



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

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

August 24, 2023, 10:00 a.m.

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

Preliminary Agenda Items

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

Item Number

1. Roll Call
2. Public Forum for Items not on the Agenda
3. Funding Status — Informational
4. Starr Ranch Presentation

Consent Items

5. Recovery of Funds

**6. Klamath Meadows Partnership \$1,459,757
Various Counties**

To consider the allocation for a grant to the Watershed Research and Training Center for a cooperative project with the Scott River Watershed Council, U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Sierra Nevada Conservancy, and the Salmon River Restoration Council for regional planning and prioritization of meadow restoration in the Klamath, Coast, and Southern Cascade ranges in Del Norte, Siskiyou, Humboldt, Trinity, Shasta, and Mendocino counties. [General Fund, Budget Act of 2022, Water Supply for Environmental Flows, Stream Flow Enhancement Program Provision (SB170, Sec. 54).]

**7. LuginBuhl Ranch \$500,000
Siskiyou County**

To consider the allocation for a grant to Siskiyou Land Trust for a cooperative project with Sierra Nevada Conservancy to acquire 320± acres of land for the protection of threatened and endangered species, wildlife corridors, habitat linkages, watersheds, and establishment of a permanent natural area preserve, located on the Upper Sacramento and Shasta River watershed near Mount Shasta, in Siskiyou County. [General Fund, Budget Act of 2021, Drought Resilience and Response Provision (AB211, Sec. 36(h)(1)) and General Fund, Budget Act of 2022, Fish & Wildlife Resources - Climate Change Impacts on Wildlife Provision (SB170, Sec. 53.5).]

**8. Mt. Shasta Headwater Forest Enhancement \$1,838,385
Siskiyou County**

To consider the allocation for a grant to Pacific Forest Trust for a cooperative project with Scroll Timberlands, LLC to increase forest health by managing for heterogeneity and reinstating disturbance regimes through the introduction of prescribed fire on approximately 1,346 acres of conserved land located one mile southwest of McCloud in Siskiyou County. [General Fund, Budget Act of 2021, Drought Resilience and Response Provision (AB211, Sec. 36(h)(1)).]

**9. Hart Ranch Conservation Easement - Rabbit Hill \$1,475,000
Siskiyou County**

To consider the allocation for a grant to American Farmland Trust for a cooperative project to acquire a conservation easement over 3,354.5± acres of land for the protection of significant natural, ecological, habitat, scenic, open space, and agricultural resources, located near the community of Montague in Siskiyou County. [General Fund, Budget Act of 2021, Drought Resilience and Response Provision (AB211, Sec. 36(h)(1)).]

- 10. Hart Ranch Conservation Easement – Soda Springs** **\$1,250,000**
Siskiyou County
To consider the allocation for a grant to American Farmland Trust for a cooperative project to acquire a conservation easement over 2,578± acres of land for the protection of significant natural, ecological, habitat, scenic, open space, and agricultural resources, located near the community of Montague in Siskiyou County. [General Fund, Budget Act of 2021, Drought Resilience and Response Provision (AB211, Sec. 36(h)(1)).]
- 11. Mill Creek Fish Passage Planning** **\$966,000**
Humboldt County
To consider the allocation for a grant to the City of Fortuna to develop shovel-ready plans and environmental compliance documentation to create an implementation project to remove four fish passage barriers and replace them with fish-friendly culverts in Mill Creek, a tributary to the Lower Eel River via Strongs Creek, in Fortuna in Humboldt County. [General Fund, Budget Act of 2021, Water Supply for Environmental Flows, Stream Flow Enhancement Program Provision (SB170, Sec. 54).]
- 12. United States Highway 395 Wildlife Overpass Planning** **\$5,375,000**
Lassen County
To consider the allocation for a grant to the Lassen County Transportation Commission for a project to develop the plans, designs, and environmental review necessary to create a wildlife crossing over United States Highway 395 which will allow safe passage for wildlife between the Sierra Nevada to the west and the low-lying sage brush to the east between Susanville and the California/Nevada border in Lassen County. [General Fund, Budget Act of 2021, Drought Package Provision (SB129, Sec.89(3)).]
- 13. Erikson Ranch Wetland and Nesting Habitat Enhancement** **\$671,000**
Butte County
To consider the allocation for a grant to California Waterfowl Association for a cooperative project with a private landowner and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to enhance 142 acres of wetland habitat on privately-owned land one mile north of the city of Honcut in Butte County. [Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(IWCP).]
- 14. Feather River Wildlife Area, Shanghai Bend Unit Transfer** **\$0**
Sutter County
To consider the transfer of 142± acres of land by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to Sutter County to own, operate, and maintain in perpetuity for purposes of public access, public recreation, and habitat preservation. The property is located along the Feather River with 19± acres in Yuba City and the remaining 123± acres is located in unincorporated Sutter County.

- 15. Sierra Foothill Forest Climate Resilience Nevada County** **\$2,396,000**
To consider the allocation for a grant to the Nevada County Office of Emergency Services for a cooperative project with Sierra Streams Institute, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), County of Nevada, Yuba Bear Burn Cooperative, and multiple private landowners to improve forest health and reduce catastrophic wildfire risk using climate-smart management practices on 625 acres on multiple private and federally owned parcels five miles west of Nevada City in Nevada County. [General Fund, Budget Act of 2022, Nature Based Solutions (AB179, Sec. 83(a)).]
- 16. Tahoe Forest Gateway (Leidesdorff) Placer County** **\$2,250,000**
To consider the allocation for a grant to 40 Acre Conservation League for a cooperative project with the Sierra Nevada Conservancy to acquire 650± acres of land for the purposes of wildlife habitat preservation, restoration and management, wildlife-oriented education and research, and for compatible public or private uses consistent with wildlife habitat preservation and protection of sensitive biological resources, located in Emigrant Gap in Placer County. [General Fund - Assembly Bill 179, Section 19.56(a)(9), EY22.]
- 17. Mark West Creek and Wetland Restoration Planning Sonoma County** **\$1,063,000**
To consider the allocation for a grant to Sonoma County Regional Parks for a planning project to advance designs and permits for wetland and creek restoration to be incorporated into a park Master Plan, located in Mark West Creek Regional Park and Open Space Preserve, three miles northeast of Santa Rosa in Sonoma County. [General Fund, Budget Act of 2022, Water Supply for Environmental Flows, Stream Flow Enhancement Program Provision (SB170, Sec. 54).]
- 18. Quail Ridge UC Davis Natural Reserve System, Implementation, Augmentation Napa County** **\$74,104**
To consider the allocation for a grant augmentation to the University of California, Davis for a cooperative project with BLM, CDFW, Bureau of Reclamation, and the Land Trust of Napa County to improve three areas of infrastructure: the road system, energy efficiencies, and fire-resistant facility upgrades, located at Quail Ridge Reserve, near Napa in Napa County. [Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006, Public Resource Code Section 75055(b)(3).]
- 19. RiverArc Project Planning Placer and Sacramento Counties** **\$5,121,000**
To consider the allocation for a grant to the Placer County Water Agency for a cooperative project with the City of Sacramento, California American Water Company, and the Sacramento County Water Agency to develop stream flow enhancement plans, environmental documents, and submittal of a change to the

point of diversion to shift water diversion from the American River to the Sacramento River to benefit anadromous fish and other sensitive riparian species in the Lower American River in Placer and Sacramento counties. [General Fund, Budget Act of 2021, Water Supply for Environmental Flows, Stream Flow Enhancement Program Provision (SB170, Sec. 54).]

20. Restoring Connectivity for East Bay Ranges: Wildlife Overpass Planning **\$7,094,000**

Alameda County

To consider the allocation for a grant to the Alameda County Resource Conservation District for a project to develop the plans, designs, and environmental review necessary to build wildlife crossings across Interstate 580, Interstate 680, and State Route 84 in Alameda County. [General Fund, Budget Act of 2021, Drought Package Provision (SB129, Sec.89(3)).]

21. Blue Oak Ranch Reserve Infrastructure Improvement **\$233,000**
Santa Clara County

To consider the allocation for a grant to the University of California, Berkeley to complete facilities enhancement on land commonly known as the Blue Oak Ranch Reserve, located six miles east of San Jose in Santa Clara County. [California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68), Public Resources Code Section 80111(c).]

22. Merced Vernal Pools and Grassland Reserve Field Education Center **\$920,000**

Merced County

To consider the allocation for a grant to the University of California, Merced to construct new facilities and infrastructure on land commonly known as the Merced Vernal Pools and Grassland Reserve, located adjacent to the University of California, Merced Campus, in Merced County. [California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68), Public Resources Code Section 80111(c).]

23. Carmel River Floodplain Restoration and Enhancement, Augmentation **\$4,736,000**

Monterey County

To consider the allocation for a grant augmentation to the County of Monterey for a cooperative project with California State Parks, State Coastal Conservancy, Caltrans, Department of Water Resources, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, USFWS, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District, and Big Sur Land Trust to restore 135 acres of floodplain along the Carmel River located on public and private land approximately one mile south of Carmel-by-the-Sea in Monterey County. [General Fund, Budget Act of 2022, Water Supply for Environmental Flows, Stream Flow Enhancement Program Provision (SB170, Sec. 54).]

- 24. Enhancing Wetlands at Goose Lake, Augmentation** **\$127,000**
Kern County
To consider the allocation for a grant augmentation to California Waterfowl Association for a cooperative project with USFWS to provide a reliable water supply to wetland habitat through the installation of a 1.0-acre solar array to benefit 600 acres of managed wetlands on private land nine miles southeast of Buttonwillow in Kern County. [General Fund, Budget Act of 2022, Fish & Wildlife Resources - Climate Change Impacts on Wildlife Provision (SB170, Sec. 53.5).]
- 25. Big Morongo Springs** **\$1,850,000**
San Bernardino County
To consider the allocation for a grant to Native American Land Conservancy for a project to acquire 60± acres of land for the protection of a flowing spring in a key wildlife corridor, land with cultural and historic significance to local tribes, and to provide future wildlife-oriented public use opportunities, located in Big Morongo Canyon in San Bernardino County. [Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c).]
- 26. The Thacher School Instream Flow Resiliency and Dormitory** **\$300,000**
Conservation Project – Augmentation
Ventura County
To consider the allocation for a grant augmentation to the The Thacher School for a cooperative project with the Watershed Progressive and private donors that will implement integrated water conservation practices, including rainwater catchment systems and stormwater management, coupled with a voluntary forbearance of surface water diversions between March and April, to increase water quantity and quality in Thacher Creek, a tributary to San Antonio Creek, in the Ventura River watershed in Ventura County. [General Fund, Budget Act of 2021, Water Supply for Environmental Flows, Stream Flow Enhancement Program Provision (SB170, Sec. 54).]
- 27. Steelhead Preserve** **\$1,625,000**
Ventura County
To consider the allocation for a grant to the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy to acquire 21± acres of land for the protection of riparian habitat and critical wildlife passage in the Ventura River watershed by expanding the adjacent Ventura River Steelhead Preserve that conserves a holding pool for the federally endangered Southern California steelhead trout to provide for wildlife habitat preservation, linkages, restoration and management, wildlife-oriented outreach and education, and for compatible public or private uses; located about seven miles north of the city of Ventura in unincorporated Ventura County. [Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c).]

**28. Western Riverside MSHCP Barth \$115,000
Riverside County**

To consider the allocation for a grant to the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority (WRCRCA), the acceptance of a USFWS Habitat Conservation Plan Acquisition grant, and the approval to subgrant these federal funds to WRCRCA, for a cooperative project to acquire 20± acres of land for the protection of chaparral, coastal sage scrub and grassland habitats, and associated species, and provide a key regional linkage and elevation transition zone within the Western Riverside Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan, located just east of the city of Temecula in unincorporated Riverside County. [Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c).]

**29. Western Riverside MSHCP Johnson \$371,000
Riverside County**

To consider the allocation for a grant to WRCRCA, the acceptance of a USFWS Habitat Conservation Plan Acquisition grant, and the approval to subgrant these federal funds to WRCRCA, for a cooperative project to acquire 10± acres of land for the protection of listed species located in an area that supports a large, intact alkali vernal pool complex in the Western Riverside Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan, located in the city of Hemet in Riverside County. [Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c).]

Presentation Items

**30. Russ Creek and Centerville Slough Restoration \$10,000,000
Humboldt County**

To consider the allocation for a grant to the Humboldt County Resource Conservation District for a cooperative project with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, The Wildlands Conservancy, and Russ Ranch and Timber, LLC to restore and enhance 1,480 acres of estuarine and tidal slough channels, freshwater streams, freshwater ponds, and agricultural pastures four miles west of Ferndale, in Humboldt County. [General Fund, Budget Act of 2022, Nature Based Solutions, DAC Provision (AB179, Sec. 83(a)) and General Fund, Budget Act of 2022, Nature Based Solutions (AB179, Sec. 83(a)).]

**31. Cortina Ridge Sawato Kamitlitarro Wildlife Crossing \$9,900,000
Colusa County**

To consider the allocation for a grant to Caltrans for the construction of a wildlife crossing over State Route 20 to increase the range of prime Tule Elk habitat and re-unite two heritage subherds 12 miles west of the city of Williams in Colusa County. [General Fund, Budget Act of 2021, Drought Package Provision (SB129, Sec.89(3)) and General Fund, Budget Act of 2022, Drought Package Provision (SB129, Sec.89(3)).]

- 32. Dos Rios Norte** **\$22,665,000**
Sutter County
To consider the allocation for a grant to River Partners to acquire 1,522.93± acres of land for the protection of stream flow, riparian and wetland habitats, salmonids, migratory birds, and significant natural, ecological, habitat, scenic, and open space conditions, and to provide future wildlife-oriented, public-use opportunities, located approximately five miles east of Knights Landing in Sutter County. [General Fund, Budget Act of 2021, Water Supply for Environmental Flows, Stream Flow Enhancement Program Provision (SB170, Sec. 54).]
- 33. Middle Truckee Watershed Forest Health** **\$8,339,300**
Sierra, Nevada, and Placer Counties
To consider the allocation for a grant to the National Forest Foundation for a cooperative project with USFS to conduct planning and environmental compliance on 4,000± acres and forest health implementation on 3,630± acres in the Middle Truckee River watershed in Sierra, Nevada, and Placer counties. [General Fund, Budget Act 2023, Cascades and High Sierra Upper Watersheds Provision.]
- 34. Walt Ranch** **\$7,000,000**
Napa County
To consider the allocation for a grant to Land Trust of Napa County for a cooperative project with State Coastal Conservancy, Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, and The Conservation Fund to secure permanent conservation of 2,300± acres of land for the protection of wildlife habitat in response to climate change, expansion of wildlife corridors, restoration, wildlife-oriented education and research, and provide future wildlife-oriented public use opportunities, located in the Napa River watershed in Napa County. [General Fund, Budget Act of 2021, Fish & Wildlife Resources - Climate Change Impacts on Wildlife Provision (SB170, Sec. 53.5).]
- 35. San Joaquin River Floodplain Restoration Complex** **\$7,158,000**
Stanislaus County
To consider the allocation for a grant to River Partners for a cooperative project with USFWS to restore floodplain connectivity and riparian habitat on USFWS's Grayson Riverbend Preserve and privately-owned land, located along the San Joaquin River approximately seven miles west of Modesto in Stanislaus County. [General Fund, Budget Act of 2022, Nature Based Solutions, San Joaquin Valley Floodplain Restoration Provision (AB179, Sec. 19.58(b)(2)).]
- 36. Madera County Weed Control** **\$ 1,060,000**
Madera County
To consider the allocation for a grant to River Partners for a cooperative project with Madera County to enhance 200 acres of riparian habitat along the San Joaquin River and tributaries by removing invasive plant species on various public and private lands in Madera County. [General Fund, Budget Act of 2022, Nature Based Solutions, San Joaquin Valley Floodplain Restoration Provision (AB179, Sec. 19.58(b)(2)).]

37. San Joaquin and Tulare Basin Planning Project **\$ 13,290,000**
San Joaquin and Tulare Counties

To consider the allocation for a grant to River Partners to plan for restoration at over 10 floodplain sites, obtain permits required for implementation, and complete floodplain research in San Joaquin and Tulare counties. [General Fund, Budget Act of 2022, Nature Based Solutions, San Joaquin Valley Floodplain Restoration Provision (AB179, Sec. 19.58(b)(2)).]

38. Basin Ranch **\$8,593,200**
Monterey County

To consider the allocation for a grant to Big Sur Land Trust for a cooperative project with the Esselen Tribe of Monterey County to acquire 5,105± acres of land for the protection of riparian, chaparral, oak woodland and annual and perennial grassland habitats, habitat linkages, restoration, managed public recreation, hunting, education, property co-management with Esselen Tribe of Monterey County, access for other Native American tribes, and to provide future wildlife-oriented public use opportunities, located in the Salinas River watershed in Monterey County. [General Fund, Budget Act of 2021, Fish & Wildlife Resources - Climate Change Impacts on Wildlife Provision (SB170, Sec. 53.5)].

39. Mohave Ground Squirrel Management Actions **\$4,312,320**
Inyo, Kern, Los Angeles, and San Bernardino Counties

To consider the allocation for a grant to the Mohave Ground Squirrel Conservation Council for a cooperative project with CDFW and BLM, to support the goals of a Conservation Strategy for the Mohave Ground Squirrel (California Department of Fish and Wildlife 2019) and address population resiliency by developing a range-wide program to estimate and monitor demographic and habitat parameters, located on BLM lands in Inyo, Kern, Los Angeles, and San Bernardino counties. [General Fund, Budget Act of 2023, Fish & Wildlife Resources - Climate Change Impacts on Wildlife Provision (SB102, Sec. 84(1)).]

40. Ellwood Marine Terminal Restoration **\$5,404,000**
Santa Barbara County

To consider the allocation for a grant to the University of California, Santa Barbara for a cooperative project with the State Coastal Conservancy to restore woodland, grassland, vernal pool, and coastal sage scrub habitats at the remediated Ellwood Marine Terminal on Ellwood Mesa, adjacent to the UC Santa Barbara campus in Santa Barbara County. [General Fund, Budget Act of 2021, Fish & Wildlife Resources - Climate Change Impacts on Wildlife Provision (SB170, Sec. 53.5)].

41. Bouquet Canyon Creek Recovery Project Planning **\$12,067,000**
Los Angeles County

To consider the allocation for a grant to the Los Angeles County Public Works to create engineering designs and permits to enhance and restore habitat for the endangered unarmored threespine stickleback and other rare, sensitive, threatened, and endangered riparian and aquatic species along approximately

eight miles of Bouquet Canyon Creek. Other enhancements will include multi-benefit projects to increase water supply, provide sediment management and conveyance, provide flood protection, and increase public access to multiple day-use areas and trails in Los Angeles County. [General Fund, Budget Act of 2021, Water Supply for Environmental Flows, Stream Flow Enhancement Program Provision (SB170, Sec. 54).]

42. Descanso Gardens Lake Area Access \$5,840,000
Los Angeles County

To consider the allocation for a grant to the Descanso Gardens Foundation for a cooperative project with County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation, Los Angeles Department of Public Works, and the California Department of Parks and Recreation, to construct improvements to visitor access for Descanso Gardens' Lake Area and Nature Discovery Garden, and install wildlife education and viewing features, located two miles south of La Canada Flintridge in Los Angeles County. [California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68), Public Resources Code Section 80111(d).]

43. Remediation of Tongva Land for Traditional Ecological Knowledge \$779,000
Los Angeles County

To consider the allocation for a grant to the Tongva Taraxat Paxaavxa Conservancy for a project to restore a sage scrub ecosystem that will serve as a valuable agricultural learning process for Tongva community members to revitalize culture, language, and traditional land stewardship located in Altadena, in Los Angeles County. [General Fund, Budget Act of 2022, Nature Based Solutions, DAC Provision (AB179, Sec. 83(a)).]

44. I-8 Peninsular Bighorn Sheep Crossing Planning \$5,808,000
Imperial County

To consider the allocation for a grant to the Regents of the University of California, Davis for a project to develop the plans, designs, and environmental review necessary to create a wildlife crossing over Interstate 8 for peninsular bighorn sheep near the Imperial/San Diego County border in Imperial County. [General Fund, Budget Act of 2022, Drought Package Provision (SB129, Sec.89(3)).]

45. Board Member Updates

46. Executive Director's Report

Adjourn

PERSONS WITH DISABILITES

Persons with disabilities needing reasonable accommodation to participate in public meetings or other CDFW activities are invited to contact the Department's EEO Officer at (916) 653-9089 or EEO@wildlife.ca.gov. 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, contact the EEO Officer immediately.