



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

### **WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD**

Thursday, February 15, 2024, 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.*

*Note: Public comments on Agenda Items and Items Not on the Agenda will be limited to 2 (two) minutes. Letters of support/opposition must be received by WCB by close of business on Thursday, February 1, 2024, to be included in the Final Agenda and Board Packet.*

#### **Item Number**

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Executive Director's Report
4. Board Member Updates and Reports
5. Discussion and Election of Board Chair
6. Funding Status — Informational

**Consent Items**

**7. Recovery of Funds**

**8. Western Riverside MSHCP Samrith \$88,069  
Riverside County**

To consider the acceptance of a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (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 Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) grant to RCA to acquire in fee 20± acres of land for the protection of critical habitat that supports a wildlife movement corridor for special status species including mountain lion and coastal California gnatcatcher, and will provide future wildlife-oriented, public-use opportunities, located in the Western Riverside Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan area, west of the city of Temecula in unincorporated Riverside County.

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

To consider the acceptance of a USFWS Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition grant and the approval to subgrant these federal funds to RCA, and to consider a WCB grant to RCA to acquire in fee 10± acres of land for the protection of federally listed species including San Jacinto Valley crowscale, and spreading navarretia, located in an area that supports a vernal pool complex in the Western Riverside Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan area, in the city of Hemet in Riverside County.

**10. Burns Piñon Ridge Reserve Enhancement \$240,493  
San Bernardino County**

To consider the allocation for a grant to the University of California, Irvine for a project to complete facility enhancements at the Burns Piñon Ridge Reserve, owned by the University of California, Irvine and located in Pioneertown in San Bernardino County.

**11. Joshua Tree Conservation Coalition and Range-Wide \$1,433,000  
Monitoring Study**

**Inyo, Kern, Los Angeles, Mono, Riverside, San Bernardino Counties**

To consider the allocation for a grant to Mojave Desert Land Trust (MDLT) for a project defined as two programs to (1) form the Joshua Tree Conservation Coalition to advise and inform best conservation practices for western Joshua tree and (2) to prepare a western Joshua tree population monitoring study to inform the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Western Joshua Tree Conservation Plan, located within the range of the western Joshua tree on both

private and public lands within Inyo, Kern, Los Angeles, Mono, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties.

- 12. Supporting Coordination for Tribal Engagement for the Western Joshua Tree Conservation Plan Development** **\$921,260**  
**Inyo, Kern, Los Angeles, Mono, Riverside, San Bernardino Counties**  
To consider the allocation for a grant to the Native American Land Conservancy for a project to help support tribal participation in the development of the CDFW Western Joshua Tree Conservation Plan utilizing tribes located within the range of the western Joshua tree within Inyo, Kern, Los Angeles, Mono, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties.
- 13. Los Banos Wildlife Area, Expansion 10 (Soares)** **\$3,700,000**  
**Merced County**  
To consider the acquisition of 168± acres of land by CDFW for the protection of cismontane alkali marsh, a sensitive habitat that supports tricolored blackbird, giant garter snake, Swainson’s hawk, and western spadefoot, and to provide future wildlife-oriented, public-use opportunities as an expansion to CDFW’s Los Banos Wildlife Area located in Los Banos in the San Joaquin River watershed in Merced County.
- 14. Malech Ranch Conservation Easement** **\$1,200,000**  
**Santa Clara County**  
To consider the acceptance of a USFWS Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition grant and the approval to subgrant these federal funds to the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency (SCVHA), and to consider a WCB grant to SCVHA, 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 the city of Gilroy in Santa Clara County.
- 15. Mokelumne River Floodplain Reconnection and Restoration** **\$650,000**  
**San Joaquin County**  
To consider the allocation for a grant to East Bay Municipal Utilities District for a cooperative project with the San Joaquin Council of Governments to complete planning, permitting, CEQA, and outreach resulting in a 50-acre shovel ready floodplain restoration project, located on privately-owned land 10 miles northeast of Lodi in San Joaquin County.
- 16. Tomato Stand Fish Passage Planning** **\$180,000**  
**Contra Costa County**  
To consider the allocation for a grant to the East Bay Municipal Utility District for a project to complete 90% designs and environmental compliance to replace a perched and undersized culvert with a fish-friendly passage design, located in the

East Bay Municipal Utility District's Pinole Valley watershed two miles east of Pinole in Contra Costa County.

- 17. Faith Valley Meadow Restoration - Augmentation** **\$67,000**  
**Alpine County**  
To consider the allocation for an augmentation to a grant to American Rivers for a cooperative project with CDFW, National Park Service, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and the Alpine Watershed Group to restore 120 acres of meadow habitat in Faith Valley located at the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest approximately 18 miles from Markleeville in Alpine County.
- 18. Montezuma Slough Fish Screen** **\$2,113,000**  
**Solano County**  
To consider the allocation for a grant to Ducks Unlimited, Inc., for a cooperative project with CDFW to complete the replacement of a fish screen and associated water delivery infrastructure at the Montezuma Slough intake on CDFW's Grizzly Island Wildlife Area, in Solano County.
- 19. Redwood Creek Habitat Enhancement Planning Project at Mount** **\$750,000**  
**Tamalpais State Park**  
**Marin County**  
To consider the allocation for a grant to the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy for a cooperative project with California State Parks to create engineering designs, plans, and permits to enhance and restore salmonid and riparian habitat, reduce erosion, and improve instream conditions along 7,000 feet of Redwood Creek within Mount Tamalpais State Park in Marin County.
- 20. CAL FIRE Pacific Union College Forest, Expansion 1** **\$0**  
**Napa County**  
To consider the acceptance of a conservation easement over 246± acres by CAL FIRE under the California Forest Legacy Act of 2007 to protect a mixed conifer forest located near the community of Angwin in Napa County.
- 21. Bodega Marine Reserve Facilities Improvement** **\$263,420**  
**Sonoma County**  
To consider the allocation for a grant to the University of California, Davis for a project to repair the fence line and greenhouse, prune trees surrounding the entrance gate, and acquire a marine buoy with instrument arrays, located on the University of California Davis's Bodega Marine Reserve in Bodega Bay in Sonoma County.
- 22. Coldstream Canyon Restoration - Augmentation** **\$1,446,000**  
**Placer County**  
To consider the allocation of a grant augmentation to the Truckee River Watershed Council for a cooperative project with California State Water Board and California

Department of Parks and Recreation to restore riparian and floodplain habitat located in Coldstream Canyon, five miles southeast of Truckee in Placer County.

**23. Upper Rose Bar Restoration Construction - Augmentation \$700,000  
Yuba County**

To consider the allocation for an augmentation to an existing grant to the South Yuba River Citizen's League, for a cooperative project with the Yuba Water Agency, to increase the amount of high-quality spawning habitat through augmentation of spawning size gravels for Chinook salmon and Central Valley steelhead, create backwater habitat, and reduce bank erosion to the Yuba River, near Smartsville in Yuba County.

**24. Clear Lake Hitch Habitat Planning \$2,730,970  
Lake County**

To consider the allocation of a grant to the Lake County Watershed Protection District for a cooperative project with the California Department of Water Resources, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Congressional District Office of Senator Mike Thompson, and the Scotts Valley and Habematolel bands of Pomo indigenous peoples to complete assessments and planning to restore functional flows and habitat to benefit the Clear Lake hitch in Scotts and Adobe creeks in Lake County.

**25. Mountain Meadows, Expansion 1 (101 Ranch) \$950,000  
Lassen County**

To consider the allocation for a grant to Trust for Public Land for a cooperative project with CDFW and Feather River Land Trust to acquire a conservation easement over 1,827± acres of land for the protection of mountain meadow, pine forest, historic agricultural use, open space, and provide future wildlife-oriented public-use opportunities, located five miles northeast of Westwood in Lassen County.

**26. Van Arken Public Access Planning \$202,000  
Humboldt County**

To consider the allocation for a grant to Sanctuary Forest, Inc., for a cooperative project with Grace US Foundation and Lost Coast Forestlands, LLC to develop a Public Access Program on a conservation easement held by Sanctuary Forest (commonly known as the Van Arken Community Forest), located in the Vanauken Creek watershed 16 miles southwest of Garberville in Humboldt County.

**27. Marshall Ranch Flow Enhancement - Augmentation \$570,000  
Humboldt County**

To consider the allocation for an augmentation to Salmonid Restoration Federation for a cooperative project with Marshall Ranch, LLC to construct 10 million gallons of off-stream water storage for dry season release into Redwood Creek to benefit endangered coho salmon. The project includes construction of 2 ponds and 21 storage tanks, and instream large wood habitat structures, located near Briceland in Humboldt County.

- 28. Siskiyou I-5 Wildlife Overpass Planning** **\$5,500,000**  
**Siskiyou County**  
To consider the allocation for a grant to the Ore-Cal Resource Conservation and Development Council to identify suitable locations for wildlife crossing features and develop Caltrans documentation, environmental review, and designs for up to two wildlife crossing structures for mule deer, mountain lions, and wolves across Interstate 5 near Hornbrook in Siskiyou County.
- 29. Studies Following Klamath Dam Removal - Augmentation** **\$52,000**  
**Siskiyou County**  
To consider the allocation for a grant augmentation to Humboldt State University Sponsored Programs Foundation for a cooperative project with Resource Environmental Solutions to conduct a scientific study on food web dynamics associated with stream flow enhancement before, during, and after the removal of four large hydroelectric dams on privately and publicly owned land, at six sites downstream of Iron Gate Dam in Siskiyou County.
- 30. Magoon and Gill Conservation Easement** **\$3,046,750**  
**Sutter County**  
To consider the allocation for a grant to Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust for a cooperative project with the Natural Resources Conservation Service to acquire a conservation easement over the 875-acre Gill and 571-acre Magoon properties, totaling 1,446± acres of land for the protection of habitat for native wildlife species, including waterfowl, shorebirds, wading migratory birds and raptors located east of the unincorporated community of Robbins in Sutter County.

**Presentation Items**

- 31. San Diego National Wildlife Refuge Vernal Pool Restoration** **\$1,646,000**  
**San Diego County**  
To consider the allocation for a grant to the Friends of the San Diego National Wildlife Refuge for a cooperative project with USFWS to remove invasive plant species and restore vernal pool and coastal sage scrub habitats within the San Diego National Wildlife Refuge in San Diego County.
- 32. San Dieguito Riparian Habitat Restoration** **\$1,538,000**  
**San Diego County**  
To consider the allocation for a grant to the San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy for a cooperative project with the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Rancho Santa Fe Association to restore riparian habitat along the San Dieguito River through weed eradication and native plantings, located on privately owned land 0.5 miles north of San Diego in San Diego County.
- 33. El Monte Preserve Cactus Scrub Restoration Augmentation** **\$579,330**  
**San Diego County**  
To consider the allocation for an augmentation to a grant to the Earth Discovery Institute for a cooperative project with Endangered Habitats Conservancy to

restore 15 acres of cactus scrub habitat in the El Monte Preserve, to implement part of the County of San Diego Multiple Species Conservation Plan Subarea Plan.

**34. Los Angeles River Reach 8A Restoration \$5,792,000**  
**Los Angeles County**

To consider the allocation for a grant to the City of Los Angeles for a cooperative project with Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy to complete the first step in restoring Southern California steelhead passage in the channelized portion of the Los Angeles River by installing a roughened and meandering channel, water velocity reduction features, resting pockets for migrating fish, and vegetative habitat in a quarter mile stretch of the river in downtown Los Angeles in Los Angeles County.

**35. Camatta Ranch Conservation Easement \$10,372,600**  
**San Luis Obispo County**

To consider the allocation for a grant to The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo for a cooperative project with the State Coastal Conservancy and the Department of Conservation to acquire a conservation easement over 27,512± acres of land for the protection oak woodlands, annual grasslands, chaparral, riparian areas, rock outcrops, vernal pools, and other important habitats for numerous wildlife species, rangeland productivity and open space created by working landscapes located near Shandon in San Luis Obispo County.

**36. Rancho Canada Floodplain Restoration \$13,000,000**  
**Monterey County**

To consider the allocation for a grant to the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District for a cooperative project with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to conduct a multi-benefit floodplain restoration project on approximately 40 acres along one mile of the Carmel River. The project is focused on restoring natural geomorphic processes to reconnect the river with historic floodplain habitat and create a mosaic of self-sustaining riparian habitat types and instream complexity to benefit salmonids and other aquatic and riparian species near Carmel in Monterey County.

**37. Sweetwater Ridge \$7,280,000**  
**Merced County**

To consider the allocation for a grant to River Partners to acquire 560± acres of land for the protection of riparian woodlands, wetlands, native grasslands, and vernal pools located at the southeastern border of the San Luis National Wildlife Refuge and bordered on the west by the San Joaquin River in Merced County.

**38. O'Connell Ranch \$6,110,000**  
**Santa Clara County**

To consider the allocation for a grant to the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency for the acquisition of The Conservation Fund's 78.3% interest in 1,073± acres of land including extensive annual grassland, blue oak woodland, mixed oak woodland, northern mixed chaparral, and Central California sycamore alluvial woodland areas

which support elk, mountain lion, San Joaquin kit fox, and California red-legged frog near the city of Gilroy in Santa Clara County.

**39. Lakeside Ranch** **\$10,000,000**  
**Santa Clara County**

To consider the acceptance of a USFWS Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition grant and the approval to subgrant these federal funds to the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency (SCVHA), and to consider a WCB grant to SCVHA, for the acquisition of 1,902± acres of land for the protection and preservation of existing regional wildlife linkages and special status species occurrences, as well as rare serpentine plant communities, grasslands, oak woodlands, pond, and riparian habitat areas within the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Conservation Plan/ Natural Community Conservation Plan, located west of the city of Morgan Hill in Santa Clara County.

**40. One Tam Forest Conservation** **\$4,260,000**  
**Marin County**

To consider the allocation for a grant to the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy for a cooperative project with the California Department of Parks and Recreation, the National Parks Service, and Marin Municipal Water District for forest health treatments on approximately 1,100 acres to increase forest health and biodiversity while decreasing vulnerability to wildfire and climate change on several properties in Marin County.

**41. Upper Truckee River Watershed (Knox Johnson Motel-6)** **\$6,000,000**  
**El Dorado County**

To consider the allocation for a grant to the California Tahoe Conservancy for a cooperative project with the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, the Tahoe Fund, the League to Save Lake Tahoe, and the CDFW Watershed Restoration Grants Program for the acquisition of 31± acres of land adjacent to the Upper Truckee River for the protection of sensitive mountain meadow and wetland habitats and to allow for future restoration and recreation opportunities within the city of South Lake Tahoe in El Dorado County.

**42. Tahoe Forest Gateway - Forest Health** **\$2,410,000**  
**Placer County**

To consider the allocation for a grant to the 40 Acre Conservation League for a project to reduce catastrophic fire risk and enhance forest health by managing for heterogeneity on approximately 374 acres of private preserve land located two miles south of Emigrant Gap in Placer County.

**43. Tahoe Forest Gateway - Recreation Planning** **\$4,295,000**  
**Placer County**

To consider the allocation for a grant to the 40 Acre Conservation League for a project to assess habitat conditions and needs, develop plans for public access



infrastructure, and complete environmental compliance, located on privately-owned land two miles south of Emigrant Gap in Placer County.

**44. Lower Bear Creek Habitat Enhancement Implementation Humboldt County \$4,500,000**

To consider the allocation for a grant to the Mattole Salmon Group to realign Lower Bear Creek to flow into the recently restored Mattole Middle Slough and thereby address critical habitat needs for juvenile salmon, steelhead, and other riparian species including removing barriers to spawning habitat in Bear Creek, located near the town of Petrolia in Humboldt County.

**45. California Onward Capacity Building and Grant Program Statewide Block Grant \$5,000,000**

To consider the allocation for a grant to the California Council of Land Trusts for a collaborative block grant to initiate the California Onward Capacity Building and Grant Program to support land trusts and their partners statewide.

**46. Block Grant Update**

**47. Delegation of Authority – Augmentation Policy**

**48. Public Forum for Items not on the Agenda**

**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](mailto: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.