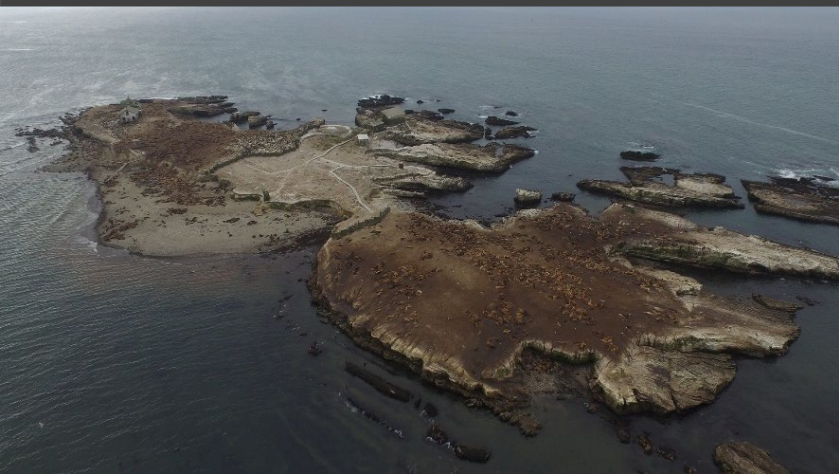


Environmental Enhancement Committee Meeting

May 25, 2023



Agenda

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

Meeting Format and Instructions

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



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

Environmental Enhancement Fund

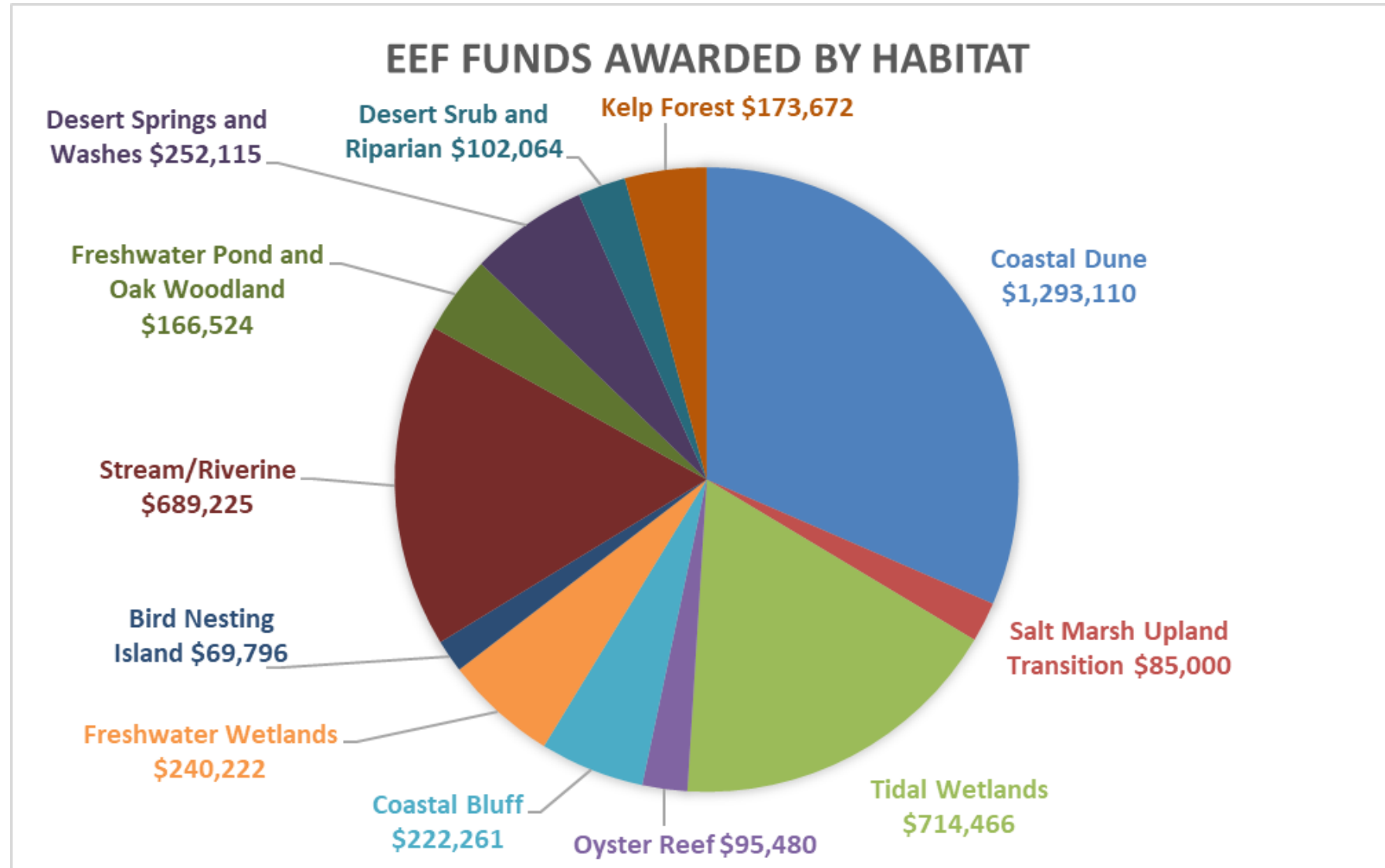
- The Environmental Enhancement Fund (EEF) obtains funds taken in by California Department of Fish and Wildlife Office of Spill Prevention and Response for fines and penalties for oil spill cases or administrative actions
- Funds are used to issue grants for environmental enhancement projects within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



Cormorants nesting on cleared cliff edge, Natural Bridges Project

Diverse Habitats Benefited

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



Recent EEF Expansion

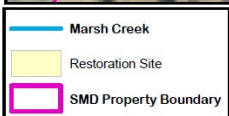
- More than half of EEF projects are active utilizing \$2.4 million dollars for restoration or acquisition
- 10 projects have been awarded \$1.6 million since 2020
- Projects Awarded in 2022:
 - River Health Days: Community-Based Habitat Enhancement of the Lower San Lorenzo River \$15,000
 - Restoring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



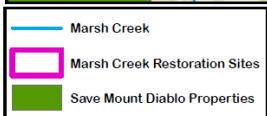
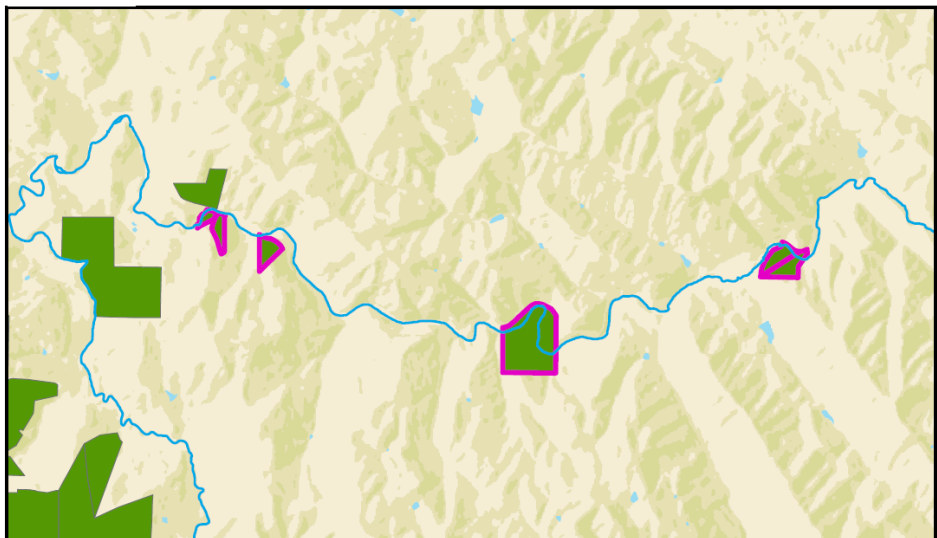
Motus avian monitoring unit installed at Frog Spring; Mojave Desert Springs Project

Spending Authority Changes

- In January 2023, The EEC selected 5 projects assuming \$750,000 in spending authority
- Spending authority was reduced to \$278,000 in Governors Budget
- Prior awards were \$741,000:
 - Watershed Restoration and Protection Marsh Creek 7 Water flows to the Delta, submitted by Save Mount Diablo, for \$67,074
 - Restoring the High Elevation Freshwater Ecosystems of Yosemite National Park, submitted by Freshwater Life, Inc., for \$195,000
 - Bull Kelp Restoration in Albion Cove, submitted by Reef Check Foundation, for \$125,930
 - Elk Creek Acquisition-Eel River Watershed, submitted by Bureau of Land Management, for \$310,000
 - Morro Bay Coastal Enhancement Through Ice Plant Removal, submitted by Morro Bay National Estuary Program, for \$43,276



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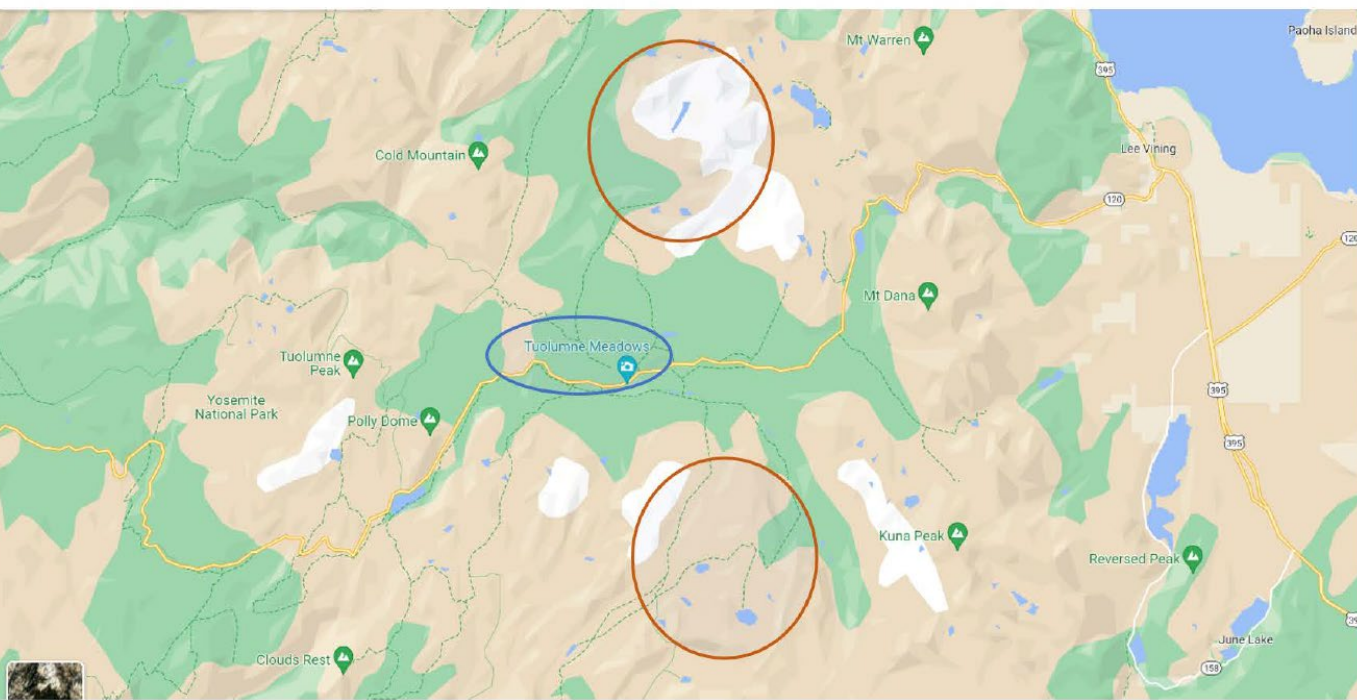
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Watershed Restoration and Protection Marsh Creek 7 Water Flows to the Delta

- Save Mount Diablo original request \$67,074
- Total Project Costs \$140,423
- Project is a portion of ongoing restoration of Delta tributary Marsh Creek
- Expands conservation of natural floodplains on adjacent property
- Includes 2,000 feet of cattle exclusion fencing, volunteer removal of invasive species, erosion repairs, installation of 1,000 native plants, monitoring and ongoing maintenance.
- Awarded \$67,074 in January 2023
- Partial funding options: 36,500.98+

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



Restoring High Elevation Freshwater Ecosystems of Yosemite National Park

- Freshwater Life, Inc. original request \$195,000
- Total project costs are \$272,000
- Eradication of non-native trout to benefit Nevada Yellow-legged frog, American Dipper, brown bat and Rosy Finch
- Includes 2023 field season of ongoing effort
- Partnership with Yosemite National Park, US National Park Service supervising University staff
- Remote sites accessed 10+ by foot only
- Gill netting, electrofishing and alternative methods, no piscicides
- Awarded \$195,000 in January 2023
- Revised request modifies proposal and moves work to summer 2024
- Partial funding options: \$87,000+



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

Bull Kelp Restoration in Albion Cove

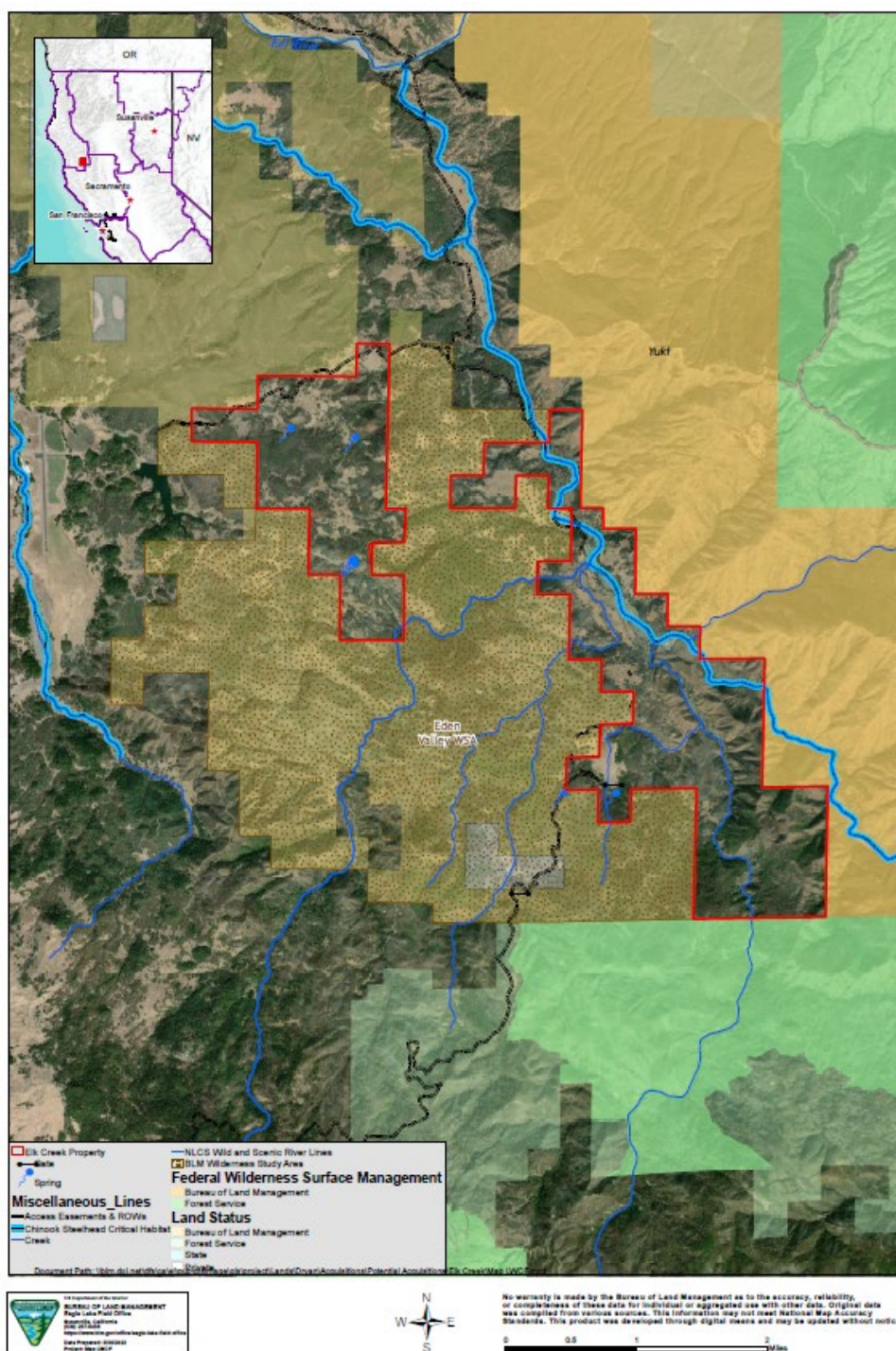


Albion Cove Restoration site in Mendocino County, California. Albion Cove was established in 2021 and is located 14NM south of Noyo Bay. It is approximately 6 acres in size.

- Reef Check Foundation original request \$125,930
- Total project costs \$165,930
- Restore kelp forest by controlling the population of urchins using commercial divers at Albion cove in Mendocino County
- Includes establishment or marked project boundaries, commercial dive contracts for removal, monitoring, and volunteer outreach and organization.
- Utilizing methods and thresholds established in successful project in Noyo Bay
- Reef Check made a similar application with was very competitive in Spring of 2022
- Awarded \$125,930.00 in January 2023
- Partial Funding Options: \$44,000+, preferred range 50,000-55,000

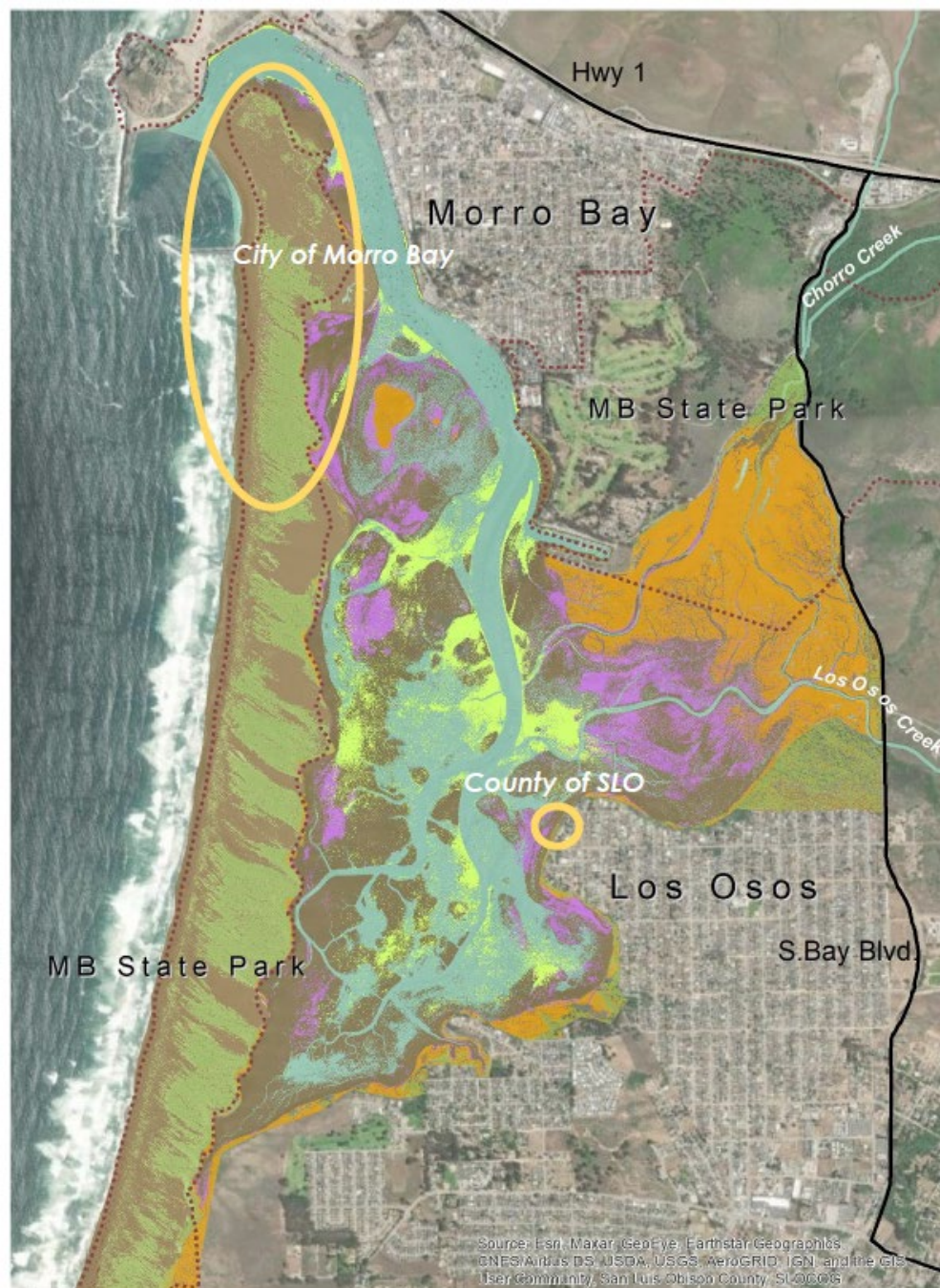
Elk Creek Acquisition – Eel River Watershed

- The Bureau of Land Management is requesting \$310,000
- Total project costs \$5,626,790
- Project would acquire and preserve 3,384 acres of habitat including 6 miles of creeks and streams in the Eel River Watershed.
- Flat terrain, springs, meadows, and grasslands make this property desirable for development in cannabis cultivation.
- EEF funds will provide biological inventory and restoration onsite and contribute to active restoration and acquisition
- Surveyed and adjacent areas contain habitat for Tule Elk, Chinook Salmon, Steelhead and Pacific Lamprey
- Previously applied in Spring 2022
- Awarded \$310,000 in January 2023
- Partial funding options: \$25,000+, preferred point \$100,000



Morro Bay Coastal Habitat Enhancement Through Ice Plant Removal

- Morro Bay National Estuary Program is requesting \$43,275.88
- Total project costs \$54,525.88
- Enhance dune habitat through removal of ice plant on 105 acres of habitat managed by City of Morro Bay and the County of San Luis Obispo
- Partnership with State Parks which is leading effort to expand successful work on State Parks property to adjacent lands
- Also includes expansion of Cal Poly drone mapping effort for monitoring and treatment planning
- Awarded
- Partial Funding Options: \$2,000+, Preferred point \$21,000.



Partial Funding Combinations

A

Application	Project	Average Rank	Award	funds remaining
10	Watershed Restoration and Protection Marsh Creek 7 Water Flows to the Delta	4.7	\$ 67,074.00	\$ 210,926.00
11	Restoring the High Elevation Freshwater Ecosystems of Yosemite National Park	6.7	\$ 195,000.00	\$ 15,926.00
20	Bull Kelp Restoration in Albion Cove	7.1	\$ -	\$ 15,926.00
14	Elk Creek Acquisition-Eel River Watershed	7.5	\$ -	\$ 15,926.00
25	Morro Bay Coastal Enhancement Through Ice Plant Removal	8.2	\$ -	-

B

Application	Project	Average Rank	Award	funds remaining
10	Watershed Restoration and Protection Marsh Creek 7 Water Flows to the Delta	4.7	\$ 67,074.00	\$ 210,926.00
11	Restoring the High Elevation Freshwater Ecosystems of Yosemite National Park	6.7	\$ 120,926.00	\$ 90,000.00
20	Bull Kelp Restoration in Albion Cove	7.1	\$ 44,000.00	\$ 46,000.00
14	Elk Creek Acquisition-Eel River Watershed	7.5	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 21,000.00
5	Morro Bay Coastal Enhancement Through Ice Plant Removal	8.2	\$ 21,000.00	-

C

Application	Project	Average Rank	Award	funds remaining
10	Watershed Restoration and Protection Marsh Creek 7 Water Flows to the Delta	4.7	\$ 67,074.00	\$ 210,926.00
11	Restoring the High Elevation Freshwater Ecosystems of Yosemite National Park	6.7	\$ 87,000.00	\$ 123,926.00
20	Bull Kelp Restoration in Albion Cove	7.1	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 73,926.00
14	Elk Creek Acquisition-Eel River Watershed	7.5	\$ 30,650.00	\$ 43,276.00
5	Morro Bay Coastal Enhancement Through Ice Plant Removal	8.2	\$ 43,276.00	-

- EEC Deliberation or Public Comment Prior to Funding Proposals

Fund Condition and Budget

- The unencumbered fund balance is \$1,347,000
- Unspent encumbrances FY 2015-2021 \$2,368,000
- Status quo spending authority for Fiscal Year 2024/2025 is \$238,000



Moving Forward

- OSPR accounting services branch to work with budgets regarding FY 2024/25
- Dan is transferring to Department of Conservation CalGEM
- EEF Project management to be handled with team approach
 - Bruce Joab
 - Cristina Perez
 - Peter Boucher
 - Brenda Brantley

Thank you



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



25 May EEC funding Vote Result

25 May EEC funding Vote Result	
<u>Project name/Organization</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Watershed Restoration and Protection Marsh Creek 7 Water Flows to the Delta, submitted by Save Mount Diablo	\$67,074
Restoring the High Elevation Freshwater Ecosystems of Yosemite National Park, submitted by Freshwater Life, Inc.	\$108,000
Bull Kelp Restoration in Albion Cove, submitted by Reef Check Foundation	\$44,000
Elk Creek Acquisition-Eel River Watershed, submitted by Bureau of Land Management	\$25,000
Morro Bay Coastal Enhancement Through Ice Plant Removal, submitted by Morro Bay National Estuary Program	\$0
	Total Funding: \$244,074
	Spending Authority Maximum: \$278,000
	Residual Spending Authority: \$33,926