

Public Input on Full Proposals Submitted to the Refugio Beach Oil Spill Settlement: South Coast Shoreline Parks and Outdoor Recreation Grants Program

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Prepared by:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR), California State Lands Commission (CSLC), Regents of the University of California (UC Regents), collectively the “state Trustees”, & National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF)

Consistent with the Final Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan for the Refugio Beach Oil Spill prepared by the Refugio Beach Trustee Council, the state Trustees are overseeing a competitive grant program being implemented by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. In October 2021, a request for proposals was released with the goal of allocating up to \$1.5 million to projects. This request solicited “pre-proposals” for recreation projects that could compensate the public for the loss of use and enjoyment of public beaches, parks, and other public or natural resources as a result of the Refugio Beach Oil Spill. Funding was allocated geographically to address these impacts downcoast of El Capitan State Beach through LA County.

Eleven pre-proposals were submitted by a variety of local cities, counties, and other public and non-profit entities. The state Trustees, in coordination with the Refugio Beach Trustee Council, requested “full proposals” from 8 pre-proposals best matching the grant program funding priorities. The 7 full proposals submitted outlined a variety of deserving projects designed to improve recreational opportunities in areas impacted by the Refugio Oil Spill. In June 2022, the state Trustees solicited public input on project concepts outlined in these full proposals.

A total of 7 public comments were submitted to NFWF. All public comments were submitted via email and all but one comment expressed support for the Bridge to Nature Project submitted by the Wilderness Youth Project (WYP). These comments stated that WYP has been a cornerstone agency connecting communities to coastal areas since 1999 and that additional financial support would help them sustain and expand their capacity to get the local community’s kids to the beach. The other comment expressed support for the Ventura Port District: Six Project Request proposed by the Ventura Port District.

After considering all public input received, the state Trustees made their final project selections based on the evaluation criteria outlined in the [Final Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan for the Refugio Beach Oil Spill](#), and the amount of funding available per locale category. The state Trustees coordinated the selection of projects with the federal Trustees on the Refugio Beach Trustee Council and the Trustee Council has determined that the projects selected by the state Trustees are appropriate restoration under the Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan for the Refugio Beach Oil Spill.