

# Environmental Enhancement Committee Meeting

January 10, 2023



# Agenda

1. Introductions and Meeting Format
2. Program Update
3. Summary of Fall 2022 Request for Proposals and Technical Review
4. Deliberation by Committee
5. Public Comments or Questions
6. Vote by Environmental Enhancement Committee; Fall 2022 Project Awards
7. Wrap up & Overview of Moving Forward

# Meeting Format and Instructions

- Meeting Format
  - Committee Members, Program Coordinator, and persons physically present can speak in a live format
  - Other staff and members of the public please submit any comments through the Q&A Tab in top right of your screen
    - Please include your name and any organization/affiliation that should be included when your comment is read for the committee
  - I will read any questions or comments related to project selection prior to the vote, other questions and comments will be addressed at the end of the meeting
- EEC Members please introduce yourselves before we begin
- Other staff please introduce yourself prior to speaking



California red-legged frog mass and tadpoles, 2022. Young of the year 2021. Elkhorn Slough Project



# Environmental Enhancement Fund

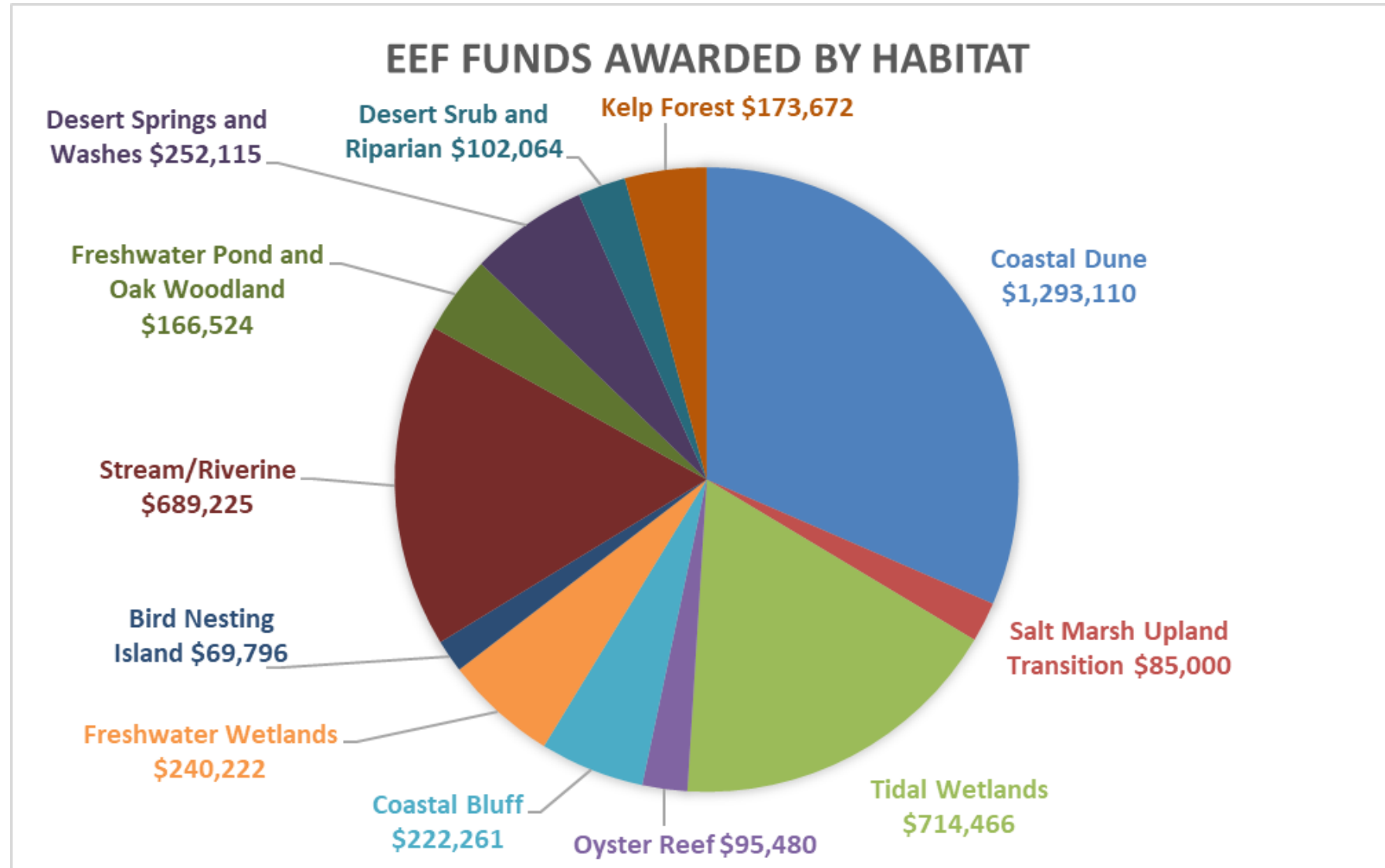
- The Environmental Enhancement Fund (EEF) obtains funds taken in by California Department of Fish and Wildlife Office of Spill Prevention and Response for fines and penalties for oil spill cases or administrative actions
- Funds are used to issue grants for environmental enhancement projects within or immediately adjacent to waters of the state
- Project selection is directed by an environmental enhancement committee (EEC)
- In 2011 project selection was organized using a system of requests for proposals, a technical review, and final selection by the EEC.



Cormorants nesting on cleared cliff edge, Natural Bridges Project

# Diverse Habitats Benefited

Since 2011 \$4,103,935 in grants have been awarded for 27 projects, 14 of which are ongoing



# Recent EEF Expansion

- More than half of EEF projects are active utilizing \$2.4 million dollars for restoration or acquisition
- 10 projects have been awarded \$1.6 million since 2020
- Projects Awarded in 2022:
  - River Health Days: Community-Based Habitat Enhancement of the Lower San Lorenzo River \$15,000
  - Restoring Critical Habitat and Increasing Climate Resiliency in a Northern California Dune System \$229,517
  - Little River State Beach Nearshore Dune Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience Project \$99,811
  - Lower Hoke Meadow Restoration \$232,000
  - Kelp Forest Restoration at Timber Cove in Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary \$173,672



Motus avian monitoring unit installed at Frog Spring; Mojave Desert Springs Project

# Summary of Fall 2022 Request for Proposals

- FY 2023/24 Authority of \$750,000
- Request for Proposals Issued September 1, 2022
- Received 25 eligible applications
  - Funding requests total \$5 million
- Technical Review Committee (TRC) of 10 CDFW scientists independently review and score all applications
- TRC met on December 15<sup>th</sup> to discuss top projects and finalize their scores
- I will provide an overview of the 7 of the highest scoring projects and present some funding suggestions
- I can also summarize and present TRC comments on projects outside this group at your request so EEC can consider them



Brown pelican using  
Habitat Enhancement  
Platform, Año Nuevo Island  
Bird Nesting Project



# Fall 2022 Applications

Application	Project	Request	County	Habitat Type
1	2023 San Ramon Creek Arundo Removal Project	\$30,924.00	Contra Costa	Riparian
2	Eradication of a non-native invasive invertebrate from Diablo Point reef, Santa Cruz Island, to preserve native biodiversity and mitigate future spread	\$158,233.00	Santa Barbara	Reef
3	Manchester State Park Coastal Strand and Dune Habitat Restoration Pahse II	\$244,347.00	Mendocino	Coastal Dune
4	Enhancing Dune Habitat and Ecosystem Function at Northern Monterey County State Parks	\$375,387.00	Monterey	Coastal Dune
5	Lake Earl Wildlife Area Habitat Restoration Project	\$92,302.08	Del Norte	Esturaine Lagoon
6	Water for Wildilfe:Alameda County Ponds and Resilient Livestock Water	\$217,657.00	Alameda	Freshwater Ponds
7	Ferry Point Pier Removal Project	\$300,000.00	Contra costa	Subtidal
8	The Student & Landowner, Education & Watershed Stewardship Program in San Joaquin	\$253,622.00	San Joaquin	Multiple
9	Pacific Flyway Center's "Walk in the Marsh" Weltand Water Conveyance Project	\$210,057.38	Solano	Wetland
10	Watershed Restoration and Protection Marsh Creek 7 Water Flows to the Delta	\$67,074.00	Contra Costa	Riparian
11	Restoring the High Elevation Freshwater Ecosystems of Yosemite National Park	\$195,000.00	Mariposa	Alpine Lake and Streams
12	Pilot Surfers Beach Restoration Project	\$500,000.00	San Mateo	Sandy Beach and Eelgrass
13	Fern Ravine Natural Area Enhancement	\$105,418.00	Alameda	Riparian
14	Elk Creek Acquisition-Eel River Watershed	\$310,000.00	Mendocino	Multiple
15	Restoration of the Pajaro & Salinas River Tule Perch	\$56,290.00	Monterey	Riverine
16	Lower Mammoth Creek Fisheries and Environmental Enhancement	\$239,126.08	Inyo	Rivrie
17	Lake Tahoe Monitoring: Restoring Lake Tahoe, California's lakebed at litter hot-spots	\$68,173.00	Placer	Alpine Lake
18	Tulare County Invasive Species Removal Project	\$376,500.00	Tulare	Riparian
19	Creating Climate-Forward Habtat for Pollinators in Santa Barbara County	\$157,061.00	Santa Barbara	Riparian
20	Bull Kelp Restoration in Albion Cove	\$125,930.00	Mendocino	Kelp
21	Kings River Habitat Enhancement Project - Gravel Augmentation	\$580,469.00	Fresno	Riverine
22	Preliminary Work at Wolf Creek Community Alliance's Peterson Preserve	\$6,270.00	Nevada	Riparian
23	St. Francis Wetland Restoration and Upland Connectivity	\$205,000.00	Sonoma	Wetland
24	Arroyo Grande Creek Stream Guage Modifcation	\$152,931.00	San Luis Obispo	Riparian
25	Morro Bay Iceplant Removal	\$43,276.00	Monterey	Coastal Dune



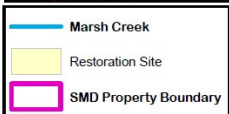
# Top 10 Ranking Applications

Project	Organization	Average Rank	Request	County	Habitat Type
Watershed Restoration and Protection Marsh Creek 7 Water Flows to the Delta	Save Mount Diablo	5.2	\$67,074.00	Contra Costa	Riparian
Restoring the High Elevation Freshwater Ecosystems of Yosemite National Park	Freshwater Life, Inc.	6.7	\$195,000.00	Mariposa	Alpine Lake and Streams
Bull Kelp Restoration in Albion Cove	Reef Check Foundation	7.6	\$125,930.00	Mendocino	Kelp
Elk Creek Acquisition-Eel River Watershed	Bureau of Land Management	7.8	\$310,000.00	Mendocino	Multiple
Enhancing Dune Habitat and Ecosystem Function at Northern Monterey County State Parks	Coastal Conservation and Research	8.1	\$375,387.00	Monterey	Coastal Dune
Morro Bay Coastal Enhacement Through Ice Plant Removal	Morro Bay National Estuary Program	8.2	\$43,276.00	Monterey	Coastal Dune
Manchester State Park Coastal Strand and Dune Habitat Restoration Pahse II	California State Parks Mendocino Coast District	8.6	\$244,347.00	Mendocino	Coastal Dune
Fern Ravine Natural Area Enhancement	Friends of Sausal Creek	9	\$105,418.00	Alameda	Riparian
Arroyo Grande Creek Stream Guage Modifcation	Central Coast Salmon Enhancement dba Creek Lands Conservation	9.3	\$152,931.00	San Luis Obispo	Riparian
Lake Earl Wildlife Area Habitat Restoration Project	California Department of Fish and Wildlife	9.4	\$92,302.08	Del Norte	Estuarine Lagoon

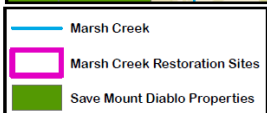
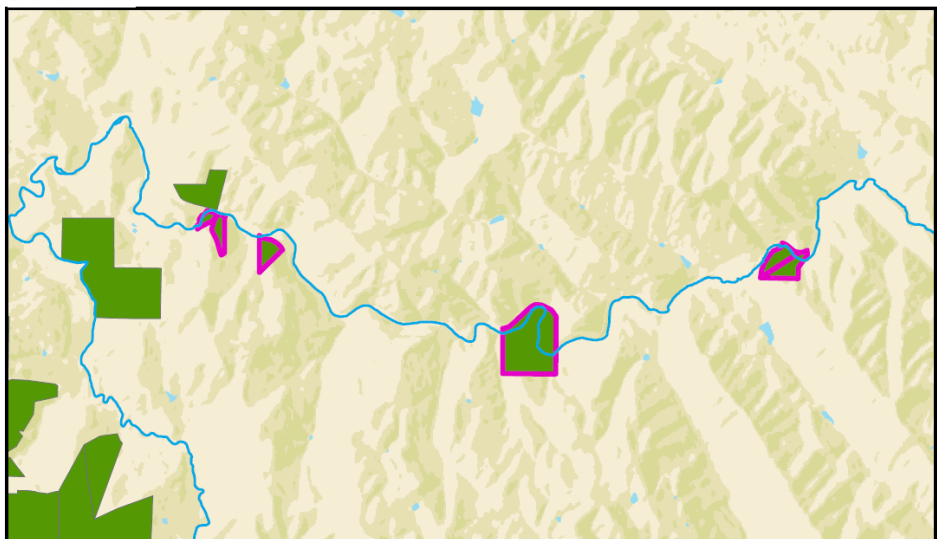
# Applications To Be Presented

Project	Organization	Average Rank	Request	County	Habitat Type
Watershed Restoration and Protection Marsh Creek 7 Water Flows to the Delta	Save Mount Diablo	5.2	\$67,074.00	Contra Costa	Riparian
Restoring the High Elevation Freshwater Ecosystems of Yosemite National Park	Freshwater Life, Inc.	6.7	\$195,000.00	Mariposa	Alpine Lake and Streams
Bull Kelp Restoration in Albion Cove	Reef Check Foundation	7.6	\$125,930.00	Mendocino	Kelp
Elk Creek Acquisition-Eel River Watershed	Bureau of Land Management	7.8	\$310,000.00	Mendocino	Multiple
Enhancing Dune Habitat and Ecosystem Function at Northern Monterey County State Parks	Coastal Conservation and Research	8.1	\$375,387.00	Monterey	Coastal Dune
Morro Bay Coastal Enhancement Through Ice Plant Removal	Morro Bay National Estuary Program	8.2	\$43,276.00	Monterey	Coastal Dune
Manchester State Park Coastal Strand and Dune Habitat Restoration Phase II	California State Parks Mendocino Coast District	8.6	\$244,347.00	Mendocino	Coastal Dune
Fern Ravine Natural Area Enhancement	Friends of Sausal Creek	9	\$105,418.00	Alameda	Riparian
Arroyo Grande Creek Stream Gauge Modification	Central Coast Salmon Enhancement dba Creek Lands Conservation	9.3	\$152,931.00	San Luis Obispo	Riparian
Lake Earl Wildlife Area Habitat Restoration Project	California Department of Fish and Wildlife	9.4	\$92,302.08	Del Norte	Estuarine Lagoon

Presented Projects Include \$1,453,316 in total funds requested



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0 0.5 1 Miles

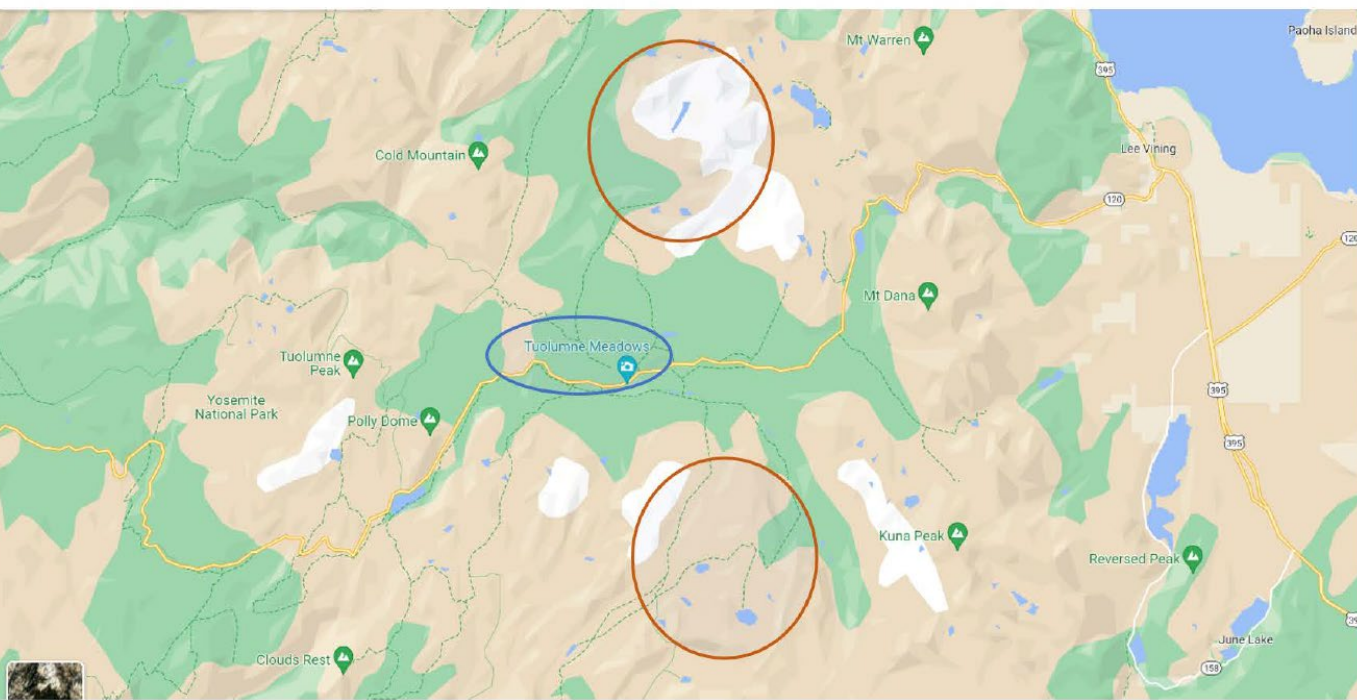


# Watershed Restoration and Protection Marsh Creek 7 Water Flows to the Delta

- Save Mount Diablo is requesting \$67,074
- Total Project Costs \$140,423
- Project is a portion of ongoing restoration of Delta tributary Marsh Creek
- Expands conservation of natural floodplains on adjacent property
- Includes 2,000 feet of cattle exclusion fencing, volunteer removal of invasive species, erosion repairs, installation of 1,000 native plants, monitoring and ongoing maintenance.



Map 1. Restoring High Elevation Freshwater Ecosystems in Yosemite National Park. Target lake and stream locations (red circles) relative to Tuolumne Meadows (blue circle).



## Restoring High Elevation Freshwater Ecosystems of Yosemite National Park

- Freshwater Life, Inc. is requesting \$195,000
- Total project costs are \$272,000
- Eradication of non-native trout to benefit Nevada Yellow-legged frog, American Dipper, brown bat and Rosy Finch
- Includes 2023 field season of ongoing effort
- Partnership with Yosemite National Park, US National Park Service supervising University staff
- Remote sites accessed 10+ miles by foot only
- Gill netting, electrofishing and alternative methods, no piscicides



Electrofishing in Gallison Basin. Setting gill nets on Roosevelt Lake. 2022.



# Bull Kelp Restoration in Albion Cove



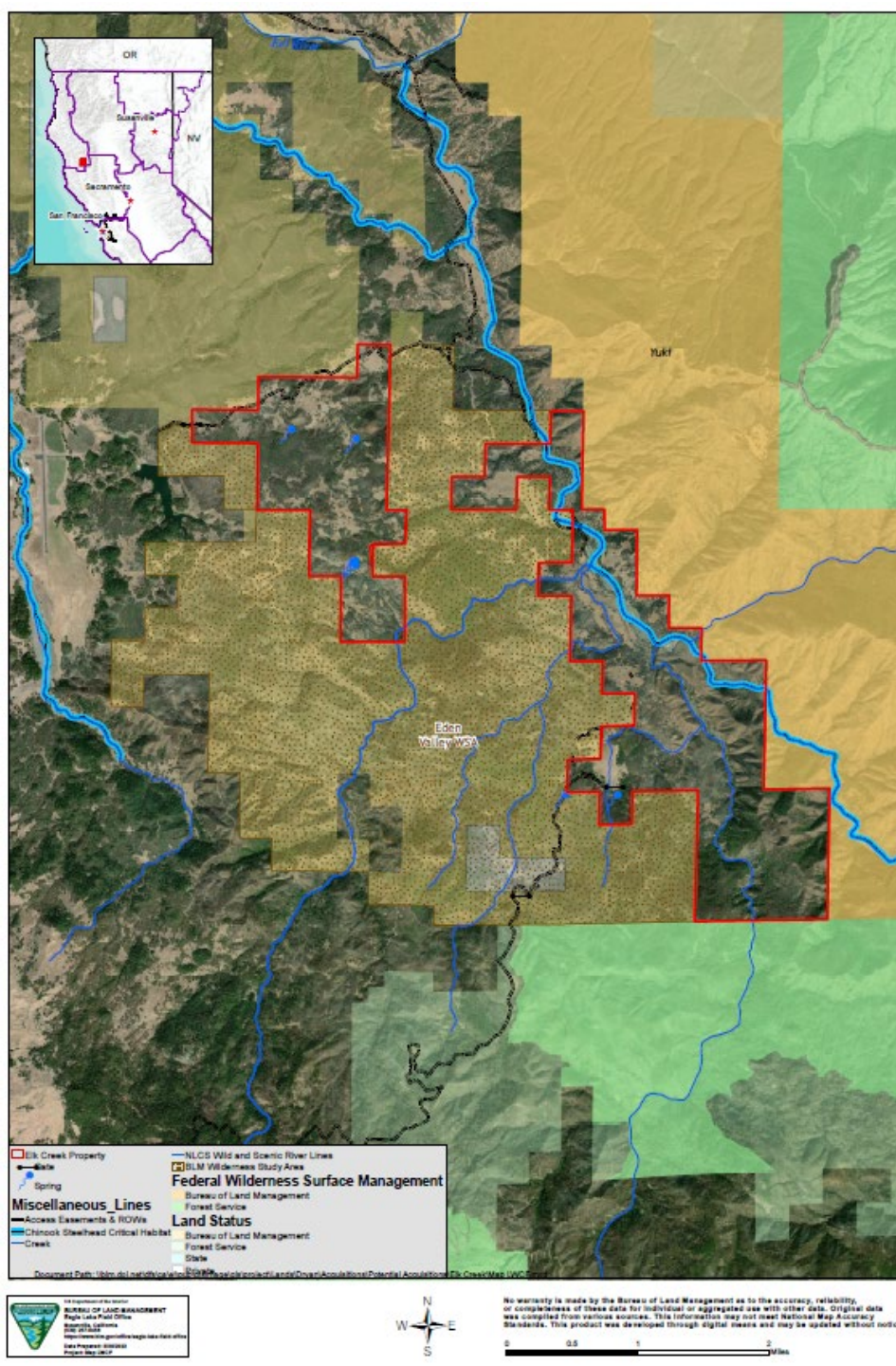
Albion Cove Restoration site in Mendocino County, California. Albion Cove was established in 2021 and is located 14NM south of Noyo Bay. It is approximately 6 acres in size.

- Reef Check Foundation is requesting \$125,930
- Total project costs \$165,930
- Restore kelp forest by controlling the population of urchins using commercial divers at Albion cove in Mendocino County
- Includes establishment of marked project boundaries and transects, commercial dive contracts for removal, monitoring, and volunteer outreach and organization.
- Utilizing methods and thresholds established in successful project in Noyo Bay
- Reef Check made a similar application with was very competitive in Spring of 2022



# Elk Creek Acquisition – Eel River Watershed

- The Bureau of Land Management is requesting \$310,000
- Total project costs \$5,626,790
- Project would acquire and preserve 3,384 acres of habitat including 6 miles of creeks and streams in the Eel River Watershed.
- Flat terrain, springs, meadows, and grasslands make this property desirable for development in cannabis cultivation.
- EEF funds will provide biological inventory and restoration onsite and contribute to active restoration and acquisition
- Surveyed and adjacent areas contain habitat for Tule Elk, Chinook Salmon, Steelhead and Pacific Lamprey
- Previously applied in Spring 2022





Moss Landing State Beach



Zmudowski State Beach



## Enhancing Dune Habitat and Ecosystem Function at Northern Monterey County State Parks

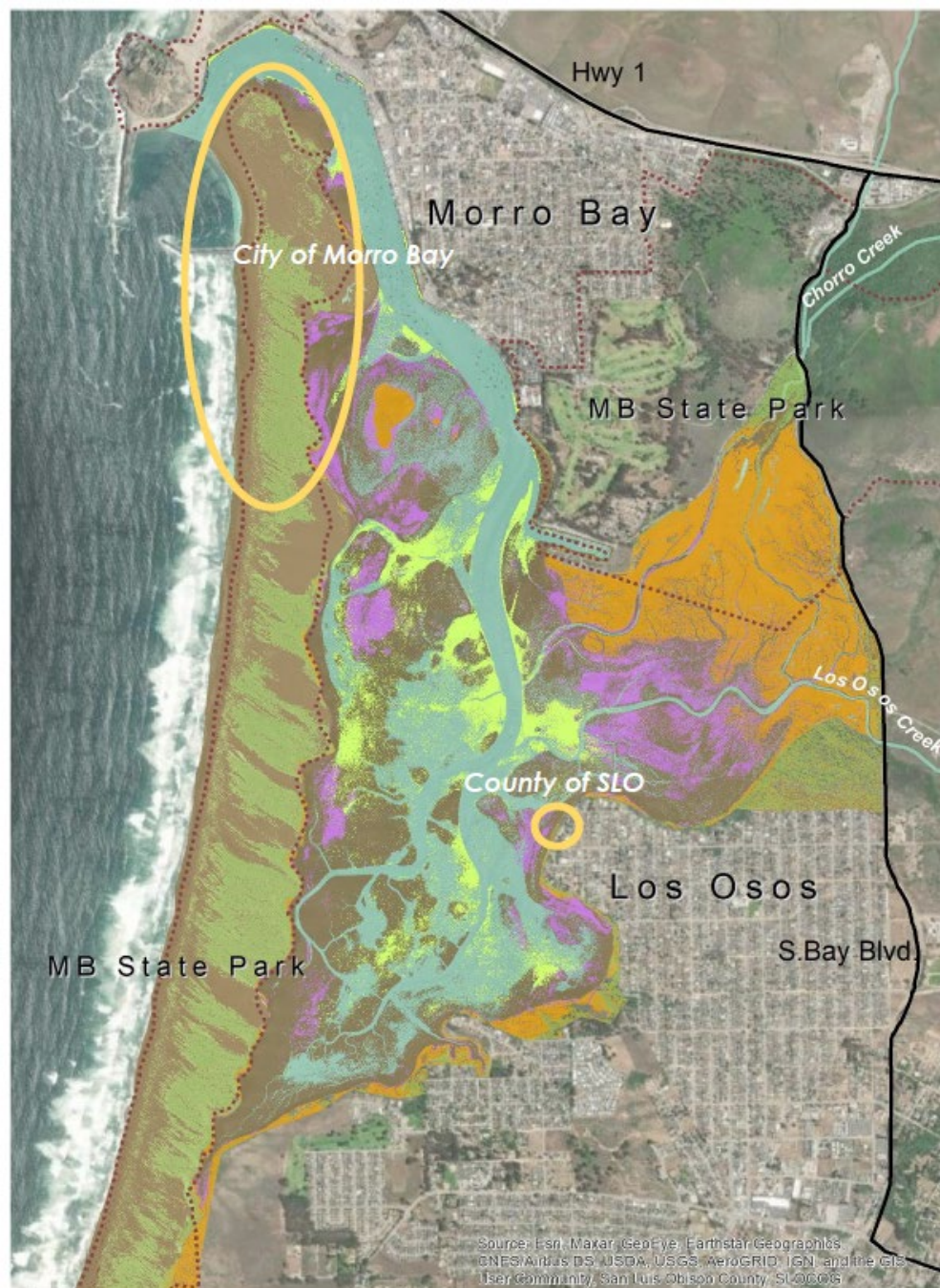
- Coastal Conservation and Research is requesting \$375,387
- Total project costs \$441,387
- Proposes expansion of dune restoration at Salinas River State Beach to other State Park Units including Moss Landing State Beach and Zmudowski State Beach
- Restore 60 acres of dune habitat by controlling ice plant and European beach grass and planting native species.

Figure 2. Proposed restoration areas at Moss Landing State Beach and Zmudowski State Beach



# Morro Bay Coastal Habitat Enhancement Through Ice Plant Removal

- Morro Bay National Estuary Program is requesting \$43,275.88
- Total project costs \$54,525.88
- Enhance dune habitat through removal of ice plant on 105 acres of habitat managed by City of Morro Bay and the County of San Luis Obispo
- Partnership with State Parks which is leading effort to expand successful work on State Parks property to adjacent lands
- Also includes expansion of Cal Poly drone mapping effort for monitoring and treatment planning







# Lake Earl Wildlife Area Habitat Restoration Project

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Lake Earl Wildlife Area is requesting \$92,302.08
- Total project costs \$112,340.40
- Improve habitat quality by removal of Scotch Broom and Tansy Ragwort
- California Conservation Corps Crews will preform mechanical and hand removal and CDFW will perform herbicide treatment

# Top Ranking Applications

Project	Organization	Average Rank	Request	County	Habitat Type
Watershed Restoration and Protection Marsh Creek 7 Water Flows to the Delta	Save Mount Diablo	5.2	\$67,074.00	Contra Costa	Riparian
Restoring the High Elevation Freshwater Ecosystems of Yosemite National Park	Freshwater Life, Inc.	6.7	\$195,000.00	Mariposa	Alpine Lake and Streams
Bull Kelp Restoration in Albion Cove	Reef Check Foundation	7.6	\$125,930.00	Mendocino	Kelp
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Arroyo Grande Creek Stream Gauge Modification	Central Coast Salmon Enhancement dba Creek Lands Conservation	9.3	\$152,931.00	San Luis Obispo	Riparian
Lake Earl Wildlife Area Habitat Restoration Project	California Department of Fish and Wildlife	9.4	\$92,302.08	Del Norte	Estuarine Lagoon

- EEC Deliberation or Public Comment Prior to Funding Proposals

# Technical Review Based Funding Suggestions

Application	Project	Average Rank	Award	Funds remaining	%	County	Habitat
10	Watershed Restoration and Protection Marsh Creek 7 Water Flows to the Delta	5.2	\$ 67,074.00	\$ 682,926.00		Contra Costa	Riparian
11	Restoring the High Elevation Freshwater Ecosystems of Yosemite National Park	6.7	\$ 195,000.00	\$ 487,926.00		Mariposa	Alpine Lake and Streams
20	Bull Kelp Restoration in Albion Cove	7.6	\$ 125,930.00	\$ 361,996.00		Mendocino	Kelp
14	Elk Creek Acquisition-Eel River Watershed	7.8	\$ 310,000.00	\$ 51,996.00		Mendocino	Multitple
5	Lake Earl Wildlife Area Habitat Restoration Project	9.4	\$ 51,996.00	\$ -	56.33	Del Norte	Estuarine Lagoon

Application	Project	Average Rank	Award	Funds remaining	%	County	Habitat
10	Watershed Restoration and Protection Marsh Creek 7 Water Flows to the Delta	5.2	\$ 67,074.00	\$ 682,926.00		Contra Costa	Riparian
11	Restoring the High Elevation Freshwater Ecosystems of Yosemite National Park	6.7	\$ 195,000.00	\$ 487,926.00		Mariposa	Alpine Lake and Streams
20	Bull Kelp Restoration in Albion Cove	7.6	\$ 125,930.00	\$ 361,996.00		Mendocino	Kelp
14	Elk Creek Acquisition-Eel River Watershed	7.8	\$ 310,000.00	\$ 51,996.00		Mendocino	Multitple
5	Morro Bay Coastal Enhancement Through Ice Plant Removal	8.2	\$ 43,276.00	\$ 8,720		Monterey	Coastal Dune

# Fund Condition and Budget

- The fund balance is \$ 2,128,617
- Status quo spending authority for Fiscal Year 2024/2025 is \$750,000
- Spring finance letter sent to Department of Finance: If approved enacted July 1, 2023

1

Carry over prior unspent appropriation balances into current year to make them available for encumbrance

- Total after Carry forward  
\$2,128,617

2

Extend encumbrance and expenditure cycle: 3 years to encumber, 3 additional years to spend

3

Change the Appropriation Reference on the Budget Item from Operations to Local Assistance





# Moving Forward

- Anticipate a Request for Proposals in Summer 2023 after the May Revise
- Next EEC Meeting to select projects in early December 2023
- Target date for projects selected today is Grant agreements on July 1, 2024
- Cristina Perez expects to begin working part time on EEF beginning 2024



# Thank you



Photos of active EEF projects; see latest report for more detail