



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, May 23, 2024, 9:30 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, May 9, 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. El Monte Valley (Digenan) \$810,000
San Diego County**

To consider the allocation for a grant to Lakeside’s River Park Conservancy for a cooperative project with the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) and the County of San Diego to acquire in fee 75± acres of land for the protection of Diegan coastal sage scrub, southern mixed chaparral, and southern live oak riparian forest habitats, supporting the San Diego River wildlife corridor and providing future wildlife-oriented public-use opportunities, located eight miles east of the city of Santee in San Diego County.

- 9. Santa Rosa Hills \$347,000
Riverside County**

To consider the allocation for a grant to the Oswit Land Trust for a cooperative project with CNRA to acquire in fee 165± acres of land for the protection of critical habitat, including Riversidian sage scrub, Diegan coastal sage scrub, and preservation of threatened and endangered species, including the coastal California gnatcatcher and San Bernardino kangaroo rat, located one mile east of the city of Hemet in Riverside County.

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

To consider the acceptance of a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition grant and 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 10± acres of land for the protection of federally listed species, including San Jacinto Valley crowscale and spreading navarretia, located in the city of Hemet in Riverside County.

- 11. Eastern Coachella Valley Ecological Public Space \$1,018,000
Riverside County**

To consider the allocation for a grant to Kounkuey Design Initiative, Inc. for a cooperative project with the Friends of the Desert Mountains and the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians to develop plans for two separate sites that will create outdoor spaces, build connection to ecological systems, and celebrate local tribal and community culture, located on privately-owned land near Thermal in Riverside County.

- 12. Louis Robidoux Nature Center Nursery and Restoration \$1,265,826
Riverside County**

To consider the allocation for a grant to Southern California Mountains Foundation for a cooperative project with the Inland Empire Resources Conservation District and the Riverside County Regional Park and Open Space District to construct and maintain a native plant nursery, remove nonnative invasive species by hand over

the 40-acre site, and to train a restoration workforce by restoring 10 acres onsite, located on publicly owned lands within the city of Jurupa Valley in Riverside County.

- 13. Happy Valley** **\$1,400,000**
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 Oswit Land Trust, and to consider a WCB grant to the Oswit Land Trust to acquire in fee 639± acres of land for the protection of federally listed species including the desert tortoise, located in the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan and Natural Community Conservation Plan, located near Indio Hills in Riverside County.
- 14. Angeles Linkage** **\$824,000**
Los Angeles County
To consider the allocation for a grant to the Trust for Public Land for a cooperative project with the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority to acquire 113± acres of land for the protection of critical wildlife habitat, supporting connectivity between the north and south blocks of the Angeles National Forest, and provide future wildlife-oriented public-use opportunities, located half a mile south of the community of Acton in Los Angeles County.
- 15. South Los Angeles County Habitat Connectivity Masterplan** **\$1,200,000**
Los Angeles County
To consider the allocation for a grant to the Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains for a cooperative project with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), Wildlife Conservation Network, County of Los Angeles, and City of Los Angeles to complete high-resolution landscape connectivity models and maps for habitats within the urban and urban-wildland interface, engage stakeholders in urban nature conservation, and develop comprehensive wildlife connectivity planning guidance that includes a physical masterplan for projects that will enhance wildlife corridors in southern Los Angeles County.
- 16. Follows Camp Ecological Design** **\$2,080,000**
Los Angeles County
To consider the allocation for a grant to City of Industry for a project to develop restoration design plans and initiate environmental education programs, located on city-owned land eight miles northeast of the city of Azusa in Los Angeles County.
- 17. Simi Divide - Box Canyon Connector** **\$850,000**
Ventura County
To consider the allocation for a grant to Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for a cooperative project with the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy to acquire 166± acres of land for the protection of chaparral habitat that supports a wildlife movement corridor for special status species including mountain lion and Santa Susana tarplant and provide future wildlife-oriented public-use opportunities, located near Simi Valley in Ventura County.

- 18. San Joaquin and Tulare Basin Planning, Amendment** **\$313,180**
San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare, Kern, Calaveras, Tuolumne, and Mariposa Counties
To consider the allocation for an amendment and augmentation to an existing grant to River Partners to engage in outreach to tribes for purposes of possible stewardship of habitat restoration sites in the San Joaquin and Tulare Basins, in San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare, Kern, Calaveras, Tuolumne, and Mariposa counties.
- 19. Elkhorn Slough Ecological Reserve, Expansion 19** **\$640,000**
Monterey County
To consider the acquisition of 24± acres of land by CDFW for the protection of coast live oak woodland, coastal prairie, and wet meadow habitats to protect threatened and endangered species habitat, expand the wildlife movement corridor through the uplands, and provide future wildlife-oriented public-use opportunities, as an expansion to CDFW's Elkhorn Slough Ecological Reserve, located near Castroville in Monterey County.
- 20. LI Livestock Ranch Conservation Easement** **\$1,056,124**
San Benito County
To consider the allocation for a grant to the California Rangeland Trust for a cooperative project with the Bureau of Reclamation to acquire a conservation easement over 1,631±-acres of land for the protection and preservation of threatened and endangered species habitat, rangelands and grasslands, and habitat linkages located adjacent to Pinnacles National Park in San Benito County.
- 21. Santa Cruz County Stream Wood Program** **\$500,000**
Santa Cruz County
To consider the allocation for a grant to the County of Santa Cruz for a project to enhance the capacity of the existing County of Santa Cruz Stream Wood Program to respond to reports of large woody debris and/or log jams in salmonid-bearing streams and their tributaries, with the primary goal of leaving wood in the channel where feasible to benefit salmonid habitat on privately-owned land at various sites in Santa Cruz County.
- 22. Kingfisher Flat Hatchery, Fire Recovery, Augmentation** **\$528,000**
Santa Cruz County
To consider the allocation for a grant to the Monterey Bay Salmon and Trout Project for a project to restore access to the Kingfisher Flat Hatchery located on privately-owned land 15 miles north of the city of Santa Cruz in Santa Cruz County.
- 23. Barnett Ranch** **\$1,997,000**
Contra Costa County
To consider the allocation for a grant to John Muir Land Trust to acquire 134± acres of land for the protection of wildlife habitat preservation, climate resilience, watershed protection, and provide future wildlife-oriented public-use opportunities, located in Martinez in Contra Costa County.

24. Roy's Redwoods Restoration **\$1,239,000**
Marin County

To consider the allocation for a grant to Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy for a cooperative project with California State Parks, County of Marin Disability Access Program, Marin County Parks, and Marin County Open Space District to remove social trails and restore hydrological functionality at Roy's Redwoods, located on Marin County Open Space District land two miles north of Woodacre in Marin County.

25. El Dorado and Daugherty Hill Land Management Plans **\$676,967**
El Dorado, Yuba Counties

To consider the allocation for a grant to CDFW for a cooperative project with the USFWS to complete two land management plans and environmental compliance for CDFW's Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area located 15 miles northwest of Grass Valley in Yuba County and CDFW's proposed El Dorado Wildlife Area located 11 miles south of El Dorado Hills in El Dorado County.

26. Morgan Valley Expansion 1 (Aigner) **\$70,000**
Lake County

To consider the allocation for a grant to The Regents of the University of California to acquire 12 ± acres of land for purposes of serpentine grassland habitat preservation, restoration and management, and wildlife-oriented education and research, located in Lake County.

27. Morgan Valley Expansion 2 **\$30,000**
Napa County

To consider the allocation for a grant to The Regents of the University of California to acquire 5± acres of land for purposes of serpentine grassland habitat preservation, restoration and management, and wildlife-oriented education and research, located in Napa County.

28. Bale Slough: Group C **\$1,600,000**
Napa County

To consider the allocation for a grant to the Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District for a cooperative project with the California Coastal Conservancy to restore and enhance 6,000 linear feet along Bale Slough and Bear Creek, a tributary to the Napa River to restore and enhance long-term river and floodplain function, improve the quality and resilience of aquatic and terrestrial riparian habitat, and reduce property damage and sediment delivery associated with ongoing bank erosion processes located 3 miles south of St. Helena in Napa County.

29. 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.

**30. Western Placer County HCP/NCCP (Redwing Ranch North) \$1,106,037
Placer County**

To consider the acceptance of a USFWS Land Acquisition grant and the approval to subgrant these federal funds to the Placer Conservation Authority, and to consider a WCB grant to Placer Conservation Authority, for a cooperative project with Placer Legacy Open Space and Agricultural Conservation Program to acquire in fee 430± acres of land for the protection of vernal pool, wetland, and slough channel habitat for threatened and endangered species, restoration and management, and wildlife-oriented education and research within the Placer County Conservation Program, located near Lincoln in Placer County.

**31. C & P Conservation Easement \$1,410,000
Sutter County**

To consider the allocation for a grant to Ducks Unlimited for the acquisition of a conservation easement over 313± acres of land buffering high quality wetlands located on the Sutter National Wildlife Refuge to expand a permanently protected wildlife corridor outside the confines of the Sutter Bypass and preserve winter flooding to provide for the energetic needs of wintering waterfowl and shore birds in the Sacramento Valley.

**32. Arcanum Ranch \$550,000
Mendocino County**

To consider the allocation for a grant to Sanctuary Forest to acquire 50± acres of land for the protection of critical areas for salmonid species, including coho, Chinook, and steelhead, and to support their refuge areas and connectivity within the Mattole River ecosystem, located two miles south of the community of Whitethorn in unincorporated Mendocino County.

**33. Trinity Alps Forest Restoration, Augmentation \$450,000
Trinity, Siskiyou, Shasta Counties**

To consider the allocation of a funding augmentation to Trust for Public Land to enhance forest health and restore wilderness on approximately 3,500 acres of privately owned land adjacent to Shasta-Trinity National Forest located in Trinity, Siskiyou, and Shasta counties.

**34. Knopki Forest Restoration \$835,600
Del Norte County**

To consider the allocation for a grant to the National Wild Turkey Foundation for a cooperative project with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the U. S. Forest Service, Six Rivers National Forest to implement 1,500 acres of forest restoration located ten miles east of Gasquet in Del Norte County.

Presentation Items

- 35. Advancing Equity and Biodiversity in Southern California, Imperial, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego Counties** **\$3,000,000**
To consider the allocation for a grant to the Resources Legacy Fund for a project to assist underrepresented partners with the development and implementation of habitat biodiversity projects in urban areas of Los Angeles, Riverside, Imperial, San Diego, and San Bernardino counties.
- 36. Palo Verde Ecological Reserve, Expansion 5** **\$8,000,000**
Imperial County
To consider the acquisition of 1,971± acres of land by CDFW for a cooperative project with Department of Water Resources and the Bureau of Reclamation, to protect open space and promote the restoration of critical habitat adjacent to the Colorado River that supports threatened and endangered species and the preservation of a wildlife linkage and corridor from the Colorado River to the Colorado Desert and will provide future wildlife-oriented public-use opportunities located south of the city of Blythe in Imperial County.
- 37. 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 to restore approximately 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 located at El Monte Preserve in Lakeside, an unincorporated community in San Diego County.
- 38. Chollas Creek Segment 5 Restoration Planning** **\$2,300,000**
San Diego County
To consider the allocation for a grant to Groundworks San Diego Chollas Creek to complete the planning process and provide construction-ready documents to restore riparian habitat that incorporates flood control and an adjacent trail to provide access to nature-based recreation for the underserved community along Chollas Creek located in San Diego in San Diego County.
- 39. Prescott Preserve Ecological Restoration** **\$7,037,690**
Riverside County
To consider the allocation for a grant to the Saving Oswit Canyon, DBA Oswit Land Trust to restore approximately 90 acres of diverse desert valley floor habitat including desert dry wash woodland, Sonoran creosote bush scrub, and desert fan palm oasis within a 120-acre former golf course known as Prescott Preserve, located in Palm Springs in Riverside County.
- 40. Topanga Lagoon Restoration Planning, Phase II** **\$10,054,000**
Los Angeles County
To consider the allocation for a grant to the Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains for a cooperative planning project with Caltrans to complete 90% designs, permitting, technical studies, and outreach necessary to

restore the Topanga Lagoon located ten miles west of Santa Monica in Los Angeles County.

**41. Puente Hills Regional Park Habitat Restoration \$12,500,000
Los Angeles County**

To consider the allocation for a grant to the County of Los Angeles, Department of Parks and Recreation for a project to create approximately 40 acres of coastal sage scrub, native grassland, and chaparral habitats within the former Puente Hills Landfill site that will support sensitive wildlife species and benefit the local residents located approximately 15 miles east of downtown Los Angeles in the city of Industry in Los Angeles County.

**42. Desert Tortoise Recovery Through Head-Starting \$1,371,377
San Bernardino County**

To consider the allocation for a grant to the University of California, Davis for a cooperative project with the Mojave National Preserve to study the release of head-started desert tortoises and evaluate the effectiveness relative to a control site, located on publicly owned land 38 miles west of Baker in San Bernardino County.

**43. Beach Ranch \$5,000,000
Santa Cruz County**

To consider the allocation for a grant to The Land Trust of Santa Cruz County to acquire 264 ± acres of land for wildlife habitat preservation, restoration and management; creation of estuarine wetland and floodplain habitat and provide future wildlife-oriented public-use opportunities, located 2.5 miles southwest of Watsonville in Santa Cruz County.

**44. Santa Cruz Long-toed Salamander, Section 6 (La Selva Uplands) \$6,096,000
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 Trust for Public Land and The Land Trust of Santa Cruz County as successor grantee, and to consider a WCB grant to The Trust for Public Land and The Land Trust of Santa Cruz County as successor grantee, for a project to acquire in fee 144± acres of land for the protection of Santa Cruz long-toed salamander habitat, located near Watsonville in Santa Cruz County.

**45. Island Dairy \$11,100,000
Stanislaus County**

To consider the allocation for a grant to River Partners to acquire fee title acquisition over 482± acres of land for the protection of oak woodland, mixed riparian, cottonwood willow, and open space areas that support habitat connectivity at the confluence of the Tuolumne and San Joaquin rivers, located between the historic San Joaquin River channel and Laird Slough immediately adjacent to the unincorporated community of Grayson in Stanislaus County.

- 46. Tiburon Ridge (Martha) \$5,500,000**
Marin County
To consider the allocation for a grant to The Trust for Public Land and Marin County Open Space District as successor grantee to acquire 110± acres of land for the protection of wildlife habitat preservation including coastal oak woodlands, wetlands providing California red-legged frog habitat, serpentine soils, wildlife-oriented education and research, and provide future wildlife-oriented public-use opportunities, located in the town of Tiburon in Marin County.
- 47. Lower Colgan Creek Riparian Restoration \$2,010,000**
Sonoma County
To consider the allocation for a grant to the City of Santa Rosa for a cooperative project with the Department of Water Resources and Sonoma County Water Agency to restore floodplain connectivity and riparian habitat on 7 acres surrounding lower Colgan Creek located on publicly owned land 2.5 miles south of downtown Santa Rosa in Sonoma County.
- 48. Trinity Headwaters \$12,100,000**
Trinity County
To consider the allocation for a grant to Pacific Forest Trust to acquire 10,700± acres of land for the protection of upper watershed ecosystem, cold-water resources for fish and wildlife, and provide long-term carbon sequestration located west of Interstate 5 and the city of Mount Shasta, and southeast of the community of Callahan in Trinity County.
- 49. Miner's Creek \$2,750,000**
Siskiyou County
To consider the allocation for a grant to The Nature Conservancy to permanently protect 389± acres of land for the protection of species including coho and Chinook salmon, allow for future salmon habitat restoration; a permanent instream flow dedication of 1.66 cubic feet per second in French Creek to enhance summer rearing and fall spawning habitat and wildlife-oriented education and research, located in Siskiyou County.
- 50. Upper Bear Creek Meadows Conservation Easement \$4,485,000**
Siskiyou County
To consider the allocation for a grant to Siskiyou Land Trust for a cooperative project with CAL FIRE to acquire a conservation easement over 4,768± acres of land for the protection of working forest lands, aspen groves, upland meadows, riparian, and open space which support numerous sensitive species located east of the community of McCloud in Siskiyou County.
- 51. Parks Creek Ranch \$9,300,000**
Siskiyou County
To consider the allocation for a grant to The Nature Conservancy to acquire 5,277± acres of land for the protection of instream flow, riparian, and upland terrestrial

habitats for coho salmon and other species located five miles from Weed in Siskiyou County.

52. 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. 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.