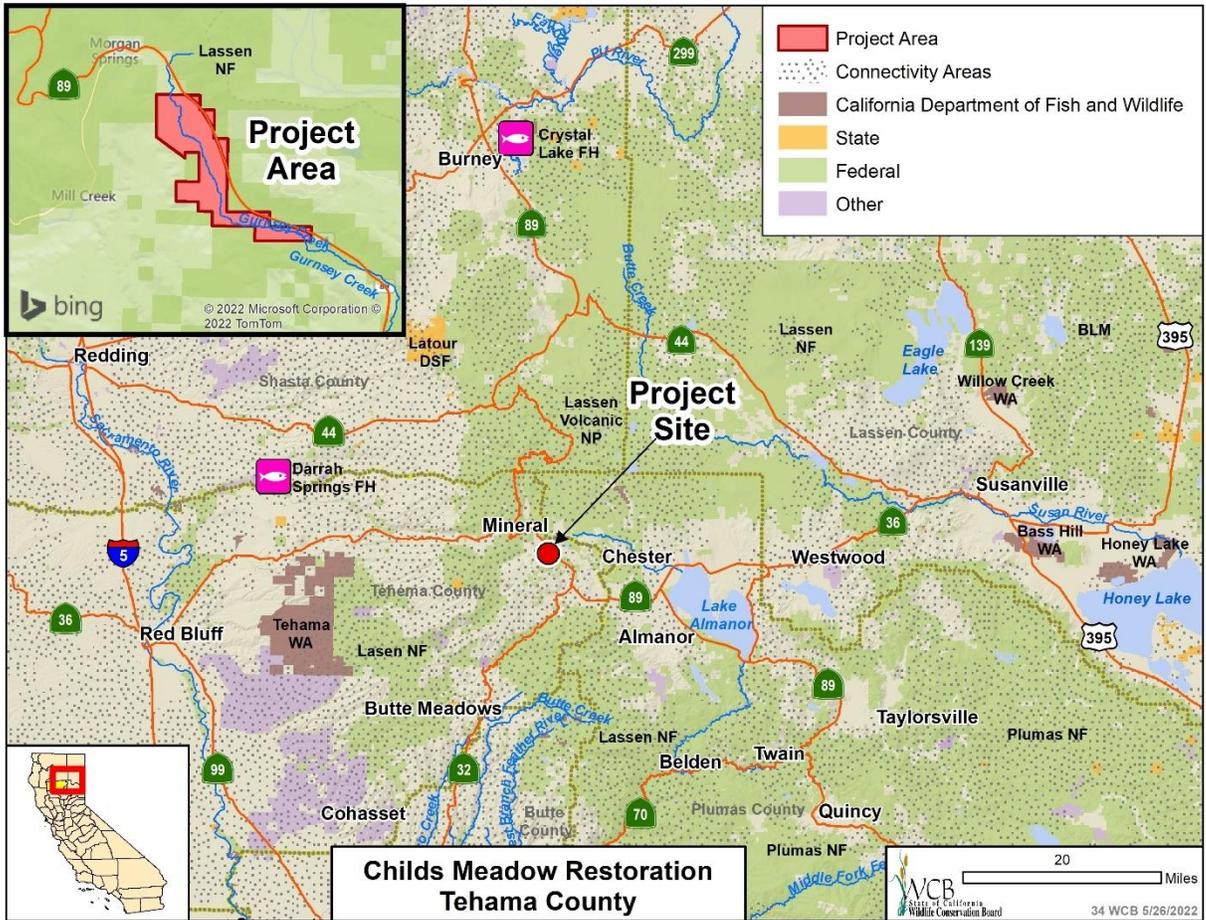
- Kristen Wilson, Senior Scientist, The Nature Conservancy

Opposition:

- None received

**CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS**

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



### 35. Coldstream Canyon Restoration

#### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB adopt the written findings and approve this project as proposed; allocate \$1,380,000 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:	Coldstream Canyon Restoration
Project Type:	Implementation
Applicant/Grantee:	Truckee River Watershed Council
Amount Recommended:	\$1,380,000
Funding Partners:	California State Water Board and California Department of Parks and Recreation
Landowner(s):	California Department of Parks and Recreation
County:	Placer
Program:	California Forest Conservation
Funding:	Proposition 68
Strategic Plan:	Goals: B.1 Objectives: SI 1.2, 1.3, 1.4
Disadvantaged Community:	Not within a disadvantaged community

#### LOCATION

Coldstream Canyon Restoration (Project) is situated within the rugged, 12.5 square-mile Coldstream Canyon watershed. Cold Creek drains through this watershed. The Project area is approximately five miles southeast of Truckee in Placer County.

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Cold Creek, and by extension the surrounding Coldstream Canyon watershed, has been impacted by railroad development and logging practices that constricted and simplified the creek channel resulting in heavy streambank erosion and channel degradation. Intensive restoration is needed to address these impacts. For example, rock and wood complexes, bendway weirs, and boulder step-pools will be installed to stabilize the system and support riparian floodplain habitat.

Project activities will recreate floodplain terraces (approximately 22 acres) and restore channel stability in order to improve groundwater recharge, support healthy riparian vegetation along the stream channel (6,000 linear feet), and enhance ecosystem function along a one-mile reach of Cold Creek. The net effect should be to stabilize the riparian system, reducing sediment transfer by 125 tons per year.

The newly created floodplain will allow the streambanks to become more stable, with thicker stands of riparian vegetation overhanging the streambank providing cover for fish and other aquatic wildlife. Over time, as the stream evolves in response to the new floodplain, the channel will become more winding and will develop more instream diversity in the form of pools, riffles, and habitat complexity.

This Project contributes to the goals of Pathways to 30x30 California by aligning with Pathway 6: Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship.

#### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The Truckee River Watershed Council 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, Truckee River Watershed Council 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	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Total Cost
Project Management	\$100,000	---	\$100,000
Restoration	\$1,260,000	\$790,000	\$2,050,000
Indirect Costs	\$20,000	---	\$20,000
Total	\$1,380,000	\$790,000	\$2,170,000

Costs associated with WCB funding include:

- Project Management: Project team coordination, stakeholder communications, outreach, and grant administration.
- Restoration: Project implementation per the design 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.

#### PROJECT LETTERS OF SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION

Support:

- Cynthia Walck, Engineering Geologist, Sierra District, California Department of Parks and Recreation
- N. Mo Loden, Environmental Scientist, Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Eric Sweet, District Manager, Sierra Pacific Industries

Opposition:

- None received

#### CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

The California Department of Parks and Recreation, as lead agency, prepared a ND for the Project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA. Staff considered the ND. 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.



### 36. Van Norden Meadow Restoration

#### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB adopt the written findings and approve this project as proposed; allocate \$3,746,000 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:	Van Norden Meadow Restoration
Project Type:	Implementation
Applicant/Grantee:	South Yuba River Citizens League
Amount Recommended:	\$3,746,000
Funding Partners:	USFS, CDFW, Placer County, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the Martis Fund
Landowner(s):	USFS
County:	Nevada, Placer
Program:	California Forest Conservation
Funding:	Proposition 68
Strategic Plan:	Goals: B.1 Objectives: SI 1.2, 1.3, 1.4
Disadvantaged Community:	Within a disadvantaged community

#### LOCATION

Van Norden Meadow Restoration (Project) will enhance 485 acres of meadow habitat by restoring hydrologic function and ecological processes in one of the largest high elevation meadows on the west slope of the Sierra Nevada. The Project area, which is located in Tahoe National Forest, is situated within the Yuba River watershed, approximately nine miles east of Truckee in Placer and Nevada counties.

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Van Norden Meadow, known as Yayalu Itdeh in the Washoe language, supports a mosaic of wetland habitats. Past human activities like logging, water storage, rangelands, and intensive recreation have degraded the meadow. Indicators of this degraded condition include deeply incised channels passing through the meadow and upland plants like conifers encroaching into the meadow. Project implementation includes filling incised channels, installing beaver dam analogs, and constructing post assisted log structures such that surface flows from South Yuba River, Lytton Creek, and Castle Creek spread across the meadow at low flow conditions, increasing groundwater infiltration and supporting meadow vegetation.

In addition, an existing berm will be removed down to the elevation of the adjacent meadow. Material excavated from the berm will be used to fill incised channels. Conifers like lodgepole pine and white fir will be thinned over 120 acres of the Project area to enhance aspen stands, benefit meadow vegetation, and improve forest health. Project implementation also includes replacing a bridge and culverts

on a road that bisects the meadow in order to minimize that road’s impact on meadow function.

This Project contributes to the goals of Pathways to 30x30 California by aligning with Pathway 6: Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship and the conservation priorities to “Protect and Restore Biodiversity” by restoring degraded habitats in wetlands.

**MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS**

The South Yuba River Citizens League 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, South Yuba River Citizens 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	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Total Cost
Project Management	\$146,000	\$195,000	\$341,000
Restoration	\$3,150,000	\$2,700,000	\$5,850,000
Monitoring	\$400,000	\$595,000	\$995,000
Indirect Costs	\$50,000	---	\$50,000
Total	\$3,746,000	\$3,490,000	\$7,236,000

Costs associated with WCB funding include:

- Project Management: Project team coordination, stakeholder communications, outreach, and grant administration.
- Restoration: Project implementation per the design plan and oversight of restoration activities.
- Monitoring: Evaluation of Project effects on ecologically relevant indicators like aquatic organisms, hydrologic processes, carbon flux, and bird populations.
- Indirect Costs: Incidental or indirect costs not to exceed 20 percent of the total direct WCB award, minus subcontractor and equipment costs.

**PROJECT LETTERS OF SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION**

Support:

- None received

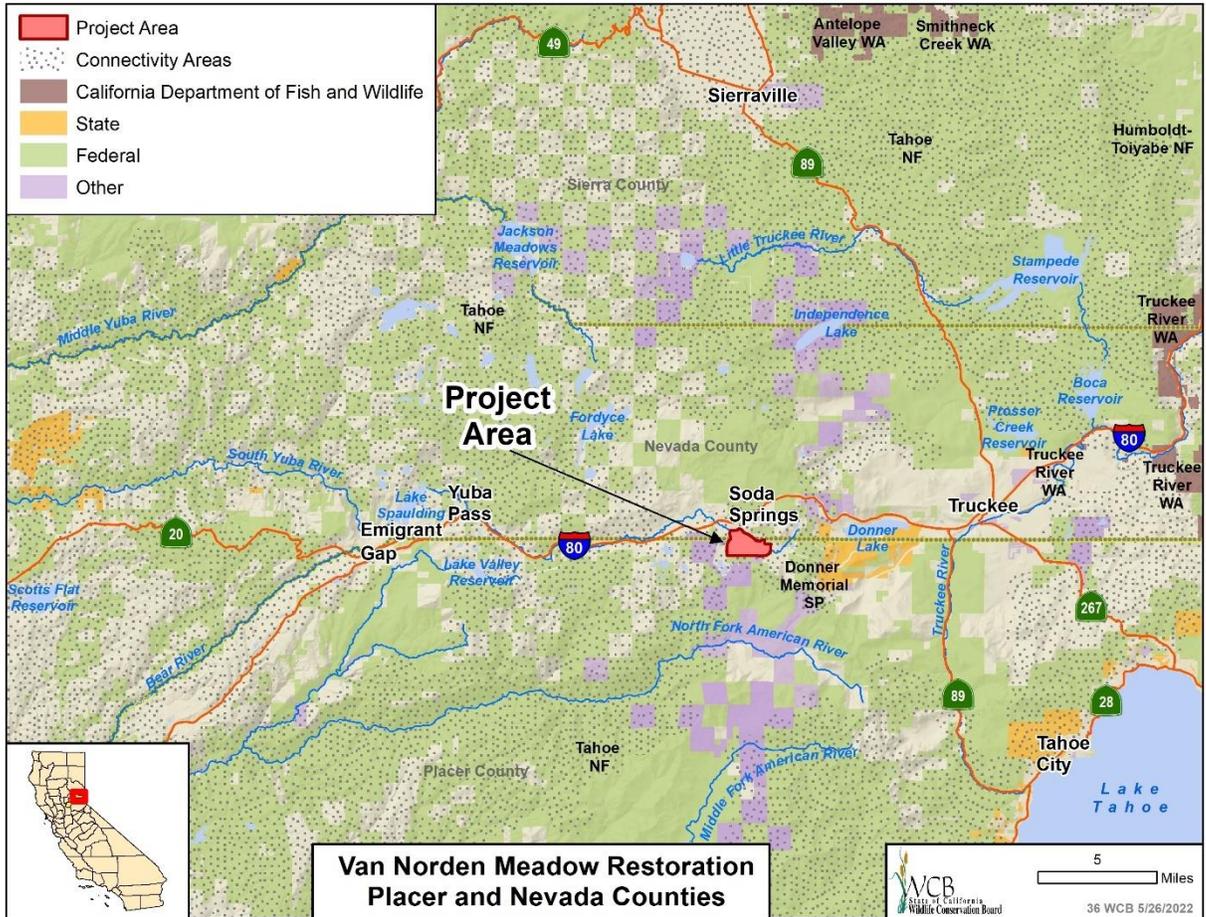
Opposition:

- None received

**CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS**

Nevada County, as lead agency, prepared an MND for the Project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA. Staff considered the MND and has prepared proposed, written findings documenting WCB’s compliance with CEQA. Subject to approval of

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



### 37. Greenwood Creek Conservation Area (Lewis Ranch)

#### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$1,145,000 from Proposition 68, Public Resources Code Section 80111(d) for the grant to American River Conservancy (ARC); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Greenwood Creek Conservation Area (Lewis Ranch)
Project Type:	Fee Title (972± acres)
Grantee:	American River Conservancy (ARC)
Amount Recommended:	\$1,145,000
Funding Partners:	Sierra Nevada Conservancy, CAL FIRE, Caltrans EEMP
County:	El Dorado
Program:	Land Acquisition
Funding:	Proposition 68
Strategic Plan:	Goals: A.1, C.1 Objectives: SI 1.2, 1.3, 2.4, 3.4
Disadvantaged Community:	Not within a disadvantaged community

#### LOCATION

The property (Property), known as Lewis Ranch, is located southeast of the city of Auburn and Interstate 80, near the Auburn State Recreation Area, south and west of the El Dorado National Forest and north of the Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park in Coloma.

The acquisition project helps advance CDFW's land conservation policies and wildlife protection goals in the State Wildlife Action Plan by conserving sustainable plant and animal communities that support multiple species of interest.

El Dorado County's General Plan identifies significant portions of the Property as an Important Biological Corridor and a Priority Conservation Area.

The Property is near the South Fork American River Conceptual Area Protection Plan (CAPP) and would help protect an important wildlife corridor in the Coloma-Lotus Valley and surrounding region. The CAPP was prepared in 1990 in partnership with ARC and CDFW to protect the South Fork American River canyon's exceptional habitat and recreational values. Lewis Ranch borders Bureau of Land Management property to the west. In addition to the CAPP, the project contributes to the goals of Pathways to 30x30 California by aligning with Pathway 2: Execute Strategic Land Acquisitions.

Within Lewis Ranch are Greenwood Creek, two tributary streams, and seasonal ponds that provide spawning and rearing habitat for native fish and valuable aquatic habitat for wildlife. Rainbow trout, foothill yellow-legged frog, western pond turtle, western toad, Sierra newt, mountain lion, bobcat, grey fox, river otter, black bear, mule deer, American kestrel, golden eagle, bald eagle, and hundreds of other species use the area as a wildlife migration corridor.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Subdivisions in the region are fragmenting wildlife habitat and built infrastructure in fire-adapted wildland ecosystems increases the threat of catastrophic wildfire. Current zoning for Lewis Ranch would allow up to 50 development sites. Conversion to vineyards poses another threat to the habitat and resource values of the Lewis Ranch and Greenwood Creek watershed.

Greenwood Creek, a perennial foothill tributary to the South Fork of the American River, flows through the 972-acre Lewis Ranch, near the town of Greenwood in El Dorado County. The site is biologically diverse, with more than 3 miles of riparian frontage, varying topography, and a mosaic of vegetation types. The diverse topography and unique geology create a varied mix of habitats to make the ranch an excellent refuge for species whose ranges are shifting due to climate change.

The site is biologically diverse, with more than 3 miles of riparian frontage, and varying topography from approximately 1,200 to 2,000 feet above sea level, with gently sloping hills to steeper canyons and an even mix of north-and-south facing slopes. The unique topography and diverse geology provide the setting for a varied mix of habitats including blue oak woodland, foothill pine belt, and Sierra mixed conifer-hardwood forest. It is possible to encounter blue oak and California buckeye not far from Pacific dogwood and Douglas-fir.

### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

ARC focuses on land acquisition in strategic conservation areas, including the upper American and Cosumnes river watersheds, Pine Hill Preserve, and key wildlife corridors. ARC has completed 84 projects, protecting 26,000 acres of native fisheries, endangered species habitat, and recreational lands within the upper American and Cosumnes river watersheds. ARC intends to preserve this land and its water in perpetuity and to manage it as a wildlife preserve and working ranch. Once completed, this project will provide a unique opportunity for guided hiking, bird watching, fishing, and managed bow hunting of deer and wild turkey.

### PROJECT FUNDING

The DGS approved fair market value is \$4,470,000. The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$1,145,000
Sierra Nevada Conservancy	\$1,000,000
CAL FIRE	\$1,200,000
Caltrans EEMP	\$1,000,000
ARC	\$125,000
<b>TOTAL Purchase Price</b>	<b>\$4,470,000</b>

PROJECT LETTERS OF SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION

Support:

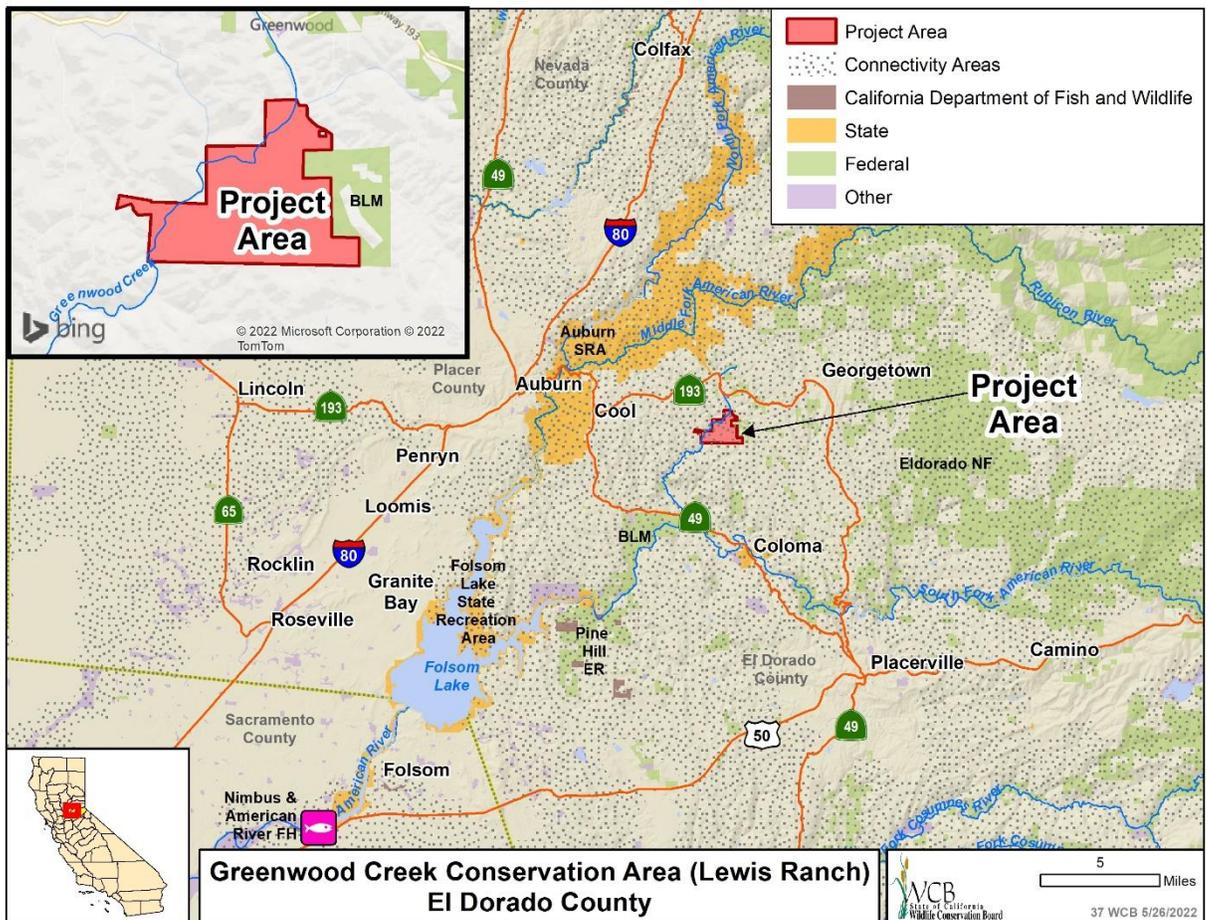
- None received

Opposition:

- None received

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.



### 38. Grizzly Island Wildlife Area New Lands Enhancement

#### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$1,110,263 from Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(d)(IWCP); 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 New Lands Enhancement
Project Type:	Implementation
Applicant/Grantee:	California Waterfowl Association
Amount Recommended:	\$1,110,263
Funding Partners:	USFWS
Landowner(s):	CDFW
County:	Solano
Program:	Inland Wetlands Conservation
Funding:	Habitat Conservation Fund
Strategic Plan:	Goals: B.1, C.1 Objectives: SI 2.1, 2.2, 3.3
Disadvantaged Community:	Not within a disadvantaged community

#### LOCATION

The Grizzly Island Wildlife Area New Lands Enhancement project (Project) is located on CDFW's Grizzly Island Wildlife Area (GIWA), in Suisun City within Solano County. CDFW acquired three properties in the Suisun Marsh as part of a land-swap with a non-profit organization in 2018. These properties are known locally as Long Point, Bent Barrel, and Crescent Family, collectively referred to as "New Lands." Prior to CDFW's acquisition, the New Lands were individual privately-owned duck clubs. The New Lands are now managed wetland habitat, as part of the approximately 13,000-acre GIWA complex.

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

When CDFW assumed operation of the New Lands it became apparent that the management infrastructure (levees, ditches, water control structures, pumps, etc.) were in poor condition and in need of significant improvement. In 2019, with the support of a WCB grant, California Waterfowl Association (CWA) in consultation with CDFW completed an evaluation of the New Lands infrastructure and developed a plan to address deficiencies and complete enhancements. The evaluation identified several infrastructure deficiencies that currently limit water conveyance and management options.

The Project will enhance 390 acres of managed wetlands by improving water management operations through improved infrastructure design and the addition of water conveyance features (pipes, swales, ditches, etc.). The Project will repair and/or replace failing infrastructure, including corroded water control structures, substandard levees, and inadequately sized ditches. All water control structures will be replaced with new corrosive resistant materials to maximize their functional

life expectancy. The Project will also create new swales to improve water flow and drainage throughout the wetland units and remove existing infrastructure that has no use or is inhibiting effective water management.

Public access facilities improvements will consist of removing 22 dilapidated hunting blinds and installation of four new hunting blinds. Through CWA's managed Marsh Madness outreach program, CWA in cooperation with CDFW staff will host field trips, guiding students through various stations exploring aspects of wetland ecosystems and the roles that humans play in their conservation.

CWA will also produce a series of short videos beginning with a tour of the unimproved New Lands, footage of restoration work taking place, a tour when work is complete, and additional tours one to five years after completion. Each short video will be combined into a short film. The videos and film will be placed on CWA's website and several social media sites.

This Project contributes to the goals of Pathways to 30x30 California by aligning with Pathway 6: Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship and the conservation priorities to "Protect and Restore Biodiversity" by restoring degraded habitats in wetlands.

#### 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, the Grantee 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	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Total Cost
Project Management	---	\$147,531	\$147,531
Public Access	---	\$48,000	\$48,000
Earthwork & Excavation	\$184,950	---	\$184,950
Materials	\$200,000	\$254,750	\$454,750
Site Prep/Cleanup		\$15,000	\$15,000
Permitting		\$5,000	\$5,000
Indirect Costs	\$115,050	\$119,382	\$234,432
Contingency		\$37,200	\$37,200
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>	<b>\$626,863</b>	<b>\$1,126,863</b>

Costs associated with WCB funding include:

- Earthwork & Excavation: Demolition of existing water control structures, pond regrading, swale excavation, and levee improvements.

- Materials: Purchase and installation of water control structures.
- Indirect Costs: Incidental or indirect costs not to exceed 20 percent of the total project costs, minus subcontractor and equipment costs.

**PROJECT LETTERS OF SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION**

Support:

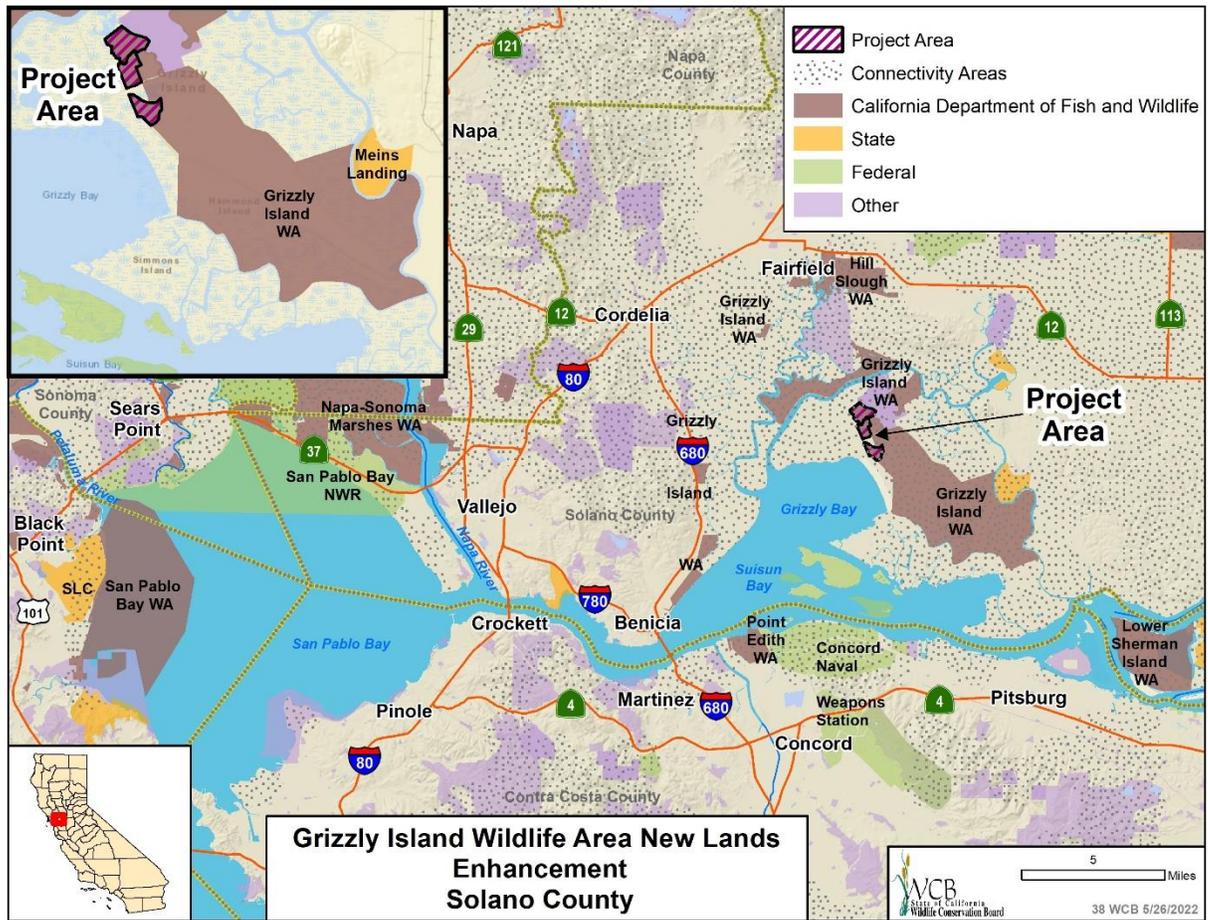
- None received

Opposition:

- None received

**CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS**

The Project is proposed as exempt from 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.



### 39. Kings Canyon Restoration

#### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$933,000 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:	Kings Canyon Restoration
Project Type:	Implementation
Applicant/Grantee:	John Muir Trail Wilderness Conservancy
Amount Recommended:	\$933,000
Funding Partners:	USFS and National Park Service
Landowner(s):	USFS and National Park Service
County:	Fresno
Program:	California Forest Conservation
Funding:	Proposition 68
Strategic Plan:	Goals: B.1 Objectives: SI 1.2, 1.3, 1.4
Disadvantaged Community:	Not within a disadvantaged community

#### LOCATION

Kings Canyon Restoration (Project) area encompasses roughly 1,500 acres of remote, rugged terrain within the upper San Joaquin River Basin. The Project entails habitat restoration activities along a 24-mile stretch of the John Muir Trail between Selden Pass in Sierra National Forest and Muir Pass in Kings Canyon National Park, approximately 20 miles southeast of Bishop in Fresno County.

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Extensive recreational use of the John Muir Trail has degraded habitat in the Project area, impacting water quality, nutrient dynamics, soil health, hydrology, plant communities, and wildlife populations.

The Project will address, reverse, and prevent further environmental damage, and provide durable solutions that support recreational use without impacting the most sensitive terrain and natural functions. It will also provide support for more resilient endangered species populations. Work areas are based on mapped data collected in 2021 that located all casual trails and unsanctioned campsites within the restoration work areas. Compliance work for meadow delineation and cultural surveys of planned impacted areas has already been completed.

This Project will help restore meadow habitat, riparian zones, and talus watershed basins. Specific restoration activities will include modifying existing trails (closing or rerouting damaging trails), restoring habitat impacted by campsites, constructing durable wetland and stream crossings, removing invasive fish, and managing invasive plants. An education video will also be produced as part of outreach activities.

This Project contributes to the goals of Pathways to 30x30 California by aligning with Pathway 6: Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship.

#### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The John Muir Trail Wilderness 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, John Muir Trail Wilderness Conservancy does not manage and maintain the project improvements, the Grant Agreement requires that it refund to the state of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the Project life.

#### PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Total Cost
Project Management	\$270,000	---	\$270,000
Restoration	\$609,000	\$906,000	\$1,515,000
Indirect Costs	\$54,000	---	\$54,000
Total	\$933,000	\$906,000	\$1,839,000

Costs associated with WCB funding include:

- Project Management: Project team coordination, stakeholder communications, outreach, and grant administration.
- Restoration: Project implementation per the design 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.

#### PROJECT LETTERS OF SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION

Support:

- Lesley Yen, Forest Supervisor, Inyo National Forest
- Dean Gould, Forest Supervisor, Sierra National Forest
- Nathan Magsig, District 5 Supervisor, County of Fresno
- Daniel J. Porter, Forest Strategy Lead, The Nature Conservancy
- Daniel Rossman, Deputy Director, The Wilderness Society
- Savannah Boiano, Executive Director, Sequoia Parks Conservancy
- Frank Dean, President, Yosemite Conservancy

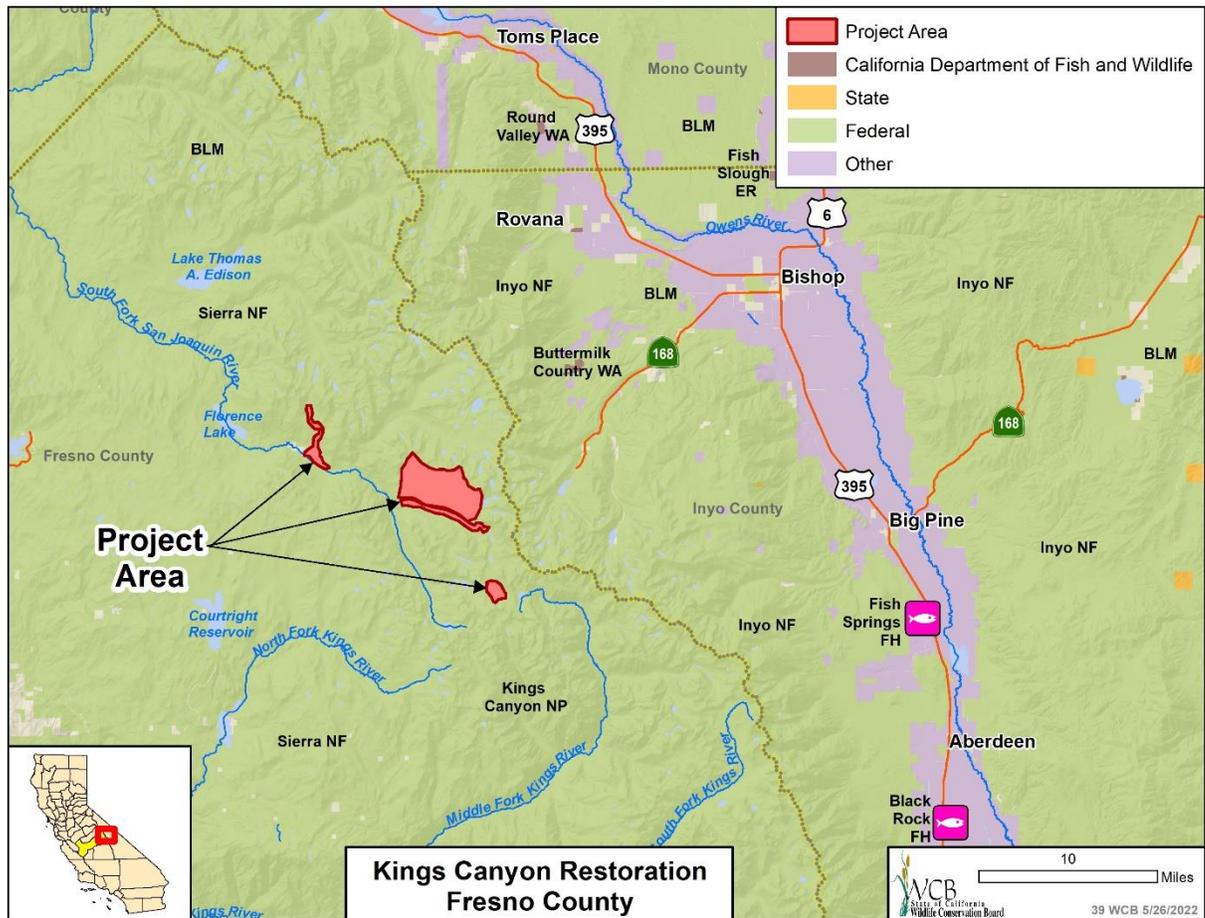
Opposition:

- None received

#### CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

The Project is proposed as exempt from CEQA pursuant to the state CEQA Guidelines Section 15333, Class 33, Small Habitat Restoration Projects, as a project not to exceed 5 acres in size to assure the maintenance, restoration,

enhancement, or protection of habitat for fish, plants, or wildlife and Section 15302, Class 2, Replacement or Reconstruction, as replacement or reconstruction of existing structures where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced, and Section 15304, Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land, as a minor alteration to land, water and vegetation which does not involve the removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.



#### 40. **Bonelli Regional Park Fishing Pier Replacement**

##### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$785,000 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:	Bonelli Regional Park Fishing Pier Replacement
Project Type:	Implementation
Applicant/Grantee:	Los Angeles County
Amount Recommended:	\$785,000
Funding Partners:	Los Angeles County
Landowner(s):	Los Angeles County
County:	Los Angeles
Program:	Public Access
Funding:	Proposition 68
Strategic Plan:	Goals: C.1 Objectives: SI 3.3, 3.4
Disadvantaged Community:	Not within a disadvantaged community

##### LOCATION

The Bonelli Regional Park Fishing Pier Replacement project (Project) is located in the Frank G. Bonelli Regional Park in the San Gabriel Valley (Los Angeles County) at the east end of the San Jose Hills. Bonelli Regional Park is immediately surrounded by the cities of San Dimas to the north, Pomona to the east and La Verne to the north. It is an 1,800-acre facility with 14 miles of multi-use trails and a 250-acre lake and flood control basin called Puddingstone Reservoir.

##### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Puddingstone Reservoir fishing piers have been a popular fishing destination since the early 1970s. The reservoir has trout, catfish (both stocked by CDFW when available), bass, bluegill, redear and carp. Unfortunately, the 48-year-old wooden fishing piers have deteriorated significantly due to wear, extreme weather damage, and fire. The piers have gone from a highlight of the park to a public and boating hazard. The fishing piers are currently closed to the public.

If funded, this Project will restore fishing access through the construction of a new fishing pier. A second pier will be constructed as cost share. Construction will include demolishing and disposing of the existing damaged fishing pier, replacing the existing fixed pier with a new floating pier, providing ADA improvements to pathways and restrooms, and related improvements. The proposed scope of work is part of a larger project that includes the replacement of two fishing piers currently closed to the public. The Project will also include multilingual interpretive signage to provide an enhanced experience for visitors.

Bonelli Park is not within a disadvantaged community; however, it will benefit both disadvantaged and severely disadvantaged communities. The Project is within 0.5 miles of disadvantaged communities and severely disadvantaged communities in Spadra and Pomona, and a mile from the severely disadvantaged community in La Verne. The Bonelli Park improvements and the fishing pier replacement will provide angling and recreational opportunities in a natural setting for the surrounding urban communities. Additionally, Los Angeles County will implement the Project with robust hiring policies that include and prioritize local workers. The County’s hiring policies include a best effort hiring goal of at least 30 percent of construction labor hours performed by workers facing employment barriers.

This Project contributes to the goals of Pathways to 30x30 California initiative. In particular, this Project supports a key objective to expand access to nature.

**MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS**

Los Angeles County has adopted a Management Plan that guides management actions for the property, including management of the Frank G. Bonelli Regional Park. If at any time during the 25-year life of the Project, Los Angeles County 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	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Total Cost
Pier 1 Construction	---	\$606,101	\$606,101
Pier 2 Construction	\$605,000	\$50,000	\$655,000
ADA Improvements	\$175,000	\$75,000	\$250,000
Interpretive Panels	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$10,000
Design, Engineering, & Permits	---	\$222,000	\$222,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$785,000</b>	<b>\$958,101</b>	<b>\$1,743,101</b>

Costs associated with WCB funding include:

- Pier 2 Construction: Demolition of the existing pier and construction of the new pier.
- ADA Improvements: Construction of ADA pathways, parking lot modifications, and restroom improvements.
- Interpretive Panels: Development, construction, and installation of interpretive panels.

## PROJECT LETTERS OF SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION

### Support:

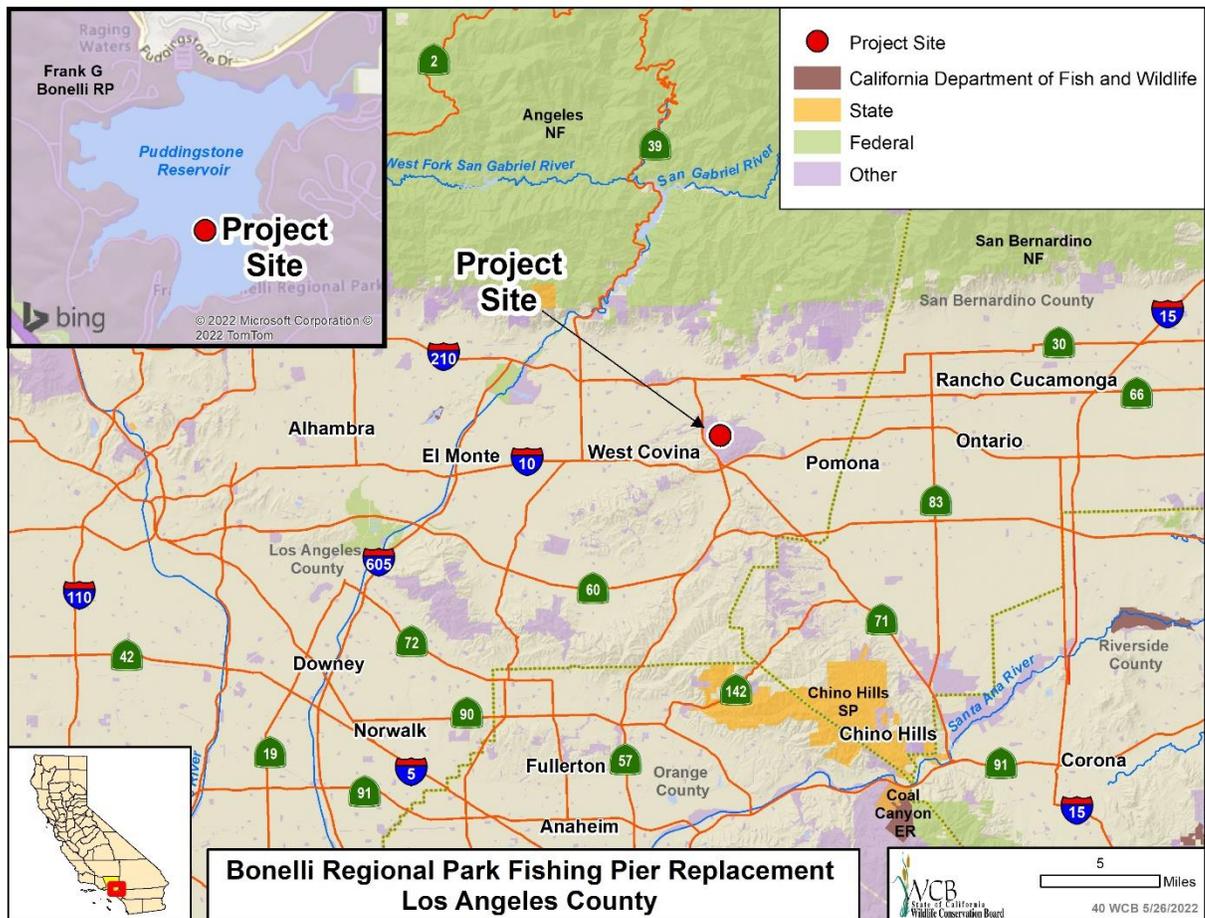
- Mark Soto, Owner, Wheel Fun Rentals
- Dan Silver, Executive Director, Endangered Habitats League

### Opposition:

- None received

## CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

The Project is proposed as exempt from CEQA pursuant to the state CEQA Guidelines, Section 15301, Class 1, repair and maintenance of existing facilities; and Section 15303, Class 3, construction of new or conversion of small structures. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.



#### 41. Palos Verdes Nature Preserve, Expansion 1

##### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$4,800,000 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) for the grant to Grantee; approve the acceptance of the Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition grant from the USFWS in the amount of \$12,600,000 and approve the subgrant of the federal funds to Subgrantee; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Palos Verdes Nature Preserve, Expansion 1
Project Type:	Fee Title (96± acres)
Grantee:	City of Rancho Palos Verdes
Amount Recommended:	\$4,800,000
Funding Partners:	City of Rancho Palos Verdes, County of Los Angeles, Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy, USFWS Section 6
County:	Los Angeles
Program:	Land Acquisition
Funding:	Proposition 68
Strategic Plan:	Goals: A.1, A.3, C.1 Objectives: SI 2.2, 2.4, 3.4
Disadvantaged Community:	Not within a disadvantaged community

##### LOCATION

The property known as the Lower Filiorum and Plumtree properties (Property) is 96± acres located north of Palos Verdes Drive South, in the Portuguese Bend area of the city of Rancho Palos Verdes (City). Abalone Cove Shoreline Park on the Pacific Ocean is directly to the south. Access to the northerly portion of the Property is provided by Narcissa Drive, a paved private street. The southern portion of the Property has ¼ mile ± of frontage along Palos Verdes Drive South.

Located on the bluffs of the Palos Verdes Peninsula (Peninsula), the Property is situated between the Pacific Ocean directly to the south and the city of Long Beach 10± miles to the northeast. The coastal plain of Los Angeles, including the Peninsula, is largely urbanized and any remaining open space is highly vulnerable to development. The Property is within the Santa Monica Bay watershed which spans from Malibu to the Palos Verdes Peninsula.

The California State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) designates the area surrounding the Property as the South Coast Province. The Property would conserve considerable habitat identified under the California Grassland and Flowerfields Conservation Target for the Southern California Coast conservation unit in the SWAP and is consistent with several Conservation Strategies for this unit.

The Property is covered under the City of Rancho Palos Verdes NCCP/HCP (Plan). As one of the last remaining major pieces of private property, the Property

is essential to the conservation of the coastal California gnatcatcher, Palos Verdes blue butterfly, and cactus wren within the plan area boundaries. The purchase of the Property would fulfill multiple critical needs including promoting species survival and recovery, ensuring the properties do not become degraded or developed, conserving core and essential linkage habitat, and complementing the regional Plan. In addition to the HCP/NCCP, this Property contributes to the goals of Pathways to 30x30 California by aligning with Pathway 2: Execute Strategic Land Acquisitions.

The Property will provide key connectivity between the Abalone Cove Reserve to the Three Sisters and Filiorum Reserves and to the larger Palos Verdes Nature Preserve. Previously, WCB funded four acquisition projects on the Peninsula including the 16-acre Ocean Trails HCPLA 2009 (Ya Yi May) in 2013, the 42-acre Ocean Trails HCPLA 2009 (Angeles LLC) in 2013, the 463-acre Portuguese Bend Nature Preserve in 2005, and the 163-acre Palos Verdes Peninsula Ecological Reserve in 1996.

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property is 96± acres and consists of six parcels that form two separate irregular tracts of land. The subject's topography ranges from gently to moderately sloping, with some steep areas. The site's lowest elevation of approximately 175 feet above Mean Sea Level (MSL) is at the southwest corner of the site. The highest elevation of the site is approximately 800 feet above MSL on a sloping peak located near the northeast corner of the site. Overall, surface drainage flows in a southwesterly direction towards Palos Verdes Drive South.

On the Peninsula, within the Portuguese Bend area, there is a moratorium on new development due to the potential for landslides which have historically occurred in this area. A large portion of the Property is located within the Landslide Moratorium Area but was granted an exception permit in 2016 which permits one single family residence. About 45 acres remain outside of the moratorium area. The property owner initiated an EIR and, absent this acquisition, is actively pursuing a 37-lot residential development on the developable land. Most of the subject is zoned RS-1, Residential with a one-acre minimum lot size, while 7.5± acres are zoned RS-2, Residential with a 20,000 square foot minimum lot size. The remaining land is zoned OH, Open Space-Hazard.

The Property contains grasslands, coastal sage scrub, cactus scrub, exotic woodland, and disturbed vegetation. Existing coastal sage scrub and cactus scrub on the Property provides core and linkage habitat for the coastal California gnatcatcher and cactus wren populations on the Peninsula.

Special status species known to occur on the Property include California gnatcatcher, cactus wren, and the Palos Verdes blue butterfly.

**MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS**

The Lower Filiorum and Plumtree properties will be added to the 1,402-acre Palos Verdes Nature Preserve (Preserve), which the City and the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy (PVPLC) have been actively managing for over 20 years. As part of the adopted Plan, the City worked together with USFWS, CDFW, the City’s Preserve Habitat Manager, and PVPLC, to manage the existing 1,402-acre Preserve for compliance with the Plan habitat conservation requirements. The PVPLC carries out the Plan habitat management requirements including habitat restoration, invasive plant removal, and covered species monitoring and reporting. The Wildlife Agencies, City, and PVPLC also worked together to prepare and implement a Public Use Master Plan (PUMP) to manage public use of the Preserve in a way that minimizes impacts to natural resources. The regulations outlined in the PUMP are also captured in the Rancho Palos Verdes Municipal Code. The City employs Park Rangers and Open Space Management staff for rules enforcement, public education, and natural resource protection within the Preserve. Likewise, the PVPLC has a Volunteer Trail Watch program for public education and natural resource protection.

Because the City’s financial and in-kind services are provided by City staff and existing contracts with vendors, and because there is minimal public access (and resulting necessary services and amenities) to the Lower Filiorum and Plumtree properties, the management costs are within its existing Plan’s financial requirements. PVPLC, the City’s Preserve Habitat Manager, will be responsible for the monitoring and management of the property in coordination with the City.

**PROJECT FUNDING**

The DGS approved fair market value is \$21,000,000.00 The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$4,800,000
USFWS Section 6	\$12,600,000
City of Rancho Palos Verdes	\$1,300,000
Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy	\$1,300,000
County of Los Angeles	\$1,000,000
<b>TOTAL Purchase Price</b>	<b>\$21,000,000</b>

**PROJECT LETTERS OF SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION**

Support:

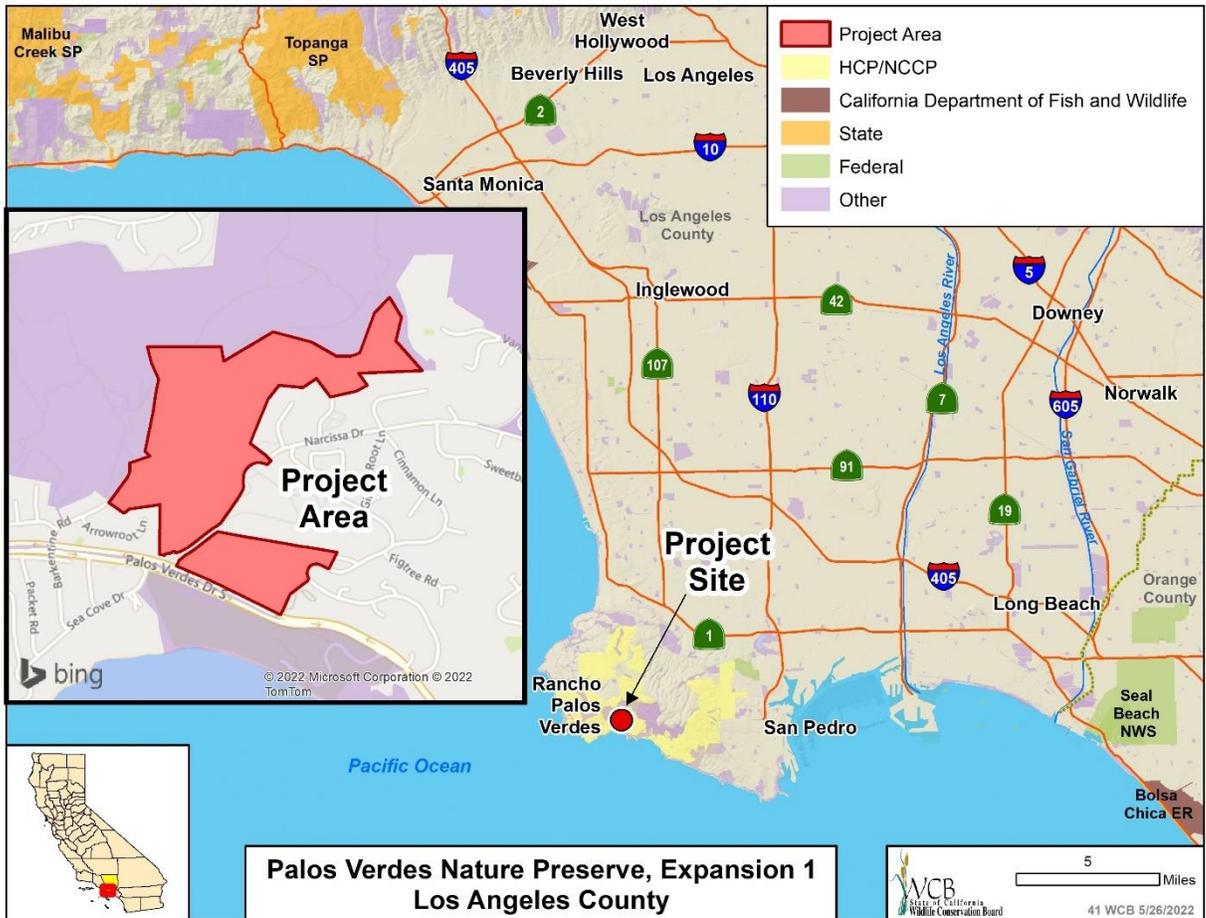
- Dan Silver, Executive Director, Endangered Habitats League

Opposition:

- None received

### 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.



## 42. Genga/Banning Ranch

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$15,500,000 from Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b)(c) (\$6,000,000), the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68), Public Resources Code Section 80111(d)(\$3,500,000), and the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 (Proposition 50), Water Code Section 79572(a)(\$6,000,000) for the grant to the Trust for Public Lands; authorize the acceptance and subgrant of any potential federal funding secured for the project; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Genga/Banning Ranch
Project Type:	Fee Title (385± acres)
Grantee:	Trust for Public Land (TPL)
Successor Grantee:	Mountain Recreation and Conservation Authority
Amount Recommended:	\$15,500,000
Funding Partners:	CNRA, CDFW, USFWS, SCC, and Philanthropic Funds
County:	Orange
Program:	Land Acquisition
Funding:	Habitat Conservation Fund, Proposition 50 and Proposition 68
Strategic Plan:	Goals: A.1, A.2, A.3, C.1, C.4, E.1
Objectives:	SI 1.2, 1.3, 2.2, 2.4, 3.4, 4.3
Disadvantaged Community:	Not within a disadvantaged community

### LOCATION

The property known as the Genga/Banning Ranch (Property), is located in west Newport Beach, south of the city of Huntington Beach, three blocks inland from the Pacific Ocean, near the east bank of the Santa Ana River mouth in Orange County. Primary access to this area is provided by the Pacific Coast Highway which borders the Property's southern boundary and is a major north-south scenic state highway that runs along most of the California Pacific coastline from Mendocino to Orange County. The Property's entrance is off the Pacific Coast Highway. Additionally, the Property can be accessed at the end of 17<sup>th</sup> Street which accesses the eastern boundary of Property.

The Property represents one of the largest parcels of undeveloped and unprotected coastal properties in Southern California. The Property has been an active oil field operation since the 1940s; however, most of the wells are now abandoned or idle. The Property's neighborhood is primarily dedicated to residential, industrial, and commercial uses. The Property acquisition would act as a link to the adjacent open spaces at Sunset Ridge Park to the south, Army Corps of Engineers restored salt marsh basin to the west, and Talbert Nature Preserve

and Fairview Park to the north. The outlying area is largely urbanized, and any remaining open space is highly vulnerable to development, primarily for residential purposes. The existing high demand for coastal residential development combined with abundant nearby commercial amenities makes the Property ideal for development. A recent trend to meet this demand has been the redevelopment of industrial properties to residential uses which has been occurring frequently east of Property.

The Property complements the Central/Coastal Orange County Natural Community Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan (NCCP/HCP). The NCCP/HCP covers a 208,000-acre area in the central portion of Orange County, stretching from the Santa Ana River to Dana Point along the Pacific Coast and inland to Riverside County. The NCCP/HCP focuses on creating a multiple-species, multiple-habitat subregional reserve system and implementing a long-term adaptive management program that will protect sensitive habitats and listed species within the coastal sage scrub habitat mosaic, while still allowing for the appropriate economic uses and development that meets the social and economic needs of the communities within the subregion. Upon completion of the Central Coastal NCCP/HCP, it is anticipated that over 37,000 acres of habitat and 18,500 acres of coastal sage scrub will be conserved within the reserve system.

This project contributes to the goals of Pathways to 30x30 California by aligning with Pathway 2: Execute Strategic Land Acquisitions. Approximately 54 percent of the Property area is considered a designated Natural Landscape Block or Essential Connectivity Area, indicating that portions of the Property have relatively high ecosystem integrity, with natural intact habitat and sensitive wildlife species that have been identified as a high priority for protection in the California Statewide Action Plan.

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This proposed project involves the fee-title acquisition of 385± acres of a 401-acre site comprised of 13 contiguous parcels. Oil production on the Property began in the late 1940s and continues today with 10 percent of established wells in operation. Years of oil production on the Property has led to degraded habitats, but also spared the Property from residential or commercial development. The current oil operation has been confined to a 17-acre portion of the overall 401-acre Property.

The 385± acres proposed for this acquisition is an irregular shaped tract of land characterized by level to rolling topography with an ocean view bluff that divides the Property into lowland and upland areas. Improvements on the Property include a ranch house situated on the bluff north of Pacific Coast Highway along with various scattered portable buildings and outbuildings. There are also multiple interior graded dirt and paved roads that traverse the Property, historically used for the oil field operations. The Property is zoned for suburban-multi-family residential, and light industrial uses along with allowances for oil production. For the past

decade, the landowners have pursued the prospect of developing the Property and have drafted a proposal that includes 531 residential units on 20 acres.

The Property is characterized by habitats that are divided into lowland and upland areas containing approximately 100 acres of coastal wetlands and 200 acres of coastal sage scrub. The upland area in the southeast portion of the Property contains arroyos, vernal pools, grasslands, and coastal sage scrub. The lowland area in the northwestern part of the Property contains freshwater and brackish wetlands, vernal pools, riparian forests, and marshlands. These lowland habitats are connected to a larger wetland ecosystem along the lower Santa Ana River. In addition, the Property's wetlands serve as a buffer for sea level rise and provide a rare opportunity for wildlife species to migrate to higher ground in response to rising seas due to climate change.

The diverse habitats support a variety of wildlife including the federally endangered California gnatcatcher, least Bell's vireo, San Diego fairy shrimp, Pacific pocket mouse, California least tern and the light-footed Ridgway's rail, the federally threatened western snowy plover, and the State endangered Belding's savannah sparrow. The acquisition would prevent the permanent loss of habitat for these listed species covered by the Central Coastal NCCP/HCP and eliminate ongoing degradation associated with oil operations, including vegetation and access road maintenance. The acquisition will also support the preservation of intact core habitat and linkages with the adjacent open space areas and wetlands for these dependent species.

The acquisition will also protect significant cultural resources and important indigenous lands. Documented evidence shows that indigenous people inhabited the Property for at least 3,000 years. The Property, in addition to the nearby Fairview Park and other bluff areas near the Santa Ana River, are believed to have been part of the native village site known as Genga (or Gengaa). The indigenous community, represented by members of the Acjachemen and Gabrielino/Tongva/Kizh tribes, all see the Property as an important site for their people and would like to participate in the management of the land once it is purchased, and pursue future acquisition of a portion of the site. TPL, the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA), and the state partners are engaging with the tribal community to plan for tribal access and involve the tribes in the management of the site. Acquisition of Property will enable California Native American people and tribes to access and use the property for traditional cultural purposes.

#### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

At the time of escrow, TPL will use the grant funds to purchase 385± acres of the Property which will then be directly transferred from the landowner to MRCA. MRCA will own and manage the acquisition as part of its extensive land holdings in San Bernardino, Los Angeles, and Ventura counties. MRCA is a joint powers authority and has many years of experience in managing conservation properties. The acquisition will provide an opportunity for MRCA to protect, restore and preserve open space and natural resource values, along with providing use

opportunities in the form of camping, hiking, biking, wildlife viewing, and cultural events. Even though the property itself is not within a disadvantaged community, it is located within a mile of severely disadvantaged communities and upon completion of a public use plan, will benefit the surrounding neighborhood.

Due to approximately 75 years of oil operations, a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment uncovered known hazardous materials on the Property. Following the close of escrow, the seller is required to remediate the Property to the standards outlined in a Remediation Action Plan Addendum (RAP) which will be approved by the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) prior to the close of escrow. Remediation of the acquisition lands is expected to take 18 to 24 months after the close of escrow with the oversight of regulatory compliance enforced upon the sellers by the California Geologic Energy Management Division and the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board. Upon completion of cleanup pursuant to the RAP, the sellers will deliver to MRCA a certificate of “No Further Action” issued by the Water Board, recognizing the Property has been remediated pursuant to the terms of the RAP.

#### PROJECT FUNDING

The DGS approved fair market value is \$101,000,000.00. The landowner is providing a discount sale of \$97,000,000. Currently, project partners are working with USFWS staff on securing possible federal funding. WCB’s contribution will be reduced by up to \$5.5 million, pending final USFWS decision. The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$15,500,000
CDFW Proposition 1	\$8,000,000
State Coastal Conservancy	\$11,500,000
CNRA	\$14,000,000
Philanthropic Donation	\$48,000,000
<b>TOTAL Purchase Price</b>	<b>\$97,000,000</b>

#### PROJECT LETTERS OF SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION

Support:

- Patricia Martz, PH.D, President, California Cultural Resource Preservation Alliance, Inc
- Paul Malkemus, The Future of Banning Ranch Coalition Member
- Dr. Kailen Moody, Faculty Director, UCI Nature, University of California Irvine
- Dan Silver, Executive Director, Endangered Habitats League
- Elizabeth Wallace, Conservation Analyst/Chair; Brad Jenkins, President; and Rebecca Crowe, The Orange County chapter of the California Native Plant Society

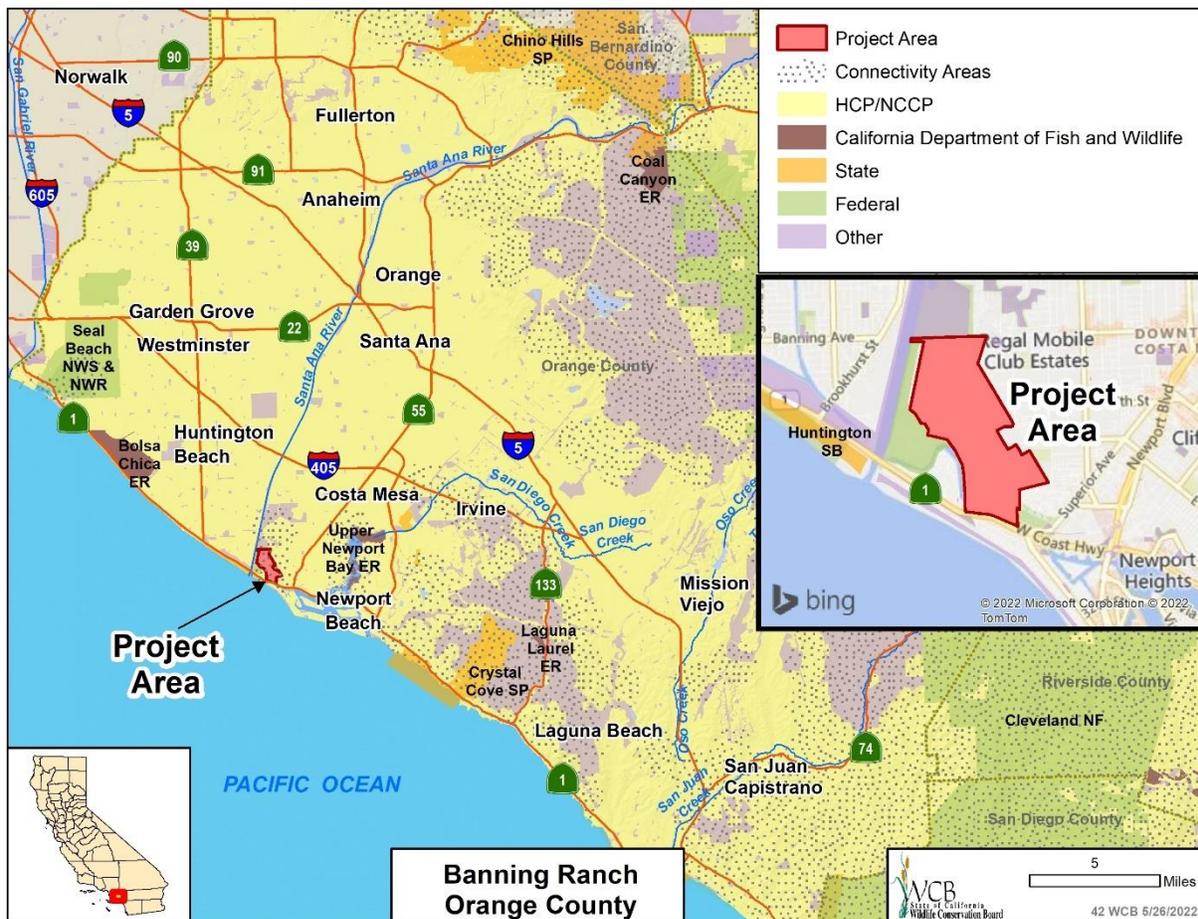
- Katrina Foley, Supervisor, Second District, Orange County Board of Supervisors
- Peggy Palmer, Emiratis Chair, Protect Mariner's Mile

Opposition:

- None received

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.



**43. State Route 91 B Canyon Wildlife Crossing**

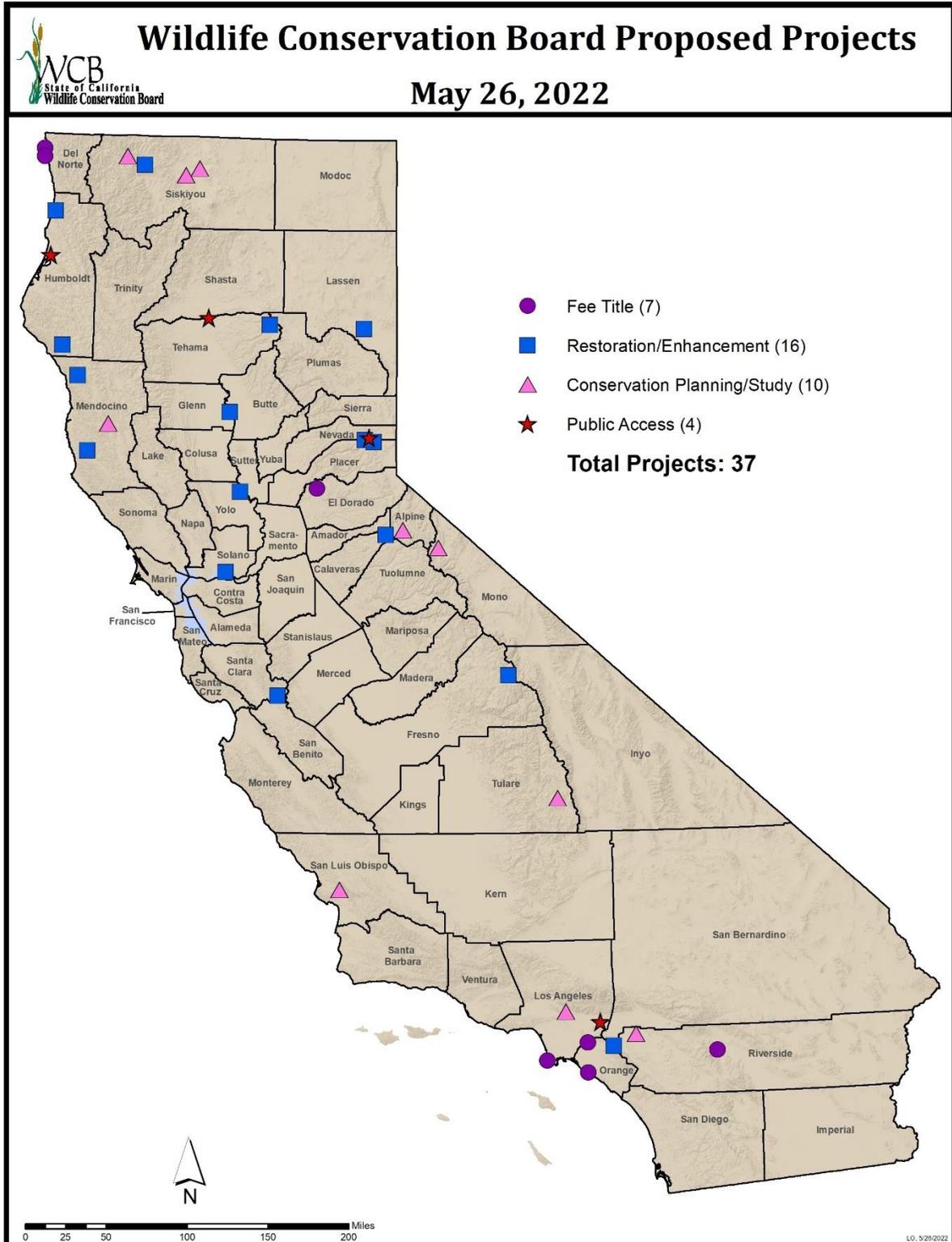
Withdrawn from consideration at this time.

**44. Executive Director's Report**

- **WCB 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Update**
- **WCB June Workshop**
- **Lower American River Advisory Committee Tour**

**Adjourn**

**ATTACHMENT A – MAP OF MAY 2022 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
Land Acquisition Evaluation	LAE
Mitigated Negative Declaration	MND
National Environmental Policy Act	NEPA
National Marine Fisheries Service	NMFS
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	NOAA
Natural Community Conservation Plan	NCCP
Negative Declaration	ND
Notice of Determination	NOD
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.