



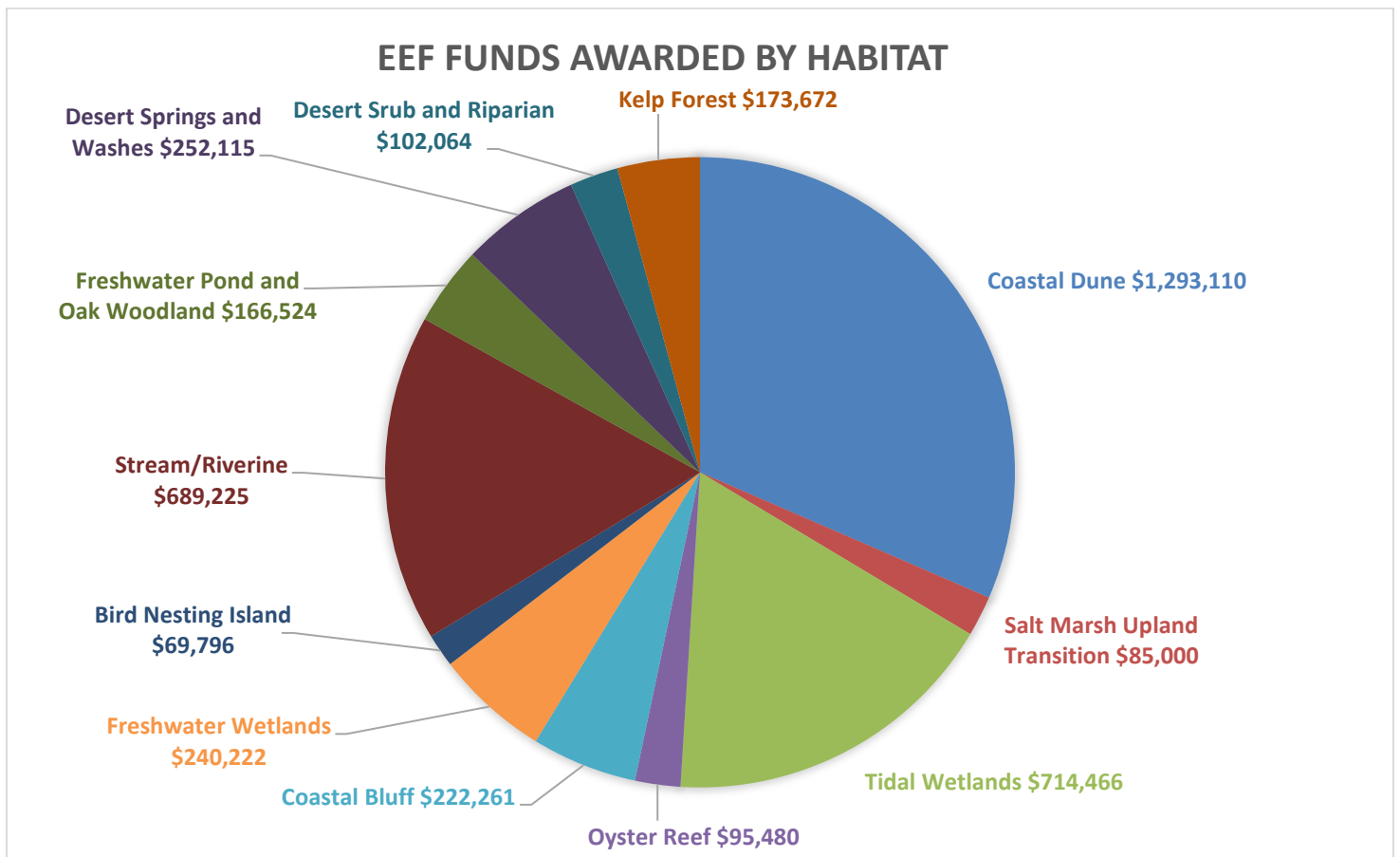
Report to Environmental Enhancement Committee: August 2022 Update

Completed Projects: 13

Active Projects: 14

Total Funds Awarded to Date: \$4,103,935

Currently Available Resources: \$1,069,000



Active Projects:

1. Baker Creek Streamflow and Habitat Enhancement Project, Inyo County
2. Año Nuevo Island Seabird Habitat Enhancement Project
3. Restoration of Ecosystem Functions to Benefit Threatened and Endangered amphibians at Elkhorn Slough, Elkhorn Slough Preserve.
4. Restoring Coastal Dune Ecosystem Health and Resilience at Salinas River State Beach, Monterey, CA
5. Mojave Desert Springs Habitat Protection and Restoration
6. Enhancing Critical Riparian Bird Habitat along the Amargosa River
7. Acquisition of 2.88 Acres of Connecting Wetland in Lake Isabella, Kern County
8. Anderson Creek Instream and Riparian Habitat Restoration Project
9. Morro Dunes Restoration Project Ice Plant Removal and Coastal Dune Restoration
10. River Health Days: Community-Based Habitat Enhancement of the Lower San Lorenzo River
11. Restoring Critical Habitat and Increasing Climate Resiliency in a Northern California Dune System
12. Little River State Beach Nearshore Dune Habitat and Coastal Resilience Project
13. Lower Hoke Meadow Restoration
14. Kelp Forest Restoration at Timber Cove in Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary

The following grants are currently being funded from the EEF, with a brief update for each:

1. Baker Creek Streamflow and Habitat Enhancement Project

- **Grantee:** Sanctuary Forest Inc.
- **Term:** 09/01/2019-06/30/2022 (extension pending)
- **Dollar amount authorized by EEC:** \$203,683.00
- **Invoiced to date:** \$203,605.61
- **Work Completed:** Hydrological studies, pond construction, native planting, instream structure repair, post construction monitoring.
- **Further Information:** Request June 2022 report from Daniel Orr.



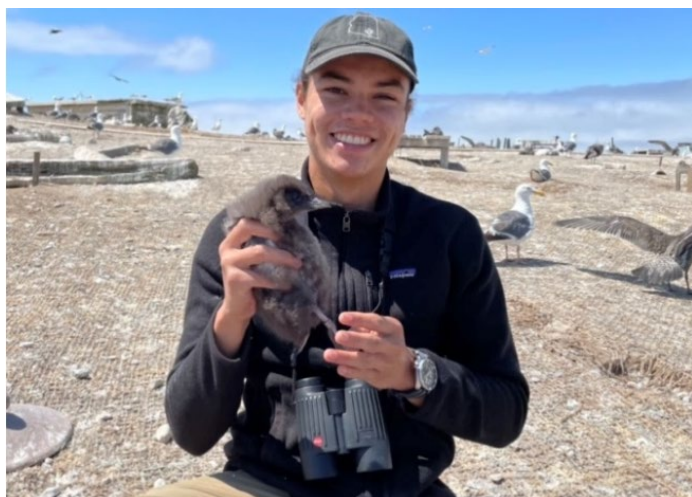
June 2022 Update: Project revegetation was completed in winter 2020. Project managers continue to organize post construction monitoring and adaptive management. In summer 2022 post streamflow and vegetation monitoring. Nick's Internes, a youth conservation organization, worked with Sanctuary staff to repair log weirs and high flow structures.

Photo to Left: Repair of log weir with Nick's Internes and BLM. Plugging holes with vegetative material and re-sealing weir with Coir (coconut cloth), clay and rock.

2. Año Nuevo Island Seabird Habitat Enhancement Project, Santa Cruz

- **Grantee:** Oikonos Ecosystem Knowledge
- **Term:** 09/01/2019-06/30/2022 (extended)
- **Dollar amount authorized by EEC:** \$69,796.00
- **Invoiced to date:** \$57,382.00
- **Work Completed:** Project planning, transportation of materials to island, construction, native plantings.
- **Further information:** Visit Oikonos website for illustrated stories and updates on past Año Nuevo Island work <http://oikonos.org/ano-nuevo-island/>. Request full reports and articles from Daniel Orr.

February 2022 Update: Oikonos continues to study the effectiveness of Habitat Enhancement and Protection Platforms (HEAPs) to prevent crushing of Rhinoceros Auklet nesting burrows by pelicans. As expected, auklet burrow failure does not correlate with pelican density after installation.



Beginning in 2021 the island experienced a dramatic increase in nesting by Brandt's cormorants. In many areas they excluded nesting on Auklets. However, an unexpected benefit of HEAPs is that they have allowed Auklets and cormorants to nest concurrently where they are installed. In 2022 record high nesting population of Rhinoceros Auklets (600 pairs) and Brandt's Cormorants (4,4450) were observed.

Photo above left:
Tahiry Langrand with
Rhinoceros Auklet
fledgling

Photo to right: Historic
numbers of Brandt's
Cormorants nested and
Año Nuevo Island in
2021, covering the
central terrace in nests
and excluding
Rhinoceros Auklets and
Western Gulls from
nesting habitat. HEAPs
allowed auklets to share
habitat with Brandt's
cormorants by nesting
underneath.



3. Restoration of Ecosystem Functions to Benefit Threatened and Endangered Amphibians at Elkhorn Slough, Moss Landing

- **Grantee:** Elkhorn Slough Foundation
- **Term:** 09/01/2019-06/30/2022
- **Dollar amount authorized by EEC:** \$166,524.05
- **Invoiced to date:** \$166,524.05
- **Work Completed:** Project complete. Final report received June 2022
- **Further information:** Request Final report form Daniel Orr

June 2022 Final Report: Tide gate repairs were completed in December 2019 allowing gradual restoration of freshwater salinities to lower cattail pond to begin. Since that time eDNA has confirmed sensitive amphibians with the lower pond and animals have been captured at upper cattail pond.



Photos Above: California red-legged frog egg mass and tadpoles, 2022. Young-of-year 2021 photographed at Upper Cattail Pond.

Three acres of eucalyptus removal and oak restoration adjacent to lower and upper cattail ponds funded by EEF was completed in 2022. EEF funds were leveraged to allow propagation of native plantings that will be used after the grant to restore areas undergoing eucalyptus removal in 2022 and 2023 using SB 85 funding.

Photo Below Left: Santa Cruz long-toed salamander larva, May 2022. **Photo Below Right:** metamorph, summer 2021, photographed at Upper Cattail Pond.



4. Restoring Coastal Dune Ecosystem Health and Resilience at Salinas River State Beach, Moss Landing

- **Grantee:** Coastal Conservation and Research, Inc. (CCR)
- **Term:** 09/27/2019-12/30/2023 (amendment pending)
- **Dollar amount authorized by EEC:** \$399,909.00
- **Invoiced to date:** \$236,329.88
- **Work Completed:** Subcontracting, pre-project monitoring, native plant propagation, and invasive species treatments.
- **Further information:** Request full report from Daniel Orr.

August 2022 Update: Work at Salinas River State Beach is adjusting to current conditions. After COVID related delays State parks and CCR have reduced costs of invasive control and requested expansion of the project, but also an extension of the project to address delays in native plant propagation due to greenhouse closures. In summer 2022 CCR collected additional native seed and provided it to state parks for greenhouse propagation. CCR, State Parks, and Elkhorn slough have identified additional areas for invasive plant treatment and will expand the work area in Fall 2022. School children installed native plantings are planned for winter 2022.

5. Mojave Desert Springs Habitat Protection and Restoration

- **Grantee:** Coastal Conservation and Research, Inc. (CCR)
- **Term:** 10/06/2021-06/30/2024 (amendment pending)
- **Dollar amount authorized by EEC:** \$252,115.00
- **Invoiced to date:** \$25,408.60

- **Work Completed:** Hydrologic surveys, plant and bird baseline surveys and installation of Motus tracking stations, planning
- **Further information:** Request full report from Daniel Orr.

August 2022 Update: Initial baseline work and final planning stages are underway. This summer hydrologic studies, avian surveys, and sensitive plant surveys were completed on the 14 spring sites included in the project. Motus (automated radio telemetry) tracking systems were installed at selected sites for wildlife monitoring. Studies will inform final design of fencing and hydrologic work in winter 2022. Seed collection will begin in late 2022 and larger scale work will begin when conservation corps staff arrive in January 2023.



Photo to Right: Motus unit for avian monitoring installed at Frog Spring

6. **Enhancing Critical Bird Habitat Along the Amargosa River**

- **Grantee:** The Nature Conservancy
- **Term:** 09/01/2021-06/30/2024
- **Dollar amount authorized by EEC:** \$102, 031.00
- **Invoiced to date:** \$38,114.80
- **Work Completed:** Subcontracting, pre-project monitoring, native seed collection
- **Further information:** None currently

August 2022 Update: The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has begun the logistic stages needed to plant trees along the Amargosa river in late 2022. Ecoculture was identified as the contractor for growing and planting and growing. From May to July 10,000-20,000 coyote willow seeds were collected and sown in a nursery.

Seedling planting will begin in December 2022. In addition to nursery raised coyote willow, field collected coyote willow and Goodding's willow cutting will be planted in the field.

Photo to Right: Planting in Amargosa Canyon 2021



7. Acquisition of 2.88 Acres of Connecting Wetland in Lake Isabella, Kern County

- **Grantee:** Kern River Valley Heritage Foundation
- **Term:** 05/02/2022-06/30/2024
- **Dollar amount authorized by EEC:** \$150,322.00
- **Invoiced to date:** \$142,185.95 (escrow disbursement)
- **Work Completed:** Property inspections, escrow processing, trail installation.
- **Further information:** None currently

June 2022 Update: The Kern River Valley Heritage Foundation (KRVHF) has requested disbursement to escrow for acquisition of the wetland property connecting to their larger preserve. In June 2022 the new property was connected to the larger trail network.

8. Anderson Creek Instream and Riparian Habitat Restoration Project

- **Grantee:** Sanctuary Forest Inc.
- **Term:** 09/09/2021-06/30/2024
- **Dollar amount authorized by EEC:** \$238,542.15
- **Invoiced to date:** \$44,258.12
- **Work Completed:** Permitting, pre-project aquatic surveys and road improvements
- **Further information:** Request full report from Daniel Orr.

July 2022 Update: The Sanctuary Forest has been working the streambed alteration agreement process and finalizing the fish relocation plan before instream work can begin. Subcontractors were utilized to import rock and improve access roads to the site in advance of forestry work. Pre-project surveys were conducted during which they observed steelhead and California Giant Salamanders in the project area.

9. Morro Dunes Restoration Project Ice Plant Removal and Coastal Dune Restoration

- **Grantee:** California State Parks
- **Term:** 10/15/2021-04/30/2024 (amendment in process)
- **Dollar amount authorized by EEC:** \$64,956.85
- **Invoiced to date:**
- **Work Completed:** Permitting, subcontractor identification, grant amendment to address timeline and contractor changes
- **Further information:** Request full report from Daniel Orr.

January 2022 Update: State parks process on this dune remediation was slowed contract bid issues and COVID related shutdowns at the greenhouse used to grow native seedlings for the project. EEF staff have met with state parks and agreed to a new timeline, an extension the grant term, a reduction in the number of treatment phases, and utilization of a resource conservation districts to assist with contracting in order to complete the same scale of work. A grant amendment reflecting these changes is in progress.

10. River Health Days: Community-Based Habitat Enhancement of the Lower San Lorenzo River

- **Grantee:** Coastal Watershed Council

- **Term:** Grant Agreement Pending
- **Dollar amount authorized by EEC:** \$15,000
- **Further information:** None currently

11. Restoring Critical Habitat and Increasing Climate Resiliency in a North California Dune System

- **Grantee:** Fiends of the Dunes
- **Term:** Grant Agreement Pending
- **Dollar amount authorized by EEC:** \$229,517.00
- **Further information:** None currently

12. Little River State Beach Nearshore Dune Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience Project

- **Grantee:** California Department of Parks and recreation
- **Term:** Grant Agreement Pending
- **Dollar amount authorized by EEC:** \$99,811.00
- **Further information:** None currently

August 2022 Update: State parks has requested transfer of this award to the Redwood Parks Conservancy. The change is requested to reduce overhead rates and allow more streamline subcontracting. The requested change will be addressed at the next Environmental Enhancement Committee meeting.

13. Lower Hoke Meadow Restoration

- **Grantee:** Truckee River Watershed Association
- **Term:** Grant Agreement Pending
- **Dollar amount authorized by EEC:** \$232,000.00
- **Further information:** None currently

14. Kelp Forest Restoration at Timber Cove in Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary

- **Grantee:** Greater Farallones Association
- **Term:** Grant Agreement Pending
- **Dollar amount authorized by EEC:** \$173,672.00
- **Further information:** None currently

Other Fund Updates:

- Spending authority for fiscal year 2022/23 is currently set at \$750,000.
- A request for proposals for \$750,000 is expected in September 2022 awarding projects starting work in July 2023.
- CDFW staff plan to submit a spring finance letter in 2023 to carry over unspent appropriations and increase available funds, extend the encumbrance and expenditure cycle of EEF grants, and change appropriations from operations to local assistance.