



Gavin Newsom, Governor
NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, California 94244-2090
www.wcb.ca.gov
(916) 445-8448
Fax (916) 323-0280

Notice of Meeting

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

Wednesday, November 15, 2023, 9:00 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

Consent Items

4. Recovery of Funds

**5. North Coast Wildlife Areas Enhancement \$1,309,000
Humboldt County**

To consider the allocation for a grant to Ducks Unlimited, Inc., for a cooperative project with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), to complete planning activities to enhance approximately 1,071 acres of managed wetlands within CDFW's Lake Earl Wildlife Area, Mad River Slough Wildlife Area, and Fay Slough Wildlife Area, located in Humboldt County.

**6. Online Water Availability Tool - Augmentation \$63,665
Humboldt, Napa, Marin, Mendocino, Sonoma Counties**

To consider the allocation for a grant augmentation to The Nature Conservancy for a project to develop an online decision support tool to evaluate water supply and demand and provide water availability analysis information necessary to develop and permit flow enhancement projects at an increased pace and scale. The project covers coastal streams from the Mattole River to San Francisco and coastal streams entering northern San Pablo Bay within Humboldt, Napa, Marin, Mendocino, and Sonoma counties.

**7. Cákawì ódiknonà Master Planning \$1,480,000
Butte County**

To consider the allocation for a grant to Chico State Enterprises for a cooperative project with Point Blue Conservation Science to create a master management plan for approximately 7,835 acres of recently expanded Chico State University preserve properties located ten miles northeast of Chico in Butte County.

**8. Keithly Preserve \$850,000
Lake County**

To consider the allocation for a grant to Lake County Land Trust to acquire 86± acres of land for the protection of Clearlake shoreline wetlands, and Manning Creek, which provide habitat to Clearlake hitch and provide future wildlife-oriented, public-use opportunities, located in Lakeport in the Clearlake watershed in Lake County.

**9. Snell Valley Ranch \$1,800,000
Napa County**

To consider the allocation for a grant to Napa County Land Trust for a cooperative project to acquire a conservation easement over 846± acres of land for the protection of significant natural, ecological, habitat, scenic, open space, and agricultural resources, located near the community of Pope Valley in Napa County.

**10. Woodland North Regional Pond Enhancement \$1,672,000
Yolo County**

To consider the allocation for a grant to Woodland-Davis Clean Water Agency, for a cooperative project with the City of Woodland, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

(USFWS), Woodland Tree Foundation, Center for Land-Based Learning, and Yolo Audubon Society, to enhance approximately 100 acres of wetlands on the City of Woodland's North Regional Pond, located in Woodland within Yolo County.

- 11. Effie Yeaw Nature Center Facilities Improvement Planning, Augmentation Sacramento County \$35,000**

To consider the allocation for a grant augmentation to the American River Natural History Association for a cooperative project with Sacramento County Department of Regional Parks to plan and design improvements for the interpretive facility at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center located in the American River Parkway, two miles north of the city of Rancho Cordova in Sacramento County.
- 12. Rossmoor Bar Trail Enhancements Planning Sacramento County \$597,000**

To consider the allocation for a grant to the City of Rancho Cordova for a planning project to complete environmental data collection, community outreach, designs and specifications, and environmental clearance for trail enhancements, interpretive panels, and habitat restoration located on publicly owned land along the American River Parkway, approximately 11 miles east of the State Capitol in Sacramento County.
- 13. Sutter's Landing Regional Park ADA River Access Trail Planning Sacramento County \$950,000**

To consider the allocation for a grant to the City of Sacramento for a planning project to develop designs, specifications, community outreach, and environmental clearance for an ADA-compliant river access trail and wildlife habitat enhancements located on publicly owned land along the American River Parkway, approximately two miles northeast from the State Capitol in Sacramento County.
- 14. Cosumnes River Ecological Preserve, Expansion 12 (Singh) Sacramento County \$1,800,000**

To consider the acquisition of 170± acres of land by CDFW for a cooperative project with The Conservation Fund for the protection of riparian forests, freshwater emergent wetlands, vernal pools and grassland habitats, which support special status species that include giant garter snake, tricolored blackbird, Swainson's hawk, and western pond turtle and provide future wildlife-oriented, public-use opportunities as an expansion to CDFW's ecological preserve located in Galt in the Sacramento River watershed in Sacramento County.
- 15. Bolinas Lagoon South End Habitat Adaptation and Resilience Planning, Augmentation Marin County \$267,100**

To consider the allocation for a grant augmentation to Greater Farallones Association for a cooperative project with CDFW, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seadrift Homeowners Association, and multiple landowners to design a multi-benefit project to protect and restore degraded and missing wetland-upland

transition zone habitat in the southern end of Bolinas Lagoon, located in the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary six miles west of Mill Valley in Marin County.

16. Malech Ranch Conservation Easement **\$1,200,000**
Santa Clara County

To consider the allocation for a grant to the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency for a cooperative project with the Moore Foundation and the Wildlife Conservation Network for the acquisition of a conservation easement over 761± acres of land including riparian, mixed oak woodland, mixed serpentine chaparral, and Central California sycamore alluvial woodland areas supporting elk, mountain lion, and San Joaquin kit fox near Gilroy in Santa Clara County.

17. Coyote Valley Wildlife Connectivity Planning **\$5,000,000**
Santa Clara County

To consider the allocation for a grant to the Peninsula Open Space Trust for a cooperative project with the City of San Jose, the Webb Family Foundation, the Western Digital Foundation, and the Johnson Foundation that will complete the environmental review, permitting and designs for up to four crossing structures that will improve habitat connectivity across the Union Pacific Rail Line, Monterey Road, and U.S. 101 within Coyote Valley in Santa Clara County.

18. Alma Bridge Road Newt Passage Designs **\$2,122,250**
Santa Clara County

To consider the allocation for a grant to the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District to develop the designs, permits, and environmental review necessary to improve wildlife connectivity for California newts and other semiaquatic species across Alma Bridge Road near Lexington Reservoir and adjacent to Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve in Santa Clara County.

19. Beneficial Reuse of Excavated Material **\$2,000,000**
Santa Clara County

To consider the allocation for a grant to the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority for a cooperative project with USFWS and the State Coastal Conservancy to develop plans for beneficial re-use of tunnel excavated materials to accelerate up to 5,100 acres of tidal marsh habitat restoration in Santa Clara County.

20. Santa Cruz Long-toed Salamander Section 6 (Schroeder) **\$91,000**
Santa Cruz County

To consider the acceptance of a USFWS Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition grant and the approval to subgrant these federal funds to the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County, and to consider a WCB grant to the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County, to acquire in fee 3± acres of land for the protection of Santa Cruz long-toed salamander habitat, located near Watsonville in Santa Cruz County.

- 21. Santa Cruz Long-toed Salamander Section 6 (Sterling) \$143,000**
Santa Cruz County
To consider the acceptance of a USFWS Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition grant and the approval to subgrant these federal funds to the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County, and to consider a WCB grant to the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County, to acquire in fee 11± acres of land for the protection of Santa Cruz long-toed salamander habitat, located near Watsonville in Santa Cruz County.
- 22. Mount Whitney Fish Hatchery \$0**
Inyo County
To consider the transfer of 40± acres of land by CDFW to Fort Independence Indian Community of Paiute Indians of the Fort Independence Reservation to own, operate, and maintain the Mount Whitney Fish Hatchery in perpetuity for purposes of public access and habitat preservation. The Mount Whitney Fish Hatchery is located in the city of Independence, Inyo County. This is a no-cost transfer.
- 23. Carrizo Plains Ecological Reserve, Expansion 7 (Yang) \$110,000**
San Luis Obispo County
To consider the acquisition of 40± acres of land by CDFW for the protection of grasslands and open space and provide future wildlife-oriented, public-use opportunities as an expansion to CDFW's North Carrizo ecological reserve located 56 miles west of Santa Margarita in eastern San Luis Obispo County.
- 24. San Benito County U.S. 101 Wildlife Crossing Planning \$5,605,000**
San Benito County
To consider the allocation for a grant to the Santa Cruz Land Trust for a project to complete the environmental review, permitting, and 95 percent designs for a wildlife crossing structure across U.S. 101 that will improve habitat connectivity between the Santa Cruz Mountains and the Gabilan Range in San Benito County.
- 25. Desert View Conservation Area Trails \$2,000,000**
San Bernardino County
To consider the allocation for a grant to San Bernardino County Special Districts for a project to install recreational and educational improvements, and wildland protective measures, located on San Bernardino County Special Districts land, one-quarter mile east of Joshua Tree in San Bernardino County.
- 26. Audubon Starr Ranch Sanctuary Restoration \$316,000**
Orange County
To consider the allocation for a grant to the National Audubon Society for a cooperative project with community volunteers to restore and enhance approximately 128 acres of coastal sage scrub, needlegrass grasslands, and cactus scrub located on privately-owned land three miles east of Rancho Santa Margarita in Orange County.

**27. Western Riverside MSHCP Wolfskill \$1,456,000
Riverside County**

To consider the acceptance of a USFWS Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition grant and the approval to subgrant these federal funds to the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority (RCA), and to consider a WCB grant to RCA, for a cooperative project to acquire in fee 640± acres of land for the protection of several habitat types including chaparral, coastal sage scrub, and a variety of state and federal Threatened and Endangered species; and a key linkage between large blocks of conserved lands within the Western Riverside Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan, located east of the city of Moreno Valley in unincorporated Riverside County.

**28. Coastal California Gnatcatcher Habitat Restoration Augmentation \$263,000
San Diego County**

To consider the allocation for an augmentation for a grant to the County of San Diego, Department of Parks and Recreation for a project to restore approximately four acres of coastal sage scrub habitat at the Dictionary Hill Preserve in order to expand habitat and promote connectivity between nearby conserved lands for the coastal California gnatcatcher near the community of Spring Valley in the west-central portion of unincorporated San Diego County.

**29. Otay Valley Regional Park Restoration Planning \$409,000
San Diego County**

To consider the allocation for a grant to the Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County for a cooperative project with San Diego Green Infrastructure Consortium, Lumbercycle, Institute for Public Strategies, and the City of San Diego to develop multi-benefit restoration implementation plans and permitting documentation to remove a eucalyptus grove and restore native coastal sage scrub habitat in Otay Valley Regional Park located in the city of San Diego in San Diego County.

**30. Volcan Mountain Montane Forest Habitat Resilience \$1,550,000
San Diego County**

To consider the allocation of a grant to Volcan Mountain Preservation Foundation for a cooperative project with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to enhance montane meadow and forest health while reducing catastrophic wildfire risk on approximately 167 acres of private preserve land located three miles from Julian in San Diego County.

Presentation Items

**31. Shasta Timberlands Working Forest Conservation Easement \$5,697,000
Siskiyou County**

To consider the allocation for a grant to Pacific Forest Trust to acquire a conservation easement over 7,589± acres of land for the protection of forestland, meadows, riparian, open space character which support numerous sensitive species and provide wildlife-oriented, public-use opportunities located northeast of McCloud in Siskiyou County.

32. Lone Pine Ranch, Phase III **\$3,925,000**
Trinity County

To consider the allocation for a grant to the Wildlands Conservancy to acquire 8,085± acres of land for the protection of oak woodlands and five miles of frontage on the main stem Eel River and to provide future wildlife-oriented, public-use opportunities located in the rural area south of the community of Kettenpom in Trinity County.

33. Restoring Biodiversity at Wadulh Dunes **\$6,813,512**
Humboldt County

To consider the allocation for a grant to the Redwood Community Action Agency for a cooperative project with USFWS to restore approximately 350 acres along 3 miles of coastline. The project is a narrow strip along the shore at the Wadulh Unit of Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge and the Humboldt Coastal Nature Center in Humboldt County.

34. Coastal Mendocino Pollinator Habitat Enhancement **\$1,521,000**
Mendocino County

To consider the allocation for a grant to Mendocino Land Trust for a cooperative project with California State Parks, Bureau of Land Management, USFWS, Mendocino Community Foundation, and community volunteers to restore native coastal prairie and dune pollinator habitat, and support captive rearing of the endangered Behren's silverspot butterfly, located on various public and private lands in Mendocino County.

35. Gray Lodge Auto Tour, Phase II **\$4,200,000**
Butte County

To consider the allocation for a grant to Ducks Unlimited, Inc., for a cooperative project with CDFW to enhance approximately 765 acres of managed wetlands within CDFW's Gray Lodge Wildlife Area, located 5 miles west of Gridley in Butte County.

36. El Dorado Ranch, Expansion 4 **\$2,700,000**
El Dorado County

To consider the allocation for a grant to American River Conservancy for a cooperative project with the California Natural Resources Agency and Sierra Nevada Conservancy to acquire 1,026± acres of land for the protection of blue oak woodland, oak savannah, and foothill riparian habitats that provide key linkages for numerous species and provide future wildlife-oriented, public-use opportunities as part of CDFW's planned El Dorado Wildlife Area, located 10 miles southeast of Placerville in the Cosumnes River watershed in El Dorado County.

37. Bolinas Lagoon Wye Wetlands Resiliency **\$3,142,000**
Marin County

To consider the allocation for a grant to Marin County Parks for a cooperative project with the County of Marin to restore, enhance and protect a fragile and crucial wetland ecosystem by removing and elevating a road out of a flood

inundation zone, installing a full-span bridge, and conducting intensive non-native species removal, located on Marin County and Marin County Open Space District land, two miles north of Bolinas in Marin County.

38. South San Francisco Bay Shoreline **\$4,611,197**
Santa Clara County

To consider the allocation for a grant to the State Coastal Conservancy for a cooperative project with USFWS to support restoration of approximately 2,900 acres of tidal marsh at eight former salt evaporation ponds through construction of a 4-mile, FEMA certifiable levee in the Alviso Pond Complex within the south San Francisco Bay, in Santa Clara County.

39. Desert Tortoise Conservation Innovations **\$1,987,000**
San Bernardino County

To consider the allocation for a grant to Transition Habitat Conservancy for a project to study the effects of using a broad range of tortoise conservation tools and techniques at the same time to enhance tortoise survival at known tortoise hotspots, located on public and privately owned lands approximately six miles west of Boron in San Bernardino County.

40. Ballona Wetlands Restoration Planning **\$2,805,000**
Los Angeles County

To consider an allocation for a grant to CDFW to revise and recertify the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project EIR and complete final designs for Sequences 1 and 2, which will create and enhance salt marsh and brackish marsh by excavating new tidal channels, lowering adjacent marshplain, installing new culverts and water control structures, removing invasive vegetation, and planting native species within the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve in Los Angeles County.

41. Los Angeles Zoo Oak Woodland Restoration & Career Pathways **\$3,600,000**
Los Angeles County

To consider the allocation of a grant to Outward Bound Adventures, Inc., for a cooperative project with the City of Los Angeles, Department of Parks and Recreation to restore approximately six acres of oak woodland habitat by engaging participants from disadvantaged communities to conduct restoration activities and scientific studies on land managed by the Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens located in northern Los Angeles in Los Angeles County.

42. Los Angeles River Habitat Enhancement **\$5,896,000**
Los Angeles County

To consider the allocation for a grant to The Nature Conservancy for a cooperative project with California Department of Parks and Recreation, California Department of Water Resources, California Department of Toxic Substances Control, and the S.L Gimbel Foundation, to restore approximately three acres of riparian and wetland habitat on the California Department of Parks and Recreation's Bowtie Parcel, located in Los Angeles within Los Angeles County.

**43. Lower Los Angeles River Restoration and Access Planning \$4,652,000
Los Angeles County**

To consider the allocation for a grant to Trout Unlimited for a cooperative project with Los Angeles County and local private partners to complete a community-led planning project that will develop designs and complete environmental review for improving fish habitat, ecosystem functions, and public access opportunities along 0.6 miles of the Lower Los Angeles River located on publicly owned land in the city of Paramount in Los Angeles County.

**44. B Canyon \$14,854,320
Riverside County**

To consider the allocation for a grant to the Western Riverside Regional Conservation Authority to acquire 670± acres of land for the protection of critical wildlife habitat and movement corridor that supports many special status species including the southern California/central coast Evolutionary Significant Unit of mountain lion population in the Santa Ana Mountains, and provide future wildlife-oriented, public-use opportunities located in unincorporated Riverside County on the south side of State Route 91, west of the city of Corona.

**45. Rancho Jamul Ecological Reserve, Expansion 6 \$30,000,000
San Diego County**

To consider the acceptance of a USFWS Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition grant for a cooperative project with The Nature Conservancy to acquire 1,291± acres of land for the protection of coastal sage scrub habitat that supports listed species, wildlife movement corridors, and key regional wildlife linkages within the San Diego MSCP, a joint Habitat Conservation Plan and NCCP, and provide future wildlife-oriented, public-use opportunities located just north of Otay Lakes within Proctor Valley in San Diego County.

46. 2024 Board Meeting Dates

The Board will be asked to approve WCB meetings dates for 2024:

Friday, February 16, 2024

Thursday, May 23, 2024

Thursday, August 22, 2024

Thursday, November 21, 2024

47. Board Member Updates

48. Executive Director's Report

Adjourn

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

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) 902-9097 or EEO@wildlife.ca.gov. Please make any such requests at the

earliest possible time to help ensure that accommodations can be in place at the time of the meeting. If a request for an accommodation has been submitted but is no longer needed, please contact the EEO Officer immediately.