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 25, 2023, 10:00 a.m.

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

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

Please click the link below to join the webinar.

Join the webinar

Or Telephone: USA +1 215 446 3656 US Toll or USA +1 888 363 4734 Toll-free
Conference code: 506989

*If you anticipate commenting during the Public Comment period or on a particular agenda item and would like to register your name ahead of time, please complete this Speaker Card (Word) and email to Mary.Ahern@wildlife.ca.gov prior to the day of the meeting.

Attachments

Attachment A – Map of May 2023 Projects

Attachment B – WCB Acronyms

Attachment C – WCB Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives

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
- Alina Bokde, Chair, Public Member
- Charlton H. Bonham, Vice Chair
  Director, Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Michele Perrault, Member
  Legislative Director, Department of Finance
- Damon Nagami, Public Member
- Fran Pavley, Public Member
- Kathryn Phillips, Public Member
- Eric Sklar, President
  Fish and Game Commission

Joint Legislative Advisory Committee
- Senator *Vacant*
- Senator Nancy Skinner
- Senator Henry Stern
- Assemblymember Luz Rivas
- Assemblymember Buffy Wicks – Alternate
- Assemblymember Rick Zbur
- Assemblymember Miguel Santiago – Alternate
- Assemblymember Steve Bennett
- Assemblymember Marc Berman – Alternate

Acting Executive Director
- Rebecca Fris

2. 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)

3. Funding Status – Informational

The following funding status depicts total Capital Outlay and Local Assistance appropriations by fund source and fund number:

GENERAL FUND (0001)	**$669,707,388.70**
May 2023 Board Meeting Allocation:	(69,138,211.00)
Total Project Development:	(229,920,978.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	**$370,648,199.70**
HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (0262)	**$50,582,951.80**
May 2023 Board Meeting Allocation:	(3,541,140.00)
Total Project Development:	(4,314,445.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	**$42,727,366.80**
WILDLIFE AND COASTAL PROTECTION ACT OF 1988 (0786))	**$3,778,917.00**
May 2023 Board Meeting Allocation:	(0.00)
Total Project Development:	(99,690.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance	**$3,679,227.00**
GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION FUND (3228)	**$1,429,951.00**
May 2023 Board Meeting Allocation:	(0.00)
Total Project Development:	(365,000.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	**$1,064,951.00**
CALIFORNIA CLEAN WATER, CLEAN AIR, SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS AND COASTAL PROTECTION BOND FUND (Proposition 40) (6029)	**$2,972,034.05**
May 2023 Board Meeting Allocation:	(2,766,006.00)
Total Project Development:	(5,000.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	**$201,028.05**
WATER SECURITY, CLEAN DRINKING WATER, COASTAL AND BEACH PROTECTION FUND OF 2002 (Proposition 50) (6031)	**$5,276,900.86**
May 2023 Board Meeting Allocation:	(42,955.00)
Total Project Development:	(5,231,067.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	**$2,878.86**

SAFE DRINKING WATER, WATER QUALITY AND SUPPLY, FLOOD CONTROL, RIVER AND COASTAL PROTECTION FUND OF 2006 (Proposition 84) (6051)	**$6,907,684.97**
May 2023 Board Meeting Allocation:	(0.00)
Total Project Development:	(3,140,000.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	**$3,767,684.97**
WATER QUALITY, SUPPLY, AND INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT FUND (Proposition 1) (6083)	**$48,380,169.72**
May 2023 Board Meeting Allocation:	(0.00)
Total Project Development:	(0.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	**$48,380,169.72**
THE CALIFORNIA DROUGHT, WATER, PARKS, CLIMATE, COASTAL PROTECTION, AND OUTDOOR ACCESS FOR ALL ACT OF 2018 (Proposition 68) (6088)	**$90,027,711.92**
May 2023 Board Meeting Allocation:	(7,969,994.00)
Total Project Development:	(7,020,844.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	**$75,036,873.92**
TOTAL – ALL FUNDS	**$879,063,710.02**
Grand Total – May 2023 Board Meeting Allocation:	(83,458,306.00)
Grand Total - Project Development:	(250,097,024.00)
Grand Total Projected Unallocated Balance:	**$545,508,380.02**

4. Project Closeout Presentation – Perazzo Meadow

Consent Items

Items 5-20 are part of the Consent Calendar

5. Recovery of Funds, Thursday, May 25, 2023

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

Fund Name	**Amount**
General Fund	$15,750.00
Habitat Conservation Fund	$35,655.45
Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund	$16,274.00
California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Fund	$3,012.00
Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Fund of 2014	$171,407.68
The California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018	$36,397.19
Total Recoveries for All Funds	***$278,496.32***

Table 2 - General Fund

Project Name	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Yreka Phlox Soap Creek Ridge (Anderson)	$125,075.00	$109,325.00	$15,750.00
Total Recoveries to General Fund			***$15,750.00***

Table 3 - Habitat Conservation Fund

Project Name	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Campbell Ranch, Expansion 1	$394,306.00	$387,340.00	$6,966.00
Hanson El Monte Pond Restoration	$426,000.00	$425,940.41	$59.59
North San Diego County Coastal Wetlands Invasive Species Management	$850,000.00	$850,000.00	$0.00
Rocks Ranch	$2,446,137.00	$2,446,137.00	$0.00
Trabuco Creek Fish Passage Design	$523,000.00	$522,264.14	$735.86
YMCA Camp Jones Gulch Conservation Easement	$2,044,692.90	$2,016,798.90	$27,894.006
Total Recoveries to Habitat Conservation Fund			***$35,655.45***

Table 4 - Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund

Project Name	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Ellis Ranch Conservation Easement	$1,309,600.00	$1,293,326.00	$16,274.00
Total Recoveries to Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund			***$16,274.00***

Table 5- California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Fund

Project Name	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Rocks Ranch	1,568,863.00	$1,565,851	$3,012.00
Total Recoveries to California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Fund			***$3,012.00***

Table 6- Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Fund of 2014

Project Name	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Butano Creek Stream Flow Improvement Planning	$466,696.00	$466,696.00	$0.00
Napa River and Bear Creek Tributary Restoration	$3,000,000.00	$2,992,760.32	$7,239.68
Redwood Creek Enhancement Planning	$198,282.00	$198,282.00	$0.00
Salmonid Habitat Acquisition on East Fork Scott River	$3,020,000.00	$2,855,832.00	$164,168.00
Total Recoveries to Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Fund of 2014			***$171,407.68***

Table 7- The California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018

Project Name	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Blue Diamond Acquisition	$1,660,000.00	$1,655,786.00	$4,214.00
Bufford Ranch Conservation Easement Exp. 2	$95,000.00	$78,894.00	$16,106.00
Elkhorn Slough Ecological Reserve Amphitheater, Phase II	$200,000.00	$199,224.81	$775.19
Lower Cordova Creek Restoration Planning	$248,000.00	$248,000.00	$0.00
Western Placer County HCP/NCCP (Redwing Ranch South)	$1,331,000.00	$1,315,698.00	$15,302.00
Total Recoveries to The California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018			***$36,397.19***

6. Rock Creek Ranch Infrastructure Implementation

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) approve this project as proposed; allocate $865,000 from the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Fund (Proposition 40), Public Resources Code Section 5096.650(a); 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:	Rock Creek Ranch Infrastructure Implementation
Project Type:	Implementation
Applicant/Grantee:	Smith River Alliance
Amount Recommended:	$865,000
Funding Partners:	Smith River Alliance
Landowner(s):	Smith River Alliance
County:	Del Norte
Program:	Public Access
Strategic Plan:	Goals: C.1 Objectives: SI 3.4

LOCATION

Rock Creek Ranch Infrastructure Implementation (Project) is located at Rock Creek Ranch (RCR) along the Wild and Scenic South Fork Smith River, 18 miles inland from Crescent City and surrounded by the forested lands of the Smith River National Recreation Area, Six Rivers National Forest, and Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park. As Northern California's only major undammed river, the Smith River is recognized both for its conservation value and as a prime destination for salmon and trout fishing.

The Smith River Alliance (SRA) purchased 15 acres of the original RCR property in 2002, with WCB as a funding partner. Additional acreage has been added to RCR in the ensuing years, resulting in the 175-acre property that exists today. Since 2002, Rock Creek Ranch has hosted camps, conservation programs, retreats, and community gatherings. Groups come to perform community service work or nature studies across the watershed, join the Annual Fish Count, or hike the uncrowded trails. The surrounding wild forest provides opportunities for fishing, rafting, kayaking, swimming, and other activities.

RCR is in close proximity to Severely Disadvantaged Community block groups (DWR's mapping tool) and serves school groups and youth camps from low-income communities in and around Crescent City. Del Norte County has a high vulnerability ranking on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Social Vulnerability Index. SRA has a long-standing partnership with the local Conservation Corps, which has performed many service projects at RCR and has used it as a training site for new members. The Tolowa Dee-Ni' Nation is a cooperative partner with SRC across the watershed and was consulted in preparation for this Project. The Project budget includes funding for a Cultural

Monitor to be present during any ground-disturbing activities, and for Tribal leadership to participate in the development of the interpretive panels.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
RCR offers a rustic, off-the-grid location for conservation programs, retreats, and community gatherings. Tent camping, lodging at the Ranch House, or day use at the Outdoor Use Area are available to the public by reservation, when not in use for SRA programs. SRA offers stewardship opportunities for corporate, school, and community groups. Youth camps, schools, and service groups receive outdoor education programming along with free or reduced lodging onsite. The Project will improve infrastructure at RCR to support visitation, training, and programs as part of SRA's mission to provide long-term protection, restoration, and stewardship of Smith River watershed resources.

Currently, RCR is not easily accessible for visitors with disabilities. The site has ample parking for the average-sized group, but no ADA-accessible parking. In addition, temporary port-a-potties are the only restroom facilities serving the Outdoor Use Area and campground. The Project will install two double vault toilets with three accompanying ADA parking spots. Vault toilets are preferred over flush toilets because a flush toilet system would greatly increase water demand from the Smith River, especially during the summer, when peak visitor use coincides with the lowest rates of instream flow.

RCR has 5,000 gallons of water storage with a filter to provide potable water, as well as a pressurized fire suppression system. Nonetheless, wildfire preparedness partners including CAL FIRE have recommended onsite storage be doubled because of RCR's critical function as an anticipated staging area during wildfire events in the South Fork canyon. The Project will install a new well with a supporting water purification system. Public utilities are unavailable in the South Fork canyon which means SRA will need to add an additional solar array to support the proposed well.

At present, there are no interpretive panels anywhere in the South Fork canyon regarding the rich cultural and indigenous history of the area. Interpretive panels highlighting the cultural and indigenous history in the South Fork canyon and the watershed, as well as strategic visitor safety signage, has the potential to significantly improve the visitor experience at RCR. The Project supports collaboration between the Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation and SRA on developing the content and language for interpretive panels.

The Project contributes to the goals of Pathways to 30x30 California by aligning with Pathway 1: Accelerate Regionally Led Conservation.

No herbicide use is involved in this Project.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The Smith River Alliance is committed to managing the property for the purposes of habitat restoration and preservation, wildlife-oriented education and research, and compatible public uses, in perpetuity. If at any time during the 25-year life of the Project, Smith River Alliance 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	$47,230	$25,000	$72,230
Interpretive Signage	$36,750	-	$36,750
Project Construction	$597,031	-	$597,031
Indirect Costs	$102,152	-	$102,152
Contingency	$81,837	-	$81,837
Total	$865,000	$25,000	$890,000

Costs associated with WCB funding include:

- Project Management: Contract preparation and oversight, invoicing and reporting, and preparation of Inadvertent Discovery Plan (in the event any cultural resources are found during construction).
- Interpretive Signage: Design, fabrication, and installation of interpretive panels.
- Project Construction: Two double vault toilets with associated concrete pouring (foundation, walkway, and ADA parking), well and solar panel installation, permit fees, and cultural monitoring by Tribal designee.
- Indirect Costs: Incidental or indirect costs not to exceed 15 percent of the total direct WCB award.
- Contingency: Unanticipated project costs associated with WCB-funded tasks only, requires WCB staff approval prior to use.

PROJECT LETTERS OF SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION

Support:

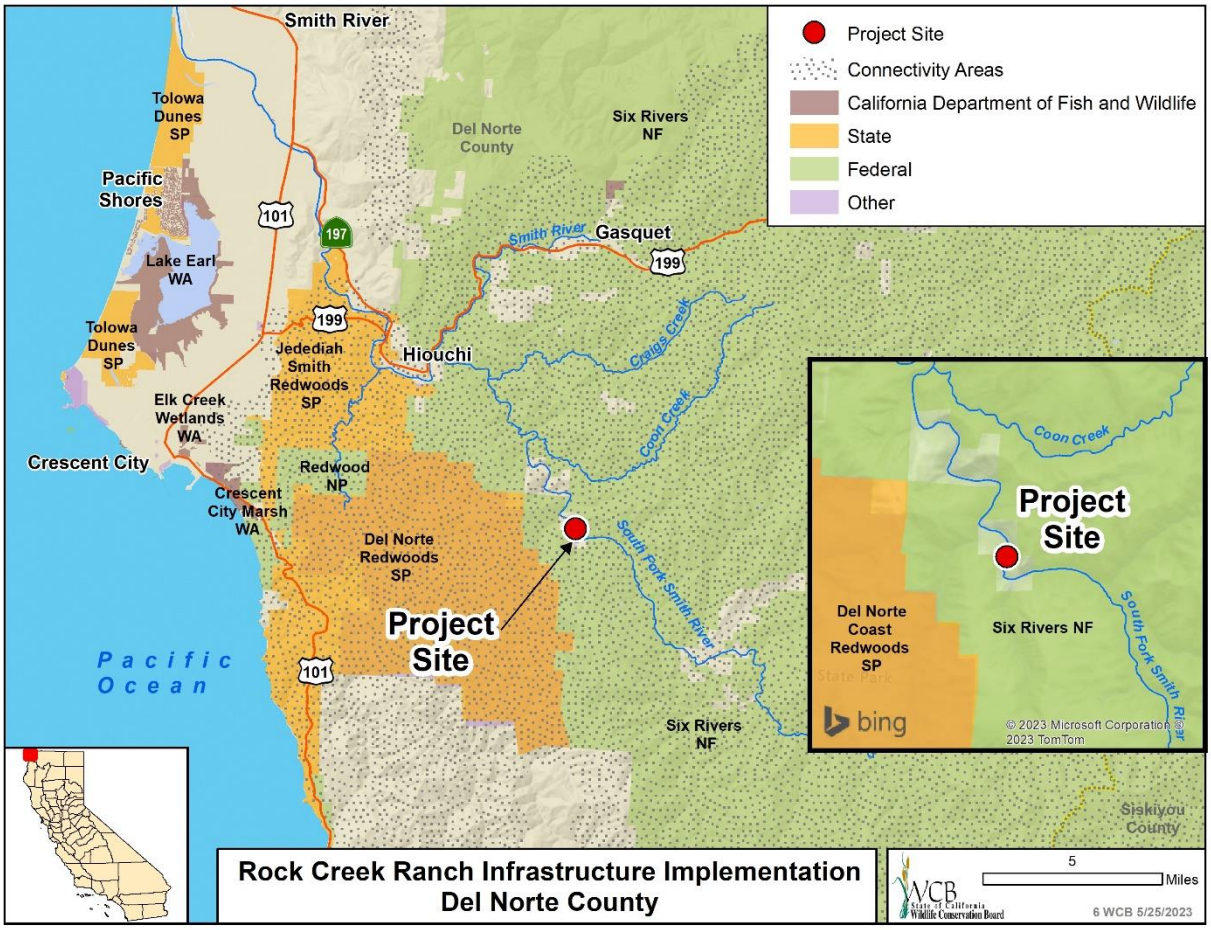
- Mike McGuire, State Senator, District 2
- Chris Howard, Del Norte County Supervisor, District 3
- Ted O. McArthur, Forest Supervisor, USDA Forest Service
- Aaron Babcock, Del Norte Fire Safe Council
- Dana Stolzman, Salmonid Restoration Federation

Opposition:

- None received

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

The Project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines Section 15303, Class 3, New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures, consisting of construction and location of limited numbers of new structures or facilities, and Section 15304, Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land, as minor private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation that does not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate Notice of Exemption (NOE) will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.



7. Cabin Meadow and Rock Fence Creeks Watershed Planning

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate $1,215,000 from the General Fund, Water Supply for Environmental Flows (Stream Flow Enhancement Program) Provision (SB 170, Sec. 54, EY22); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Cabin Meadow and Rock Fence Creeks Watershed Planning
Project Type:	Planning
Applicant/Grantee:	Scott River Watershed Council
Amount Recommended:	$1,215,000
Funding Partners:	Klamath National Forest, U.S. Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station, North Coast Regional Partnership, Quartz Valley Indian Reservation, Northern California Research Center, BBW & Associates, and Stillwater Sciences
Landowner(s):	U.S. Forest Service
County:	Siskiyou
Program:	Stream Flow Enhancement
Strategic Plan:	Goals: B.1 Objectives: SI 2.3

LOCATION

The Cabin Meadow and Rock Fence Creeks Watershed Planning (Project) will cover an area within the Cabin Meadow Creek and Rock Fence Creek subwatersheds, which are tributaries to the East Fork Scott River in Siskiyou County, approximately 17 miles east of Callahan. The Project will be conducted on 4,190 acres of property that is publicly owned by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS).

The Project is located within and benefits an SDAC (as identified using DWR maps). This Project will restore a site that allows public access and enhances public recreation. It will be consistent with federal and state law and result in at least 25 percent of project work hours performed by residents of a disadvantaged community.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This Project will use innovative science-based assessment tools to plan restoration activities for two high-value mountain meadow stream and catchment systems in Siskiyou County to improve stream flow, water storage, ecological function, climate change resilience/adaptation, and public use by improving access roads. Plans will emphasize process-based restoration design approaches that use natural processes to rebuild healthy and more resilient ecosystems. The Project outcome will be a comprehensive, phased, and prioritized restoration plan for 4,190 acres and 19 kilometers of stream, with implementable plans (65 to 100 percent) for an initial set of projects that include 1) at least four high priority culvert replacement/ upgrade designs that ensure site applicability; 2) at least one bottomless arch

bridge with site specific engineered designs with appropriate hydrologic analysis to allow aquatic organism passage; and 3) LiDAR-derived plans and maps and conduct field tours to inform site selection and design of at least 16 km of road.

Additionally the Project will create: 1) treatment plans for at least 500 acres of forested land which may include hand thinning, pruning along forest roads, piling and burning, mastication, and prescribed fire; 2) design criteria to recover at least 8 km of degraded stream channels by removing impediments to physical and biological processes; and 3) plans to recover at least 100 acres of wet meadow and fen habitat which may include in-stream check dams, addition of large woody debris and brush, invasive species removal, and planting of native species, especially plants useful to local tribes such as food sources of materials for basket making.

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	$143,767	$15,225	$158,992
Baseline Condition Assessment and Report	$313,430	$72,150	$385,580
Prioritized Watershed Restoration Plan	$105,084	$23,717	$128,801
Infrastructure Designs and Planning	$197,391	$13,409	$210,800
Habitat Restoration and Management Plans	$112,119	$8,712	$120,831
Environmental Compliance and Permitting	$88,283	$21,110	$109,393
Indirect Costs	$143,926	---	$143,926
Contingency	$111,000	---	$111,000
Total	$1,215,000	$154,323	$1,369,323

Costs associated with WCB funding include:

- Project Management: Grantee will oversee subcontracts, landowner coordination, budget and project schedule, invoicing and reporting.
- Baseline Condition Assessment and Report: Assessments of physical and biological conditions per standard and innovative methodologies.
- Prioritized Watershed Restoration Plan: Develop Basis of Design report with site-specific conditions, technical adequacy of the proposed designs, assessments, data gaps.

- Infrastructure Designs and Planning: Design culvert replacements, a bottomless arch bridge, design at least 16 km of road, create LiDAR-derived plans and maps, and conduct field tours.
- Habitat Restoration and Management Plans: Costs associated with forest thinning, piling and burning, mastication, and prescribed fire. Finalize designs of stream channels. Complete plan to recover meadow and fen habitat.
- Environmental Compliance and Permitting: Complete all required environmental compliance, and permit applications.
- Indirect Costs: Incidental or indirect costs not to exceed 15 percent of the total direct WCB award.
- Contingency: Unanticipated project costs associated with WCB-funded tasks only, requires WCB staff approval prior to use.

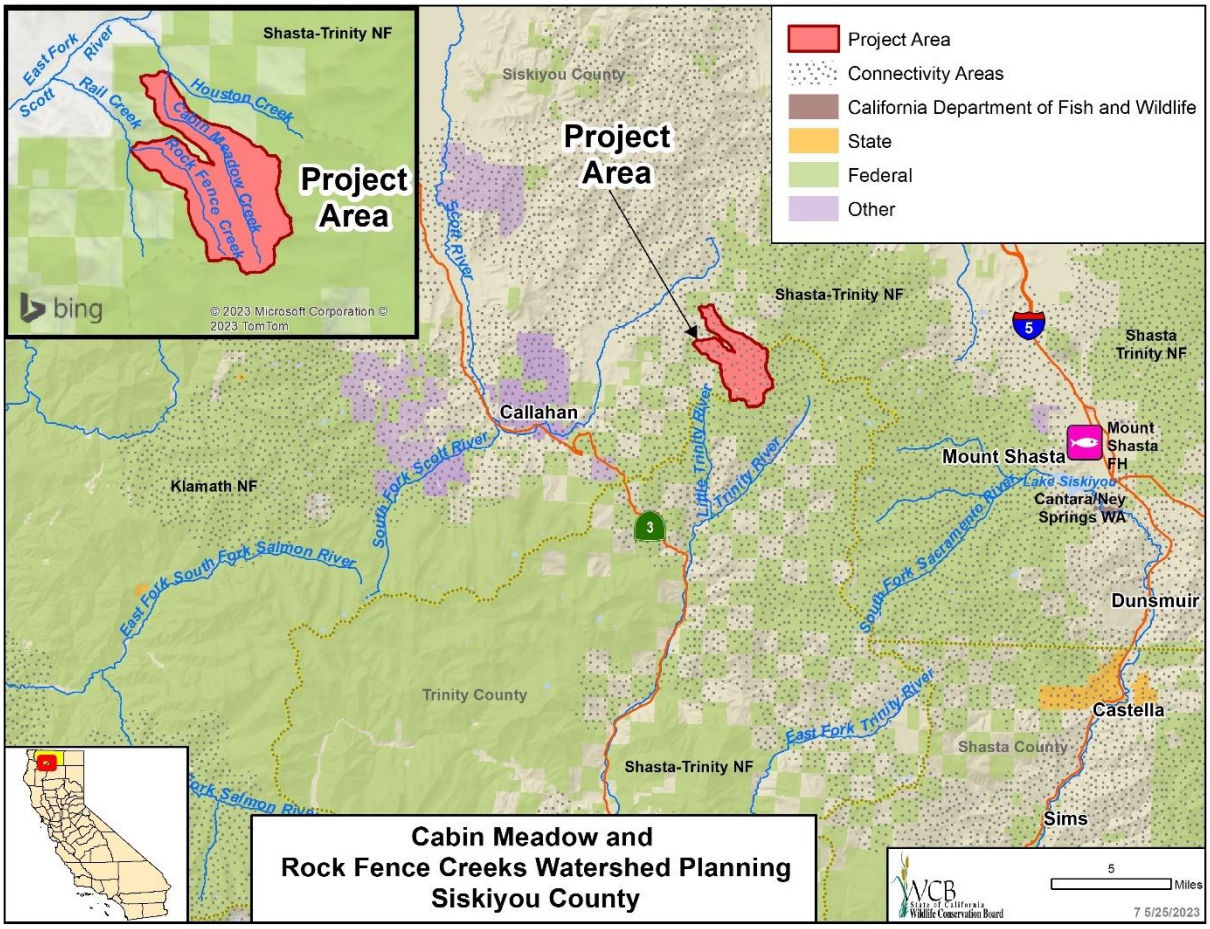
PROJECT LETTERS OF SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION
Support:

- Crystal Robinson, Environmental Director, Quartz Valley Indian Reservation
- Luis Palacios, District Ranger, U.S. Forest Service – Klamath National Forest
- Matthias St. John, Executive Officer, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Brandon A. Criss, Chair, Siskiyou County Flood Control and Water Conservation 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


Project Area
Connectivity Areas
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
State
Federal
Other
Shasta-Trinity NF
East Fork Scott River
Rail Creek
Houston Creek
Cabin Meadow Creek
Rock Fence Creek
Project Area
bing
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Siskiyou County
Project Area
Scott River
Shasta-Trinity NF
Shasta Trinity NF
5
Callahan
Little Trinity River
Trinity River
Mount Shasta
Mount Shasta FH
Lake Siskiyou
Cantara/Ney Springs WA
Klamath NF
South Fork Scott River
3
South Fork Sacramento River
East Fork South Fork Salmon River
Dunsmuir
Trinity County
Castella
East Fork Trinity River
Shasta County
Shasta-Trinity NF
Sims
Cabin Meadow and
Rock Fence Creeks Watershed Planning
Siskiyou County
WCB
State of California
Wildlife Conservation Board
5
Miles
7 5/25/2023

8. State Route 97 Wildlife Migratory Corridor Planning Augmentation

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate $560,000 from the General Fund, Drought Package Provision (SB129, Sec.89(3), EY22); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	State Route 97 Wildlife Migratory Corridor Planning Augmentation
Project Type:	Planning
Applicant/Grantee:	Caltrans
Amount Recommended:	$560,000
Funding Partners:	California Deer Association, Caltrans, Ore-Cal Resource Conservation and Development Area Council, U. S. Forest Service, Western Transportation Institute – Montana State University
County:	Siskiyou
Program:	Habitat Enhancement and Restoration
Strategic Plan:	Goals: B.1 Objectives: SI 1.1, 1.2

LOCATION

The State Route 97 Wildlife Migratory Corridor Planning Augmentation (Project) is located along State Route 97 (SR-97) about 20 miles north of the city of Weed in Siskiyou County.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Northeastern California supports an abundance of wildlife habitat and is home to many wildlife species identified as Species of Greatest Conservation Need by CDFW's State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP). These species benefit from a combination of protected lands and low road density that is typical in that part of the state. A big exception, however, is where SR-97 bisects the southern Cascades.

Truck-borne freight traffic on SR-97 between northern California and eastern Oregon has increased in recent years, thereby increasing the probability of wildlife-vehicle collisions. The annual average daily traffic (AADT) in 2016 was 4,546 vehicles per day with 30 percent of those vehicles being trucks. Oftentimes, truck drivers do not stop for wildlife because it does not pose a significant hazard to drivers, swerving is difficult or dangerous, or it does not result in substantial vehicle damage. According to models, AADT growth is projected to increase 5 percent a year over the next several years.

SR-97 in Siskiyou County is now a well-documented barrier to daily and seasonal migratory movement of wildlife. It was included in the CDFW's 2020 Wildlife Movement Barriers Priority List due to concerns over the road's impact on elk, mule deer, and mountain lions. Caltrans maintenance crews and the California

Highway Patrol (CHP) have also confirmed the high frequency of roadkill, including deer and elk, along SR-97.

The Project will develop designs for a fiber-reinforced polymer (FRP) wildlife crossing structure. The amount requested with the original application anticipated 75 percent complete structure plans to be produced out of the Montana State University/Western Transportation Institute Pooled Study using FRP material for the bridge deck. An augmentation was deemed necessary after further research and discussions by the pooled study concluded that it was not able to produce more than conceptual drawings due to the complexity of FRP and California design requirements. This, in turn, demanded unanticipated resource expenditures to produce preliminary design and quantity/cost estimations, while coordinating with the manufacturer for girder strength properties.

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 Augmentation	Original WCB Grant	Other Funds	Total Cost
Preliminary Design	---	$256,600	$576,100	$832,700
Environmental Document	---	$19,500	$85,000	$104,500
Final Designs	$509,000	$292,900	$20,000	$821,900
Right of Way	---	$15,000	$10,000	$25,000
Contingency	$51,000	---	$207,197	$258,197
TOTAL	$560,000	$584,000	$898,297	$2,042,297

Costs associated with WCB funding include:

- Preliminary Design: Preliminary plans, reports, geotechnical drilling, and preliminary bridge design.
- Environmental Document: Caltrans Environmental Clearance and CEQA and NEPA compliance documents.
- Final Designs: Final plans, contract documents, and engineer's estimate of construction cost.
- Right of Way: Outreach to private owners and obtaining special use permits.
- Contingency: Unanticipated project costs associated with WCB-funded tasks only, requires WCB staff approval prior to use.

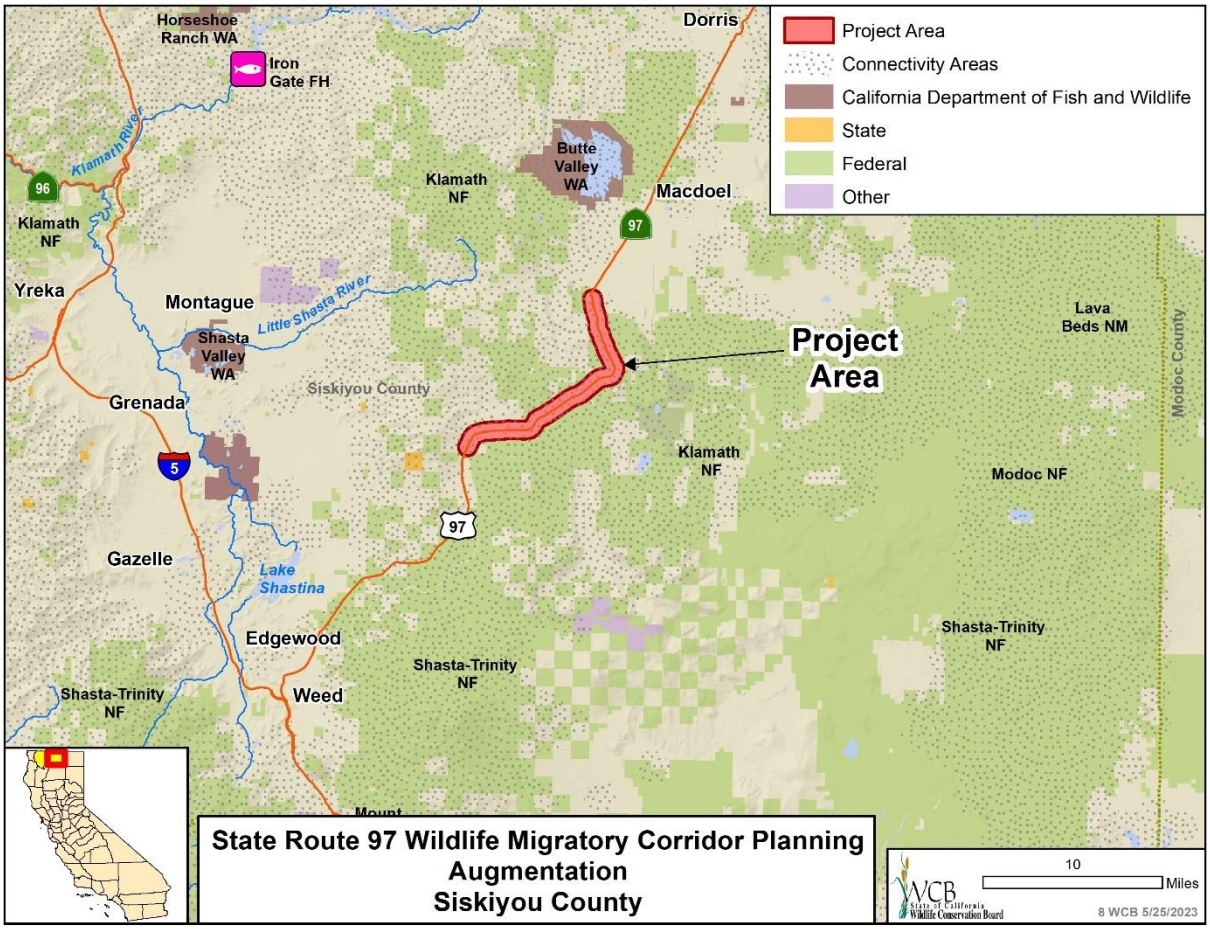
PROJECT LETTERS OF SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION
Support:

- None received

Opposition:

- None received

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS
The Project is 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



9. Table Bluff Ecological Reserve Coastal Prairie Restoration

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate $2,421,000 from the General Fund, Nature-Based Solutions Grant Program - DAC Provision (AB179, Sec.83(a) DAC, EY22); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Table Bluff Ecological Reserve Coastal Prairie Restoration
Project Type:	Implementation
Applicant/Grantee:	Mattole Restoration Council
Amount Recommended:	$2,421,000
Funding Partners:	California Department of Fish and Wildlife, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Landowner(s):	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
County:	Humboldt
Program:	Habitat Enhancement and Restoration
Funding:	General Fund
Strategic Plan:	Goals: B.1, C.1 Objectives: SI 1.3, 2.1, 2.2

LOCATION

The Table Bluff Ecological Reserve Coastal Prairie Restoration (Project) is located on the Table Bluff Ecological Reserve (Reserve), just south of Humboldt Bay, near the city of Loleta in Humboldt County. Table Bluff is a prominent uplifted coastal terrace dividing the fertile Eel River Valley from Humboldt Bay. Table Bluff is a central location for the Wiyot Tribe. The traditional name for the area is Ralauka, and it was the location of a travel route named Laloeka that connected several villages along the lower Eel River and southern Humboldt Bay. Table Bluff was also among the earliest sites in Humboldt County to be developed by settlers for agriculture and served as an early hub for travel and later as the site of a large lighthouse and Coast Guard facility. Beginning with some of the first settlers in the 1800s, the site was planted with non-native trees for windbreaks including blue gum eucalyptus and Monterey cypress. Much of the Table Bluff coastal terrace was tilled and farmed for potatoes and other crops or grazed. Despite the long and persistent history of alteration, the Reserve supports one of the largest populations of the federally and state listed endangered western lily and a remarkable concentration of culturally significant plants for the Wiyot Tribe. The Table Bluff Ecological Reserve was acquired as part of the Eel River Wildlife Area for wetland maintenance and habitat protection with funding from WCB in 1986.

The Project is in a severely disadvantaged community (DWR DAC Mapping Tool) with a median income of less than $47,203. The Project is not considered a disadvantaged community based on the CalEnviroScreen 4.0 (SB 535 Disadvantaged Communities).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Along with a deep history and continuing cultural importance to the Wiyot Tribe, the Reserve at Table Bluff is a site of critical importance to the continued survival of the western lily as it contains the largest population at the southern end of its range and one of just four sites with as many as 1,000 individuals. Western lily has been extirpated from approximately a third of known population sites ranging from the vicinity of Coos Bay Oregon south to the Table Bluff area, and approximately three quarters of the remaining sites have less than 100 individuals. The Project's purpose is to employ science-driven methods to restore native coastal prairie to benefit the endangered western lily and the overall ecological and cultural value of the Reserve.

Western lily and many other culturally significant plants that occur at the Reserve are found in early successional coastal prairie and edge habitats. Sitka spruce and other woody vegetation encroachment into these habitats over the past century points to a disruption of the disturbance regime that likely maintained a mosaic of early successional habitats supporting these species at Table Bluff.

Prior to agriculture and development associated with colonization, coastal prairies were rich with game, starchy edible plants, wild grains, and other useful and culturally important species. Indigenous Californians often maintained these rich, productive early successional habitats by burning, coppicing (cutting back trees/shrubs to ground level periodically to stimulate growth), and sustainable harvest and cultivation practices. Today, culturally significant plants including camas, a culturally significant edible plant that is not commonly found along the coast, co-occur with western lily in the small remaining high quality coastal prairie edge at the Reserve and are mostly absent from the tilled and overgrazed pasture.

Project goals to enhance the reproductive population of western lily at the Reserve include:

1. **Enhance western lily population**: Thinning will reduce tree canopy cover in the enclosure, which is expected to increase western lily flowering and reproductive success. Brush management using grazing goats is expected to reduce overshading and competition by other woody vegetation by lowering the height of the shrub layer and reducing the cover of invasive species.

2. **Restore Native Coastal Prairie Mosaic:** Thinning conifer encroachment into the prairie and managing brush to reduce the overall cover of invasive woody vegetation. Experimental comparison of goat grazing, burning, and both burning and grazing will be studied to determine whether one or more disturbance regimes results in increased relative cover and/or frequency of native herbaceous species. Planting and monitoring cover and frequency of native coastal prairie species in experimental garden plots will determine whether one or more native coastal prairie planting mixes is likely to achieve relative native dominance in restoring degraded pasture.

3. **Enhance Plant Populations of Cultural Significance to the Wiyot:** Re-creating a mosaic of coastal prairie with a focus on culturally significant plants will restore the eco-cultural value of the Reserve where it has been severely degraded by previous land use. Monitoring plots planted with culturally significant native plants will determine whether one or more treatments will result in increased frequency and/or cover of culturally significant native plants.

4. **Create and Implement a Science-Based Long-Term Management Plan:** The information gathered from monitoring the response of western lily and the experimental pilot project will be incorporated into an updated Table Bluff ER Management Plan and will guide future decades of restoration and management. Monitoring results from the experimental pilot project will be incorporated into coastal prairie restoration over the remaining ~100 acres of degraded pasture in year three as the final stage of the Project. The cultural value of the Reserve will be enhanced in collaboration with the Wiyot Tribe by integrating scientific and TEK into restoration and enhancement of culturally important plant populations. The Project will restore early successional habitat, for the benefit of western lily and other culturally significant plants, by removing woody vegetation, reinstate disturbance to maintain open habitat, experimentally test methods to expand native coastal prairie and associated ecologically and culturally important species, and implement tested methods on a broader scale to restore approximately 100 acres of degraded non-native pasture.

Public access will also be enhanced in year three by incorporating an ADA accessible nature trail with bilingual environmental and cultural education primarily developed by contracting with the Wiyot Tribe's cultural interpreters.

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

This Project will not use herbicides.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS
CDFW has adopted a Management Plan, "*Table Bluff Ecological Reserve 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, Mattole Restoration 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	$149,488	$82,800	$232,288
Thinning	$632,000	$20,000	$652,000
Pilot Project	$227,246	$20,000	$247,246
Restoration	$932,158	$10,000	$942,158
Public Access & Interpretation	$120,000	$20,000	$140,000
Indirect Costs	$139,667	---	$139,667
Contingency	$220,441	---	$220,441
Total	$2,421,000	$152,800	$2,573,800

Costs associated with WCB funding include:

- Project Management: Project oversight, design, subcontractor bids, invoicing, reporting, permitting, and travel.
- Thinning: Felling, cable yarding, stump grinding, manual brush and invasive vegetation removal, forestry contractor to manage tree inventory, marking, and permitting.
- Pilot Project: Nursery management, site preparation, plant propagation, plant installation, equipment rental, fencing, native grass and forb seed, and native containerized plants.
- Restoration: Restoration labor, equipment rental, soil amendment, native grass and forb seed, seeding, grazing contract for invasive plant control, plant propagation, and seed collection.
- Public Access & Interpretation: Bench and picnic table purchase and installation, trail construction, and development\installation of cultural interpretive signage.
- Indirect Costs: Incidental or indirect costs not to exceed 15 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:

- Adam Canter, Natural Resources Director, Wiyot Tribe Natural Resources Department
- Vicky Ryan, Acting Field Supervisor, USFWS
- Michael Bowen, Project Development Specialist, California State Coastal Conservancy
- Tony LaBanca, Natural Communities Chair, California Native Plant Society
- Jean-Philippe “JP” Marié, President, California Native Grasslands Association

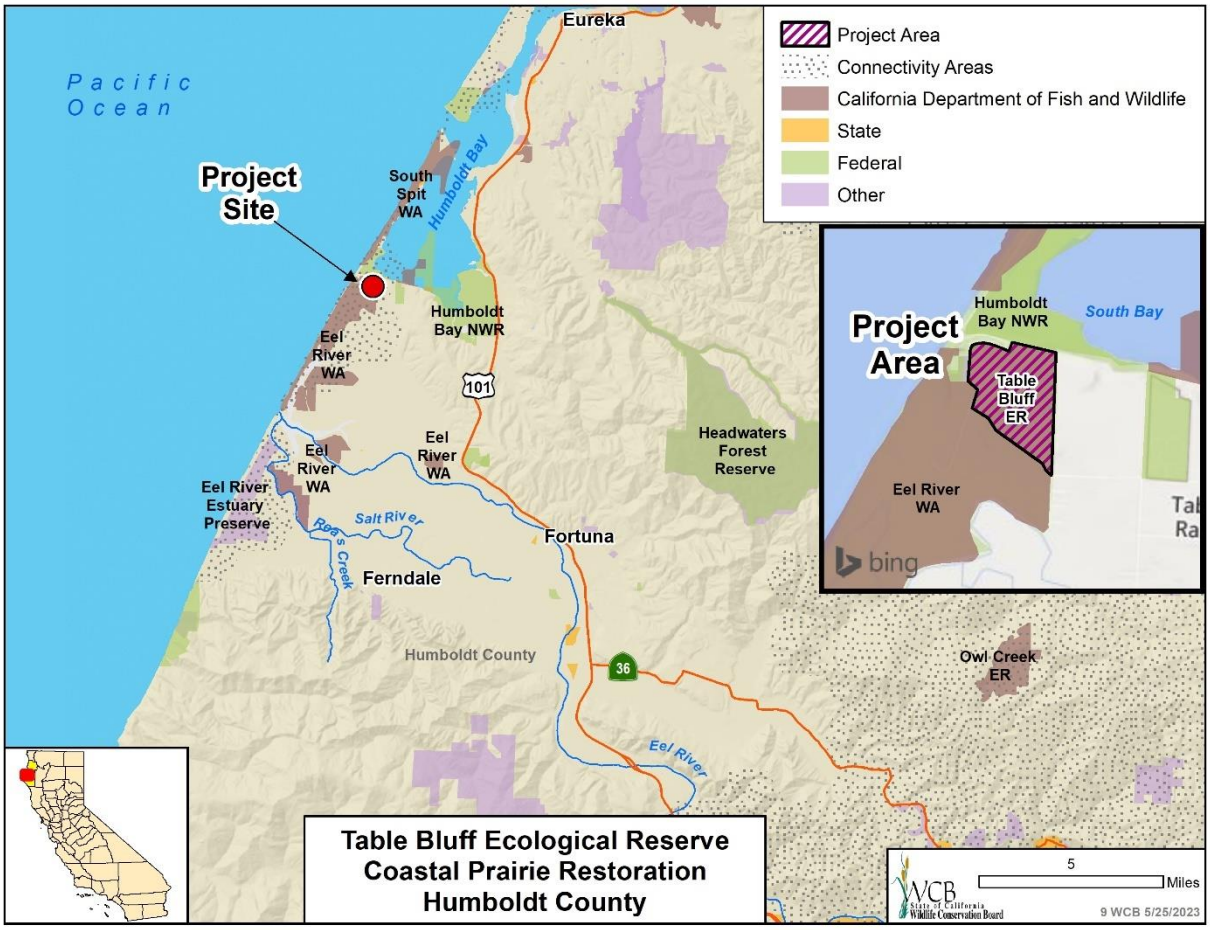
- Julia Michaels, PhD., Restoration Ecologist, Hedgerow Farms/Pacific Coast Seed
- Dave Imper, Volunteer, Eureka, CA

Opposition:

- None received

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

The Project is proposed as exempt from CEQA pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15304 Class 4, as a minor alteration in land, water, and vegetation on existing officially designated wildlife management areas or fish productions facilities which result in improvement of habitat for fish and wildlife resources or greater fish production. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.



10. Tepona Point Public Access Improvements

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate $370,000 from the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Fund (Proposition 40), Public Resources Code Section 5096.650(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:	Tepona Point Public Access Improvements
Project Type:	Public Access
Applicant/Grantee:	Trinidad Coastal Land Trust
Amount Recommended:	$370,000
Funding Partners:	Trinidad Coastal Land Trust
Landowner(s):	Trinidad Coastal Land Trust
County:	Humboldt
Program:	Public Access
Strategic Plan:	Goals: C.1 Objectives: SI 3.4

LOCATION

The Tepona Point Public Access Improvements (Project) is located approximately two miles south of Trinidad in Humboldt County. The Project location is a popular public destination to access onshore surf fishing and traditional surf net fishing, explore tide pools, and view marine wildlife and seabirds from the property's vistas and trail heads. The property is bordered by Luffenholtz Creek, once a cutthroat trout recreational fishery. WCB approved the transfer of the property from CDFW to Trinidad Coastal Land Trust (TCLT) in March 2019. In February 2020, WCB approved the planning project for the public access improvements, which was completed in March of this year.

The Project is not within and does not directly benefit a DAC/SDAC.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Tepona Point is one of the most publicly visited beach and vista points in the region, and this site needs infrastructure improvements that address visitor use, accessibility, and safety. Existing features in need of repair or replacement include a vista point trail, public parking area, and discontinued septic system restroom.

At the Project site, there is limited parking because the upper parking lot is unmarked and visitors tend to park in a disorderly manner, which reduces space for other visitors to enjoy the site. Additionally, the lower parking lot is infrequently used as it experiences regular vehicle break-ins because it is blocked from view from Scenic Drive. There is an out-of-commission septic tank restroom that is deteriorating and is a large physical barrier to the beautiful southern viewshed of Houda Point. Erosion is occurring in several areas of this site, including by the north facing vista point in the upper parking lot, as well as along the overlook trail to Tepona Point, and on the point itself. There is an extremely degraded and unsafe railing at the end of Tepona Point, which does not protect the public.

Currently, there is no ADA access at the site. Trinidad has an extremely steep and rocky coastline, and there are unserved recreational opportunities for community members with limited mobility. The Project will add a vista point with picnic amenities and a restroom that is accessible via wheelchair, is ADA compliant, and available for all community members to use.

To address the problems at the site, this Project will:

- Delineate parking lot lines in the upper lot, including an ADA spot, and mandated parking signage.
- Install a pad and screen for an ADA portable toilet, pathway, and picnic table in the upper lot.
- Convert lower parking lot into picnic area with permeable pavers.
- Fabricate and install benches, interpretive signage, bike rack, bollards, planters, and appropriate drainage in the upper picnic area.
- Install a viewing platform to minimize erosion on Tepona Point.
- Demolish the decommissioned restroom adjacent to the lower parking lot.
- Finalize design and install kiosks and interpretive signage, with input from the local Tribes.

The Project also includes a substantial planting plan for all zones: the Tepona Point platform will be surrounded by bluff stabilizing vegetation, the picnic area includes a native plant garden, and the ADA picnic area and parking lot will be lined with large native perennial trees/shrubs. Many native plants included in the plan are perennials and will promote long term carbon sequestration on currently unvegetated or degraded areas.

Upon completion of the Project, there will be less human impact on the erodible sandy substrate by installing the viewing platform. A nicer picnic area and appropriate signage will encourage more responsible use. Plantings will proliferate as they get older and more robust, which will slow erosion over time. Additionally, a landscape with higher diversity is more resilient to climate change. Permeable pavers will allow rain to recharge groundwater, naturally filtering rainwater runoff.

The Project contributes to the goals of Pathways to 30x30 California by aligning with Pathway 1: Accelerate Regionally Led Conservation and Pathway 6: Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The Trinidad Coastal Land Trust will prepare and provide a long-term management plan before the Project is completed. In addition, the grant will also include a management plan for long-term operation of the Tepona Point. If at any time during the 25-year life of the Project, Trinidad Coastal Land Trust 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	$11,000	$5,550	$16,550
Site Preparation and Construction	$256,300	---	$256,300
Planting	$48,000	$2,000	$50,000
Signage	$20,000	---	$20,000
Indirect Costs	$1,700	---	$1,700
Contingency	$33,000	---	$33,000
Total	$370,000	$7,550	$377,550

Costs associated with WCB funding include:

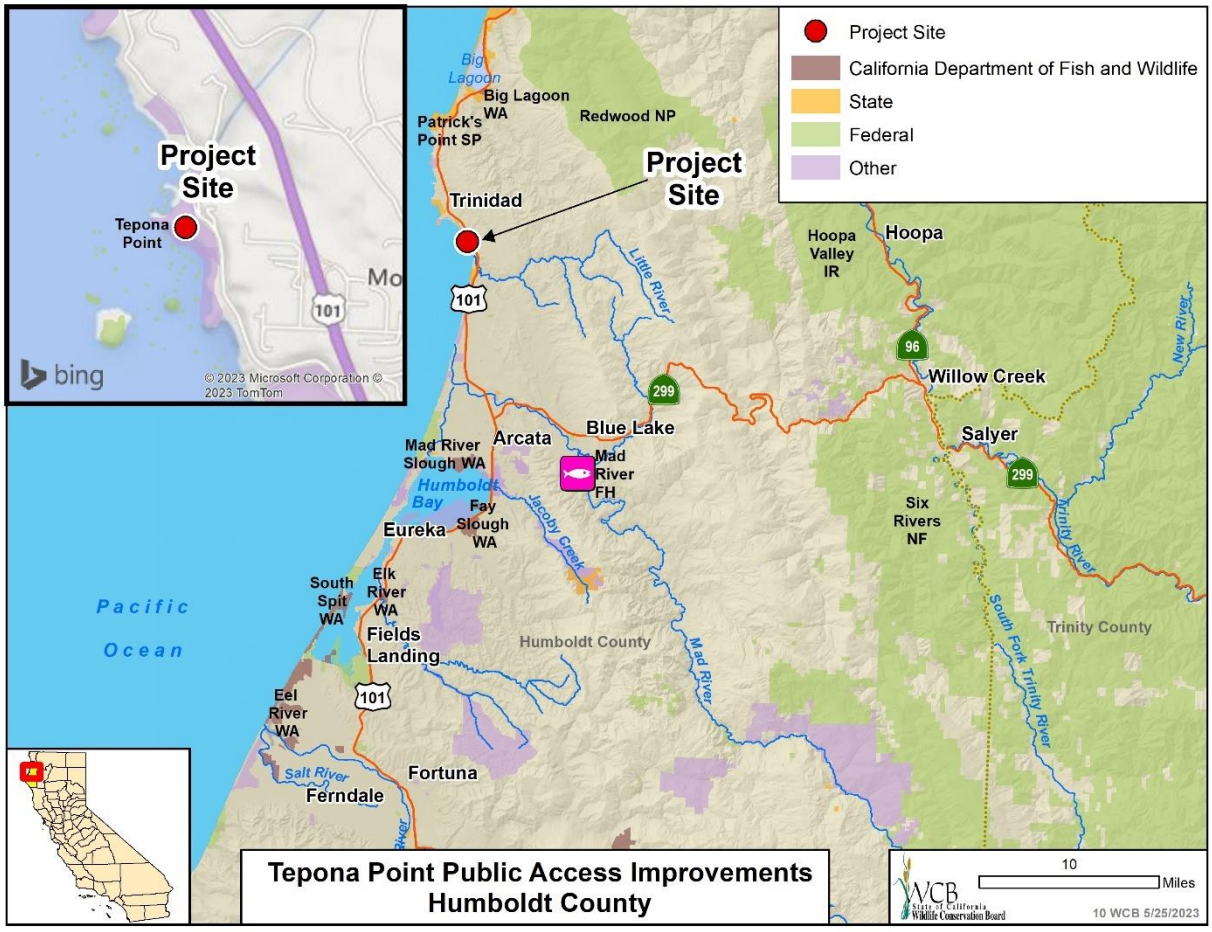
- Project Management: Project administration and coordination, including staff supervision, contractor oversight, and contract management.
- Site Preparation and Construction: Construction, preparation, and installation of public access improvements.
- Planting: Installation of plants around upper and lower picnic areas and vista area.
- Signage: Finalization of design and installation of signs and kiosks.
- Indirect Costs: Incidental or indirect costs not to exceed 15 percent of the total direct WCB award.
- Contingency: Unanticipated project costs associated with WCB-funded tasks only, requires WCB staff approval prior to use.

PROJECT LETTERS OF SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION
Support:
- Steve Madrone, Chair, Fifth District Supervisor, Humboldt County Board of Supervisors
- Becky Price-Hall, City of Trinidad Representative, Trinidad Bay Watershed Council

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 or minor alteration of existing private structures involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use, Section 15302, Class 2, Replacement or Reconstruction, consisting of replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structures will be located on the same site and have the same purpose, Section 15303, Class 3, New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures, consisting of the construction of limited numbers of new, small facilities, Section 15304, Class 4,

Minor Alterations to Land, consisting of minor private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which does not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees, and Section 15333, Class 33, Small Habitat Restoration Projects, consisting of projects not to exceed five acres in size to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhance, or protection of habitat for plants or wildlife. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.



11. Alliance Redwoods Water Conservation – Augmentation

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate $178,100 from the General Fund, Water Supply for Environmental Flows (Stream Flow Enhancement Program) Provision (SB170, Sec. 54, EY21); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Alliance Redwoods Water Conservation – Augmentation
Project Type:	Implementation
Applicant/Grantee:	North Coast Resource Conservation and Development Council
Amount Recommended:	$178,100
Funding Partners:	Alliance Redwoods Conference Grounds
Landowner(s):	California Department of Fish and Wildlife, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Alliance Redwoods Conference Grounds
County:	Sonoma
Program:	Stream Flow Enhancement
Strategic Plan:	Goals: B.1 Objectives: SI 2.3, 2.4

LOCATION

Alliance Redwoods Water Conservation - Augmentation (Project) is located along the mainstem of Dutch Bill Creek, a tributary to the Russian River. It is approximately ten miles from the city of Sebastopol near the communities of Monte Rio and Camp Meeker.

The Project is not within or directly benefiting a DAC/SDAC.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Implementation of this Project will increase stream flow in Dutch Bill Creek. Currently, the Landowner employs two sources of water. Non-potable water for irrigation is diverted from two surface water diversions at a rate of 0.049 cubic feet per second (cfs). Potable water is sourced from a series of sidehill wells adjacent to the stream, then filtered in a treatment facility on the property. Reducing water extraction from the sidehill wells may increase the stream flow benefit by up to 0.02 cfs. To replace potable water diversion from the sidehill wells, the Landowner proposes to move the points of diversion for their two surface water rights to a well owned by the neighboring Camp Meeker Recreation and Park District and located at the confluence of Dutch Bill Creek and the Russian River.

This Project was originally approved by the WCB Board in 2020 and the grant was executed August 2, 2020, with a grant amount of $1,526,416. CDFW also awarded a grant to fund portions of the Project. Since the execution of this grant, construction costs have increased substantially, and the original grants from WCB and CDFW are not sufficient to complete the final portion of the Project which is to

relocate the source for potable water. In response to these construction cost increases, the Grantee has submitted funding augmentation requests to both CDFW and WCB.

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

The Project will not use herbicides.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS
The Grantee 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, 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 Augmentation	Original WCB Grant	Non-WCB Funds	Total Cost
Project Management	---	$89,030	---	$89,030
Water Rights and Permitting	---	$41,342	$21,372	$62,714
Construction	$178,100	$1,280,168	$179,900	$1,638,168
Stream Flow Monitoring	---	$111,575	---	$111,575
Indirect Costs	---	$4,301	---	$4,301
Total	$178,100	$1,526,416	$201,272	$1,905,788

Costs associated with WCB funding include:

- Project Management: Grantee will oversee subcontracts, landowner coordination, budget and project schedule, construction management, submission of progress reports and invoices, review of all technical products, submission data, submission of final report, and post-project monitoring.
- Water Rights and Permitting: Finalize water rights changes required for project implementation. A change petition to move the Points of Diversion for Landowner's two existing appropriative water rights was filed with the State Water Resources Control Board in early 2018 and was posted for public notice in the summer of 2018.
- Construction: Grantee will oversee construction of water conservation measures and non-potable water source tasks, and construction of the potable water components of the project.

- Stream Flow Monitoring: Grantee will conduct monitoring of stream flow and water temperature using an existing stream gauge network located on Dutch Bill Creek.
- Indirect Costs: Incidental or indirect costs not to exceed 15 percent of the total direct WCB award.

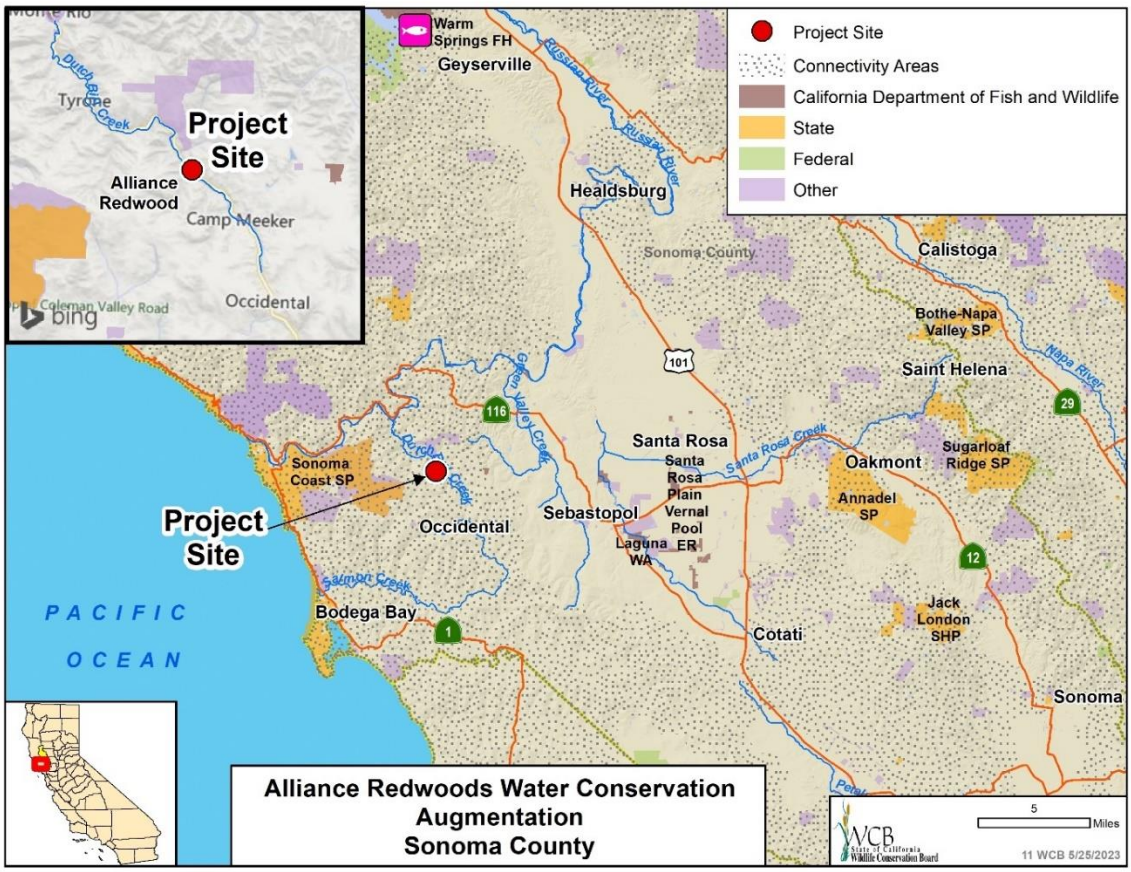
PROJECT LETTERS OF SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION
Support:

- Lynda Hopkins, Fifth District Supervisor, County of Sonoma
- Joe Pecharich, Acting California Supervisor, NOAA Restoration Center

Opposition:

- None received

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS
The Project is proposed as exempt from CEQA pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3) Section 15303, Class 3, New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures, consisting of construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities; and Section 15304, Minor Alterations to Land, as minor alterations in the condition of water. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse



12. Green Valley Creek Rural Water Conservation, Phase II Augmentation

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate $51,219 from the General Fund, Water Supply for Environmental Flows (Stream Flow Enhancement Program) Provision (SB 170, Sec. 54, EY21); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Green Valley Creek Rural Water Conservation, Phase II Augmentation
Project Type:	Implementation
Applicant/Grantee:	North Coast Resource Conservation and Development Council
Amount Recommended:	$51,219
Funding Partners:	National Wildlife Federation, Landowners
Landowner(s):	Multiple
County:	Sonoma
Program:	Stream Flow Enhancement
Strategic Plan:	Goals: B.1 Objectives: SI 2.3, 2.4

LOCATION

The Green Valley Creek Rural Water Conservation, Phase II Augmentation (Project) will be implemented on four rural residential properties in Sonoma County. Each property is adjacent to Green Valley Creek, a tributary to the lower Russian River. The watershed is impacted by extensive agricultural and rural residential development.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Green Valley Creek, a critical coho salmon rearing stream, is impaired by low flows and dry reaches in the late summer months. Ongoing stream flow studies have shown that relatively small amounts of water, as low as 0.2 cubic feet per second (cfs) during critical periods, can boost juvenile coho survival by maintaining summer pool depths and connectivity. Properties in the watershed source their water from surface diversions or shallow alluvial wells adjacent to the stream.

Since 2010, a group of organizations known collectively as the Russian River Coho Partnership, has continued monitoring, outreach, planning, and implementation of stream flow enhancement projects in priority reaches. Completed and ongoing flow enhancement projects in the Green Valley Creek watershed, supported by WCB Stream Flow Enhancement Program grants, include construction of 255,000 gallons of rainwater catchment water storage (Phase I) and designs for a three-million-gallon storage and forbearance project at Mt. Gilead Bible Camp and Conference Center.

In April 2021, WCB approved the Green Valley Creek Rural Water Conservation, Phase II project to implement four rainwater catchment designs on rural residential properties, each designed to eliminate May-October alluvial well withdrawals. The

four designs total over 220,000 gallons of water storage. Additionally, the Project includes continued stream flow monitoring efforts as part of the Green Valley Creek Streamflow Restoration Monitoring and Assessment Program to characterize dynamic hydrologic conditions and programmatically evaluate the flow restoration activities in upper Green Valley over the long run.

The need for an augmentation for this Project became clear when the Grantee experienced higher-than-expected material and construction costs and increased staff time for permitting. The Grantee was able to secure additional cost share, but still requires $51,219 to cover the remaining costs. Without the additional $51,219, it would not be possible to complete the tasks of the original grant.

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

The Project will not use herbicides.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS
Participating landowners will sign 20-year agreements detailing their responsibilities in maintaining and operating the new infrastructure. Forbearance agreements will be recorded to their property deed, in which they will agree to not withdraw water from the creek and alluvial wells during the May to October low flow season. If at any time during the 20-year life of the Project, the North Coast Resource Conservation and Development 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 Augmentation	Original WCB Grant	Total Cost
Project Management and Administration	---	$47,266	$47,266
Permitting	---	$44,937	$44,937
Construction	$51,219	$667,061	$718,280
Streamflow and Habitat Monitoring	---	$37,990	$37,990
Indirect	---	$2,867	$2,867
Contingency	---	$70,000	$70,000
Total	$51,219	$870,121	$921,340

Costs associated with WCB funding include:

- Project Management and Administration: Administering and coordinating the project, including staff supervision, contractor oversight, and contract management.
- Permitting: Obtaining necessary permits.
- Construction: Preparing for construction and installing water tanks and associated components.
- Streamflow and Habitat Monitoring: Monitoring for evaluation of Project effects in upper Green Valley Creek.
- Indirect Costs: Incidental or indirect costs not to exceed 15 percent of the total direct WCB award.
- Contingency: Unanticipated project costs associated with WCB-funded tasks only, requires WCB staff approval prior to use.

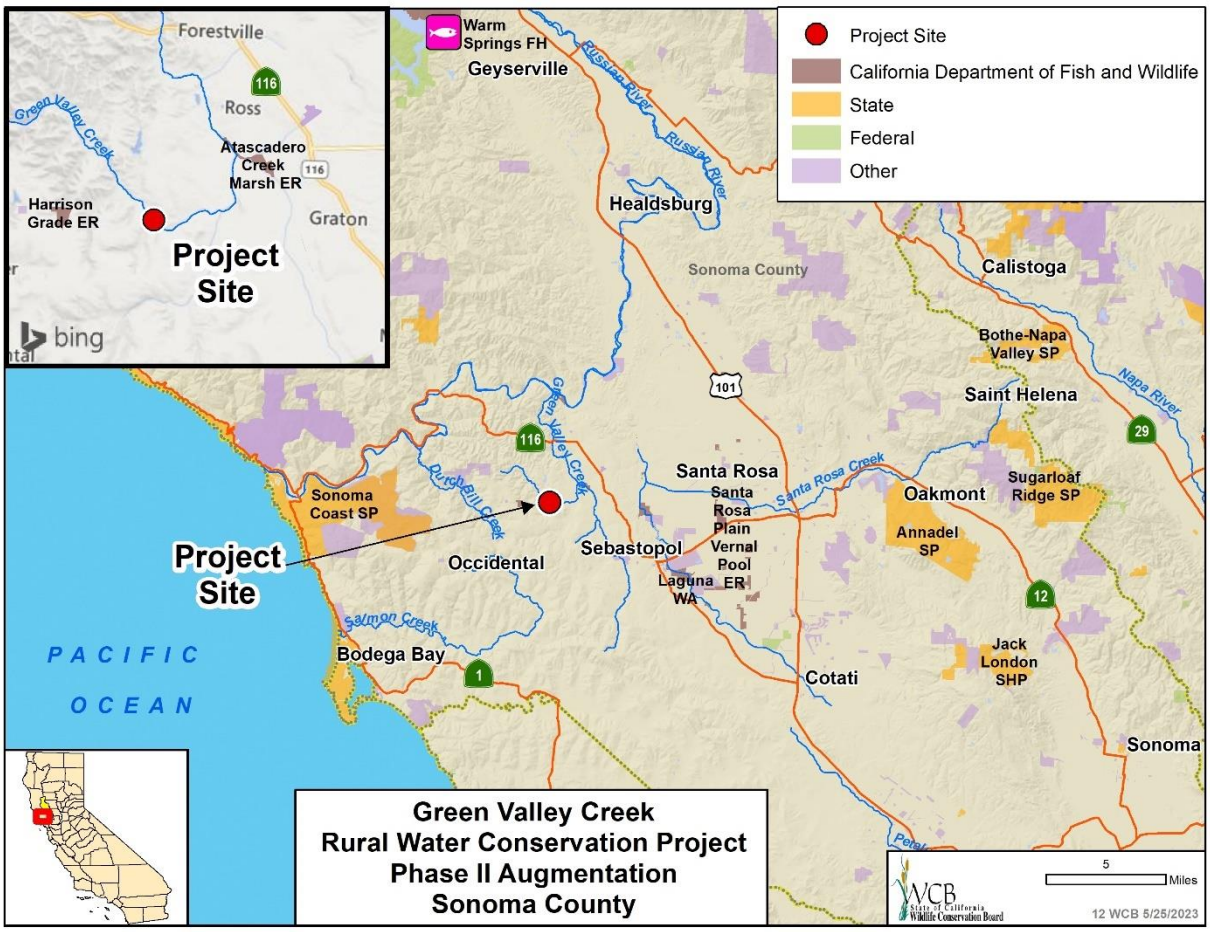
PROJECT LETTERS OF SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION
Support:

- None received

Opposition:

- None received

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS
The Project is proposed as exempt from CEQA pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15303, Class 3, New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures, as construction of a limited numbers of new, small structures. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.


Project Site
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
State
Federal
Other
Forestville
Ross
Atascadero Creek Marsh ER
Harrison Grade ER
Graton
Project Site
bing
Warm Springs FH
Geyserville
Russian River
Healdsburg
Sonoma County
Calistoga
Bothe-Napa Valley SP
Saint Helena
Napa River
Green Valley Creek
Santa Rosa
Santa Rosa Plain Vernal Pool Laguna ER
Santa Rosa Creek
Oakmont
Sugarloaf Ridge SP
Annadel SP
Sonoma Coast SP
Dutch Bill Creek
Occidental
Sebastopol
Project Site
PACIFIC OCEAN
Salmon Creek
Bodega Bay
Cotati
Jack London SHP
Sonoma
Green Valley Creek Rural Water Conservation Project Phase II Augmentation Sonoma County
5
Miles
WCB State of California Wildlife Conservation Board
12 WCB 5/25/2023

13. Bates Ranch

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate $2,000,000 from the General Fund, Fish & Wildlife Resources – Climate Change Impacts on Wildlife Provision (SB170, Sec.53.5, EY22) for a grant to Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency (SCVHA); approve the acceptance of the Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in the amount of $2,100,000 and approve the subgrant of the federal funds to SCVHA; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Bates Ranch
Project Type:	Fee Title (735± acres)
Grantee:	Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency
Amount Recommended:	$2,000,000
Funding Partners:	Peninsula Open Space Trust, Moore Foundation
County:	Santa Clara
Program:	Land Acquisition
Strategic Plan:	Goals: A.1, A.2, A.3, , E.1 Objectives: SI 1.2,1.3, 2.1, 2.2

LOCATION

The property (Property), consisting of a 735± acre portion of Bates Ranch, is located approximately five miles west of the city of Gilroy, in Santa Clara County. The Property is located roughly three miles northwest of the intersection of Watsonville Road and State Route 152 which connects the cities of Gilroy and Watsonville.

The northern portion of the Property is surrounded by undeveloped mountain upland areas, primarily in open space use, such as Little Uvas Open Space Preserve and Uvas Reservoir County Park. Topography in this area is rugged and steep, with an elevation range that varies dramatically from 600 feet to 1,400 feet above mean sea level. In contrast, the southern portion of the Property has a distinctly gentler and more open topography, with an elevation range between 450 feet to 575 feet above mean sea level. The Property is in the Uvas watershed in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Uses along the main access road to the Property are primarily rural, recreational, agricultural, and very-low density residential estate.

The Property is located just north of Mount Madonna County Park and is critical for north-south wildlife movement from Mount Madonna County Park to Uvas Reservoir. SCVHA owns the approximately 357 acres Uvas South property directly north of the Property.

SCVHA is the implementing entity for the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)/Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP) and responsible for ensuring its biological goals and objectives are met. This funding will result in

permanent protection of conservation lands that complement, but do not replace federal mitigation requirements of the HCP/NCCP (Habitat Plan).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
The Property is a portion of the larger 852-acre Bates Ranch. The remainder parcel consists of approximately 117 acres improved with a main residence and swimming pool, guest house, two additional housing units, and 22 acres of vineyards.

The Property was selected for acquisition, in part, because it fills gaps in a network of existing public and private conservation lands managed to promote biodiversity and watershed integrity. When considered in the context of the surrounding landscape, the Property contains all the naturally occurring biotic and abiotic components and ecological processes necessary to maintain fully functioning ecosystems that contain habitats necessary to support the species covered under the Habitat Plan.

Most of the Property is composed of coast live oak forest and woodland with patches of blue oak woodland, California annual grassland, and north coastal scrub/Diablan sage scrub. Approximately six miles of streams, most of which are tributaries of Uvas Creek, run across the Property. The Property contains habitat for the following habitat plan covered species: California red-legged frog, California tiger salamander, yellow-legged frog, western pond turtle, western burrowing owl, mountain lion, and the Loma Prieta hoita, a plant endemic to California.

The Property protects streams designated as critical habitat for steelhead trout and has the potential to support breeding California red-legged frog, California tiger salamander, western pond turtle, foothill yellow-legged frog, mountain lion, spawning habitat for steelhead, and overwintering habitat for burrowing owls. The Property and surrounding lands contain extensive annual grassland and oak woodland, both of which provide upland habitat that enables dispersal among aquatic breeding sites and promotes genetic exchange throughout the region. Land acquisition in the Uvas watershed will support populations of California red-legged frog and California tiger salamander in the Santa Cruz Mountains to ensure that populations on either side of the Santa Clara Valley are protected and managed. These lands may also support secluded rock outcrops or large trees overlooking extensive stands of annual grassland that would provide suitable nesting sites for raptors.

The Property provides opportunities for enhancement and restoration consistent with the Habitat Plan conservation strategy to benefit the natural communities and covered species. It is expected that grazing will be the primary management tool. Currently, the Property is grazed by cattle which is fundamental to the maintenance of the sensitive serpentine habitat, ponds, and riparian areas, while also reducing grassland fuel loads in this sensitive wildland-urban interface.

This project contributes to the goals of Pathways to 30x30 California by aligning with Pathway 1: Accelerate Regionally Led Conservation and Pathway 2: Execute Strategic Land Acquisitions.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS
Title to the Property will initially be held by SCVHA. However, after a period of time, and with the recordation of a conservation easement, title will be transferred to Santa Clara County Parks (SCCP). Once transferred, SCVHA will actively monitor the Property at least annually to ensure that the conservation easement and grant terms are being honored. The monitoring report will note any significant changes to the resources or any compliance issues. If corrective actions are identified by SCVHA, SCCP will be required to implement such actions. The Property will be open to the public with a trail system for hiking, bicycling, and equestrian use between Mount Madonna and Uvas Reservoir County Parks when transferred to SCCP.

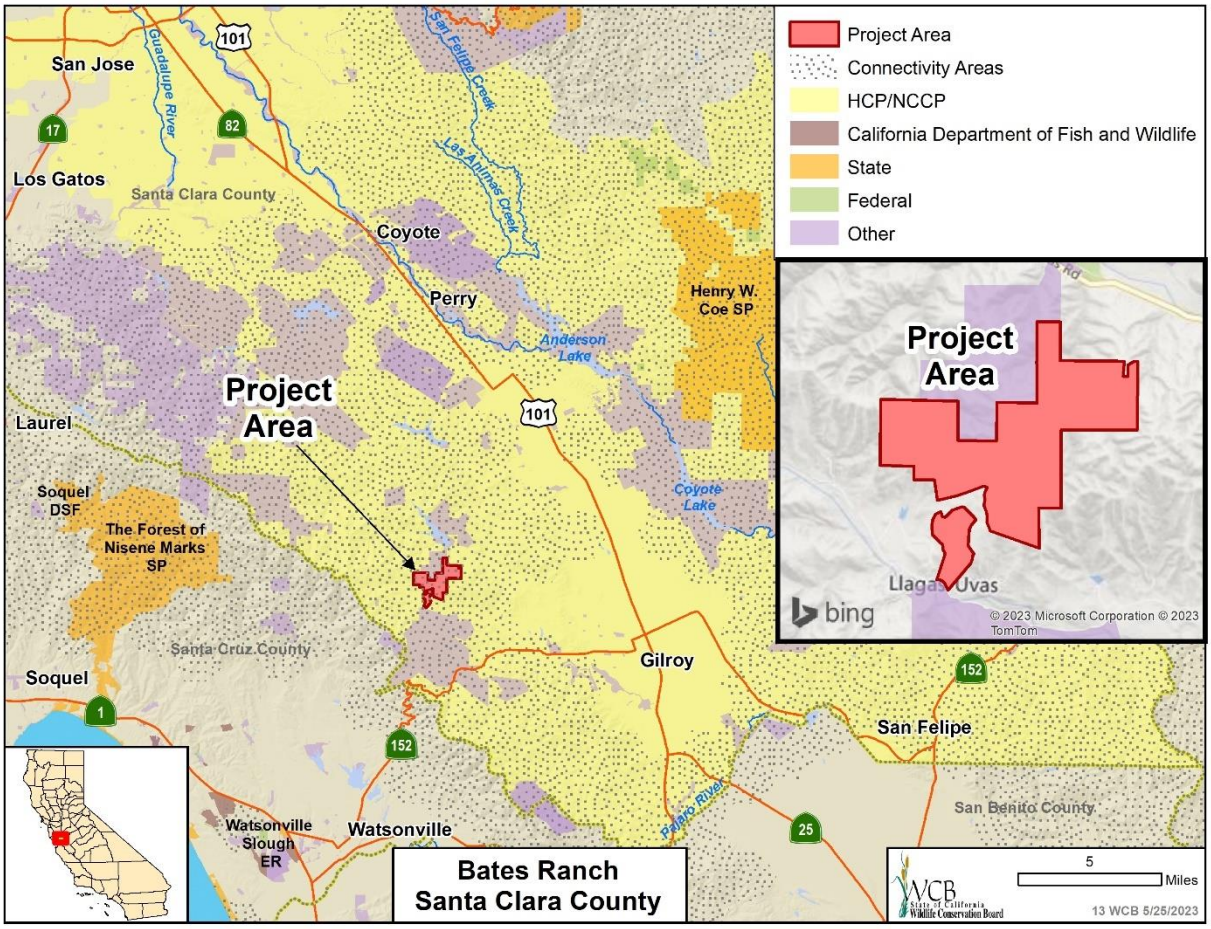
PROJECT FUNDING
The Department of General Services (DGS) approved fair market value is $5,825,000. The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	$2,000,000
USFWS	$2,100,000
Peninsula Open Space Trust	$975,000
Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation	$750,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	$5,825,000

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.


Project Area
Connectivity Areas
HCP/NCCP
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
State
Federal
Other
San Jose
Guadalupe River
101
17
82
Los Gatos
Santa Clara County
San Felipe Creek
Las Animas Creek
Coyote
Perry
Henry W. Coe SP
Anderson Lake
Project Area
Laurel
Soquel DSF
The Forest of Nisene Marks SP
Coyote Lake
Santa Cruz County
Soquel
1
Gilroy
152
San Felipe
Pajaro River
25
San Benito County
Watsonville Slough ER
Watsonville
Bates Ranch
Santa Clara County
Project Area
bing
© 2023 Microsoft Corporation © 2023 TomTom
5
Miles
WCB
State of California
Wildlife Conservation Board
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14. Great Valley Grasslands River Park Planning

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate $1,586,000 from the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Fund (Proposition 40), Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 5096.650(a)(4), and the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68), PRC Section 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:	Great Valley Grasslands River Park Planning
Project Type:	Planning
Applicant/Grantee:	American Rivers
Amount Recommended:	$1,586,000
Funding Partners:	American Rivers, California Department of Parks and Recreation
Landowner(s):	California Department of Parks and Recreation
County:	Merced
Program:	Public Access
Strategic Plan:	Goals: B.5, C.1, C.4 Objectives: SI 2.1, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3

LOCATION

The Great Valley Grasslands River Planning (Project) is located in the Great Valley Grasslands State Park (GVGSP), 3.1 miles south of Stevinson in Merced County. The Project will focus on a 1,083-acre floodplain within the 1,923-acre GVGSP. The GVGSP contains the largest expanse of undeveloped grassland within the Central Valley and is home to rare plant communities, such as perennial bunchgrass, and endangered wildlife species, including California tiger salamander, vernal pool fairy shrimp, and San Joaquin tadpole shrimp. Historically, riparian habitat and seasonal wetlands covered much of GVGSP, but construction of the levee system in the 1950s disconnected the San Joaquin River from this floodplain, causing their long-term decline.

The Project is within a climate-vulnerable community, an area where the overall CalEnviroScreen score is within the highest 25 percent, and adjacent to a disadvantaged community (DAC) Census tract (per the DWR Mapping Tool). The Project will work with community groups, such as Cultiva La Salud and Latino Outdoors, to engage local DACs and plan public access improvements to GVGSP. The Project will benefit both climate-vulnerable communities and DACs through improving climate change resilience and water quality through floodplain restoration and access to nature through meaningful DAC and tribal engagement and will include these groups in regional planning.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Project is a combined restoration and public access project on the conserved lands of GVGSP. Few public access opportunities exist at this park, and walking

trail, wildlife viewing, and non-motorized boating improvements have the potential to dramatically improve surrounding DACs' ability to access nature and the San Joaquin River. The ecological resilience of this 1,083-acre floodplain site is threatened by poor river floodplain connectivity, invasive vegetation, and the legacy of damaging land use practices. This Project will complete 65 percent designs for restoration and public access improvements, CEQA compliance, and permitting required for a shovel-ready, multi-faceted plan that improves the ecological resilience of the site and the well-being of DACs adjacent to GVGSP.

This Project contributes to the goals of Pathways to 30x30 California by aligning with Pathway 4: Enhance conservation of Existing Public Lands and Coastal Waters and 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	$200,270	$10,000	$210,270
Public Access Planning	$193,000	---	$193,000
Restoration Design	$233,600	---	$233,600
Environmental Compliance and Permitting	$589,150	$28,281	$617,431
Monitoring and Long-Term Management Plan	$37,800	---	$37,800
Indirect Costs	$188,000	---	$188,000
Contingency	$144,180	---	$144,180
Total	$1,586,000	$38,281	$1,624,281

Costs associated with WCB funding include:

- Project Management: Technical and administrative services associated with performing and completing work for this Project, including managing the grant agreement, administering subcontracts, invoicing, and reporting.
- Public Access Planning: Collaborative planning for public access improvements with American Rivers, California Department of Parks and Recreation, Latino Outdoors, and Cultiva la Salud. This will include public engagement events and the creation of a Public Access Focus Group to develop a Public Access Feasibility Study
- Restoration Design: Development of 65 percent designs for aquatic, riparian, and upland habitats at the Project site.
- Environmental Compliance and Permitting: Complete CEQA compliance and apply for environmental permitting required for the Project.
- Monitoring and Long-Term Management Plan: Development and implementation of a Monitoring and Long-Term Management Plan.

- Indirect Costs: Incidental or indirect costs not to exceed 15 percent of the total direct WCB award.
- Contingency: Unanticipated project costs associated with WCB-funded tasks only, requires WCB staff approval prior to use.

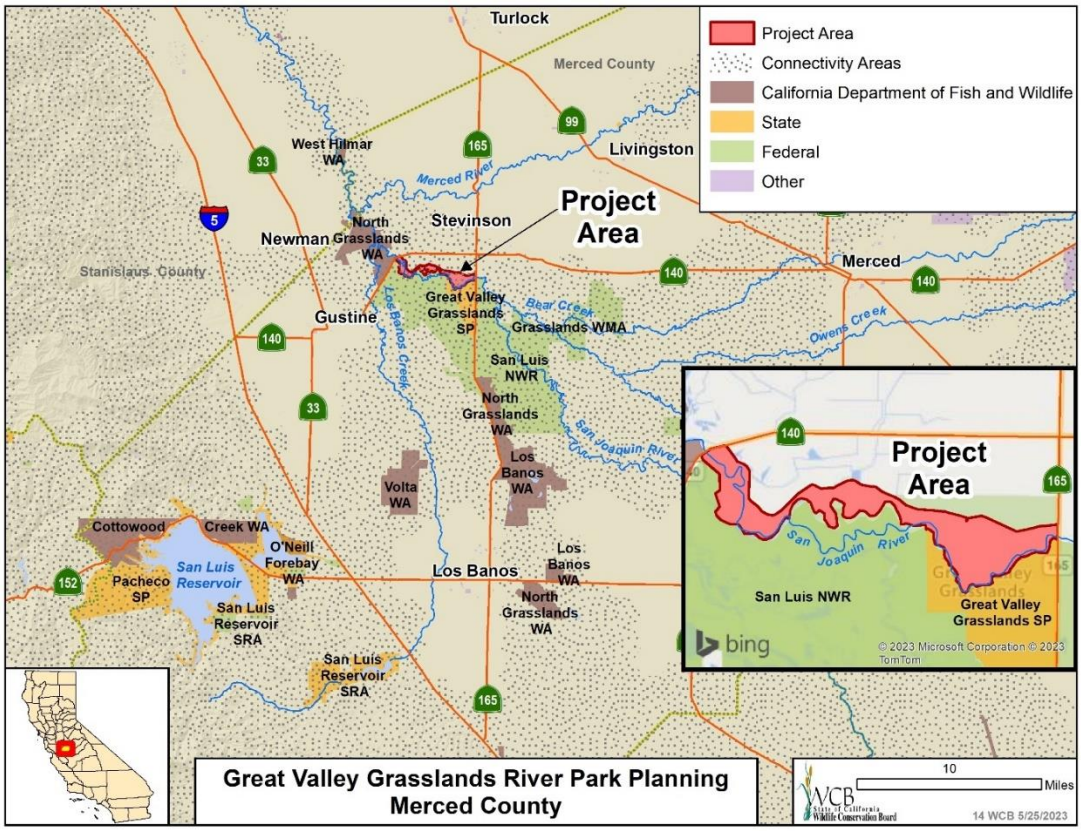
PROJECT LETTERS OF SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION
Support:

- Donald E. Portz, PhD, San Joaquin River Restoration Program Manager, Bureau of Reclamation
- Claudia G. Corchado, Program Director, Central California, Northern Region, Cultiva La Salud
- Vanessa Herrera, Development Manager, Latino Outdoors

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. Winged Restoration on California's Central Coast

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate $303,600 from the General Fund, Monarch Butterflies and Other Pollinators Provision (GF-Pollinators, EY22); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Winged Restoration on California's Central Coast
Project Type:	Implementation
Applicant/Grantee:	American Bird Conservancy
Amount Recommended:	$303,600
Funding Partners:	American Bird Conservancy, Big Sur Land Trust, Cal Poly Corporation, Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Santa Lucia Conservancy, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Landowner(s):	Big Sur Land Trust, Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County, Santa Lucia Conservancy
County:	Monterey, San Luis Obispo
Program:	Monarch Butterfly and Pollinator Rescue
Strategic Plan:	Goals: B.1 Objectives: SI 1.2, 1.3, 2.1, 2.4, 4.2

LOCATION

The Winged Restoration on California's Central Coast (Project) encompasses restoration sites on four properties distributed throughout California's Central Coast from Salinas to Pismo Beach located within the California Central Coast Joint Venture's program area. These include restoration sites on the Santa Lucia Preserve and the Marks Ranch in Monterey County as well as the Santa Rita Ranch and Pismo Preserve in San Luis Obispo County. The Pismo Preserve (WCB 2014 Project), Marks Ranch (WCB 2010 and 2012 Projects) and the Santa Rita Ranch (WCB 2021 Project) were subjects of land protection projects funded, in part, by WCB. Today, these properties are permanently protected through conservation fee-title and conservation easements and are used for cattle grazing, public recreation, nature programming and environmental education, scientific research, watershed and viewshed protections, sensitive habitat protection, and wildlife conservation among other uses.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Central Coast of California is essential to the long-term viability of the western monarch butterfly, a species facing the risk of extinction. As crucial overwintering habitat, a critical migratory pathway, and as some of the first breeding and foraging habitat for the species as populations leave overwintering sites, the Central Coast must be a key player in the recovery of the species. Research is beginning to show the most limiting part of the western monarch migratory cycle appears to be during the overwintering stage and during early-season breeding. The absence of early emerging milkweed species within the Coast Ranges of California's Central Coast

may be playing a determinant role in the dramatic population declines of the species. Management and restoration of early season milkweed habitat in the early breeding zone is expected to be critical to improving population numbers and decreasing extinction risk of western monarchs.

This Project will restore and enhance habitat for the western monarch butterfly and other declining pollinators by collecting, propagating, planting, and seeding early season milkweeds and native, nectar-rich plants in key rangeland habitats in the Central Coast of California. These actions are considered to be the highest priority and most critical for recovering western monarch populations. The Project aims to accomplish the following objectives:

1) restore and enhance degraded oak savannah habitats in early breeding and central coast zones through the propagation, planting, and seeding of milkweed and pollinator mixes;

2) increase plant materials of species that are currently unavailable and critical to western monarch habitat restoration, including the collection of regionally adapted milkweed seed;

3) advance the collective learning on effective methodologies for creating and/or restoring early breeding zone habitat with early spring-emergent species to address a vulnerable period of migratory western monarchs' life cycle;

4) expand the intersection of pollinator and avian conservation through research questions designed to measure the linkages between pollinator habitat restoration and avian bird response through pre- and post- restoration monitoring; and

5) facilitate opportunities for environmental education among students and the public through demonstration sites and partnerships with area schools enabling hands-on experiences in monarch and pollinator restoration efforts.

The Project contributes to the goals of Pathways to 30x30 California by aligning with Pathway 1: Accelerate Regionally Led Conservation and Pathway 6: Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship. The Project will not use herbicides.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS
The American Bird Conservancy has adopted a Management Plan that guides management actions for the property, including management of the properties. If at any time during the 25-year life of the Project, American Bird 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	$35,220	$30,000	$65,220
Planning, Materials, and Planting	$140,500	$137,381	$277,881
Maintenance and Monitoring	$79,499	$30,000	$109,499
Outreach	---	$5,000	$5,000
Indirect	$20,781	$26,896	$47,677
Contingency	$27,600	---	$27,600
Total	$303,600	$229,277	$532,877

Costs associated with WCB funding include:

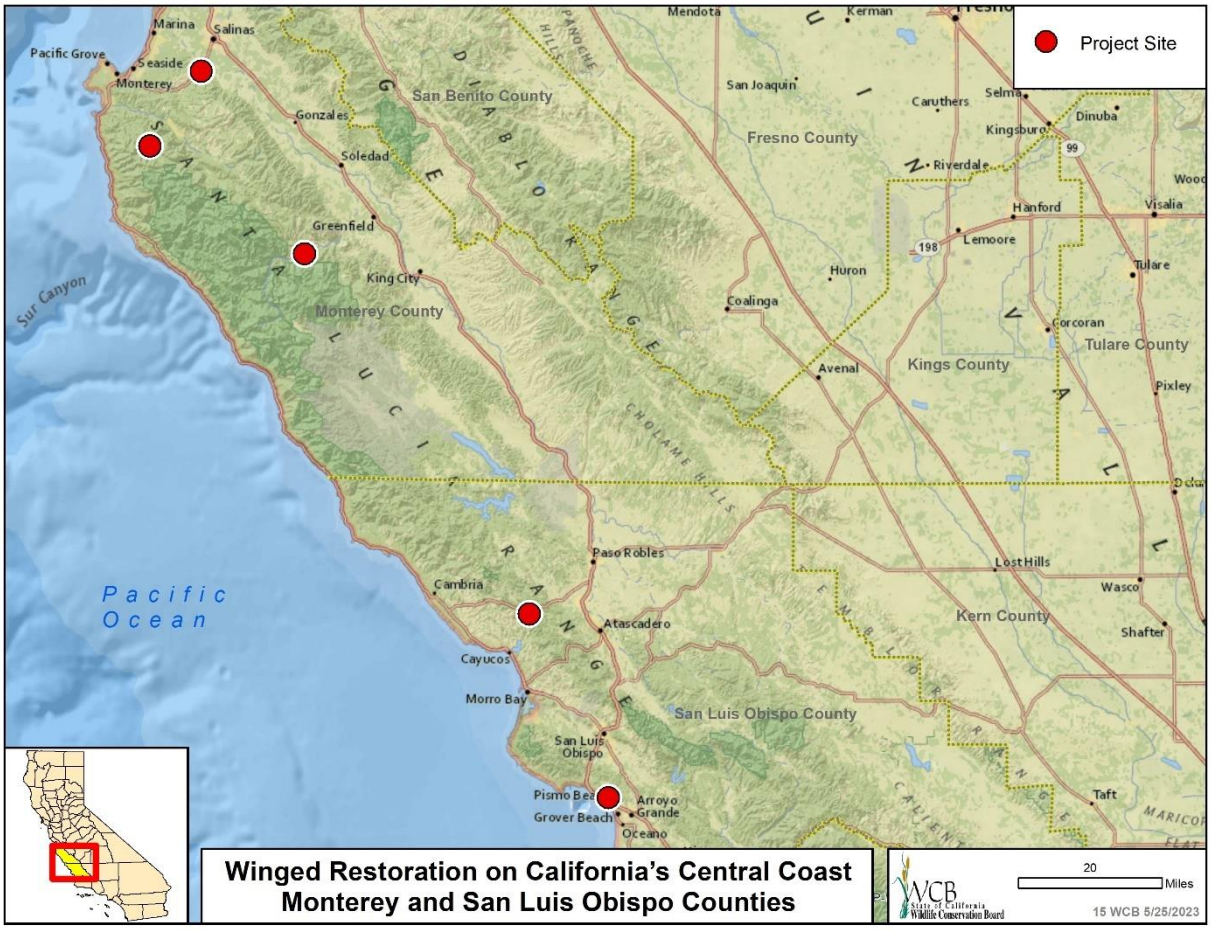
- Project Management: Project management/coordination and reporting over life of the grant, including management plan writing.
- Planning, Materials, and Planting: Restoration site visits (travel), planning, contracting, Indigenous consultation, and training; seed collection, drill-seeding contract, site preparation, pollinator seed purchase; and plug propagation, propagation supplies, milkweed planting and installation, site travel, and equipment rentals.
- Maintenance and Monitoring: Restoration site maintenance, monitoring, and research deployment.
- Outreach: Educational outreach, student engagement, curriculum enhancement, and milkweed waystation improvements.
- Indirect Costs: Incidental or indirect costs not to exceed 15 percent of the total direct WCB award.
- Contingency: Unanticipated project costs associated with WCB-funded tasks only, requires WCB staff approval prior to use.

PROJECT LETTERS OF SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION
Support:
- Wendy Caldwell, Executive Director, Monarch Joint Venture
- Clinton Francis, Associate Professor, Cal Poly Biological Sciences
- Brian Woodward, PhD., Santa Lucia Conservancy
- Dena Paololli, Restoration Ecologist, The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo
- Stephen P. Henry, Field Supervisor, USFWS

Opposition:
- None received

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

The Project is proposed as exempt from CEQA pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15304, Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land, consisting of minor public alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.



16. Tricolored Blackbird Wetland Habitat Enhancement Augmentation

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate $640,000 from the 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:	Tricolored Blackbird Wetland Habitat Enhancement Augmentation
Project Type:	Implementation
Applicant/Grantee:	Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
Amount Recommended:	$640,000
Funding Partners:	Ducks Unlimited, Inc., U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Audubon California, private landowners
Landowner(s):	James Lawrence and Leonard Paul Lawrence Trust of 1991
County:	Kern
Program:	Inland Wetlands Conservation
Funding:	Habitat Conservation Fund
Strategic Plan:	Goals: B.1 Objectives: SI 1.3, 2.4, 2.5

LOCATION

The Tricolored Blackbird Wetland Habitat Enhancement Augmentation (Project) is located within the Lawrence Duck Club (LCD), which is composed of two properties in Kern County: Lawrence-East (LE) on 130 acres approximately 2.25 miles east of Kern National Wildlife Refuge (KNWR) and Lawrence-DeLorenzo (LD) on 43 acres, adjacent to KNWR. Both tracts are primarily used for hunting and managed as seasonal wetlands with semi-permanent emergent wetlands that are utilized by waterfowl and their broods.

The Project is in a severely disadvantaged community (DWR Mapping Tool) with a median income of less than $47,203. It is also considered a disadvantaged community based on CalEnviroScreen 4.0 (SB 535 Disadvantaged Communities).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Tricolored Blackbird (TRBL) are mostly endemic to California, with the majority of the species' breeding population occurring in the Central Valley. Habitat loss, including wetland habitat and grassland habitat important to foraging, has led to long-term population declines across the Central Valley. TRBL numbered in the millions in the 1930s and nested in colonies of up to 250,000 adults. In 2017, the statewide survey documented approximately 178,000 TRBL, down from approximately 395,000 in 2008. In 2018, TRBL was designated as a threatened species under the California Endangered Species Act.

This Project will increase seasonal and semi-permanent wetlands in the Tulare Basin for the benefit of TRBL and breeding waterfowl, two target groups/species in

the Central Valley Joint Venture's (CVJV) Implementation Plan, by restoring and enhancing wetland habitat to encourage TRBL to nest on the duck clubs instead of on nearby agricultural fields. KNWR and nearby duck clubs manage their seasonal wetlands to attract wintering waterfowl, but drawdown most of their wetland units in spring to encourage growth of annual grasses and sedges. These drawdowns benefit migrating shorebirds and other waterbirds but are not ideal for nesting TRBL or breeding waterfowl.

Nesting TRBL and waterfowl utilize semi-permanent wetlands that are flooded into July. This Project will provide water from February through July to grow cattails and softstem bulrush, which are known to support TRBL colonies. By targeting duck clubs with existing brood ponds and improving water infrastructure, managers can provide habitat for both breeding waterfowl and TRBL. While the enhancement projects will be designed to target TRBL and breeding waterfowl, a suite of species is expected to benefit, including yellow-headed blackbird, white-faced ibis, least bittern, northern harrier, and western pond turtle.

The Project has two primary objectives: 1) providing spring TRBL nesting habitat, and 2) providing breeding waterfowl habitat on private wetlands in Kern County through water infrastructure improvements and installation of solar arrays. For the wetland enhancement at LD, a solar array will be installed at a pre-selected site. A sump will be constructed to collect all irrigation and drainage water. Water from the sump will be pumped out and re-circulated with a new tailwater pump. Re-circulated water will be pumped back into the existing semi-permanent wetland (brood pond) and into a newly constructed brood pond. The new brood pond will expand the wetland footprint by three acres. A solar array and re-circulation system will provide irrigation during the summer months providing high quality wetland habitat.

The LE wetland enhancement will create a 58.5-acre semi-permanent emergent wetland adjacent to Poso Creek. Water will be supplied by a new pipeline from an existing well.

This augmentation will support the purchase and installation of lift pumps, pipelines, and water control infrastructure for the Project. Costs for these items have increased considerably since the Project budget was estimated in 2019. Material and labor costs have doubled in the few years since the project was approved for funding. The augmentation is necessary for the water efficiency improvements to the semi-permanent brood ponds which will provide nesting habitat for tricolored blackbird and waterfowl.

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

The Project will not use herbicides.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS
The Grantee and landowner 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, 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 Augmentation	Original WCB Grant	Non-WCB Funds	Total Cost
Project Management	$18,103	$163,776	$58,953	$240,832
Site Prep	$26,500	$52,416	---	$78,916
Construction	$532,100	$440,093	$217,296	$1,189,489
Contingencies	$63,297	$62,715	---	$126,012
Total	$640,000	$719,000	$276,249	$1,635,249

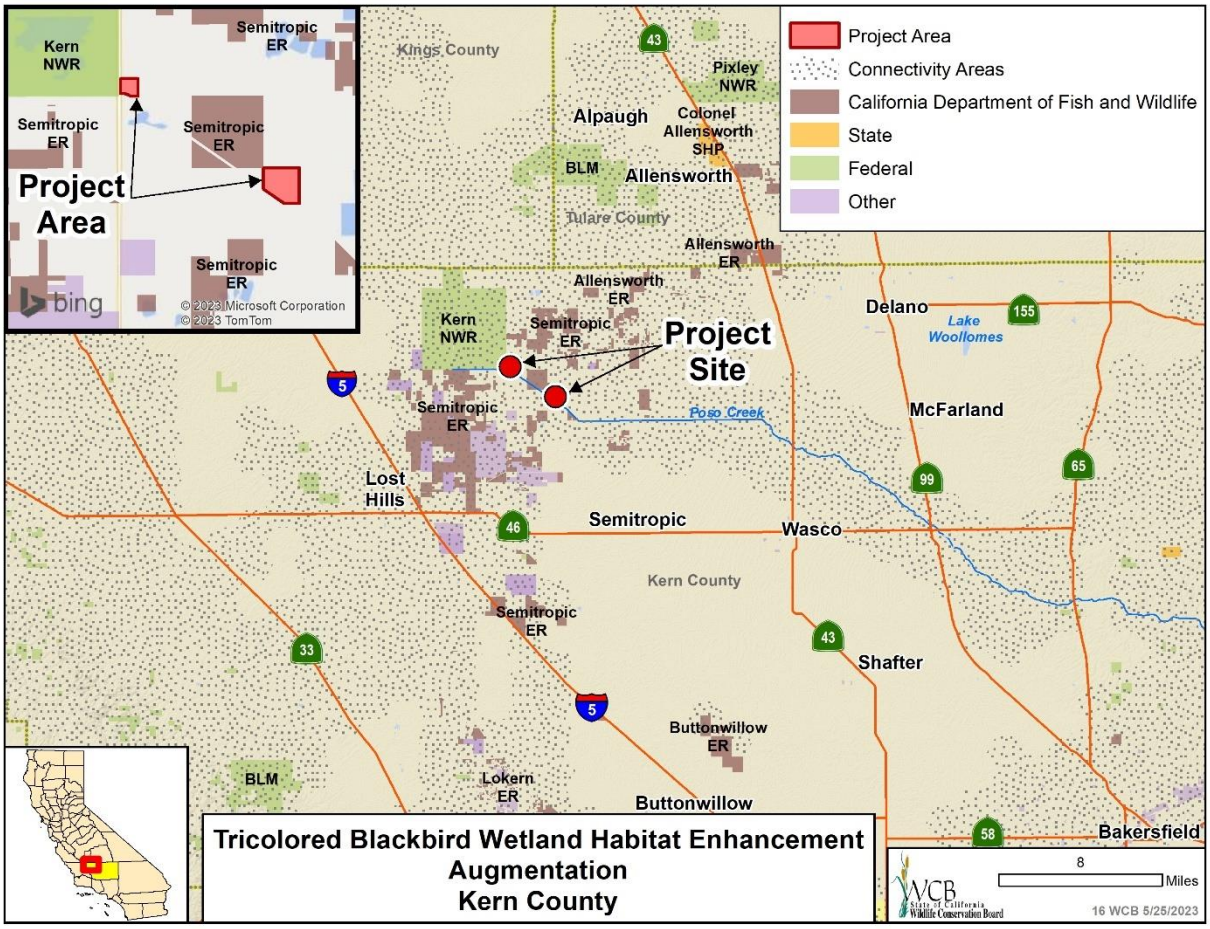
Costs associated with WCB funding include:

- Project Management: Administer grant, secure and manage sub-contracts, prepare progress reports, data management, stakeholder coordination, permit acquisition, surveys, restoration design, and monitoring.
- Site Prep: Removal of old structures, including construction of staging areas and access points for construction equipment.
- Construction:- Earthmoving, purchase and installation of water control structures, purchase and installation of lift pump and associated pipe/valves, removal of invasive plants, revegetation, and solar panel array installation.
- Contingencies: Approximately eight percent of WCB grant funds held in contingency to be used only through WCB written approval.

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 15304, Class 4, as a minor alteration to land, water and/or 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.


Project Area
Connectivity Areas
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
State
Federal
Other
Project Area
Kern NWR
Semitropic ER
Semitropic ER
Semitropic ER
Semitropic ER
bing
© 2023 Microsoft Corporation
© 2023 TomTom
Kings County
Pixley NWR
Alpaugh
Colonel Allensworth SHP
BLM
Allensworth
Tulare County
Allensworth ER
Allensworth ER
Kern NWR
Semitropic ER
Project Site
Delano
Lake Woollomes
155
Poso Creek
McFarland
Semitropic ER
99
65
Lost Hills
46
Semitropic
Wasco
Kern County
Semitropic ER
43
Shafter
33
5
5
Buttonwillow ER
BLM
Lokern ER
Buttonwillow
58
Bakersfield
Tricolored Blackbird Wetland Habitat Enhancement
Augmentation
Kern County
8
Miles
WCB
State of California
Wildlife Conservation Board
16 WCB 5/25/2023

17. Devil's Canyon

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate $1,600,000 from the Habitat Conservation Fund, Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c), for the grant to Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Devil's Canyon
Project Type:	Fee Title (120± acres)
Grantee:	Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA)
Amount Recommended:	$1,600,000
Funding Partners:	Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC)
County:	Los Angeles County
Program:	Land Acquisition Program
Strategic Plan:	Goals: A.1, A.4. Objectives: SI 1.2, 1.3, 2.4

LOCATION

The property (Property) is located in the Santa Susana Mountains in northern, unincorporated Los Angeles County, west of Interstate 5, north of State Route 118 freeway, and approximately 1.5 miles northwest of the city of Chatsworth.

The Property is part of the Devil's Canyon-Browns Canyon watershed on the south slope of the Santa Susana Mountains with over 4,000 linear feet of USGS blueline stream and over 10 acres of southern mixed riparian forest located on it. The Property is dominated by mixed chaparral and coastal sage scrub. Coast live oak woodland and valley foothill riparian are also present.

The Property is within a wildlife corridor recognized in the South Coast Missing Linkages Project as the Santa Monica-Sierra Madre Connection and a CDFW-approved Conceptual Area Protection Plan (CAPP) with the same title. The Property is also within a Los Angeles County-designated Significant Ecological Area (SEA) and is listed as a high priority target on SMMC's Acquisition Work Program.

The Property is part of the Santa Susana Mountains core habitat, bolstering connectivity between MRCA's 6,500-acre Michael D. Antonovich Regional Park at Joughin Ranch and 5,000-acre Rocky Peak Park. The Property connects to multiple wildlife crossing structures both under and over State Route 118 in the Santa Susana Pass. The entire Property is within a USFWS-designated coastal California gnatcatcher critical habitat area and the California Natural Diversity Database lists occurrences of least Bell's vireo, California leaf-nosed bat, and San Diego horned lizard. The Property supports high concentrations of mule deer and state-protected mountain lion.

The Property contributes to a core habitat block of the Santa Susana Mountains-Simi Hills SEA comprising the northerly approach to the wildlife crossing structures across the State Route 118 freeway at the Santa Susana Pass. Protection of habitat within this linkage design is critical to support the state candidate species of mountain lion within an Evolutionary Significant Unit in Southern California, mule deer, American badger, and other wildlife that live in and move through this identified corridor that connects coastal and inland habitats of the South Coast Ecoregion.

To the west and north, the Property abuts existing MRCA protected open space. To the east, the Property abuts privately-owned open space. Because State Route 118 is a major barrier to wildlife movement between the northerly Santa Susana Mountains and southerly Simi Hills and Santa Monica Mountains, continued preservation of open space north of the freeway will contribute to the persistence of at-risk species by connecting habitat blocks that collect and disperse terrestrial species near the freeway wildlife crossings.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
The Property consists of two vacant parcels, a rectangular parcel containing approximately 80 acres and a square-shaped parcel of approximately 40 acres. The Property has mountainous topography, unpaved frontage along mountainous roads/trails, and is located between Johnson Mountain Way and Devil's Canyon Trail, north of Chatsworth in an unincorporated area of Los Angeles County. The Property is zoned A-2-2, Heavy Agriculture. Most of the Property has a General Plan land use designation of RL20, Rural Land maximum 1 dwelling unit per 20 acres on the larger northern rectangular parcel, and partially RL10, Rural Land maximum 1 dwelling unit per 10 acres on the smaller southern square parcel. The only improvement is a concrete slab foundation of a demolished former single-family residence located at the southwest corner of the northern rectangular parcel. The Property's elevation ranges from 1,350 to 2,000 feet above mean sea level. Most of the Property is identified as Hillside Management Area, where there are slopes of 25 percent or greater.

The project will help preserve essential groundwater infiltration capacity in the upper watershed of the Los Angeles River. The Property is a high priority on the SMMC Acquisition Work Program and supports the goals of the Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor to preserve a wildlife corridor which connects the Santa Monica, Santa Susana, Sespe, and San Gabriel mountains to provide long-term biological diversity for California's South Coast Ecoregion. The South Coast Missing Linkages (SCML) Santa Monica-Sierra Madre Connection is cited in the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) as "a highly collaborative inter-agency effort to identify and conserve the highest-priority linkages in the South Coast Ecoregion." Portions of the Property contain perennial wetland, riparian forest and woodland, and other habitats associated with Species of Greatest Conservation Need targeted by SWAP for land acquisition and conservation.

This project contributes to the goals of Pathways to 30x30 California by aligning with Pathway 2: Execute Strategic Land Acquisitions.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS
MRCA Ranger, Operations, and Restoration staff are routinely in the area and will provide regular monitoring of the Property within the existing MRCA operating budget. Upon acquisition, MRCA staff will evaluate the potential for habitat restoration or enhancement within 100 feet of the Johnson Motorway that can accommodate MRCA water trailers and/or tenders. Any habitat improvement projects would be contingent upon securing additional funding for project planning, design, implementation, and maintenance.

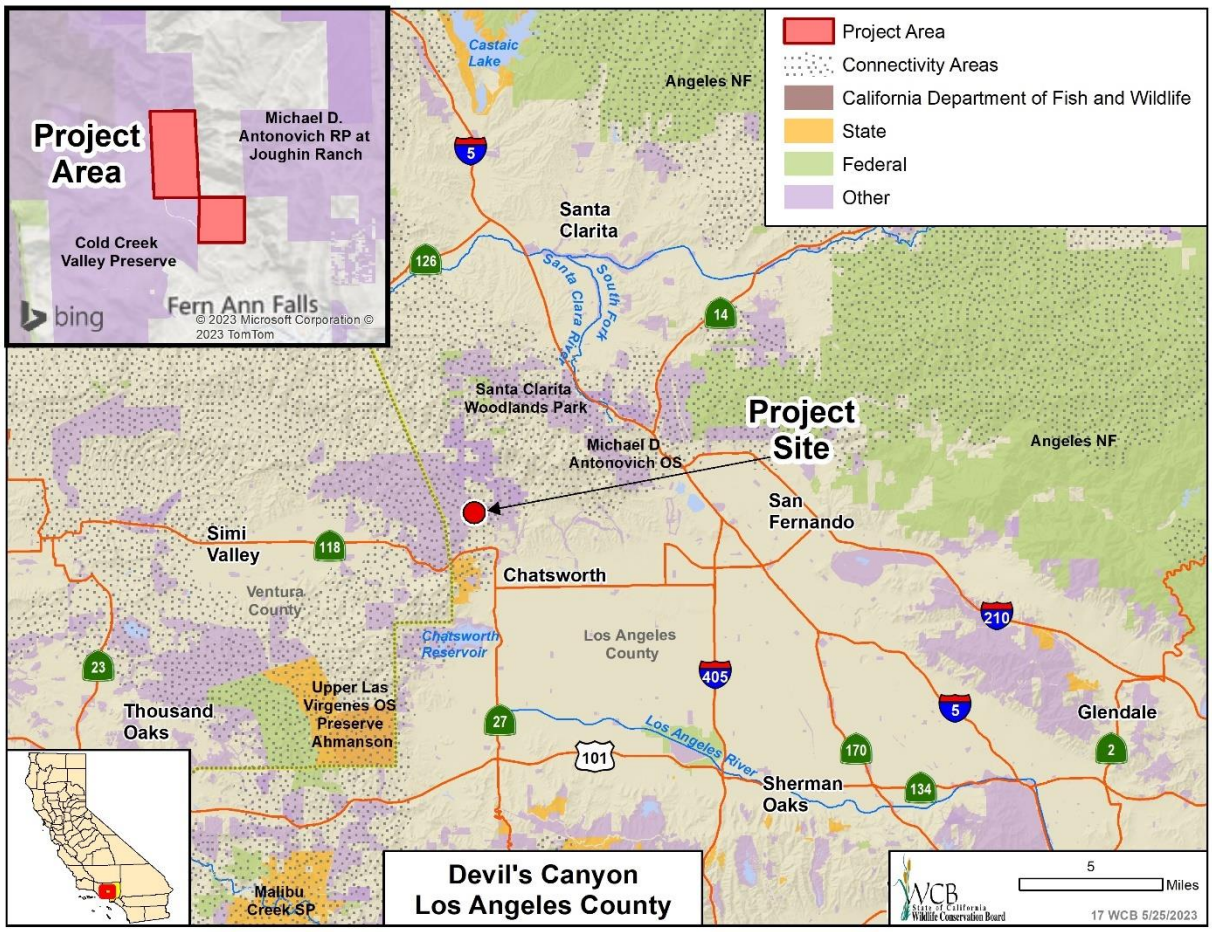
PROJECT FUNDING
The DGS approved fair market value is $1,883,000. The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	$1,600,000
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy	$283,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	$1,883,000

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.


Project Area
Michael D. Antonovich RP at Joughin Ranch
Cold Creek Valley Preserve
Fern Ann Falls
bing
© 2023 Microsoft Corporation © 2023 TomTom
Project Area
Connectivity Areas
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
State
Federal
Other
Castaic Lake
Angeles NF
Santa Clarita
Santa Clara River
South Fork
Santa Clarita Woodlands Park
Michael D Antonovich OS
Project Site
Angeles NF
San Fernando
Simi Valley
Chatsworth
Ventura County
Chatsworth Reservoir
Los Angeles County
Upper Las Virgenes OS Preserve Ahmanson
Thousand Oaks
Los Angeles River
Glendale
Sherman Oaks
Malibu Creek SP
Devil's Canyon
Los Angeles County
5
Miles
WCB
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18. Aliso Creek Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Augmentation

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate $213,000 from the General Fund, Fish & Wildlife Resources - Climate Change Impacts on Wildlife Provision (SB170, Sec.53.5, EY22); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Aliso Creek Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Augmentation
Project Type:	Implementation
Applicant/Grantee:	Laguna Canyon Foundation
Amount Recommended:	$213,000
Funding Partners:	Warne Family Charitable Foundation, Orange County Department of Parks, and the City of Aliso Viejo
Landowner(s):	Orange County Department of Parks
County:	Orange
Program:	Habitat Enhancement and Restoration
Strategic Plan:	Goal B.1 Objectives: SI 1.3, 2.1, 2.2, 2.4

LOCATION

The Aliso Creek Habitat Restoration and Enhancement (Project) is in Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park, located in Orange County. The park is one of the most sensitive and ecologically important areas of the Aliso Creek watershed and is part of a major wildlife corridor that provides important connectivity between major Orange County wilderness preserves. The Project site is located in the northeastern extension of the park and is bordered by Pacific Park Drive to the north and Alicia Parkway to the east.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Project will restore 8.5 acres of riparian transitional (RT) and 12.5 acres of coastal sage scrub (CSS) habitat which is required by multiple sensitive species that are found in the Aliso Creek watershed. The newly restored habitat will benefit several at-risk species, including the endangered least Bell’s vireo (LBVI) and a regionally important population of the southwestern pond turtle (SWPT).

The SWPT is a native turtle found in both seasonal and permanent aquatic habitats such as ponds, creeks, and rivers and was historically distributed throughout the major watercourses of southern California. Throughout California, SWPT populations have experienced significant decline due to habitat loss and alteration, population fragmentation, increased predation, increased presence of invasive species, and drought.

The LBVI is a state and federally listed endangered bird species that was once common and widespread in riparian habitats throughout southern California. Habitat loss is the driving force for the decline of this species, due to the

elimination of native vegetation, invasive plant encroachment, brood parasitism from brown-headed cowbirds, and an increase in human disturbance in riparian areas.

The Project is taking a landscape-level approach and expanding restoration efforts into upland CSS habitat that is projected to help ensure the long-term sustainability of the riparian zone and the sensitive species that depend on it for survival. In order to complete the Project, an augmentation has become necessary. Time delays and increased costs from the COVID-19 lockdown orders from 2020 to 2021 resulted in the replenishment of the weed seed bank before approval was received to return to the Project area for implementation. In addition, exceptionally low rainfall and higher than average temperatures in 2021 and 2022 resulted in high mortality of previously installed container plants and decreased the effectiveness of hydroseeding.

The augmentation would cover remedial planting in areas where previous hydroseeding and hand-seeding efforts have not been successful, and supplemental watering of container plants as needed through the dry season. The additional funding, and a 15-month time extension, would cover supplemental watering of container stock through the dry season, additional weed management, and project management throughout the requested extension period.

When complete, the Project will improve climate change resiliency by providing refugia for sensitive species that may be negatively impacted by a change in future climate conditions. The Project will also enhance the wildlife corridor between protected areas in Orange County that will allow the migration of wildlife whose home ranges may lose the ability to support sensitive species in a future with less rainfall.

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

A combination of herbicide treatments, mowing, and hand weeding will be used for control of invasive plants. Areas of the Project where mechanical weed removal is not possible will be treated with glyphosate by spot spraying with backpack sprayers for annual broadleaf and grass invasive species The use of herbicides requires the least amount of labor per treatment and results in the least disturbance of sensitive wildlife species present in the Project area.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS
The Grantee 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, 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 Augmentation	Original WCB Grant	Other Funds	Total Cost
Plant Establishment	$175,380	$648,125	$167,500	$991,005
Monitoring	---	$9,125	$25,000	$34,125
Outreach	---	---	$7,500	$7,500
Project Management	$17,620	$51,750	$25,000	$94,370
Contingency	$20,000	---	---	$20,000
Total	$213,000	$709,000	$225,000	$1,147,000

Costs associated with WCB funding include:

- Plant Establishment: Includes removal of non-native invasive plant species and the planting and establishment of riparian and coastal sage scrub habitat.
- Monitoring: Includes baseline monitoring, project effectiveness monitoring, and adaptive management monitoring.
- Project Management: Includes administration, management, and reporting activities.
- Contingency: Unanticipated project costs associated with WCB-funded tasks only, requires WCB staff approval prior to use.

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 15304, Class 4, as a minor alteration to land, water and/or 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.


Project Site
Connectivity Areas
HCP/NCCP
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
State
Federal
Other
Anaheim
Orange
Garden Grove
Westminster
Santa Ana
Santa Ana River
Huntington Beach
Orange County
Costa Mesa
Irvine
San Diego Creek
Aliso Creek
Oso Creek
Trabuco Arroyo
Cleveland NF
Lake Elsinore
Upper Newport Bay ER
Newport Beach
Aliso Viejo
Laguna Laurel ER
Crystal Cove SP
Laguna Beach
San Juan Capistrano
San Juan Creek
Riverside County
PACIFIC OCEAN
Project Site
San Clemente
Galivan
Aliso & Wood Canyons Wilderness Park
Laguna Niguel
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Aliso Creek Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Augmentation Orange County
5
Miles
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19. Aliso Estuary Restoration Planning

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate $1,833,000 from the General Fund, Nature-Based Solutions Grant Program Provision (AB179, Sec.83(a), EY22), and Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 (Proposition 50), Water Code Section 79572(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:	Aliso Estuary Restoration Planning
Project Type:	Planning
Applicant/Grantee:	Laguna Ocean Foundation
Amount Recommended:	$1,833,000
Funding Partners:	Laguna Ocean Foundation, State Coastal Conservancy, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Landowner(s):	Orange County Department of Parks
County:	Orange
Program:	Climate Adaptation and Resiliency
Strategic Plan:	Goal B.1 Objectives: SI 1.3, SI 4.3

LOCATION

The Aliso Estuary Restoration Planning (Project) is located at the intermittently open estuary where Aliso Creek enters the Pacific Ocean in the city of Laguna Beach in Orange County.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Project will provide planning, designs, environmental review, and permitting necessary to restore the Aliso Estuary to a functional, resilient wetland ecosystem. In its current condition, the estuary is a degraded lagoon with no significant habitat and almost no native species. Much of the historical habitat has been removed and a large part of the lagoon has been filled for recreational parking lots. The hydrologic regime of the creek's watershed has been altered by urbanization, disrupting the natural processes that govern the opening and closing of the berm at the estuary's mouth. As a small and intermittently open system, the estuary's seasonal dynamics are inextricably linked to the mouth's open/closed condition.

The Project's goals and objectives focus on restoring the mechanisms that drive the intermittently open condition of the mouth. Restoration objectives will be achieved through: (1) restoration of habitat through removal of artificial fill and restoration of wetland habitat enlarging the volume of the lagoon; (2) widening the creek channel to the beach to facilitate natural flow conditions; and (3) managing unauthorized breaching of the berm by beachgoers through onsite education and enforcement. Technical studies have determined that these actions will achieve restoration objectives and return the estuary to its historical condition of an intermittently open system. The restored system is projected to be closed a high

percent of the time, an outcome that is measurable and directly related to restoration objectives and ecosystem functions.

When implemented, the Project will restore functions of a healthy estuarine system and the replacement of invasive plant species with native wetland and tidal flat habitat which will provide critical habitat for the endangered tidewater goby, the western pond turtle, freshwater fowl, shorebirds, and native invertebrates. The Project will also aid climate change adaptation by restoring natural resilience to the estuary ecosystem by enabling adaptive responses to sea level rise and climate change driven shifts in plant community composition.

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	$293,112	$82,623	$375,735
Planning	$64,253	$74,619	$138,872
Environmental Review	$486,789	$319,348	$806,137
Designs	$654,123	---	$654,123
Permitting	$115,580	---	$115,580
Indirect Costs	$52,525	---	$52,525
Contingency	$166,618	---	$166,618
Total	$1,833,000	$476,590	$2,309,590

Costs associated with WCB funding include:

- Project Management: All invoicing, outreach, reporting, and subcontractor management activities.
- Planning: Development of a land use plan and a long-term management plan.
- Environmental Review: Preparation of a final EIR and any necessary technical studies to complete that process.
- Designs: Development of 30% level designs and a preliminary design report.
- Permitting: Completing any necessary permit applications and any necessary technical studies to complete that process.
- Indirect Costs: Incidental or indirect costs not to exceed 15 percent of the total direct WCB award.
- Contingency: Unanticipated project costs associated with WCB-funded tasks only, requires WCB staff approval prior to use.

PROJECT LETTERS OF SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION
Support:

- Senator Patricia C. Bates, 36th District, California State Senate
- Senator Janet Nguyen, 36th District, California State Senate

- Assemblymember Cottie Petria-Norris, 74th District
- Dan Silver, MD, Chief Executive Officer, Endangered Habitats League
- Hallie Jones, Executive Director, Laguna Canyon Foundation
- Norm Grossman. President, Laguna Greenbelt Inc.
- Jeff Opdycke, Senior Director of Conservation Policy, San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance

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. White Tate

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate $642,200 from the Habitat Conservation Fund, Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c), for a grant to The Escondido Creek Conservancy; approve the acceptance of the Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition grant from USFWS in the amount of $1,827,800 and approve the subgrant of the federal funds to The Escondido Creek Conservancy; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	White Tate
Project Type:	Fee Title (48± acres)
Grantee:	The Escondido Creek Conservancy (ECC)
Amount Recommended:	$642,200
Funding Partners:	USFWS
County:	San Diego
Program:	Land Acquisition Program
Strategic Plan:	Goals: A.1, A.3, A.4 Objectives: SI 1.2, 1.3, 2.2

LOCATION

The property (Property) is located in north San Diego County, seven miles inland from the coast, between the streets of Fortuna del Este and Suerte del Este in the unincorporated area between the communities of Elfin Forest, San Marcos, and Olivenhain. The nearest cities are San Marcos to the north, and Carlsbad and Encinitas to the west. The Property is situated between the Interstate 5 and Interstate15 freeways, south of State Route 78 and north of State Route 56.

The Property provides important core habitat for the coastal California gnatcatcher and is part of an important habitat linkage supporting the City of Carlsbad's Habitat Management Plan (HMP) and is within the pre-approved mitigation area for the North County Multiple Species Conservation Plan (North County MSCP). Escondido Creek is situated to the east and south of the Property. Nearby WCB-supported land acquisition projects include Hidden Canyon, Gaty, and Bridges. The Property is undeveloped other than easements for roads, a water aqueduct, and utilities. The Property contains largely intact native habitat, located on the western and southern slopes of Paint Mountain. There are three abandoned mines on the Property from the early 1900s that mined Pyrophyllite, a paint ingredient, hence the mountain's name. A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment, and CDFW, confirmed that there are no environmental concerns from the mines. ECC plans to enhance the mine caves as habitat for the Townsend's big eared bat, a California species of special concern, which has been sighted on the Property, and install gates that prevent people from entering the mines.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property exhibits moderate to steeply sloping topography and is zoned rural residential, allowing for estate-type development. Over half of the Property

consists of Diegan Coastal Sage Scrub (CSS) and disturbed CSS, with much of the remainder consisting of southern mixed chaparral. The Property consists of five parcels in the unincorporated County of San Diego. These parcels will greatly enhance the existing Carlsbad HMP by securing key regional wildlife linkages and preserving core areas of habitat. The Property provides habitat that is critical for connectivity and necessary to ensure functional reserve design. Near the Property, ECC created a gnatcatcher preserve, called the LeoMar Preserve, to protect as much land as possible of the still undeveloped portion of the gnatcatcher core between the unincorporated county areas of Elfin Forest and Olivenhain and the city of Carlsbad. Once acquired, the Property will be added to the LeoMar Preserve. This project is needed to protect property identified as core habitat for the federally threatened coastal California gnatcatcher and provides a critical linkage between other preserved lands that support gnatcatchers, federally threatened Encinitas baccharis, and additional listed and unlisted sensitive species covered in the Carlsbad HMP.

The project contributes to the goals of Pathways to 30x30 California by aligning with Pathway 2: Execute Strategic Land Acquisitions.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS
The ECC is an accredited land trust by the Land Trust Alliance (LTA) and meets or exceeds LTA conservation standards and practices. All properties onboarded by ECC are evaluated for species-specific actions that must be taken to protect and enhance native habitat to protect threatened, endangered, sensitive, and common species. The primary issue to address on the Property is management and monitoring actions to protect habitat near urban areas (e.g., trespass, dumping, non-native plants). Additionally, ECC will take action to protect the caves to prevent human trespass and enhance their use by bats.

PROJECT FUNDING
The DGS approved fair market value is $2,470,000. The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	$642,200
USFWS	$1,827,800
TOTAL Purchase Price	$2,470,000

PROJECT LETTERS OF SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION
Support:

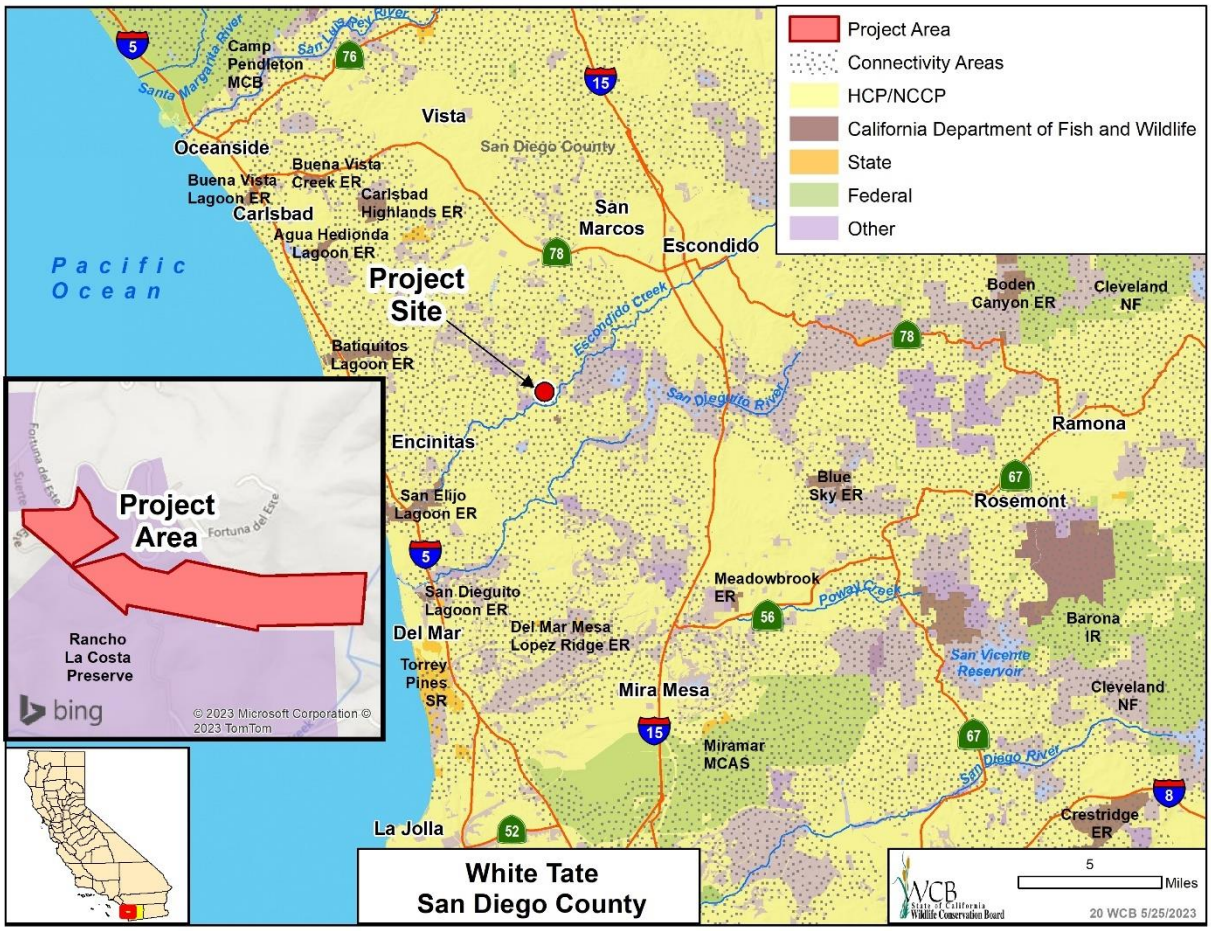
- Drew Stokes, Bat Specialist, San Diego Natural History Museum
- Dan Silver, Executive Director, Endangered Habitats Conservancy

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.



Presentation Items

21. California Monarch Recovery, Phase II

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate $3,100,530 from the General Fund, Monarch Butterflies and Other Pollinators Provision (GF-Pollinators, EY22); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; delegate authority to the Executive Director to make determinations of exemption and file notices as necessary to comply with CEQA for sub-agreements funded under this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	California Monarch Recovery, Phase II
Project Type:	Implementation
Applicant/Grantee:	Xerces Society, Inc.
Amount Recommended:	$3,100,530
Funding Partners:	Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Private Donation, Xerces Society Inc.
Landowner(s):	Various Public and Private Entities
County:	Statewide
Program:	Monarch Butterfly and Pollinator Rescue
Strategic Plan:	Goals: B.1 Objectives: SI 1.2, 4.2

LOCATION

The California Monarch Recovery, Phase II (Project) would create a funding mechanism, using a block grant structure, that will be used to support a number of potential future monarch and pollinator habitat improvements. The Project location lies within WCB's Monarch Butterfly and Pollinator Rescue Program priority area, identified as overwintering sites along coastal California and breeding and migratory sites within California's Central Valley and surrounding foothills. More than one-third of the most prospective monarch butterfly habitat in California is on privately-owned land, which makes collaboration with landowners such a critical component for population recovery and sustainability.

The Project areas are located in Disadvantaged Communities based on the DWR Disadvantaged Communities Mapping Tool. A significant amount of work by Xerces Society Inc. (Xerces) over the past several years has involved serving disadvantaged communities. This work has expanded significantly through the Habitat Kit Program, which currently supports 12 tribal projects and 24 urban farms, many of which are in disadvantaged communities. Serving disadvantaged communities is a priority for the Habitat Kit efforts, which includes their participation in multiple outreach events hosted by partner organizations. The Habitat Kit application process helps identify partners from disadvantaged communities and prioritizes their applications, ensuring that 35 percent of projects go to these partners. Xerces is expanding their capacity and technical resources to support Spanish-speaking land managers and community groups with their bilingual staff

and are working closely with the NRCS to increase support for conservation on urban farms.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Protecting and restoring California's biodiversity hinges on our ability to conserve the diversity of California's beneficial insects and the landscapes they need to survive. California's insect pollinators are essential to the reproduction of most flowering plants, including many of California's fruit, vegetable, and nut crops. Additionally, insects associated with high-quality pollinator habitat are critical food sources for birds, fish, and other animals, and many species play important roles in pest control and recycling animal and plant waste. Though they are unquestionably important, insects are in trouble. Studies from across the globe have shown that insects are declining at an alarming rate.

These losses are epitomized by the western migratory monarch butterfly population, whose population has dropped by more than 95 percent since the 1980s. A recent study has shown that over the past 40 years, the overall abundance of butterflies in California – and across the West – has declined by an alarming rate of 1.6 percent each year. Habitat loss is a factor that has likely contributed to many of these species' declines, and restoration and protection of flower-rich habitat is one of the best strategies to recover populations of these imperiled pollinators. For monarch butterflies specifically, the inclusion of native milkweed in restoration plantings and restoring monarch overwintering sites in California - two strategies that will be employed in this Project - are the best ways to increase the western monarch population.

This Project will address the decline of monarch butterflies and other imperiled insect pollinators in California by creating high quality habitat that targets monarch overwintering sites within prioritized (Priority 1) areas, which include early breeding zone and central coast areas where monarchs overwinter. Habitat restoration will also be implemented in Priority 2 areas, which include south coast areas where monarchs overwinter, north coast areas where monarchs do not overwinter, and summer breeding zones. The work done in these areas will integrate the latest information on which plants will thrive under current and future climate scenarios and will provide maximum potential for populations of monarchs and other pollinators to increase.

The Project will create and restore permanent, high quality monarch butterfly and pollinator habitat. This effort will include increasing monarch habitat connectivity in key areas by distributing regionally appropriate habitat kits to people in underserved communities along with farmers, ranchers, tribes, and other groups working on pollinator habitat restoration. The Project will also develop and help to implement habitat restoration and management plans on working farms and ranches in collaboration with food industry partner farms and federal and local conservation agency partners and continue the efforts with the nursery and native seed industry to bring to market early season milkweed and high-quality nectar species.

The Project will also provide technical assistance to support the restoration and management of monarch overwintering sites. This will include a full-time conservation biologist to specialize in monarch butterfly overwintering habitat restoration who will work with several of the public agencies that manage some of the most important monarch overwintering sites to develop and implement site-specific management plans for overwintering habitat.

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

The Project will not use herbicides.

Prior to commencement of any project funded by Grantee from this grant, any necessary environmental review required by CEQA shall be completed by the appropriate lead agency and documentation of that compliance shall be provided to WCB per the terms of the Grant Agreement. Funds from this grant may be used to fund such CEQA compliance.

If no CEQA lead agency is identified for a project, Grantee will seek prior WCB review and approval before committing funds to the project. WCB intends to act as CEQA lead agency for such projects, and WCB's Executive Director will approve or disapprove such projects consistent with WCB's authority as CEQA lead agency.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS
The Xerces Society, Inc. has adopted a Management Plan that guides management actions for the properties, including management of the properties. If at any time during the 15-year life of the Project, Xerces Society, 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
Habitat Restoration	$1,899,054	$742,000	$2,641,054
Technical Assistance	$797,059	---	$797,059
Indirect	$404,417	$221,081	$625,498
Total	$3,100,530	$963,081	$4,063,611

Costs associated with WCB funding include:

- Habitat Restoration: Create, restore, and connect monarch butterfly and declining pollinator habitat across California.

- Technical Assistance: Provide technical assistance to support the restoration and management of monarch overwintering sites.
- Indirect Costs: Incidental or indirect costs not to exceed 15 percent of the total direct WCB award.

PROJECT LETTERS OF SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION
Support:

- Jay Chamberlin, Chief, Natural Resources Division, Department of Parks and Recreation
- Beatrice L. Kephart, Chief, Installation Management Flight, Department of the Air Force
- Nancy Wahl-Scheurich, Pollinator and Wildlife Habitat Program Manager, California Association of Resource Conservation Districts
- Heather Bernikoff (Yoeme/Yaqui), Land Steward, Taawe Bwia
- Dan Silver, Executive Director, Endangered Habitats League
- Jessie Kanter, Assistant Specialist, Cooperative Extension Small Farms and Specialty Crops Program, University of California Agricultural and Natural Resources

Opposition:

- None received

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS
Pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines section 15378(b)(4), the grant of funds to Xerces for a project to administer a block grant for the implementation of monarch and pollinator habitat improvements located on privately-owned land in various counties is not a project subject to the requirements of CEQA, as a government fiscal activity which does not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment. Prior to commencement of any project funded by Xerces through California Monarch Recovery Project, Phase II, any necessary environmental review required by CEQA shall be completed.


California Monarch Recovery Project
Phase II
Statewide
WCB
State of California
Wildlife Conservation Board
CALIFORNIA
NEVADA
Eureka
Redding
Mt Shasta
Chico
Reno
Carson City
Elko
Sacramento
Santa Rosa
Napa
Vacaville
Fairfield
Concord
Antioch
Stockton
Modesto
Livermore
Fremont
San Francisco
San Jose
Salinas
Fresno
Visalia
Bakersfield
San Luis Obispo
Santa Maria
Lompoc
Santa Barbara
Santa Clarita
Oxnard
Los Angeles
Lancaster
Palmdale
Victorville
Riverside
Anaheim
Long Beach
Santa Ana
Cathedral City
Palm Desert
Indio
Murrieta
Oceanside
San Diego
Tijuana
Mexicali
Yuma
Las Vegas
Henderson
Lake Havas
Mt Whitney
Saint George
Salton Sea
Davidson Seamount
Guide Seamount
Rodriguez Seamount
San Juan Seamount
COAST RANGE
SIERRA NEVADA MOUNTAINS
SACRAMENTO VALLEY
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY
DIABLO RANGE
SANTA LUCIA RANGE
GREAT BASIN
MOJAVE DESERT
DEATH VALLEY
PANAMINT RANGE
SAN BERNARDINO MOUNTAINS
MONITOR RANGE
SHOSHONE MOUNTAINS
RUBY MOUNTAINS
BLACK ROCK DESERT
INDEPENDENCE MOUNTAINS
SALT LAKE DESERT
Colorado
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National Geographic, Esri, Garmin, HERE, UNEP-WCMC, USGS, NASA, ESA, METI, NRCAN, GEBCO, NOAA, increment P Corp.

22. Butte Valley Wildlife Area Wetland Enhancement Phase II

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate $3,115,200 from the General Fund, Fish & Wildlife Resources - Climate Change Impacts on Wildlife Provision (SB170, Sec.53.5, EY22); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Butte Valley Wildlife Area Wetland Enhancement Phase II
Project Type:	Implementation
Applicant/Grantee:	California Waterfowl Association
Amount Recommended:	$3,115,200
Funding Partners:	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Landowner(s):	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
County:	Siskiyou
Program:	Habitat Enhancement and Restoration
Funding:	General Fund
Strategic Plan:	Goals: B.1 Objectives: SI 2.1, 3.1

LOCATION

The Butte Valley Wildlife Area Wetland Enhancement Phase II (Project) is located on the Butte Valley Wildlife Area (BVWA) in Siskiyou County. BVWA is a 13,400-acre CDFW owned property composed of managed seasonal wetland units, sage flats, wet meadows, farmland, upland, and the 4,000-acre Meiss Lake. Historically, the wildlife area consisted of seasonally flooded Meiss Lake, emergent marsh, and wet meadow habitat within the Butte Valley basin. During the 1940s, previous landowners established dikes and excavated drainage ditches to reclaim the land for grain production and other agricultural purposes. Several dams were created to capture seasonal runoff and irrigate grain fields and meadow pasture on the reclaimed land. The State of California acquired the property in 1981 and established the property as a state wildlife area. In the years following, CDFW has managed many of the previously established grain units as seasonal wetlands. Other areas of the property are maintained as grain production units and upland grass stands which supply wildlife with forage, nesting, and spring staging resources.

The Project is in a severely disadvantaged community (DWR DAC Mapping Tool) with a median income of less than $47,203. The Project is not considered a disadvantaged community based on the CalEnviroScreen 4.0 (SB 535 Disadvantaged Communities).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Habitat quality at BVWA is hindered by both limited surface water supplies, and pumping budgets needed to flood and manage the area’s wetland habitat. These challenges have been exacerbated by climate change, a lack of water efficient infrastructure, and the poor configuration of managed wetland units. Historically,

the area was supplied by seasonal runoff, but climate change has reduced runoff and it is now largely reliant upon water from deep wells to inundate the managed wetlands. These wells require electricity to be used to pump water into managed units to provide wildlife (particularly waterfowl) with high quality wetland resources. As a result, the amount of flooded acreage is directly tied to operating budgets and limited by poor water use efficiency. This has resulted in a suboptimal amount of flooded habitat and has compromised CDFW's ability to manage and provide year-round wetland resources for wildlife.

The poor efficiency of BVWA's water delivery system is a major impediment to supplying, sustaining, and effectively managing the wetland acreage. Several of the existing wetland units were created decades ago with levee materials excavated from deep borrow ditches (4' plus deep, 25-50' wide). When flooding wetlands, these borrow areas must be filled prior to water dispersing across the wetlands. This consumes an exorbitant amount of water. Water use efficiency is also reduced in several wetland units whose perimeter levees need refurbishment as they are very porous, and in some cases in need of increased freeboard for water to be maintained at desired levels. Water delivery to several wetland units is also severely limited. Miles of deeply excavated open delivery ditches must be filled 5-6' deep with water before water can be supplied to these units. Not only does it require excessive water to fill these ditches to "push" water into the managed units, but significant water is lost from evaporation, subbing, and plant transpiration. Additionally, existing corrugated metal pipe water control structures leak severely and make holding water within several units challenging.

Managing water and the flood control infrastructure in BVWA is a year-round activity. There are no graveled access roads through the interior of the area's core wetland complex which leads to access challenges during inclement weather. The ability to access and manage the water control infrastructure during these weather events is critical to the wildlife area's operations. The poor condition of these interior levee roads also presents public access challenges for bird watching/ hunting activities.

Construction of a solar array, coupled with wetland unit and water delivery enhancements, will help wetland managers provide high quality wetland habitat. The solar array will support the electricity needs of low-lift pumps allowing for the drainage of up to 480 acres of seasonal wetlands, thus enhancing management for moist soil plants. Additionally, new water recovery pipelines attached to the low-lift pumps would then allow for the drain water from seasonal wetlands to be used to flood up to 100 acres of newly constructed semi-permanent brood habitat on the area. This new surface water recovery system would largely eliminate the need for wetland managers to pump ground water during the summer to sustain semi-permanent wetland acreage on the area.

The Project's earthwork and infrastructure improvements will provide greatly increased water use efficiency, biological diversity, and wetland management capabilities on 1,420 acres of seasonal and semi-permanent wetlands. Existing

porous wetland unit perimeter levees will be completely refurbished, and broad levee side slopes will be constructed to combat rodent and erosion issues. Levee slopes will be planted with an upland seed mix to jumpstart upland growth and further provide erosion protection. Deep existing borrow ditches will be filled in with previously excavated spoil materials and elevated areas that currently exist along the excavated ditches. Several managed seasonal wetlands units dominated by stands of emergent vegetation will be disked to promote moist soil seed production following initial wetland flooding.

The Project will result in the construction of 230 acres of semi-permanent wetland units for waterfowl brooding/molting. Units will be designed to handle deeper water depths (2') compared to seasonal wetlands (1') which will prevent the complete takeover of tule/cattail growth as water is held over the summer. Material for levee refurbishment and filling the borrow ditches to improve water use efficiency will come from constructing meandering swale/pothole complexes that mimic historic topography, increase habitat diversity, and allow for expedited flood up and drainage. Dilapidated corrugated metal pipe water control structures will be removed and replaced with concrete risers and high-density polyethylene pipe to update and improve water control. The installation of a direct PVC pipeline water delivery system that is attached to the area's main deep well (well also tied to new solar system) will alleviate the need to fill miles of deep-water delivery ditch to supply and maintain certain existing wetland units. Increased water conservation through improved water delivery will enable less water to be used more efficiently across a larger acreage footprint.

Graveling 10,500 feet of access levee/roads will provide CDFW staff with inclement weather access required to perform wetland/flood control management activities and provide improved year-round hiking access for the public. The installation of an ADA hunting blind would also be completed to improve opportunities for disabled hunters.

The Project will not use herbicides.

The 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
CDFW has adopted a Management Plan, "*The Butte Valley Wildlife Area Management Plan*" that guides management actions for the property, including management of the Project area. If at any time during the 25-year life of the Project, California Waterfowl Association 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	$272,000	---	$272,000
Construction	$2,302,000	$17,000	$2,319,000
Indirect Charges	$258,000	---	$258,000
Contingency	$283,200	---	$283,200
Total	$3,115,200	$17,000	$3,132,200

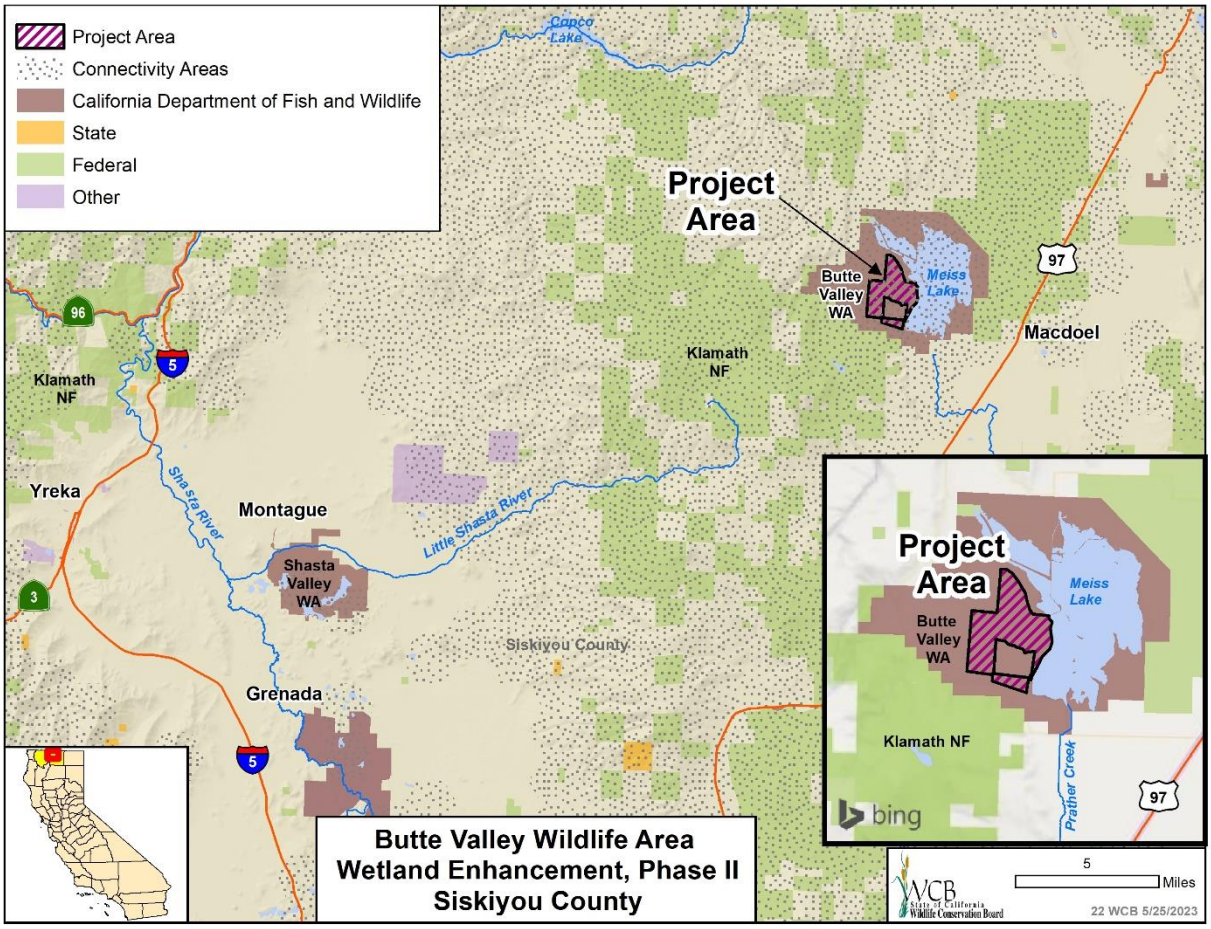
Costs associated with WCB funding include:

- Project Management: Engineering survey, restoration design, construction management, and invoicing.
- Construction: Installation of solar array, wetland unit enhancement through enhancement of levees, field grading, and construction of swales. Seeding of levees, graveling of access levee roads, purchase and installation of water delivery pipelines, water control structures, and lift pumps.
- Indirect Costs: Incidental or indirect costs not to exceed 15 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 exempt from CEQA under Section 15302, Class 2, Replacement or Reconstruction, consisting of replacement or reconstruction of existing facilities located on the same site and having substantially the same purpose, Section 15303, New Construction or Conversion, consisting of construction and location of limited numbers of new structures or facilities, and Section 15304 Class 4, as a minor alteration in land, water, and vegetation on existing officially designated wildlife management areas or fish productions facilities which result in improvement of habitat for fish and wildlife resources or greater fish production. Subject to approval by WCB, the appropriate NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse. CDFW has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for funding by WCB.


Project Area
Connectivity Areas
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
State
Federal
Other
Project Area
Butte Valley WA
Meiss Lake
Macdoel
Klamath NF
Yreka
Montague
Shasta Valley WA
Shasta River
Little Shasta River
Siskiyou County
Grenada
Capco Lake
Project Area
Meiss Lake
Butte Valley WA
Klamath NF
Prather Creek
bing
Butte Valley Wildlife Area
Wetland Enhancement, Phase II
Siskiyou County
5
Miles
WCB State of California Wildlife Conservation Board
22 WCB 5/25/2023

23. Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement (Parcel B Lands)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB enter into a Property Transfer Agreement on behalf of CDFW for future acceptance of 7,027± acres of land from the Klamath River Renewal Corporation (KRRC) after dam removal and restoration as a no cost acquisition as part of the Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement (KHSA) for the protection of fisheries, water, wildlife habitat, other habitat resources, and public access; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement
Project Type:	CDFW Fee Title (7,027± acres)
County:	Siskiyou
Program:	Land Acquisition
Strategic Plan:	Goals: A.1, A.2, A.4, C.1
Objectives:	SI 3.1, 3.3, 3.4

LOCATION

The property proposed for acceptance after dam removal and restoration, known as the “Parcel B Lands,” totaling approximately 7,027± acres, is located approximately 16 miles northeast of the city of Yreka in Siskiyou County. The town of Hornbrook is approximately 6 miles west of the Parcel B Lands and Copco Village lies at its eastern boundary. Parcel B Lands are interspersed and contiguous with a series of small parcels owned by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and are adjacent to CDFW’s Horseshoe Ranch Wildlife Area.

Parcel B Lands lie almost completely within CDFW’s Shasta-Butte Valley Conceptual Area Protection Plan (CAPP) and are consistent with the purpose and goals of the CAPP. However, due to the unique nature of the dam removal project, CDFW decided to develop a Land Acquisition Evaluation specific to the Parcel B Lands as opposed to adding it to the existing Shasta-Butte Valley CAPP.

SUMMARY OF PROJECT

The purpose of this project is to enter into a Property Transfer Agreement on behalf of CDFW for future acceptance of Parcel B lands from KRRC. The transfer will occur after dam removal and restoration as part of the KHSA described below. WCB’s approval of this project will provide assurance of a future California transferee before KRRC undertakes significant financial expenditures in dam removal and restoration. Specifics of the transfer and actual timing will be determined later. WCB will report back to the Board with updates on the project and when the property transfers have occurred.

KHSA PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The KHSA supports a project for four dams on the upper Klamath River to be decommissioned and removed and for the states of California and Oregon to receive ownership of such lands, including formerly inundated lands, and manage

them for the benefit of the public. These lands are referred to as Parcel B Lands. Within California, Parcel B Lands comprise approximately 7,027± acres of land adjacent to and including the Klamath River currently owned by KRRC and formerly owned by PacifiCorp (later mention of Parcel B Lands is referring to only the Parcel B Lands in California). Of these lands, 2,000 acres are currently inundated by two reservoirs. Parcel B Lands are composed of 30 parcels ranging in size from 1 acre to 660 acres.

Originally signed in 2010, the KHSA was amended by 23 parties in 2016 to set the terms for the removal of four hydroelectric dams on the Klamath River and related restoration activities. The parties included the federal government, the states of Oregon and California, Native American Tribes, local governments, and various non-governmental entities. The KHSA called for ownership of the dams – and any liability associated with dam removal – to be transferred from PacifiCorp to KRRC prior to dam removal. The KRRC project will be the largest dam removal and river restoration project in US history.

A Memorandum of Agreement was announced on November 17, 2020, by PacifiCorp, the states of California and Oregon, the Karuk and Yurok Tribes, and KRRC that describes how the parties will proceed with implementation of the Amended KHSA and, ultimately, dam removal.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is charged with oversight of hydroelectric dams in the United States. Therefore, implementation of the KHSA requires approval from FERC for the transfer of the FERC license for the dams and separate FERC approval of the plan to decommission and remove the dams and related facilities. FERC issued its approval for implementation of the KHSA in two orders, first on June 17, 2021, approving transfer of the FERC license to KRRC and the states of California and Oregon, and then on November 17, 2022, FERC approved surrender of the license and removal of the dams and related facilities.

As described in the KHSA, PacifiCorp will first transfer the Parcel B Lands to the KRRC, who will then transfer those lands to the two states, or to a designated third-party, after dam removal is completed. The KHSA contemplates that the Parcel B Lands be managed for public interest purposes. Following California's evaluation of Parcel B Lands, the state may, at its sole discretion, elect to transfer all or any portion of Parcel B Lands. CDFW was identified as the state agency to accept title to the Parcel B Lands. PacifiCorp transferred the Parcel B Lands to KRRC on November 30, 2022.

Developed portions of the Parcel B Lands include three dams and their related infrastructure, the small community of Copco Village, and recreational facilities. Currently, Iron Gate Dam, Copco 1 Dam, and Copco 2 Dam provide power generation. The three dams that are proposed for decommissioning in California are described below:

Copco 1 Dam, which is located at River Mile (RM) 198.6, is a concrete structure that is 135 ft high, 410 ft long along its crest, impounds a reservoir of over 1,000 acres with a storage volume of 40,000 acre-feet. Copco 2 Dam, which is located at RM 198.3, is a concrete structure that is 35 ft high, 335 ft long along the crest, and has minimal reservoir capacity of 73 acre-feet. Iron Gate Dam (IGD), which is located at RM 190, is an earth-fill embankment that is 173 ft high, 740 ft long along the crest, and impounds a reservoir of 944 acres with a storage volume of 53,800 acre-feet.

The KRRC proposes to remove the three hydroelectric developments in California along with appurtenant facilities. The purpose of the project is to achieve a free-flowing condition and fish passage in the Klamath River in the reaches currently occupied by these developments.

Under the KHSA, the California portion of the project includes measures to remove the three hydroelectric developments and remediate and restore the reservoir sites. The project also proposes a schedule for decommissioning of the developments, which may commence in September 2023 with removal of Copco 2 Dam to be followed by removal of Iron Gate and Copco 1 Dam in May and July 2024, respectively. Transfer of the Parcel B Lands to the State of California, if feasible, would occur no sooner than when the three dams have been decommissioned and restoration is complete, and could occur no later than FERC confirming its surrender order has been fully complied (e.g., restoration monitoring is complete).

Reservoir area restoration will begin after drawdown, and extend throughout the year, and possibly extend into the subsequent year. Vegetation establishment could extend several years, and it is difficult to anticipate the results of the revegetation efforts.

Parcel B Habitat Conditions

Parcel B Lands generally surround and contain both Iron Gate Reservoir and Copco Lake. The portion of the lands surrounding Iron Gate Reservoir consists of generally rectangular parcels that include significant acreage on either side of the reservoir. The portion of the lands surrounding Copco Lake, on the other hand, consists of parcels that follow the contours of the existing lake.

The two reservoirs are currently accessible via boat from multiple boat ramps. Once the dams are removed, it is likely that the river will be accessible for management, monitoring, and recreation via existing bridges at Copco Village, Dagget Road at Fall Creek, and the Lakeview Road Bridge at Iron Gate. There may be additional river access points created after the reservoirs are removed. The Parcel B Lands include 13 miles of the mainstem Klamath River, of which, 10 miles is currently inundated by Iron Gate and Copco reservoirs.

Parcel B Lands are a mix of uplands and open water with several small, developed areas. Most of the terrestrial habitat on Parcel B Lands is open space and it is

zoned as open space in the Siskiyou County General Plan. Currently, the extent of open water of both Iron Gate and Copco reservoirs combined is approximately 28 percent of the total 7,027 acres of Parcel B Lands. Open space uses of the terrestrial areas include hunting, picnicking, camping, and other recreational uses.

CDFW's Areas of Conservation Emphasis map for Parcel B Lands depicts Parcel B Lands to be Irreplaceable and Essential Corridors, Conservation Planning Linkages, and Connections with implementation flexibility. Parcel B Lands contain approximately 4,777 acres of upland habitat, 102 acres of wetland and/or riparian habitats, 2,020 acres of lacustrine habitat, and 47 acres of disturbed/residential/ recreation areas. Upland habitat includes one known sensitive natural community, chokecherry thicket, dominated by chokecherry (Prunus virginiana). Wetland and/or riparian habitats include three Sensitive Natural Vegetation Communities including bigleaf maple forest, Oregon ash grove, and hard-stem and California bulrush marsh.

In addition, there are portions of several significant tributaries to the Klamath River that occur on the Parcel B Lands including Bogus, Jenny, and Fall creeks. Providing access for salmonids to the reaches of the Klamath River above IGD is expected to improve population resiliency for salmonids that occur in the Klamath River watershed.

The Klamath River supports Chinook salmon (spring and fall runs), coho salmon (state and federally listed as threatened), steelhead trout (summer, fall and winter runs), coastal cutthroat trout, green and white sturgeon, and Pacific lamprey. Dam removal is expected to result in significant improvements to mainstem Klamath River hydrology, instream habitat, and water quality. In addition, dam removal is expected to decrease the incidence of disease downstream of IGD thereby improving survival of anadromous fish throughout the Klamath River watershed. It is anticipated that fall-run Chinook salmon, coho salmon, Pacific lamprey, and steelhead trout (fall and winter runs) will utilize portions of the Klamath River that flow through Parcel B Lands upstream of IGD soon after dam removal. It is anticipated that in time, with the assistance of recovery actions, spring Chinook, and potentially summer steelhead trout, will utilize portions of the Klamath River that flow through Parcel B Lands.

Along with a commitment to long-term protection of the Parcel B Lands, there is also a commitment to restore the areas currently inundated by the reservoirs. This restoration is scheduled to occur prior to transfer of ownership by the KRRC. These efforts are expected to set the Parcel B Lands and the river on the path toward natural functioning. However, as with all restored areas, the exact timeframe for long-term management and maintenance requirements is unknown. It is also likely that there will need to be ongoing restoration activities in the near to midterm. However, with time, the river and the associated riparian habitats will be restored to their natural condition and will require less active management.

The long-term viability of the Parcel B Lands, and the river looks very good. The project itself is part of a larger commitment to greater river health by agencies (federal, state, and local), tribes, NGOs, and private landowners. The dam removal is a long-term project with the goal of restoring Klamath River health and water quality. There is a substantial commitment of both funding and staffing to evaluate, enhance and restore these lands and waters to facilitate a successful acquisition and transfer of ownership. PacifiCorp has contributed $200 million in rate payer funds collected from a surcharge. PacifiCorp is also improving Fall Creek Hatchery to make it operational for CDFW's use, which is estimated to cost between $10-15 million. Finally, PacifiCorp, Oregon, and California have each committed an additional $15 million for an additional contingency totaling $45 million, and each agreed to share any cost overruns beyond that. The California Natural Resources Agency has also committed $250 million in bond funds towards the project.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The potential transfer of the Parcel B Lands to CDFW will not occur immediately. It is anticipated that the lands will be transferred out of KRRC's ownership once dam removal and restoration is complete. In the interim, other potential future transferees of the Parcel B Lands may be identified, such as tribes or NGOs. WCB's approval of this project will allow WCB to enter into the Property Transfer Agreement with KRRC thereby giving it assurance of a future transferee before undertaking significant financial expenditures in dam removal and restoration. In addition, the Property Transfer Agreement will undergo DGS review and approval. WCB will report back to the Board when the property transfers have occurred.

Public access to the lands is currently provided for low-impact recreational activities, including hunting, fishing, hiking, birdwatching, photography, and bicycle use. Parcel B Lands will require ongoing, active management. As with many rural lands there will always be risk associated with trespass, dumping, invasive plants, and feral animals. Additionally, these areas will continue to be susceptible to wildfire. Proactive management (e.g., fencing, patrols, fire breaks) will help minimize these challenges. Given the need for long-term, proactive management of the Parcel B Lands, options for a mechanism to provide stable funding and staffing for the lands are being contemplated. Development of this funding/staffing mechanism will help ensure adequate long-term management of the Parcel B Lands and their resources.

PROJECT FUNDING
The project is a no cost acquisition.

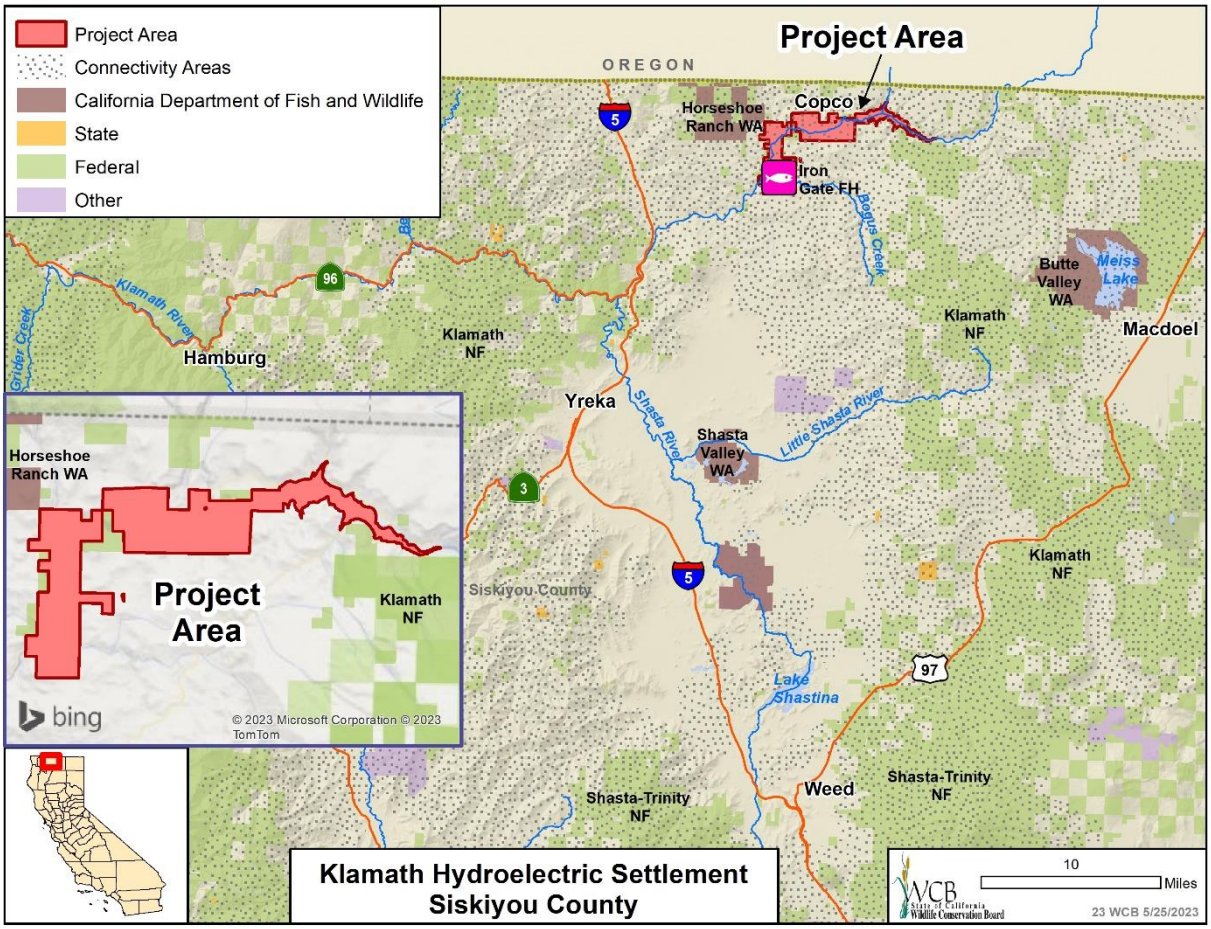
PROJECT LETTERS OF SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION
Support:

- Congressman Jared Huffman, 2nd District
- Senator Mike McGuire, 2nd District
- Janice Crowe, Chairman, Shasta Indian National
- 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.



24. Public Access for a Renewed Klamath River

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB adopt the written findings and approve this project as proposed; allocate $3,500,000 from the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68), Public Resources Code Section 80111(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:	Public Access for a Renewed Klamath River
Project Type:	Implementation
Applicant/Grantee:	Klamath River Renewal Corporation
Amount Recommended:	$3,500,000
Funding Partners:	American Whitewater, Catena Foundation, Klamath River Renewal Corporation, Resources Legacy Fund
Landowner(s):	Klamath River Renewal Corporation
County:	Siskiyou
Program:	Public Access
Strategic Plan:	Goals: C.1 Objectives: SI 3.1, 3.2

LOCATION

The Klamath River flows from Southern Oregon into Northern California, through the eastern Cascade Mountains and Redwood National Park where it enters the Pacific Ocean. It is the second longest river in California and is well known for its salmon runs and fishery, recreational opportunities, and its deep cultural significance for multiple Native American Tribes. The Klamath River upstream of Copco Reservoir is designated as Wild Trout Waters by CDFW. For the first time in more than 100 years, the Klamath River will flow freely through a 41-mile-long reach (26 miles within California) that has been impounded in multiple reservoirs, diverted into flumes, or otherwise limited to flowing only during power generation releases. Public Access for a Renewed Klamath River (Project) will implement three new public access facilities at the sites of the Iron Gate and Copco Reservoirs. The Project area is located on a section of the Klamath River accessed by Copco Road, a paved county road that connects to Interstate 5 at the town of Hornbrook.

Approximately 67 percent of the Project area is located within a disadvantaged community and the other 33 percent is located within a severely disadvantaged community according to DWR’s mapping tool. Nearly all of the Project area is within one mile of a severely disadvantaged community.

The Klamath River Renewal Corporation (KRRC) has worked closely with local Tribes, states, and the recreation community on recreation planning in order to address issues surrounding cultural revitalization, public education, and landscape restoration. In 2017 the Cultural Resources Working Group (CRWG) was formed, and starting in 2018, KRRC began hosting and facilitating separate Tribal

Caucuses for the Tribal representatives from the CRWG. Participants include representatives of the Klamath Tribes, Shasta Indian Nation, Shasta Nation, Karuk Tribe, Yurok Tribe, Quartz Valley Indian Community of the Quartz Valley Reservation of California, Cher'Ae Heights of the Trinidad Rancheria, Resighini Rancheria, and the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indian Reservation. The Tribes have been involved with the identification of interpretive sites and the restoration and protection of cultural resources and uses.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
The Klamath River will soon be transformed by the world's largest dam removal project, as four outdated hydropower dams are removed to restore the river's imperiled ecosystem and salmon runs. Along with profound ecological and sociocultural benefits, dam removal will also transform outdoor recreation opportunities. Existing reservoir-based recreation opportunities will be removed; however, they will be replaced by new opportunities for high quality, river-oriented recreation. The Project will support three public access facilities along the Klamath River in California, to be implemented concurrently with dam removal.

The new and improved public access facilities will include all necessary amenities such as boat ramps, access trails and roads, parking, restrooms, trash receptables, picnic tables, and appropriate signage. ADA access will be integrated into the public access facilities. Each public access facility site will include up to three ADA compliant picnic tables, up to two ADA compliant parking spaces, and one ADA compliant restroom. A dog waste station will be installed between the parking and picnic areas for service animals. Interpretive signage will be placed at the picnic areas, as well as along the boat ramps. In order to facilitate safe and accessible access while enhancing user experience, materials highlighting ADA accessibility features will be made available in a way that allows users to clearly understand features and layout of each facility in advance of their visit. Specifically, successful implementation of the three facilities includes:

- The construction of a new public access facility at the downstream end of Copco Valley, which will provide a take-out for river users a short distance upstream of the entrance to Wards Canyon where the river suddenly transitions to a difficult class IV whitewater run. This river access facility will also serve as the put-in for whitewater boaters seeking the thrill and beauty of the Wards Canyon section, and it is a critical access point for commercial outfitters and guides who will use it both to take out from Copco Valley and to put in for Wards Canyon.
- The renovation of the existing Fall Creek public access facility to support river-based recreation following dam removal. This site will serve as an essential take-out for the upstream Wards Canyon Run and as the put-in for the Iron Gate Run, a currently inundated section of river.
- The construction of a new public access facility immediately below the current Iron Gate dam site. This new river access site will serve as a take-out location for whitewater boaters and anglers on the new upstream Iron Gate Run and

as a put-in for the section of river downstream of current site of Iron Gate dam.

The Project will result in usable facilities and all accessibility features, interpretive signage, and safety measures in place for public use. Dam removal activities have begun, with Copco No. 2 dam to be removed later this year. It is anticipated that reservoir drawdown and removal of JC Boyle, Copco No. 1, and Iron Gate dams will be completed in 2024, returning the river to a free-flowing condition. Constructing the public access facilities in the same timeframe not only creates efficiency and reduces overall costs, but it will allow the recreation community to access the river in 2025 and not further impact business opportunities. Further, this will ensure that any public access to the renewed river will be at designated areas to support public safety and be respectful of cultural resources and restoration activities.

This Project contributes to the goals of Pathways to 30x30 California by aligning with Pathway 1: Accelerate Regionally Led Conservation.

This Project does not use herbicide.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The amended Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement stipulates that the lands “shall thereafter be managed for public interest purposes such as fish and wildlife habitat restoration and enhancement, public education, and public recreational access”. Following dam removal and construction of the public access facilities, KRRC will transfer the Project lands to CDFW for long-term ownership and management. If at any time during the 25-year life of the Project, KRRC 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	$75,000	$65,000	$140,000
Final Design and Permitting	$154,098	$91,000	$245,098
Stakeholder and Tribal Coordination	$61,998	$49,000	$110,998
Implementation	$2,474,900	$1,100,000	$3,574,900
Indirect Costs	$414,899	$195,750	$610,649
Contingency	$319,105	$130,500	$449,605
Total	$3,500,000	$1,631,250	$5,131,250

Costs associated with WCB funding include:

- Project Management: General Project oversight, contract management, and reporting.
- Final Design and Permitting: Finalize 90 percent designs for implementation, obtain permits and authorizations.
- Stakeholder and Tribal Coordination: Cultural resources evaluations, outreach to the recreation community, Tribes, and other partners.
- Implementation: Construction of public access facilities at three locations.
- Indirect Costs: Incidental or indirect costs not to exceed 15 percent of the total direct WCB award.
- Contingency: Unanticipated project costs associated with WCB-funded tasks only, requires WCB staff approval prior to use.

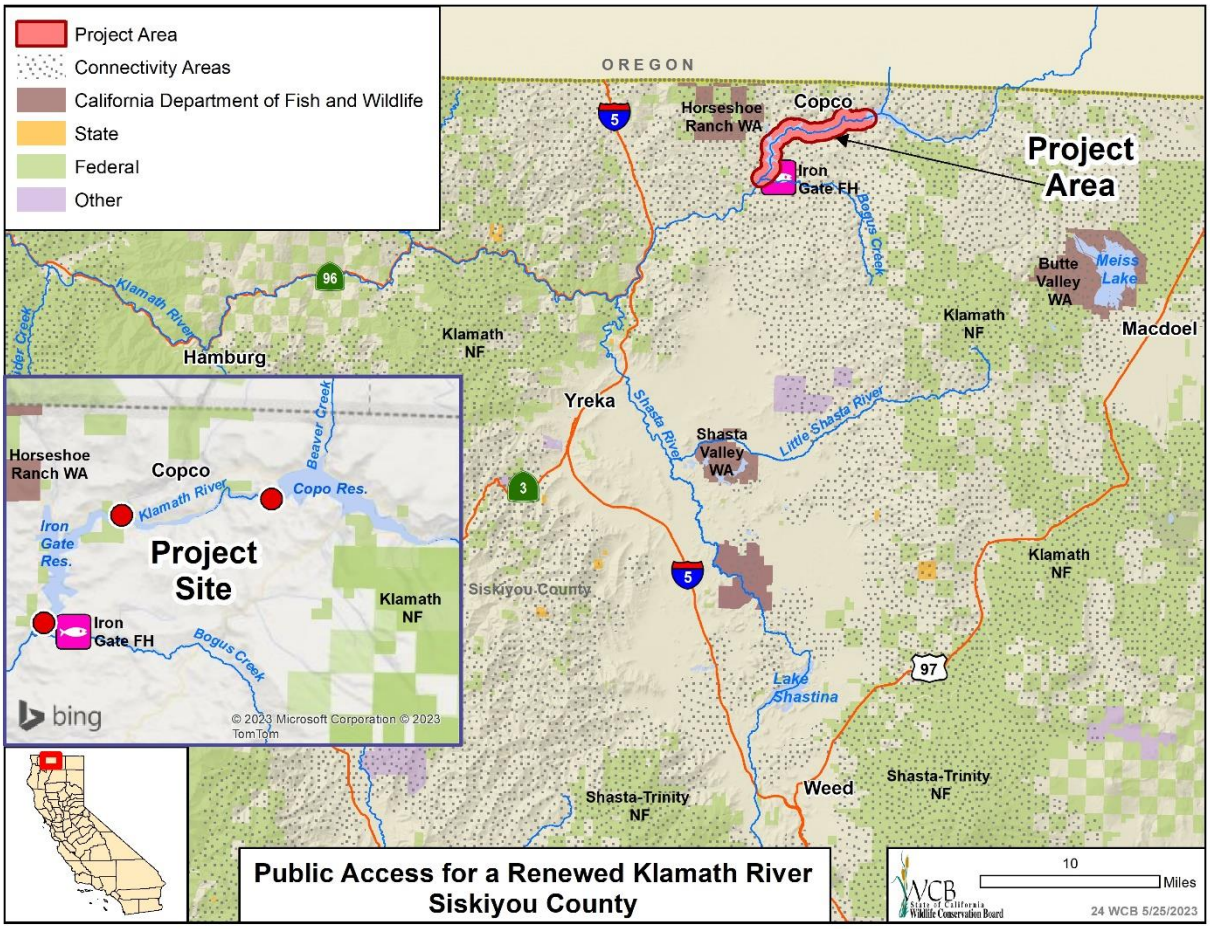
PROJECT LETTERS OF SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION
Support:

- Congressman Jared Huffman, 2nd District
- Mike McGuire, State Senator, District 2
- Jim Wood, State Assemblymember, District 2
- Jim Simondet, Klamath Branch Supervisor, NOAA Fisheries
- Janice Crowe, Chairman, Shasta Indian Nation
- Russel Attebery, Chairman, Karuk Tribe
- Joseph L. James, Chairman, Yurok Tribe
- Kathleen Hitt, Executive Director, Siskiyou Land Trust
- Curtis Knight, Executive Director, California Trout
- Patrick Berry, President and CEO, Fly Fishers International
- Randy G. Cox, CEO, Klamath County Economic Development Association
- Justi Hansen, Executive Director, Siskiyou Outdoor Recreation Alliance
- Will Volpert, President, Upper Klamath Outfitters Association

Opposition:

- None received

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS
The State Water Resources Control Board, as lead agency, prepared an EIR for the project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA. Staff considered the EIR and prepared proposed written findings documenting WCB's compliance with CEQA. Subject to approval of this proposal by the WCB, the appropriate Notice of Determination (NOD) will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.


Project Area
Connectivity Areas
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
State
Federal
Other
OREGON
Horseshoe Ranch WA
Copco
Iron Gate FH
Project Area
Bogus Creek
Butte Valley WA
Meiss Lake
Macdoel
Klamath River
Hamburg
Klamath NF
Yreka
Shasta River
Little Shasta River
Shasta Valley WA
Siskiyou County
Lake Shastina
Weed
Shasta-Trinity NF
Beaver Creek
Copco Res.
Iron Gate Res.
Project Site
bing
© 2023 Microsoft Corporation © 2023 TomTom
Public Access for a Renewed Klamath River
Siskiyou County
10
Miles
WCB
24 WCB 5/25/2023

25. Rancho Breisgau Riparian Habitat Restoration

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB adopt the written findings and approve this project as proposed; allocate $5,433,000 from the General Fund, Water Supply for Environmental Flows (Stream Flow Enhancement Program) Provision (SB 170, Section 54, EY22); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Rancho Breisgau Riparian Habitat Restoration
Project Type:	Implementation
Applicant/Grantee:	River Partners
Amount Recommended:	$5,433,000
Funding Partners:	Bureau of Land Management
Landowner(s):	Bureau of Land Management
County:	Shasta
Program:	California Riparian Habitat Conservation
Strategic Plan:	Goals: B.1 Objectives: SI 1.2, 2.1

LOCATION

The Rancho Breisgau Riparian Habitat Restoration (Project) is located on public land approximately seven miles east of Cottonwood, at the confluence of Battle Creek and the Sacramento River. Battle Creek is the largest Sacramento River tributary north of the Feather River, with a watershed that covers approximately 360 square miles. Rancho Breisgau is adjacent to the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) 18,500-acre Sacramento River Bend Area and is on the other side of Battle Creek from CDFW's Battle Creek Wildlife Area. Approximately three miles upstream of Rancho Breisgau is the Coleman National Fish Hatchery, the largest anadromous fish hatchery in the contiguous 48 states, which releases Chinook salmon and Steelhead into Battle Creek.

The Project area is within a disadvantaged community and surrounded by severely disadvantaged communities as shown on DWR's DAC Mapping Tool. Restoring habitat conditions of Rancho Breisgau will improve equitable access to public lands for these communities and will complement and expand recreational opportunities on Battle Creek and the Sacramento River for wildlife-oriented recreation.

BLM is working collaboratively with the Yurok Tribe to provide full root wad walnut trees that will be removed as part of the Project for use as large woody debris in their adjacent channel rehabilitation projects.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Over a century of legacy land use practices associated with cultivating the land for farming row crops and orchards has resulted in the loss and degradation of riparian habitat at Rancho Breisgau. The current condition of riparian habitat is poor and no longer functions as a natural riparian zone. Aside from a thin band along Battle Creek and the Sacramento River, the Project area contains very little

remnant riparian vegetation and is being overtaken by prolific nonnative, invasive plants including yellow star thistle, milk thistle, pokeweed, poison hemlock, Johnsongrass, mustards, tree of heaven, and Himalayan blackberry.

The 426-acre Rancho Breisgau property was acquired by BLM in 2011 with the intent of restoring the property to its native plant communities. In 2013, WCB helped fund the planning, design, and environmental review of habitat restoration at Rancho Breisgau. The goals of the Project are to provide quality habitat for federal and state-listed species, including Swainson's hawk, western yellow-billed cuckoo, and valley elderberry longhorn beetle, neo-tropical migratory birds, waterfowl, and upland game birds, and increased connectivity to existing riparian habitat along Battle Creek and the Sacramento River.

These goals will be achieved by removing 120 acres of abandoned walnut orchards, controlling highly invasive, nonnative plants using integrated pest management strategies, and restoring 130 acres of mixed riparian habitat using an estimated 28,340 native trees, shrubs, and grasses that are naturally resilient to flooding, drought, and fire. A well will be drilled in the Tehama County portion of the property to provide temporary supplemental irrigation for plant establishment. A 3-year maintenance and monitoring period will ensure robust plant establishment and growth and will document how wildlife and pollinators are using the restored habitat.

This Project contributes to the goals of Pathways to 30x30 California by aligning with Pathway 6: Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship, Pathway 7: Strengthen Coordination Among Governments, and Pathway 8: Align Investments to Maximize Conservation Benefits.

The Project plans to use herbicide in conjunction with mechanical methods (mowing, tilling, and hand pulling). Imazapyr and Aminopyralid will be the primary products used for most of the target weeds including Johnsongrass, bur chervil, poison hemlock, black mustard, bull thistle, yellow star thistle, teasel, medusa head, summer mustard, pokeweed, and tree of heaven. Glyphosate is proposed only for the treatment of Himalayan blackberry and will be applied in the late summer to fall after blackberry thickets are masticated to reduce biomass, canes are growing rapidly and have reached leaf maturity, and berries are formed, thereby reducing potential exposure to pollinators. Mechanical treatments will be used to reduce above ground biomass prior to chemical treatments. This will help reduce the amount of chemical used and will also promote new growth which absorbs chemical more readily.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS
River Partners and BLM have adopted a Management Plan that guides management actions for the property, including management of Rancho Breisgau. If at any time during the 25-year life of the Project, River Partners 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	$133,971	---	$133,971
Site Preparation	$1,272,799	---	$1,272,799
Habitat Restoration and Maintenance	$2,751,526	$213,650	$2,965,176
Monitoring, Reporting, & Outreach	$226,392	---	$226,392
Indirect Costs	$553,781	---	$553,781
Contingency	$494,531	---	$494,531
Total	$5,433,000	$213,650	$5,646,650

Costs associated with WCB funding include:

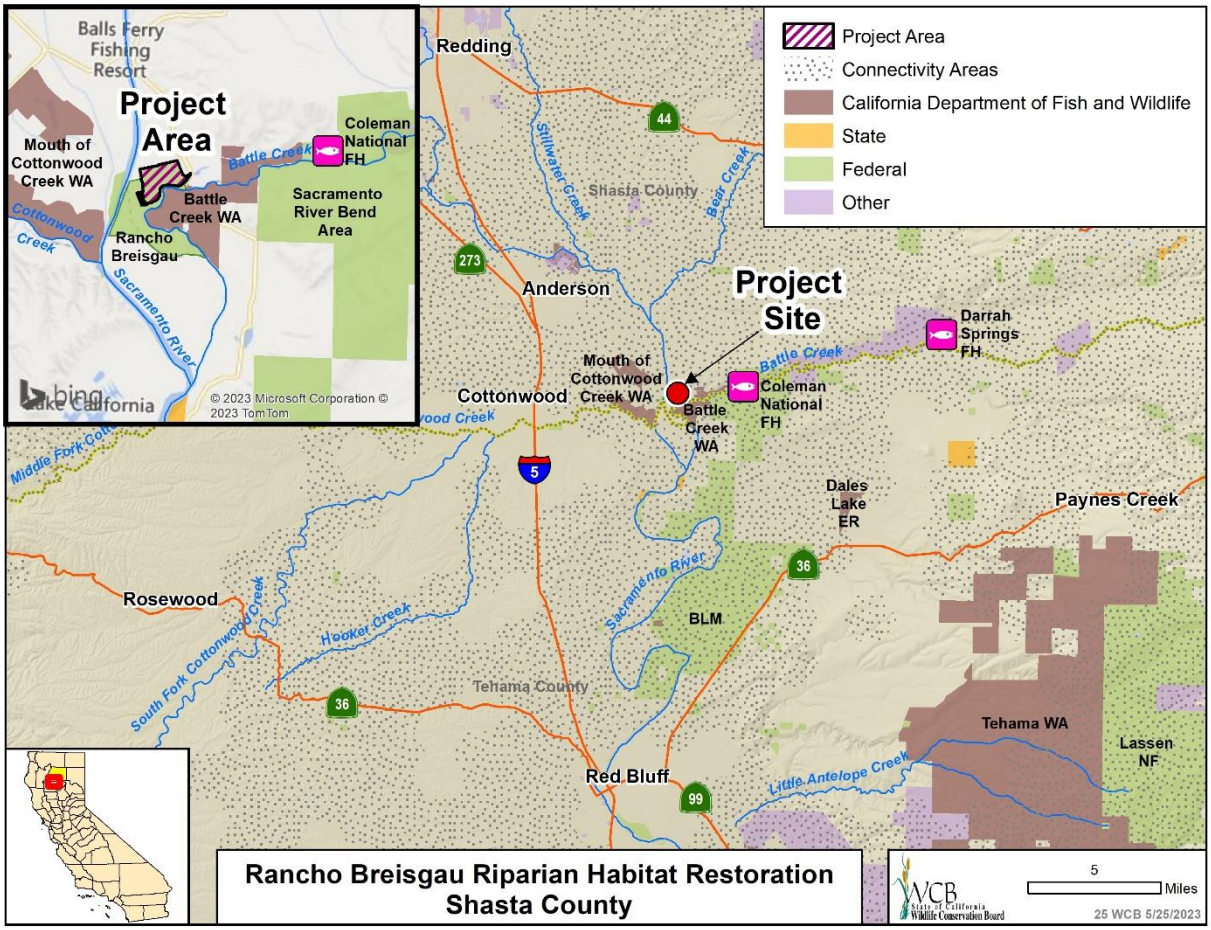
- Project Management: Administer service contracts, oversee project and agency coordination, and prepare invoices and grant reports.
- Site Preparation: Orchard removal, invasive plant treatments, well drilling, and irrigation installation.
- Habitat Restoration and Maintenance: Procure native plant material, install plants and drill seed, and oversee maintenance of plantings including supplemental irrigation and weed control.
- Monitoring, Reporting, & Outreach: Project performance and outcome monitoring including plant growth, plant survivorship, wildlife response. Sharing monitoring results with local practitioner forums and conferences.
- Indirect Costs: Incidental or indirect costs not to exceed 15 percent of the total direct WCB award.
- Contingency: Unanticipated project costs associated with WCB-funded tasks only, requires WCB staff approval prior to use.

PROJECT LETTERS OF SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION
Support:
- Jennifer Mata, Redding Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management
- James Cogswell, Coordinator, Central Valley Joint Venture

Opposition:
- None received

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS
The Western Shasta Resource Conservation District, as lead agency, prepared a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the project pursuant to the provisions of the CEQA. Staff considered the MND and have 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.



26. Oroville Wildlife Area Thermalito Recreation Improvements

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB adopt the written findings and approve this project as proposed; allocate $4,415,000 from the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68), Public Resources Code Section 80111(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:	Oroville Wildlife Area Thermalito Recreation Improvements
Project Type:	Public Access
Applicant/Grantee:	Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency
Amount Recommended:	$4,415,000
Funding Partners:	U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Landowner(s):	Department of Water Resources
County:	Butte
Program:	Public Access
Strategic Plan:	Goals: C.1 Objectives: SI 3.1,3.2, 3.3

LOCATION

The Oroville Wildlife Area (WA) Thermalito Recreation Improvements (Project) encompasses approximately 50 acres of CDFW's 11,800-acre Oroville WA and is seven miles southwest of the city of Orville. The Project area is part of the Thermalito Afterbay Outlet and sits along a stretch of the Feather River that is recognized as one of the most active shoreline and boat accessible fishing areas in Northern California.

The Project is within a Climate Vulnerable Community as defined by CalEPA and shown on the CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Map, and within a SDAC according DWR's DAC Mapping Tool. Many of the communities within a 20-mile radius of the Project area have seen recent population growth following displacement triggered by devastating wildfires in the region over the past few years. These fires include the 2018 Camp fire, the North Complex fire of 2020, and the more recent 2021 Dixie fire. In addition to the many fire refugees caused by these fires, countless regional recreational facilities, campsites, trails, and other outdoor recreational opportunities were destroyed. The Project begins to address some of these losses through the provision of enhanced riverine oriented recreation, developed overnight camping, hiking, and recreational day use that will directly benefit the disadvantaged communities.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Project will be a transformational recreational development for the greater Oroville region by providing and enhancing a suite of much needed recreation facilities to an existing primitive recreational area/boat launch facility along the Feather River. Supported by data provided by CDFW and DWR, the Afterbay Outlet area receives over 59,000 vehicles on an annual basis with upwards of

100,000 to 150,000 visitors annually. Considered wholly inadequate for the current level of usage, the new facilities and recreational enhancements proposed by the Project will enhance current use and will add to its prominence as a regional attraction to the surrounding disadvantaged communities. The Project is going to meet these goals by completing on-going community outreach, preparing 100 percent design plans, securing permits, and constructing a new boat launch facility with boarding dock, a 25-site primitive campground and day use area with vault restrooms, an accessible trail connection, paved access road, staging area, and parking lot, entry station, and multi-lingual interpretive panels. Campground and day use area will be landscaped with native trees and shrubs to provide shade and habitat for wildlife.

This Project contributes to the goals of Pathways to 30x30 California by aligning with Key Objective 2: Expand Access to Nature. The Project will create safe and inclusive experiences (i.e., ADA-compliant recreational facilities) that reflect the needs and interests of the local communities.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS
The Sutter Butte Flood Control 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, Sutter Butte Flood Control 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
Project and Construction Management	$374,000	$462,000	$836,000
Planning and Design	$217,000	$217,500	$434,500
Permitting Commitments	$590,500	$583,000	$1,173,500
Construction	$2,831,944	$1,062,557	$3,894,501
Contingency	$401,556	---	$401,556
Total	$4,415,000	$2,325,057	$6,740,057

Costs associated with WCB funding include:

- Project and Construction Management: Project bidding, administer and oversee subcontracts, monitor schedule and budget, prepare invoices and payments, and reporting.
- Planning and Design: Complete community outreach, topographic surveys, design plan sets, and technical specifications.
- Permitting Commitments: Secure regulatory permits, conduct pre-construction surveys and construction monitoring, and fulfill compensatory mitigation.

- Construction: Construct new and enhanced recreational amenities for boating, fishing, camping, hiking, and day use.
- Contingency: Unanticipated project costs associated with WCB-funded tasks only, requires WCB staff approval prior to use.

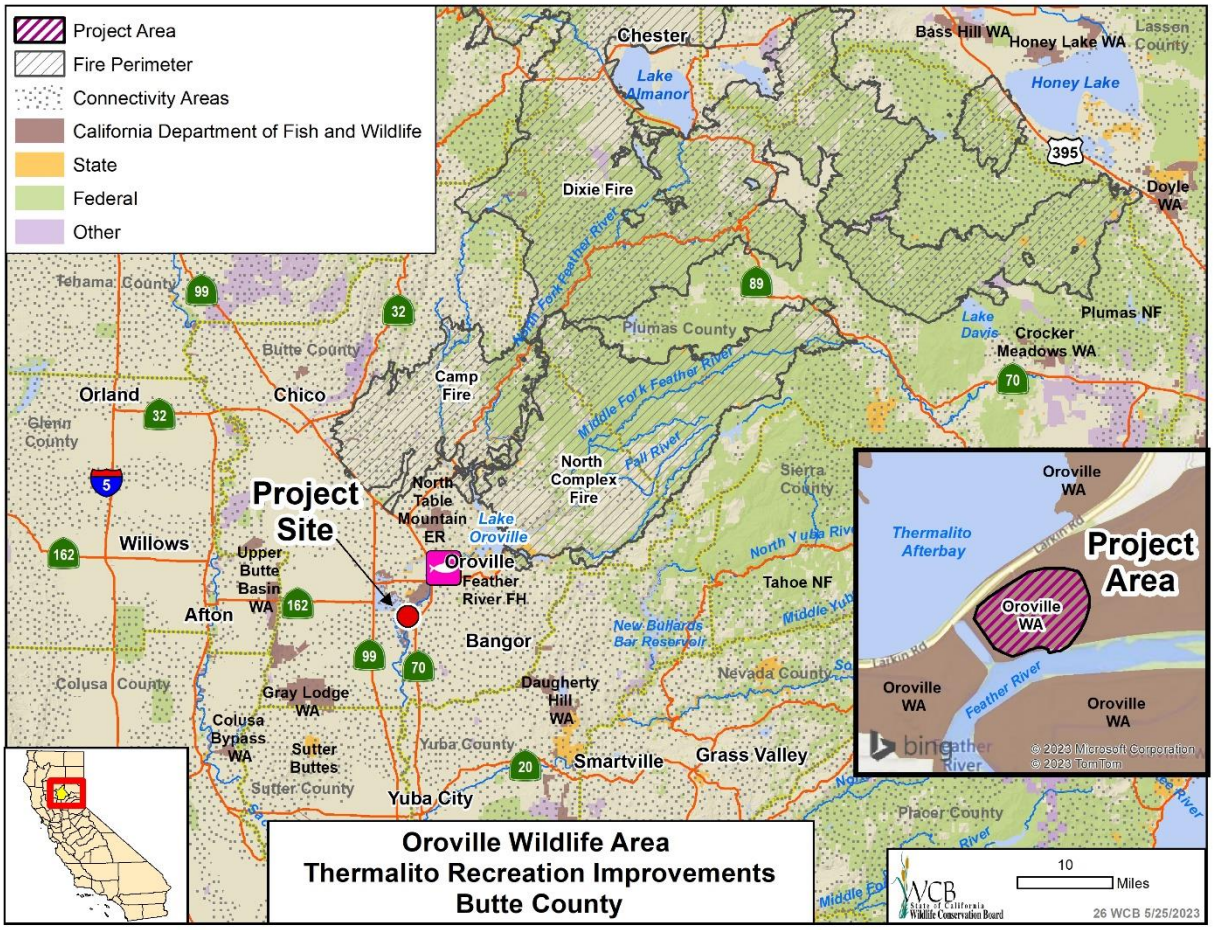
PROJECT LETTERS OF SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION
Support:

- Mark Hafner, Manager, DWR – Oroville Field Division

Opposition:

- None received

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS
DWR, as lead agency, prepared an EIR for the project pursuant to the provisions of the CEQA. Staff considered the EIR, and have 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.



27. Upper Rose Bar Restoration Construction

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB adopt the written findings and approve this project as proposed; allocate $4,081,000 from the General Fund, Water Supply for Environmental Flows (Stream Flow Enhancement Program) Provision (SB170, Sec. 54 EY22); 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 Rose Bar Restoration Construction
Project Type:	Implementation
Applicant/Grantee:	South Yuba River Citizens League
Amount Recommended:	$4,081,000
Funding Partners:	Yuba Water Agency
Landowner(s):	Yuba Water Agency
County:	Yuba
Program:	Stream Flow
Strategic Plan:	Goals: B.1 Objectives: SI 2.3

LOCATION

The Upper Rose Bar Restoration Construction (Project) is within a reach of the Yuba River approximately one mile downstream of Englebright Dam in Yuba County, which is publicly owned by the Yuba Water Agency. The 43-acre site is approximately 1.5 miles east of the city of Smartsville.

The Project is located within and benefits an SDAC (as identified using DWR maps). This Project has the potential to employ people from economically disadvantaged communities by providing local jobs during the construction phase of this Project.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Implementation of the Project will enhance and enlarge two existing riffle features within the 43-acre Project footprint through gravel augmentation creating much needed spawning habitat in the Yuba River. This Project will also recontour areas along both banks of the river to create rearing benches for juvenile salmonids. Further, this Project includes funding for post-project biological and geomorphic monitoring. The gravel used for augmentation will come from on-site material excavated to create the access road necessary for project implementation. Excess material will be stored adjacent to the Project for future augmentation.

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

The Project will not use herbicides.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS
The Grantee 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, 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	$110,961	---	$110,961
Construction Management	$2,817,877	$100,000	$2,917,877
Post-Project Monitoring	$297,310	---	$297,310
Indirect Costs	$483,852	---	$483,852
Contingency	$371,000	---	$371,000
Total	$4,081,000	$100,000	$4,181,000

Costs associated with WCB funding include:

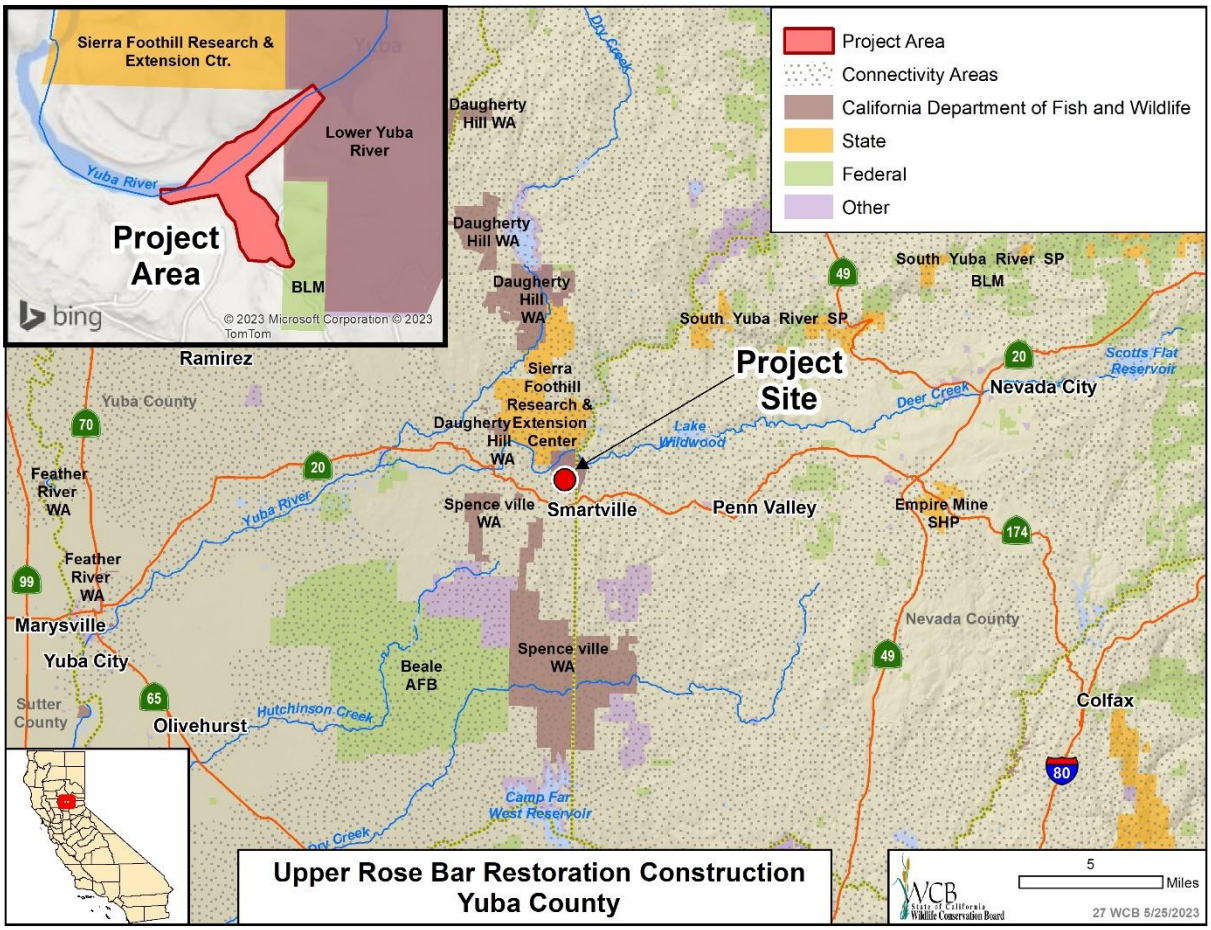
- Project Management: Grantee will oversee subcontracts, landowner coordination, budget and project schedule, construction management, submission of progress reports and invoices, review of all technical products, submission data, submission of final report, and post-project monitoring.
- Construction Management: Grantee will oversee pre-construction surveys, construction monitoring including biological and archaeological surveying, water quality monitoring, and the implementation of the gravel augmentation.
- Post-Project Monitoring: Grantee will conduct spawning and sediment monitoring surveys and will develop a long-term monitoring plan.
- Indirect Costs: Incidental or indirect costs not to exceed 15 percent of the total direct WCB award.
- Contingency: Unanticipated project costs associated with WCB-funded tasks only, requires WCB staff approval prior to use.

PROJECT LETTERS OF SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION
Support:
- Willie Whittlesey, General Manager, Yuba Water Agency

Opposition:
- None received

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS
The County of Yuba, 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.



28. Sonoma Creek Baylands Planning

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate $3,428,528 from the General Fund, Fish & Wildlife Resources - Climate Change Impacts on Wildlife Provision (AB 179, Sec.83(a), EY22); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Sonoma Creek Baylands Planning
Project Type:	Planning
Applicant/Grantee:	Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
Amount Recommended:	$3,428,528
Funding Partners:	CA State Coastal Conservancy
County:	Sonoma
Program:	Habitat Enhancement and Restoration
Strategic Plan:	Goals: B.1, C.1 Objectives: SI 1.3, 1.4, 2.2, 2.4

LOCATION

The Sonoma Creek Baylands (Project) planning area is bounded on the north by State Route 121 (SR 121), on the west by the Sonoma Mountains, on the east by the Mayacamas Mountains, and on the south by San Pablo Bay. The center of the planning area lies approximately 6.5 miles south of the city of Sonoma. Downstream of SR 121, Schell and Sonoma creeks enter into a complex network of tidal slough channels before entering San Pablo Bay. The planning area supports a range of habitats. Much of what used to be tidal marsh has been transformed into agricultural baylands (hayfields and vineyards) and diked wetlands with linear strips of tidal marsh, adjacent to tidal sloughs, between each adjacent parcel. The Project is also located within the Sonoma Valley Subbasin, a groundwater basin classified as high priority by DWR in its Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Sonoma Valley.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Much of what used to be tidal marsh in the low-lying lands along Sonoma Creek has been transformed into diked agricultural baylands and managed wetlands. Levee construction and draining have caused significant losses of tidal marsh habitat, a reduction in tidal prism, and the creation of a sediment trap in the historic channels. Both freshwater and tidal channels have been confined by levees, simplifying the historic tidal channel network that connected Sonoma Creek to its surrounding baylands and blocking the movement of sediment from the uplands into the marshes. The former marshes have subsided, and the whole area now depends on levees and pumping to dry out land for agricultural uses and to prevent flooding in times of heavy or prolonged rainfall. In the absence of new, large-scale wetland restoration, the Project area will experience continued and increased flooding, infrastructure damage, and habitat loss.

The Project goal is to address these issues by developing shovel-ready plans and environmental compliance documentation to restore up to 6,000 acres of Sonoma

Baylands. This work will carry forward the vision of the Sonoma Creek Baylands Strategy (Strategy) to eventually implement restoration of the Sonoma Creek Baylands portion of the San Pablo Baylands. The Strategy, completed in May 2020, provides a plan for landscape-scale restoration, flood protection, and public access in the Sonoma Creek Baylands.

The Project will provide the outreach, designs, and environmental review necessary to begin implementing the Strategy. This includes the preparation of engineering designs, environmental compliance documentation that includes CEQA and NEPA compliance documents, and the submission of any necessary permit applications. Additional Project goals include gaining tribal, community, and stakeholder buy-in through targeted outreach, identifying public access opportunities, and maintaining or improving the existing level of flood protection for remaining infrastructure.

Ultimately, restoration will re-integrate natural processes to estuarine habitats, connect important marsh migration zones, reduce chronic flooding, and restore overall habitat connectivity in the watershed. Project plans, once implemented, will provide a mosaic of habitats to benefit a large diversity of wildlife including state and federally listed species. Species that will benefit from the Project include California Ridgway's rail, California black rail, salt marsh harvest mouse, Chinook salmon, steelhead, longfin smelt, red-legged frog, and many special status plant species including Point Reyes bird's-beak, soft bird's-beak, Suisun Marsh aster, and federally endangered Contra Costa goldfields.

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 & Tribal Coordination	$278,118	$417,458	$695,576
Outreach	$275,000	$132,386	$407,386
Design	$650,000	$815,000	$1,465,000
Environmental Review & Compliance	$934,820	$1,650,000	$2,584,820
Monitoring	$775,000	---	$775,000
Indirect Costs	$203,906	$211,039	$414,945
Contingency	$311,684	$312,588	$624,272
Total	$3,428,528	$3,538,471	$6,966,999

Costs associated with WCB funding include:

- Project Management & Tribal Coordination: General project oversight and control.
- Outreach: Outreach efforts with tribal representatives, general stakeholders, and a Technical Advisory Committee.
- Design: Preliminary design and alternatives, as well as the 30, 60, and 90 percent design process.
- Environmental Review & Compliance: Conduct compliance coordination, pre-application regulatory site visits and follow-ups, as well as permit applications and permit review.
- Monitoring: Monitoring efforts in the North Bay to inform future and ongoing restoration planning in this region.
- Indirect Costs: Incidental or indirect costs not to exceed 15 percent of the total direct WCB award.
- Contingency: Unanticipated project costs associated with WCB-funded tasks only, requires WCB staff approval prior to use.

PROJECT LETTERS OF SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION

Support:

- Matt Brown, Refuge Complex Manager, USFWS, San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex
- Eamon O'Byrne, Executive Director, Sonoma Land Trust
- Grant Davis, General Manager, Sonoma Water
- Sandra Scoggin, Coordinator, San Francisco Bay Joint Venture
- Manuel J. Oliva, Chief Executive Officer, Point Blue Conservation Science
- Warner Chabot, Executive Director, San Francisco Estuary Institute Aquatic Science Center

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.


Project Planning Area
Connectivity Areas
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
State
Federal
Other
Project Area
Sebastopol
Sonoma County
Napa County
Sonoma
Petaluma River
Napa River
Marin County
Petaluma
Marsh WA
Napa-Sonoma Marshes WA
Vallejo
Novato
Tomales Bay SP
Tomales Bay ER
Nicasio Reservoir
Point Reyes National Seashore
Olema
Samuel P. Taylor SP
Golden Gate NRA
San Pablo Bay WA
Grizzly Island WA
Solano County
Sacramento River
Point Edith WA
Lower Sherman Island WA
Antioch
Concord
Contra Costa County
San Rafael
Alpine Lake
Marin Islands ER
Corte Madera Marsh ER
Richmond
El Cerrito
Bolinas
Mount Tamalpais SP
Mill Valley
Albany Mudflats ER
Berkeley
Cowell Ranch SHP
Mount Diablo SP
PACIFIC OCEAN
Angel Island SP
Golden Gate NRA
San Francisco County
Oakland
Alameda County
San Ramon
San Francisco
Sonoma Creek Baylands Planning
Sonoma County
10
Miles
WCB State of California Wildlife Conservation Board
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29. Bently Junction Ranch

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate $4,200,000 from the General Fund, Water Supply for Environmental Flows (Stream Flow Enhancement Program) Provision (SB170, Sec. 54, EY21), for a grant to The Wildlands Conservancy (TWC); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project including acceptance of an easement by CDFW; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Bently Junction Ranch
Project Type:	Fee Title (2,333± acres)
Grantee:	The Wildlands Conservancy
Amount Recommended:	$4,200,000
Funding Partners:	The Wildlands Conservancy
County:	Mono
Program:	Land Acquisition
Strategic Plan:	Goals: A.1, A.2, A.4, C.1 Objectives: SI 1.2,1.3, 3.3

LOCATION

The property (Property), known as Bently Junction Ranch, is located approximately 17 miles northwest of Bridgeport, near the intersection of U.S. 395 and State Route 108, commonly referred to as Sonora Junction. This area falls within the lower western slopes of the Sweetwater Mountain range that straddles the Nevada and California border.

The Property is located between the Pickel Meadow Wildlife Area and Burcham and Wheeler Flats Wildlife Area, and upstream of the nearby West Walker River Wildlife Area.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property is an undeveloped, irregular shaped tract of land and consists of diverse terrain with an elevation ranging from 6,600 feet above mean sea level near the northwestern border to 7,500 feet at the southern border. The Property is zoned Resource Management with its highest and best use being rural residential and long-term hold for land use intensification with recreational use consistent with market forces. The Property is traversed by the West Walker River, the Little Walker River, and Junction Creek and encompasses Junction Reservoir. Most of the Property is summer pasture grazed by cattle as part of a larger ranching operation.

The Property mostly consists of high Sierra sagebrush and scrub rangeland areas, with expansive wet meadow inclusions that provide essential year-round habitat for greater sage-grouse. This population of greater sage-grouse has declined

dramatically over the last 20 years due to habitat problems associated with overgrazing, fire suppression, and pinyon juniper encroachment on sagebrush rangelands. The Property also provides important migration, holdover, summer range, and fawning habitat for the Walker River, Sweetwater Mountains, and Mono Lake mule deer herds. Numerous species of waterfowl are present in the open water wetlands and will benefit from improvement via habitat enhancement and prescriptive grazing management. Other notable species likely to benefit from the protection of the Property include the Sierra Nevada red fox, bank swallow, willow flycatcher, western white-tailed hare, American badger, black bear, mountain lion, Townsend's big-eared bat, spotted bat, northern goshawk, bald eagle, sooty grouse, and mountain quail.

The CDFW Fisheries Program has prepared the Walker River Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Broodstock Management Plan for Hot Creek Hatchery & Junction Reservoir (March 2021) detailing plans to raise Threatened Walker River Lahontan Cutthroat Trout (LCT) on the Property in the Junction Reservoir, which is presently used by CDFW to raise rainbow trout under a lease agreement. Acquisition of the Property will advance multiple Walker LCT recovery objectives including establishing the first new lacustrine (lake-related) population of Walker River Lahontan cutthroat trout, improving the genetic management of the species for recreation and conservation, and providing a reliable egg take location for genetically pure Walker LCT to assist with recovery goals without having to take fish from current populations.

The Property lies within an approved CDFW Burcham and Wheeler Flats CAPP. The CAPP identifies several priority properties near the Burcham and Wheeler Flats Wildlife Area (BWFWA) for protection and conservation of habitat important to the greater sage-grouse, a California Species of Special Concern. The U.S. 395 bend location at the Property was recently identified by CDFW both as a key wildlife movement barrier priority and a priority to be enhanced for wildlife movement and public safety.

Acquisition of the Property by TWC will protect approximately 2,333± acres of healthy sage scrub habitat high in the Walker River watershed, riparian habitat and mountain meadows. This acquisition will also benefit the West Walker and Little Walker rivers, multiple streams, Junction Reservoir, and a variety of wetlands and ponds through restoration, fisheries improvements, and enhancement of instream flows.

This project contributes to the goals of Pathways to 30x30 California by aligning with Pathway 2: Execute Strategic Land Acquisitions.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The Property will be managed and owned by TWC as a part of its Two Rivers Preserve with outdoor education, recreational angling, nature viewing, and hiking opportunities available for free to the general public. TWC will also work with CDFW to develop a CDFW approved long-term management plan and potential hunting opportunities. As part of this project, TWC will also be granting an easement to CDFW for it to continue its fishery activities at Junction Reservoir.

PROJECT FUNDING

The DGS approved fair market value is $5,250,000 and the landowner has agreed to sell at a reduced price of $5,200,000. The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	$4,200,000
TWC	$1,000,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	$5,200,000

PROJECT LETTERS OF SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION

Support:

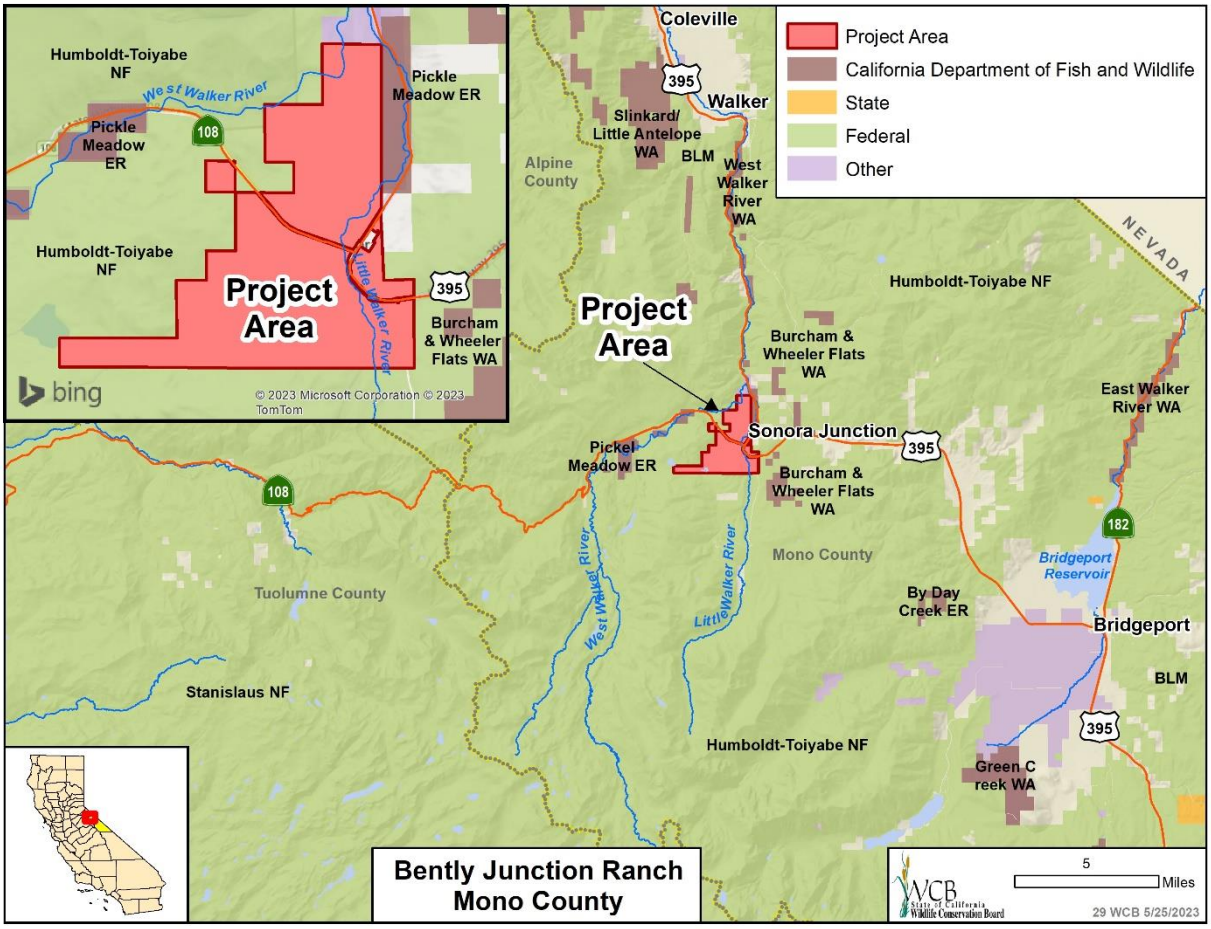
- Mari Galloway, California Program Director, Wildlands Network

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.


Project Area
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
State
Federal
Other
Humboldt-Toiyabe NF
West Walker River
Pickle Meadow ER
108
Pickle Meadow ER
Humboldt-Toiyabe NF
Project Area
395
Little Walker River
Burcham & Wheeler Flats WA
bing
© 2023 Microsoft Corporation © 2023 TomTom
Coleville
395
Walker
Slinkard/ Little Antelope WA
BLM
Alpine County
West Walker River WA
NEVADA
Humboldt-Toiyabe NF
Project Area
Burcham & Wheeler Flats WA
East Walker River WA
Sonora Junction
395
Pickel Meadow ER
Burcham & Wheeler Flats WA
108
182
Mono County
Bridgeport Reservoir
Tuolumne County
West Walker River
Little Walker River
By Day Creek ER
Bridgeport
BLM
Stanislaus NF
Humboldt-Toiyabe NF
395
Green C reek WA
Bently Junction Ranch
Mono County
5
Miles
WCB State of California Wildlife Conservation Board
29 WCB 5/25/2023

30. Rana Creek Ranch

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate $24,000,000 from General Fund, Fish & Wildlife Resources - Climate Change Impacts on Wildlife Provision (SB170, Sec. 53.5 EY21 and 22), for a grant to The Wildlands Conservancy; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Rana Creek Ranch
Project Type:	Fee Title (11,691± acres)
Grantee:	The Wildlands Conservancy
Amount Recommended:	$24,000,000
Funding Partners:	State Coastal Conservancy
County:	Monterey
Program:	Land Acquisition
Strategic Plan:	Goals: A.1, A.2; A.3, A.4, C.1, Objectives: SI 1.2; 2.1; 2.2, 2.4, 3.1

LOCATION

The subject property (Property), known as Rana Creek Ranch, is located in California's Central Coast Region. The Property is approximately 16 miles directly south of the city of Salinas, and 14 miles inland from the Pacific Ocean, in the unincorporated community of Carmel Valley (Valley). The Property is centered between the nearby state highways, State Route 1 to the west, U.S. Highway 101 to the east, and State Route 68 to the north, all of which provide access to east Carmel Valley Road which runs about a half mile along its southwestern border and leads to the entrance of the Property.

The Property lies in the Sierra de Salinas Mountain range between Salinas Valley to the east and the Santa Lucia Range to the west. The majority of the Property's boundary borders private lands dedicated to small and large-scale ranches, with some portions of its northern and southern boundaries abutting protected lands owned by BLM. In addition to the protected BLM lands, there are a few private working ranches that are encumbered with conservation easements bordering the Property. Approximately five miles southwest of the Property is the 1.75-million-acre Los Padres National Forest which extends from the city of Monterey north to Ventura County further south.

The Property, along with a few outlying communities within a 15-to-30-mile radius, have been identified as Disadvantaged Communities with some being identified as a Severely Disadvantaged Community (DWR DAC Mapping Tool). This proposed project will provide the opportunity for TWC to create new, free outdoor public access for the nearby underserved communities. TWC is also in the initial stages of tribal outreach for the Property, with the expected results of tribal access for ceremonial, educational, and land management decision making purposes.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
The 11,691± acre Property is the northern portion of the larger 14,142-acre Rana Creek Ranch. The Property consists of 12 contiguous legal parcels forming an irregular tract of land with elevation ranges of 1,000 feet along the East Carmel Valley Road frontage to 3,411 feet on the ridges that traverse the eastern portion of the Property. Improvements on the Property include a maintained 900 square foot single family residence, an adjacent 1,900 square foot barn, perimeter and pasture fencing, drainage channels, livestock water troughs, water wells, and tanks. Utilities on the Property include electricity, propane, and trash service provided by the local service district. A series of well-maintained, interior unpaved roads provide easy vehicle access from the entrance of the Property. The Property has operated as a cattle ranch since the Mexican land grants era in the early 1800s. For the past 40 years, the current owner has utilized the Property for recreational purposes and cattle grazing which conforms to the zoning designation of permanent grazing and permanent farmland. These designations also allow the opportunity to subdivide the Property and develop multiple single-family residences.

The Property is characterized by a variety of habitats including oak woodland savanna, chapparal, wetlands, riparian habitat, native grasslands and bunchgrasses, along with diverse assemblages of forbs and wildflowers. There are several, perennial creeks that run through the Property. These include Rana Creek, which is the primary drainage corridor on the southwest portion of the Property, Agua Mala Creek meanders through the southeastern corner of the Property, and Chupines Creek which crosses the northwestern portion of Property. The waters of these creeks eventually drain into the main stem of the Carmel Valley River located just west of the Property.

These habitats support numerous wildlife species including the threatened and endangered species of California coho salmon, California red-legged frog, California tiger salamander, and steelhead trout. Additionally, there are species of special concern that will benefit from this project which includes the burrowing owl and monarch butterfly along with the common species of mountain lion, black bear, deer, golden eagles, coyotes, and bobcats.

CDFW’s Areas of Conservation Emphasis has identified the Property as an important habitat connectivity linkage, with some areas being ranked as irreplaceable and essential corridors. Species such as black-tailed deer, black bear, and mountain lion utilize the Property to move between Salinas Valley and Los Padres National Forest.

The Property is also identified in SWAP as being within the Central California Coast ecoregion, a conservation unit in the Bay Delta – Central Coast Province. American Southwest riparian forest and woodland, which can be found on the Property, is a conservation target. This project will achieve the objective of SWAP Conservation Strategy 1 - Land acquisitions/Easement/Lease. This proposed acquisition also supports the SWAP required conservation action of identifying,

prioritizing, protecting, and managing wildlife corridors necessary to complete regional protected area networks across the entire region to facilitate the movement of native species whose distributions are projected to shift with climate change, and to provide “refuge” areas.

The project also contributes to the goals of Pathways to 30x30 California by aligning with Pathway 1: Accelerate Regionally Led Conservation and Pathway 2: Execute Strategic Land Acquisitions.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS
TWC will own, manage, and monitor the Property as a protected nature preserve ensuring that natural resources remain undisturbed and restored for compatible public access and public recreation. Soon after the acquisition, invitations from TWC will go out to visitors from within local and tribal communities for discussions related to the Property’s use and cooperative management. The preserve will be opened to the public at no cost for hiking, camping, and other passive recreational activities. The network of interior roads will serve as trails for hikers and mountain bike riders. Near term conservation projects include managing and protecting critical wildlife habitat for listed species, maintaining and improving oak woodlands, enhancing stream corridors, and restoring wetlands.

Additionally, in a separate acquisition transaction, TWC, with private funding along with a landowner donation, will acquire an additional 731± acres, known as the Carmel Valley Parcel (Parcel). The Parcel is adjacent to the southwest border of the Property and includes a 9,000 square foot conference center, a large estate house, five additional houses, a large swimming pool, and large shops/barns. The conference center will be managed as a land stewardship institute and conservation conference center to support regional conservation efforts.

Established in 1995, TWC created a nature preserve system comprised of 23 preserves encompassing 200,000 acres of diverse mountain, valley, desert, river, and oceanfront landscapes in California. These preserves are open to the public for passive recreation including camping, hiking, birding, and other compatible uses. With support of private donations and dedicated management endowments, the preserve system is guaranteed to be managed in perpetuity.

PROJECT FUNDING
The DGS approved fair market value is $26,300,000. The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	$24,000,000
State Coastal Conservancy	$2,000,000
The Wildlands Conservancy	$300,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	$26,300,000

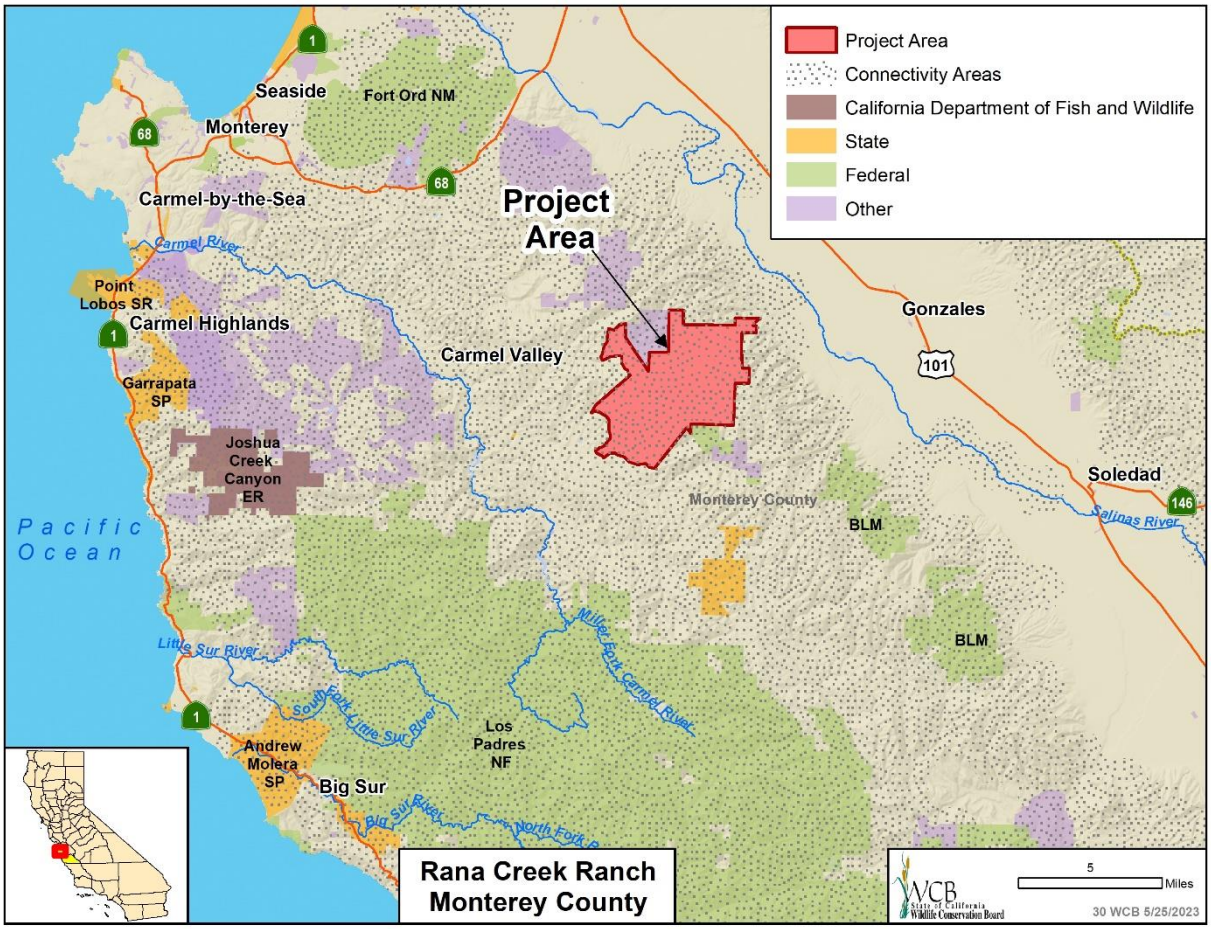
PROJECT LETTERS OF SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION
Support:

- The Honorable John Laird, California State Senator for District 17
- Mari Galloway, California Program Director, Wildlands Network
- Dr. Susan Fawcett, PhD, Research Botanist, University and Jepson Herbaria, Univ. of California , Berkeley

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.



31. Fay Creek Ranch

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate $3,336,929 from the General Fund, Fish & Wildlife Resources - Climate Change Impacts on Wildlife Provision (SB170, Sec. 53.5, EY21), for a grant to Western Rivers Conservancy (WRC); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Fay Creek Ranch
Project Type:	Fee Title (2,285± acres)
Grantee:	Western Rivers Conservancy
Successor Grantees:	Tübatulabals of Kern County, Kern River Valley Heritage Foundation
Amount Recommended:	$3,336,929
Funding Partner:	Sierra Nevada Conservancy
County:	Kern
Program:	Land Acquisition
Strategic Plan:	Goals: A.1, A.2, A.4, C.4 Objectives: SI 1.3, 3.4

LOCATION

The Fay Creek Ranch property (Property) is situated northwest of the community of Weldon in northeastern Kern County near the southern terminus of the Sierra Nevada Mountain range.

The Property is surrounded by thousands of acres of conserved land on all sides: USFS' Sequoia National Forest to the north, CDFW's Canebrake Ecological Reserve to the east, Kern River Valley Heritage Foundation's (KRVHF) Hanning Flat Preserve, which was funded by WCB in 2020, to the south, and BLM's Cyrus Canyon Area of Critical Environmental Concern to the west. The Domeland Wilderness within the national forest is near the Property.

Situated at the juncture of three ecologically important regions, and rich in biodiversity, the Property is recognized as an acquisition priority within CDFW's Canebrake CAPP. The primary purpose of the CAPP is to protect riparian and wetland habitat, threatened and endangered species habitat, adjoining buffer areas, and wildlife corridors to create a viable and sustainable protection landscape in central Kern County. Public uses, education, and interpretation are secondary, but important, purposes as well.

The Property has been identified as being within a Severely Disadvantaged Community (DWR DAC Mapping Tool). The proposed project will provide the opportunity to create new, free outdoor public access for the nearby underserved communities.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
The Property is an undeveloped, irregularly shaped tract of land that includes nine assessor parcel numbers. The Property has been used for cattle grazing for many years. The topography of the Property varies from 2,700 to 4,850 feet above sea level with lower elevations comprised of a large, flat expanse that is gradually sloping, which is framed on three sides by hills and steep canyons.

The Property contains a rich variety of habitats, including chaparral, riparian, and meadow. The Property includes suitable habitat for six rare plants. Field surveys showed a high level of biodiversity, with 71 wildlife species observed. Species include foothill yellow-legged frog, which is listed as endangered by California, and Cooper's hawk, which is on CDFW's watch list. The Tübatulabal Tribe knows the ranch as Kolo kam'ap, which translates as Duck Place, for its significance within the migratory bird flyway. The Property has CDFW documented occurrences of loggerhead shrike, yellow warbler, and tricolored blackbird, which are focal birds for the regional chaparral ecosystem.

The project protects the Property's water resources and habitat connectivity, which helps mitigate climate change impacts. The Property contains 1.5 miles of Fay Creek, which provides cold water throughout the year. At an elevation of 2,300 feet, Fay Creek creates a natural wildlife corridor connected to the surrounding landscape. The creek flows into the nearby Audubon Society's Kern River Preserve, which is part of a globally important bird area.

Fay Creek is a major conduit for snowmelt waters from the Kern Plateau, which flows to the Kern River and provides agricultural irrigation and drinking water downstream. The Property also contains numerous stable perennial springs that add to the total water flow in Fay Creek. These deep-earth waters create an oasis of lush meadows and riparian habitat that supports the diversity of wildlife found onsite. The vegetative growth shelters wildlife, preserves wildlife habitat, provides flood control, and maintains water quality. This riparian corridor will be increasingly important for wildlife as the climate continues to become drier and warmer.

As the last large private holding surrounded by protected lands on all sides, this fee title acquisition project will expand connectivity by preserving a wildlife corridor, protect rare and endangered flora and fauna, increase climate resiliency, improve management of water resources, open new public access, and avoid incompatible development in a remote and fragile environment. Most significantly, 1,246± acres of the 2,285± acres of culturally significant ancestral lands will be conveyed to the Tübatulabal Tribe's nonprofit organization, Tübatulabals of Kern County (Tübatulabals), for long-term stewardship. The Tübatulabals intend to make this land available to other Native American groups in the area as well, including the Kern Valley Indian Community. The remaining 1,039± acres will be transferred to KRVHF for long-term management.

Additional benefits of this project include public access to the Sequoia National Forest via two historic trailheads, reinforcement of the linkage from the southern

Sierra Nevada to Tejon Ranch, and increased fire resilience through improved management of grazing and water resources.

The project will achieve several public benefit objectives: leverage longstanding efforts by multiple public agencies and conservation organizations to protect high-value lands in the South Fork Kern River valley; enhance wildlife habitat and wildlife corridors threatened by development; improve the health of the Fay Creek and South Fork Kern River watersheds; expand recreational opportunities for visitors and nearby disadvantaged communities; provide critical resilience to climate change and wildfire; and demonstrate and disseminate the lessons of a fire- and climate-resilient approach to land conservation and management.

This project contributes to the goals of Pathways to 30x30 California by aligning with Pathway 2: Execute Strategic Land Acquisitions.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS
At close of escrow, title to the Property will transfer to KRVHF and the Tübatulabals, as long-term stewards. KRVHF, a growing regional land trust in the area, protects, manages, and preserves land in the Kern River Valley area. KRVHF plans to incorporate its portion of the Property into the adjacent Hanning Flat Preserve.

The Tübatulabals intend to reconnect local Tribal members to the places known, used, and described by their grandparents and great-grandparents. They will preserve the extensive cultural resources and use the land for seasonal gatherings, ceremonial purposes, repatriation of ancestral remains, and traditional activities such as native plant collecting. Such uses are compatible with protecting wildlife habitat. The existing residence will provide housing for a tribal member who will be a caretaker. The Tübatulabals will also permit and manage compatible public access on the Property's two trails that connect with the Sequoia National Forest's trail network.

Both owners intend to continue some grazing on the Property. Grazing plans focus on fire protection through fuel reduction and grassland habitat improvements. To defray management expenses, KRVHF will draw on its existing stewardship fund and other sources. The Tübatulabals will draw on the $100,000 fund that the National Audubon Society is providing, which will be placed with the Kern Community Foundation. In addition, both organizations will use funds from grazing the Property, grant funds from Natural Resource Conservation Service and other sources, private fundraising, and other revenue streams.

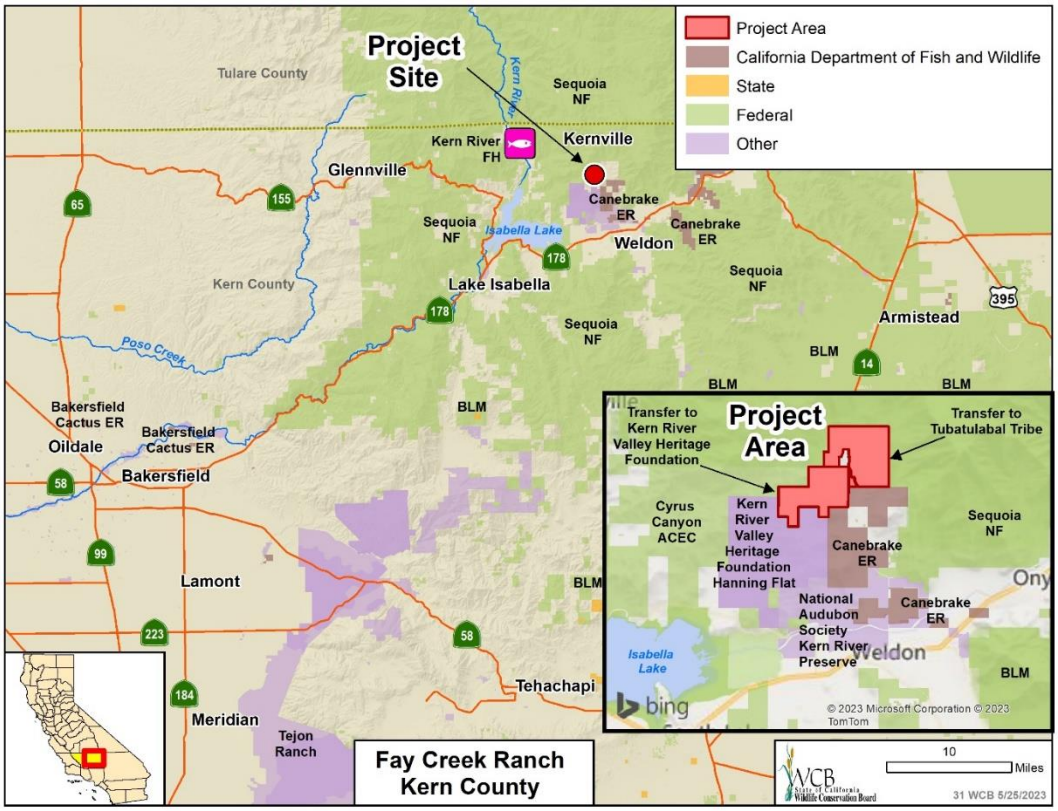
PROJECT FUNDING
The DGS approved fair market value is $3,336,929. The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	$3,336,929
Sierra Nevada Conservancy	$1,000,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	$4,336,929

PROJECT LETTERS OF SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION
Support:
- None received

Opposition:
- None received

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS
The project has been reviewed for compliance 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.



32. Mojave Desert Land Trust Seed Bank Expansion

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate $3,192,000 from the General Fund, Nature-Based Solutions Grant Program Provision (AB 179, Sec. 83(a) EY22); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Project Title:	Mojave Desert Land Trust Seed Bank Expansion
Project Type:	Implementation
Applicant/Grantee:	Mojave Desert Land Trust
Amount Recommended:	$3,192,000
Funding Partners:	Anonymous Donor, Bureau of Land Management, California Plant Rescue
Landowner(s):	Mojave Desert Land Trust
County:	San Bernardino
Program:	Desert Conservation
Strategic Plan:	Goals: B.1 Objectives: SI 2.4

LOCATION

The Mojave Desert Land Trust (MDLT) Seed Bank Expansion (Project) is located on MDLT-owned land within the unincorporated community of Joshua Tree in San Bernardino County. Seed collection will occur on several MDLT-owned parcels primarily within Imperial, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties.

The Project spans across the desert on MDLT-owned lands where seed will be collected and may include both Disadvantaged Communities (DAC), Severely Disadvantaged Communities (SDAC), and/or climate-vulnerable communities according to the DWR DAC Mapping Tool and CalEnviroScreen 4.0. The seed bank facility itself is in a SDAC according to the DWR DAC Mapping Tool.

The Project has begun discussions with the Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation, and they have indicated they are interested in being involved with the planning and implementation process. Other Native American tribes and tribal organizations will be included as partners including the Twentynine Palms Band of Mission Indians and the Native American Land Conservancy.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Seed banking has become a fundamental tool for preserving biodiversity within an ecoregion by acting as an insurance policy for maintaining a repository of source-identified, genetically appropriate seed. Seed banking is also critical for supplying native plant seed for ecological restoration. The Project proposes to collect native seed to help alleviate the lack of genetically sourced seed for restoration purposes as well as to act as a repository for conserving the flora of the California desert region. Currently, the existing nursery at MDLT has made over 700 collections representing 210 plant species. The Project will expand the existing collection of 210 species by a minimum of 300 additional species. Out of the 6,500 species of

plants known to occur in California, approximately 2,450 native plant species have been documented in the desert regions. That equates to 38 percent of California's flora being found in the California deserts. The addition of 300 plant species to MDLT's repository will represent the genetic protection of 21 percent of the desert flora.

The Project goals include: (1) increase capacity to collect, process, and store seed representing 300 additional taxa; (2) conduct research and develop protocols that can be shared with the larger conservation community to advance knowledge about desert flora and seed banking; (3) create an inventory of California desert seed for use in restoration across the California deserts; (4) develop and implement outreach and education materials to further the public's knowledge about the importance of California's native plants and the role of seed banking; and (5) build on existing relationships with local tribes and the Native American Land Conservancy to ensure tribal engagement in seed collecting methods and protocols.

In order to meet these goals, MDLT will require an increase in staffing to scout, identify, collect, process, and store seed from target species as well as to maintain a suite of databases, protocols, and the existing herbarium. This will include a plant conservation program director, seed bank manager, technicians, and volunteer coordinator along with contracting out for a botanist and a tribal consultant to assist in reaching the desired outcomes.

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

The Project will not use herbicides.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The Mojave Desert Land Trust has initiated the preparation of a Management Plan that guides management actions for the seed bank expansion, including adaptive management strategies allowing for the expansion and contraction of staffing depending on the availability to harvest seed as well as working with the Bureau of Land Management and local Native American tribes. If at any time during the 10-year life of the Project, Mojave Desert Land Trust 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	$528,666	---	$528,666
Seed Collection, Processing, and Storage	$1,616,180	$510,000	$2,126,180
Community Engagement and Education	$44,673	---	$44,673
Research and Scientific Communication	$430,813	$20,000	450,813
Indirect Costs	$281,645	---	$281,645
Contingency	$290,023	---	$290,023
Total	$3,192,000	$530,000	$3,722,000

Costs associated with WCB funding include:

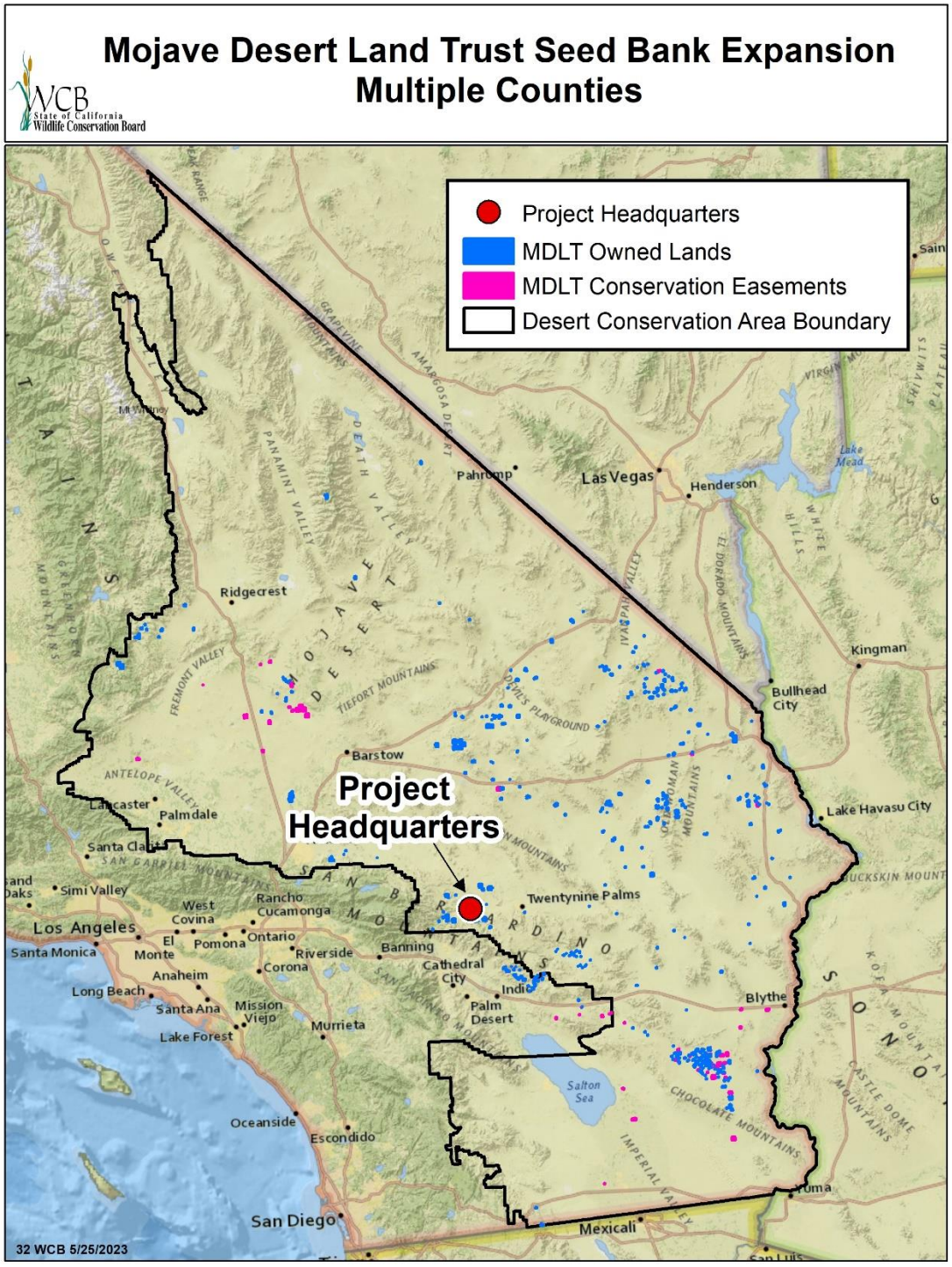
- Project Management: Includes general project oversight, hiring and training staff, and managing contractors.
- Seed Collection, Processing, and Storage: Includes creating target plant species list, seed collection, processing, and testing for viability.
- Community Engagement and Education: Includes providing updates on seed bank activities and volunteer opportunities to the community via social media and newsletters.
- Research and Scientific Communication: Includes providing conservation partners and the public with information on any new research or information related to seed banking such as updates to plant checklists or distribution maps, seed cleaning and harvesting methods, etc.
- Indirect Costs: Incidental or indirect costs not to exceed 15 percent of the total direct WCB award.
- 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, California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15304, Minor Alterations to Land, as minor alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which does not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees.

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



33. Ellwood Marine Terminal Restoration
Withdrawn from consideration at this time.

34. Bombay Beach Wetland Enhancement
Withdrawn from consideration at this time.

35. Imperial Wildlife Area Wetland Restoration, Phase III

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate $7,178,000 from the General Fund, Fish & Wildlife Resources - Climate Change Impacts on Wildlife Provision (SB170, Sec.53.5, EY22), and the Habitat Conservation Fund, Fish and Game Code Section 2786(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:	Imperial Wildlife Area Wetland Restoration, Phase III
Project Type:	Implementation
Applicant/Grantee:	California Waterfowl Association
Amount Recommended:	$7,178,000
Funding Partners:	None
Landowner(s):	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
County:	Imperial
Program:	Habitat Enhancement and Restoration
Strategic Plan:	Goals: B.1 C.1 Objectives: SI 1.3, 2.1, 3.1

LOCATION

The Imperial Wildlife Area Wetland Restoration, Phase III (Project) is located on the southeastern shoreline of the Salton Sea, north of the city of Niland in Imperial County. The Imperial Wildlife Area (IWA) was established in 1954 and provides almost 8,000 acres of safe haven for migrating birds that visit the region every winter. Over the years, many seasonal and permanent wetland units were developed to provide habitat for wildlife and serve as a place for public recreational activities.

Millions of years ago, the area surrounding the Salton Sea was part of the Gulf of California. Over time, sediment deposited by the Colorado River cut off the area from the Gulf, and a large freshwater lake was formed. Over hundreds of thousands of years, changing climate and realignment of rivers resulted in the lake level receding and reverting into desert. The Salton Sea was accidentally created in 1905 when an irrigation canal diverting water from the Colorado River flooded and breached.

Since 2008, WCB has partnered with California Waterfowl Association and CDFW to enhance managed wetland habitat at IWA. The Project will enhance 2,893 acres and represents the final phase of wetland restoration that can be completed at IWA. Completion of the Project will ensure that IWA can continue to provide valuable wetland habitat for the benefit of migratory birds within Southern California.

The Project is in a severely disadvantaged community (DWR DAC Mapping Tool) with a median income of less than $47,203. It is also considered a disadvantaged community based on CalEnviroScreen 4.0 (SB 535 Disadvantaged Communities).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
Habitat conditions within the Project area are extremely poor and the wetland units have reduced management capabilities. Levees around the units are in various stages of failure and have extremely steep slopes, which prevent access by maintenance equipment. Open water delivery ditches that supply water to the units support significant amounts of non-native salt cedar and phragmites, which choke off water flow and spread invasive seeds.

The Project will mechanically remove the invasive salt cedar shrubs that grow within the water delivery ditches and on the levees within the Project area. No herbicides will be used. Removal will allow equipment to start the process of infrastructure re-establishment while also eliminating a water hungry invasive species. Water delivery pipelines will be installed to replace the open ditches. Pipelines guarantee no ditch loss, no annual maintenance costs, reduced invasive seed source, and improved water delivery capabilities by allowing direct flow of water to desired units by way of independent irrigation valves. The Project will enhance the wetland units by regrading and leveling the soil and constructing new levees, islands, and swales. Where practical, interior levees will be removed to combine wetland units to create larger habitat blocks. Upgraded water control structures will provide the capabilities to deliver and remove water from each unit quickly, maximizing natural feed production. The Project will also construct a new 120’ x 120’ gravel parking lot to support public use of the restored wetland units.

These enhancements will create high value habitat for a variety of wetland and upland dependent species throughout the year. Increased water conservation through improved water delivery and efficient removal will enable less water to be used on a larger acreage. At the same time improved water quality and soil health will be elevated, which will reduce residual salt loads within wetland units.

The 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
CDFW has adopted the Imperial Wildlife Area, Wister Unit Management Plan that guides management actions for the property, including the Project area. If at any time during the 25-year life of the Project, Grantee does not manage and maintain the project improvements, the Grant Agreement requires that California Waterfowl Association 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 Funds	Non WCB Funds	Total Cost
Project Management	$682,759	---	$682,759
Earthwork	$2,555,000	---	$2,555,000
Pipeline/Water Control Structure Installation	$1,894,500	---	$1,894,500
Salt Cedar Removal	$570,000	---	$570,000
Parking Lot Grading/ Gravel	$230,000	---	$230,000
Indirect Charges	$593,210	---	$593,210
Contingency	$652,531	---	$652,531
Total	$7,178,000	---	$7,178,000

Costs associated with WCB funding include:

- Project Management: Engineering survey, restoration design, construction management, and invoicing.
- Earthwork: Construction of levees, swales, islands, and filed grading.
- Pipeline/Water Control Structure Installation: Purchase and installation of water delivery pipelines and water control structures.
- Salt Cedar Removal: Invasive plant removal.
- Parking Lot Grading/Gravel: Grading and gravel of new parking lot.
- Indirect Costs: Incidental or indirect costs not to exceed 15 percent of the total direct WCB award.
- Contingency: Unanticipated project costs associated with WCB-funded tasks only, requires WCB staff approval prior to use.

PROJECT LETTERS OF SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION
Support:

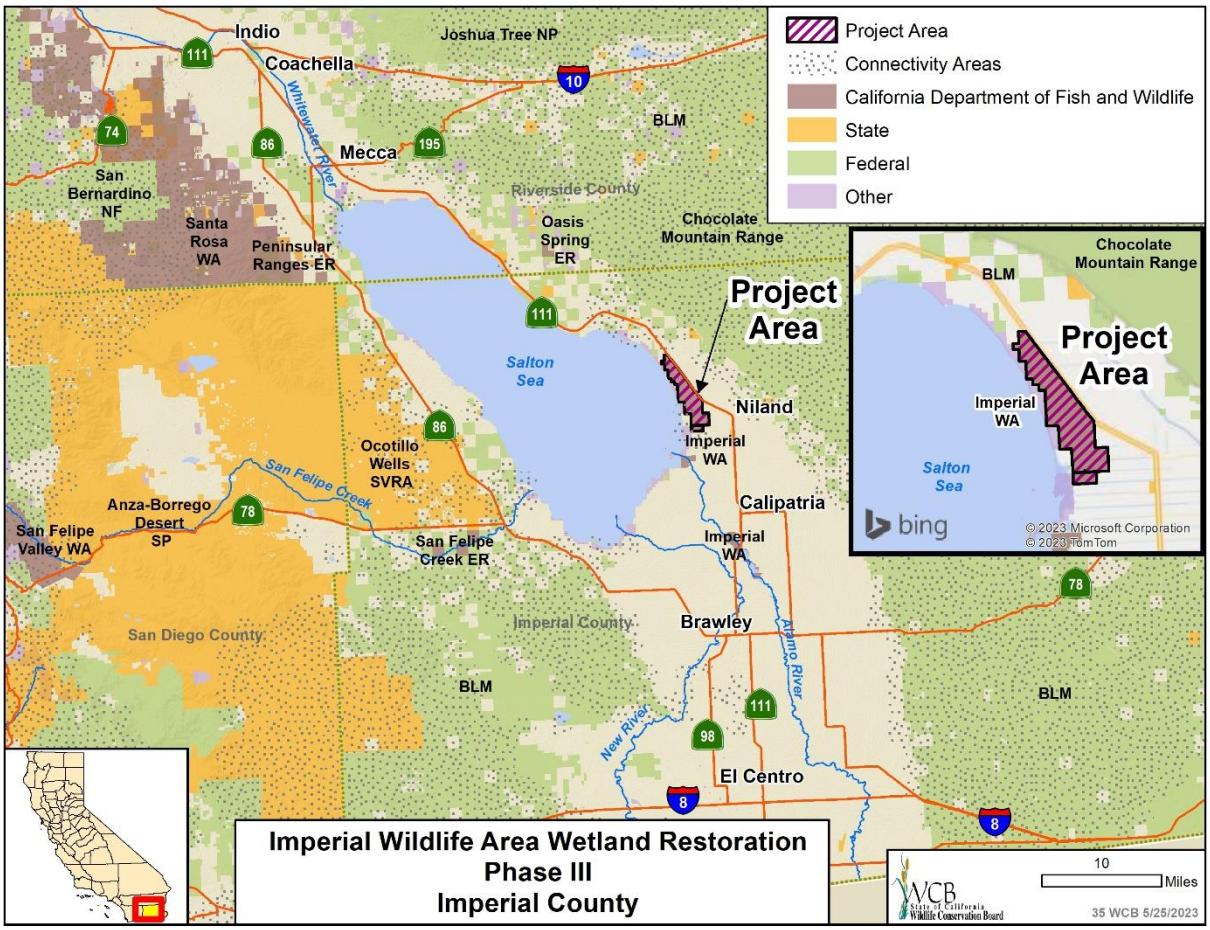
- Senator Ben Hueso, 40th District, California State Senate
- Jennifer N. Duberstein, Ph.D., Coordinator, Sonoran Joint Venture

Opposition:

- None Received

CEQA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS
The Project is proposed as exempt from CEQA pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15302, Class 2, Replacement or Reconstruction, consisting of replacement or reconstruction of existing facilities located on the same site and having substantially the same purpose, Section 15303, New Construction or Conversion, consisting of construction and location of limited numbers of new structures or facilities, Section 15304, Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land, consisting of 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.



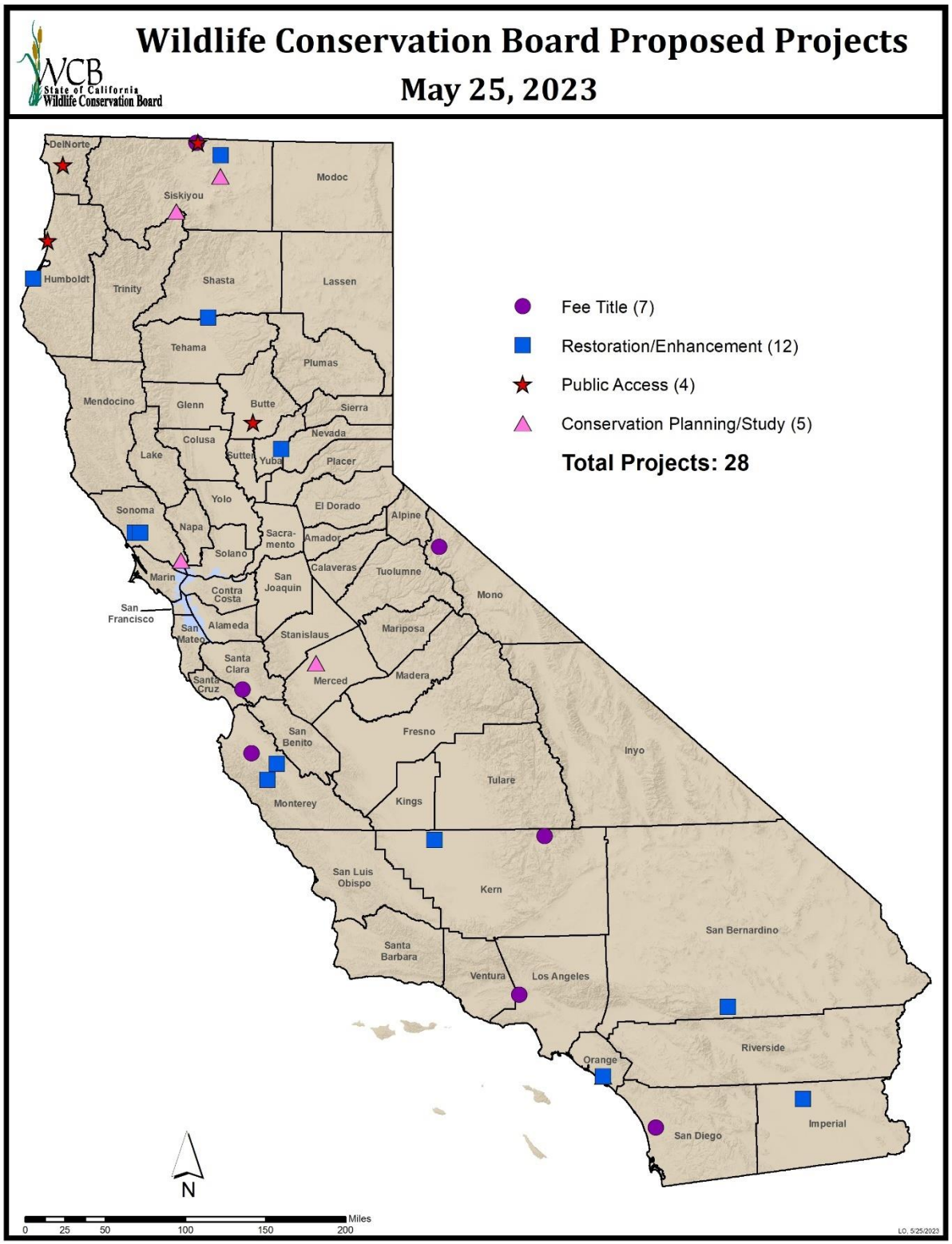
36. Executive Director’s Report

37. Executive session (Not Open to the Public)

The Board may meet in closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 11126(a)(1) to discuss the appointment, employment, evaluation of performance, or dismissal of a public employee. After closed session, the Board will reconvene in public session, which may include announcements about actions taken during closed session.

Adjourn

ATTACHMENT A – MAP OF FEBRUARY 2023 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
Enactment Year	EY
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.