



**Gavin Newsom, Governor**  
NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD  
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## **Notice of Meeting**

### **WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD**

February 16, 2023, 10:00 a.m.

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

### **Preliminary Agenda Items**

*The public and Board members will participate in the meeting in person or via Zoom. A recording will be posted after the meeting.*

#### **Item Number**

1. Roll Call
2. Public Forum for Items not on the Agenda
3. Discussion and Selection of new Board Chair
4. Funding Status — Informational
5. Herbicide Presentation
6. WCB Appraisal Policy Amendment  
To consider minor amendments to the WCB Appraisal Policy to streamline the appraisal process, facilitate landscape-scale conservation projects, and “cut green tape”.

**Consent Items**

**7. Recovery of Funds**

**8. (CAL FIRE) Mattole Headwaters Humboldt County \$0**

To consider the acceptance of a conservation easement over 95± acres by CAL FIRE under the California Forest Legacy Act of 2007, for the purposes of protecting productive timberland from conversion and protecting fish and wildlife habitat, located near Whitethorn in Humboldt County.

**9. Kramer Ranch Conservation Easement Lassen, Modoc Counties \$1,356,788**

To consider the allocation of a grant to California Rangeland Trust for a cooperative project with the Sierra Nevada Conservancy and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service to acquire a conservation easement over 4,922± acres of land for the protection and preservation of stream flow, migratory bird habitat, seasonal upland wetlands, rangelands and grasslands, and habitat linkages, located near the community of Bieber in Lassen and Modoc counties. [General Fund, Budget Act of 2021 (Sec. 54), Water Supply for Environmental Flows (Stream Flow Enhancement Program) Provision.]

**10. Monitor Island Transfer Lake County \$0**

To consider the no cost transfer of 4± acres of land by CDFW to Lake County Land Trust to own, operate, and maintain in perpetuity for purposes of public access, public recreation, and habitat conservation on an island located in Clear Lake, Lake County.

**11. Yanci Ranch Yolo County \$0**

To consider the acceptance of a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Acquisition grant and the approval to subgrant these federal funds to the Yolo Habitat Conservancy to acquire a conservation easement over 795 ± acres of land for the protection of habitat for numerous important species in the Yolo HCP/NCCP located near Winters, in Yolo County.

**12. Barber Creek Alpine County \$290,000**

To consider the acquisition of 66± acres of land by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) for the protection of critical mule deer winter range habitat, including mature conifer forest and high desert shrub habitat, located in Alpine County. [Habitat Conservation Fund, Fish and Game Code Section 2786(a).]

- 13. Pescadero and San Gregorio Creek Large Wood Placement** **\$461,000**  
**San Mateo County**  
To consider the allocation for a grant to San Mateo Resource Conservation District for a cooperative project with the U.S. Department of Commerce, San Mateo County Parks, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Repetto's Nursery and Florist to install large wood habitat structures in Pescadero Creek in Pescadero Creek County Park and in San Gregorio Creek on Repetto Farm in San Mateo County. [General Fund, Budget Act of 2021 (Sec. 54), Water Supply for Environmental Flows (Stream Flow Enhancement Program) Provision.]
- 14. Bufford Ranch Conservation Easement, Expansion 2** **\$95,000**  
**Kern County**  
To consider the allocation for a grant to California Rangeland Trust to acquire a conservation easement over 64.99± acres of land for the protection of rangeland environment, agricultural productivity, and open space created by working landscapes located in Caliente in Kern County. [California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68, Public Resources Code Section 80111(d)).]
- 15. Escondido Falls** **\$1,500,000**  
**Los Angeles County**  
To consider the allocation for a grant to Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority to acquire 88± acres of land for the protection of threatened and endangered habitat and to provide for future wildlife-oriented, public-use opportunities located near Malibu in Los Angeles County. [Habitat Conservation Fund, Fish and Game Code Section 2786(a).]
- 16. James Reserve Infrastructure Improvements** **\$206,147**  
**Riverside County**  
To consider the allocation for a grant to University of California (UC), Riverside for a facilities enhancement project to increase the safety, resilience, and capacity of the James San Jacinto Mountains Reserve, located on UC Regents land approximately ten miles north of Idyllwild in Riverside County. [Proposition 68, Public Resources Code Section 80111(c).]
- 17. Motte Rimrock Reserve Facilities Upgrade** **\$573,874**  
**Riverside County**  
To consider the allocation for a grant to UC Riverside, to install modular buildings, including utilities, at the Motte Rimrock Reserve in Riverside County. [Proposition 68, Public Resources Code Section 80111(c).]
- 18. San Felipe Valley Wildlife Area, Expansion 6 (Geis)** **\$413,000**  
**San Diego County**  
To consider the acquisition in fee of 50± acres of land as an expansion to CDFW's San Felipe Valley Wildlife Area for the protection of hardwood conifer forest habitat and connectivity corridors that support mountain lion, mule deer and other wildlife, located near the community of Julian, in northeastern San Diego County. [Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c).]

**Presentation Items**

- 19. Audubon Conservation Ranching Program, Phase 2** **\$2,707,000**  
**Various Counties**  
To consider the allocation for a grant to Audubon California for a cooperative project with private landowners to improve ecological function and climate resilience of rangelands by assisting and incentivizing approximately 30 participating ranchers to plan and implement regenerative grazing practices through the Audubon Ranching Program on private lands in multiple counties across California. [General Fund, Budget Act of 2022 (Sec. 53.5), Fish & Wildlife Resources - Climate Change Impacts on Wildlife Provision.]
- 20. Lake Earl Wildlife Area Coastal Dune and Estuary Restoration, Phase 2** **\$1,969,820**  
**Del Norte County**  
To consider the allocation for a grant to the Friends of the Dunes for a cooperative project with the Tollowa Dunes Stewards, CDFW, the California Department of Parks and Recreation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the Tollowa Dee-ni' Nation to remove non-native vegetation, restoring 17.8 acres of coastal dune, coastal prairie, open sandspit, estuarine and freshwater wetland habitat within the Lake Earl Wildlife Area in Del Norte County. [General Fund, Budget Act of 2022 (Sec. 53.5), Fish & Wildlife Resources - Climate Change Impacts on Wildlife Provision.]
- 21. Klamath River Design and Planning Project** **\$2,107,000**  
**Del Norte, Humboldt, Siskiyou Counties**  
To consider the allocation for a grant to the Mid Klamath Watershed Council for a cooperative project with California Coastal Conservancy, CDFW, and USFWS to conduct prioritization, planning, design, and permitting actions for 16 miles of high value waterways in the mid Klamath River basin where restoration activities following the removal of the Klamath Dam will benefit migratory salmonids and other aquatic species. [General Fund, Budget Act of 2021 (Sec. 54), Water Supply for Environmental Flows (Stream Flow Enhancement Program) Provision.]
- 22. Montague Canal Lining** **\$1,270,000**  
**Siskiyou County**  
To consider the allocation for a grant to the Montague Water Conservation District for a cooperative project with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to repair 6,250 feet (1.19 miles) of the Montague Water Conservation District's Main Canal and to dedicate cold water annually for instream benefit to migratory salmonids and other aquatic species in the Shasta River. [General Fund, Budget Act of 2021 (Sec. 54), Water Supply for Environmental Flows (Stream Flow Enhancement Program) Provision.]

- 23. Redwoods Rising Forest Restoration, Phase 2** **\$11,000,000**  
**Humboldt County**  
To consider the allocation for a grant to Save the Redwoods League for a cooperative project with the National Park Service, California Department of Parks and Recreation, and CAL FIRE to enhance forest health and reduce hazardous fuels through selective thinning on 1,000 acres of mixed conifer forest and four miles of road removal in Redwood National and State Parks in Humboldt and Del Norte counties. [General Fund, Budget Act of 2022 (Sec. 83(a)(1)), Forest Conservation (Nature Based Solutions) Provision.]
- 24. Riverside Ranch Levee and Public Access Improvements** **\$4,223,000**  
**Humboldt County**  
To consider the allocation for a grant to Humboldt County Resource Conservation District for a cooperative project with CDFW to complete flood control and public access improvements at CDFW's Salt River Wildlife Area, located 2.5 miles northwest of the town of Ferndale in Humboldt County. [General Fund, Budget Act of 2022 (53.5), Fish & Wildlife Resources - Climate Change Impacts on Wildlife Provision.]
- 25. Truckee River Watershed Resiliency Planning** **\$1,976,000**  
**Nevada, Sierra Counties**  
To consider the allocation for a grant to Truckee River Watershed Council for a cooperative project with the Truckee River Fund, Tahoe National Forest, Nevada County, Tahoe Donner Association, Truckee Sanitary District, and the Truckee Donner Recreation and Park District to complete planning activities across seven work sites in the Truckee River watershed to develop implementation-ready projects to restore mountain meadows and upper watershed functions in Nevada and Sierra counties. [General Fund, Budget Act of 2022 (Sec. 19.58(b)(2)(B)), Cascades and High Sierra Upper Watersheds Provision.]
- 26. Butano Creek Backfield Floodplain and Flow Enhancement** **\$6,052,000**  
**San Mateo County**  
To consider the allocation for a grant to San Mateo Resource Conservation District for a cooperative project with the U.S. Department of Commerce and Peninsula Open Space Trust to create approximately 4 acres of inset floodplain, increase channel complexity along 1,800 feet of Butano Creek, and expand an existing 3.6 acre-feet reservoir to 14 acre-feet for the purposes of storage and forbearance located on Fifth Crow Farm, two miles south of Pescadero in San Mateo County. [General Fund, Budget Act of 2021 (Sec. 54), Water Supply for Environmental Flows (Stream Flow Enhancement Program) Provision.]
- 27. Moss Landing Wildlife Area Shoreline Resilience and Habitat Enhancement** **\$3,672,000**  
**Monterey County**  
To consider the allocation for a grant to Ducks Unlimited, Inc. for a cooperative project with CDFW to construct a new setback levee and recontour a section of the bank along Elkhorn Slough, implement actions to enhance western snowy plover

habitat and water management capabilities, and improve public access and amenities within CDFW's Moss Landing Wildlife Area, located nine miles south of Watsonville in Monterey County. [General Fund, Budget Act of 2022 (Sec. 53.5), Fish & Wildlife Resources - Climate Change Impacts on Wildlife Provision.]

**28. Silacci Ranch Conservation Easement \$2,010,000  
Monterey, San Benito Counties**

To consider the allocation for a grant to California Rangeland Trust for a cooperative project with the Department of Conservation and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to acquire an agricultural conservation easement over 9,418± acres of land for the protection of grasslands and open space; headwater streams, springs, and associated habitats located near the city of Salinas in Monterey and San Benito counties. [Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, Budget Act of 2017, Chapter 14 and 249, Statutes of 2017.]

**29. Fay Creek Ranch \$3,360,000  
Kern County**

To consider the allocation for a grant to Western Rivers Conservancy (WRC) for a cooperative project with the Sierra Nevada Conservancy to acquire 2,285± acres of land for the protection of threatened and endangered species, wildlife corridors, habitat linkages, watersheds, and to provide wildlife-oriented, public-use opportunities near the community of Weldon in Kern County. [General Fund, Budget Act of 2021 (Sec. 53.5), Fish & Wildlife Resources - Climate Change Impacts on Wildlife Provision.]

**30. Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Planning, Augmentation \$4,331,000  
Ventura County**

To consider the allocation for a grant augmentation to the Ventura County Watershed Protection District for a planning project that will complete final design plans for Matilija Dam removal and for three downstream levee construction/rehabilitation projects, essential components of the Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Project located four miles northwest of the city of Ojai in Ventura County. [Proposition 50, Water Code Section 79572(a).]

**31. Topanga Lagoon Restoration Planning \$4,946,000  
Los Angeles County**

To consider the allocation for a grant to the Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains for a cooperative planning project with CDFW, State Coastal Conservancy, California Department of Parks and Recreation, and Caltrans to develop the technical studies, environmental review and outreach necessary to restore the Topanga Lagoon ten miles west of Santa Monica in Los Angeles County. [General Fund, Budget Act of 2022 (Sec. 19.56(e)(7)), Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains Provision.]

**32. Palo Verde Ecological Reserve Restoration \$1,805,000  
Riverside County**

To consider the allocation for a grant to California Waterfowl Association for a cooperative project with CDFW to complete wetland, riparian and upland habitat enhancement at the Palo Verde Ecological Reserve, located in the town of Blythe in Riverside County. [General Fund, Budget Act of 2022 (Sec. 53.5), Fish & Wildlife Resources - Climate Change Impacts on Wildlife Provision, Proposition 50, Water Code Section 79568.]

**33. Imperial Wildlife Area Wetland Restoration, Phase III \$7,178,000  
Imperial County**

To consider the allocation for a grant to California Waterfowl Association for a cooperative project with CDFW to enhance wetland and upland habitat, located on CDFW's Imperial Wildlife Area, 2.5 miles west of the town of Niland in Imperial County. [General Fund, Budget Act of 2022 (Sec. 53.5), Fish & Wildlife Resources - Climate Change Impacts on Wildlife Provision, Habitat Conservation Fund, Fish and Game Code Section 2786dOW.]

**34. Executive Director's Report**

**35. Executive Session (Not Open to the Public)**

**Adjourn**

**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](mailto: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.