



Gavin Newsom, Governor  
NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD  
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## Final Meeting Agenda

### WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

August 22, 2024, 10:00 a.m.

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

The Board meeting will also be available via Zoom. A recording will be posted after the meeting

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**Notice:** We will no longer require Speaker Cards. If you wish to comment on an agenda item, you will be provided the opportunity to do so during the meeting. In person speakers will be asked to line up at the podium during the specified item. Similarly, on-line speakers will be asked to raise hands to enter the queue.

The Board will break for a 30-minute lunch at approximately 12pm.

# Wildlife Conservation Board Meeting, August 22, 2024

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**Attachments**

- Attachment A – Map of August 2024 Projects
- Attachment B – WCB Acronyms
- Attachment C – WCB Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives

**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 Office at [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.

**1. Roll Call**

Wildlife Conservation Board Members

Alina Bokde, Chair, Public Member  
Charlton H. Bonham, Vice Chair  
Director, Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Michele Perrault, Member  
Legislative Director, Department of Finance  
Damon Nagami, Public Member  
Fran Pavley, Public Member  
Kathryn Phillips, Public Member  
Samantha Murray, President  
Fish and Game Commission

Joint Legislative Advisory Committee

Senator *Vacant*  
Senator *Vacant*  
Senator Henry Stern  
Assemblymember Luz Rivas  
Assemblymember Buffy Wicks – Alternate  
Assemblymember Rick Zbur  
Assemblymember Miguel Santiago – Alternate  
Assemblymember Steve Bennett  
Assemblymember Marc Berman – Alternate

Executive Director

Jennifer M. Norris, PhD

2. **Approval of Agenda**

3. **Executive Director's Report**

4. **Board Member Updates and Reports**

5. **Funding Status - Informational**

The following funding status depicts total Capital Outlay and Local Assistance appropriations by fund source and fund number:

<b>GENERAL FUND (0001)</b>	<b>\$165,000,011.70</b>
August 2024 Board Meeting Allocation:	(3,399,639.00)
Total Project Development:	(51,019,328.26)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	<b>\$110,581,044.44</b>
 <b>HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (0262)</b>	 <b>\$51,081,070.15</b>
August 2024 Board Meeting Allocation:	(2,882,000.00)
Total Project Development:	(17,965,683.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	<b>\$30,233,387.15</b>
 <b>GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION FUND (3228)</b>	 <b>\$172,675,204.39</b>
August 2024 Board Meeting Allocation:	(14,845,968.00)
Total Project Development:	(28,451,105.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	<b>\$129,378,132.39</b>
 <b>CALIFORNIA CLEAN WATER, CLEAN AIR, SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS AND COASTAL PROTECTION BOND FUND (Proposition 40) (6029)</b>	 <b>\$307,744.01</b>
August 2024 Board Meeting Allocation:	(0.00)
Total Project Development:	(12,500.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	<b>\$307,744.01</b>
 <b>WATER SECURITY, CLEAN DRINKING WATER, COASTAL AND BEACH PROTECTION FUND OF 2002 (Proposition 50) (6031)</b>	 <b>\$7,230,173.50</b>
August 2024 Board Meeting Allocation:	(0.00)
Total Project Development:	(5,231,066.74)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	<b>\$1,999,106.76</b>

<b>SAFE DRINKING WATER, WATER QUALITY AND SUPPLY, FLOOD CONTROL, RIVER AND COASTAL PROTECTION FUND OF 2006 (Proposition 84) (6051)</b>	<b>\$5,510,162.19</b>
August 2024 Board Meeting Allocation:	(0.00)
Total Project Development:	(3,140,000.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	<b>\$2,370.162.19</b>
 <b>WATER QUALITY, SUPPLY, AND INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT FUND (Proposition 1) (6083)</b>	 <b>\$49,038,222.14</b>
August 2024 Board Meeting Allocation:	(9,725,032.00)
Total Project Development:	(1,000,000.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	<b>\$38,313,190.14</b>
 <b>THE CALIFORNIA DROUGHT, WATER, PARKS, CLIMATE, COASTAL PROTECTION, AND OUTDOOR ACCESS FOR ALL ACT OF 2018 (Proposition 68) (6088)</b>	 <b>\$70,660,128.73</b>
August 2024 Board Meeting Allocation:	(14,044,561.00)
Total Project Development:	(284,730.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	<b>\$59,330,837.73</b>
 <b>TOTAL – ALL FUNDS</b>	 <b>\$521,502,716.81</b>
Grand Total – August 2024 Board Meeting Allocation:	(44,897,200.00)
Grand Total - Project Development:	(107,104,413.00)
Grand Total Projected Unallocated Balance:	<b>\$369,501,103.81</b>

## Consent Items

Items 6-20 are part of the Consent Calendar

**6. Recovery of Funds, Thursday, August 22, 2024**

The following projects previously authorized by the Board are now completed, and some have balances of funds that can be recovered and returned to their respective funds. It is recommended that the following totals be recovered and that the projects be closed.

*Table 1 - Recoveries by Fund*

<b>Fund Name</b>	<b>Amount</b>
General Fund	\$10,086,063.85
Habitat Conservation Fund	\$24,011.00
Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund	\$0.01
California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Fund	\$0.00
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006	\$468,440.08
Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Fund of 2014	\$264,066.58
The California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018	\$314,411.44
<b>Total Recoveries for All Funds</b>	<b>\$11,156,992.96</b>

*Table 2 - General Fund*

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Allocated</b>	<b>Expended</b>	<b>Balance</b>
B Canyon	\$30,000.00	\$11,924.00	\$18,076.00
C & P Conservation Easement	\$20,000.00	\$6,887.00	\$13,113.00
Camatta Ranch Conservation Easement	\$10,402,600.00	\$10,400,651.00	\$1,949.00
Cortina Ridge Sawato Kamitlitarro Wildlife Crossing	\$9,900,000.00	\$0.00	\$9,900,000.00
Devil's Canyon	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$0.00
Discovery Park Picnic Shelters and Interpretation	\$475,000.00	\$475,000.00	\$0.00
Fay Creek Ranch, Expansion 1 (KRVHF	\$1,299,348.00	\$1,299,348.00	\$0.00
Kramer Ranch Conservation Easement	\$1,366,788.00	\$1,359,538.00	\$7,250.00
Lower American River Natural Resources Management Plan	\$500,000.00	\$493,171.25	\$6,828.75
LuginBuhl Ranch	\$510,000.00	\$500,000.00	\$10,000.00
Malech Ranch Conservation Easement	\$1,220,000.00	\$1,206,693.00	\$13,307.00
Mt. Whitney Fish Hatchery	\$50,000.00	\$48,372.00	\$6,128.00
O'Connell Ranch	\$6,130,000.00	\$6,120,282.00	\$9,718.00
Salmon Creek School Water Conservation, Augmentation	\$1,230,000.00	\$1,230,000.00	\$0.00
Steelhead Preserve	\$30,000.00	\$8,184.00	\$21,816.00

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Allocated</b>	<b>Expended</b>	<b>Balance</b>
Sweetwater Ridge	\$7,315,000.00	\$7,285,917.00	\$29,083.00
Upper Truckee River Watershed (Knox Johnson Motel-6)	\$6,020,000.00	\$6,000,000.00	\$20,000.00
Western Riverside MSHCP Barth	\$20,000.00	\$12,804.00	\$7,195.00
Western Riverside MSHCP Samrith	\$20,000.00	\$7,372.00	\$12,628.00
Western Riverside MSHCP Wolfskill	\$20,000.00	\$11,028.90	\$8,971.10
<b>Total Recoveries to General Fund</b>			<b>\$10,086,063.85</b>

*Table 3 - Habitat Conservation Fund*

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Allocated</b>	<b>Expended</b>	<b>Balance</b>
B Canyon	\$4,808,760.00	\$4,808,760.00	\$0.00
CAL FIRE Pacific Union College Forest, Expansion 1	\$50,000.00	\$25,989.00	\$24,011.00
Devil's Canyon	\$1,600,000.00	\$1,600,000.00	\$0.00
McCosker Riparian Habitat Restoration	\$500,000.00	\$500,000.00	\$0.00
Steelhead Preserve	\$1,625,000.00	\$1,625,000.00	\$0.00
Western Riverside MSHCP Barth	\$115,500.00	\$115,500.00	\$0.00
Western Riverside MSHCP Samrith	\$88,069.00	\$88,069.00	\$0.00
Western Riverside MSHCP Wolfskill	\$1,456,000.00	\$1,456,000.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Recoveries to Habitat Conservation Fund</b>			<b>\$24,011.00</b>

*Table 4- Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund*

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Allocated</b>	<b>Expended</b>	<b>Balance</b>
Mapping Important Plant Areas of California	\$272,000.00	\$271,999.99	\$0.01
<b>Total Recoveries Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund</b>			<b>\$0.01</b>

*Table 5- California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Fund*

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Allocated</b>	<b>Expended</b>	<b>Balance</b>
San Joaquin River Parkway, Circle V (Vinnard) Public Access Plan	\$175,341.00	\$175,341.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Recoveries to California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Fund</b>			<b>\$0.00</b>



*Table 6 - Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006*

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Allocated</b>	<b>Expended</b>	<b>Balance</b>
Middle Owens Valley Perennial Pepperweed Removal	\$730,000.00	\$729,736.63	\$263.37
San Joaquin River Parkway, Circle V (Vinnard) Public Access Plan	\$874,659.00	\$406,482.29	\$468,176.71
<b>Total Recoveries to Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006</b>			<b>\$468,440.08</b>

*Table 7- Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Fund of 2014*

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Allocated</b>	<b>Expended</b>	<b>Balance</b>
Battle Creek Section 1707 Dedication	\$159,368.00	\$0.00	\$159,368.00
Butte Creek House Meadow Restoration Planning	\$196,071.00	\$119,457.72	\$76,613.28
Lower Prairie Creek Floodplain Restoration Design	\$332,000.00	\$304,776.34	\$27,223.66
Mt. Gilead Water Conservation and Flow Improvement Design	\$331,694.00	\$331,628.77	\$65.23
Salmon Creek School Water Conservation	\$2,067,390.00	\$2,066,593.59	\$796.41
<b>Total Recoveries to Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Fund of 2014</b>			<b>\$264,066.58</b>

*Table 8- The California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018*

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Allocated</b>	<b>Expended</b>	<b>Balance</b>
American River Ranch Parking Lot, Phase 2	\$367,231.00	\$241,618.86	\$125,612.14
C & P Conservation Easement	\$1,410,000.00	\$1,410,000.00	\$0.00
CDFW Vegetation Mapping, Sierra Nevada and Northeast	\$1,097,905.00	\$1,097,905.00	\$0.00
Discovery Park Picnic Shelters and Interpretation	\$467,000.00	\$440,000.00	\$27,000.00
Haskell Peak Meadow Planning Project	\$430,143.00	\$429,594.09	\$548.91
Lake Solano Park Public Access, Planning	\$93,000.00	\$93,000.00	\$0.00
Lower American River Natural Resources Management Plan, Augmentation	\$118,380.00	\$118,380.00	\$0.00
Pacheco Creek Reserve Restoration, Planning	\$350,000.00	\$350,000.00	\$0.00
San Bernardino County Regional Conservation Investment Strategy	\$562,210.00	\$452,012.24	\$110,197.76

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Allocated</b>	<b>Expended</b>	<b>Balance</b>
Santa Ana to Palomar Mountains Linkage	\$378,000.00	\$326,947.37	\$51,052.63
Yosemite Area Forest Restoration	\$1,362,000.00	\$1,362,000.00	\$0.00
<b><i>Total Recoveries to The California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018</i></b>			<b>\$314,411.44</b>

A funding shift has been Identified as a result of State budget solutions from the Land Acquisition and Habitat Enhancement Program AB 102, Sec.85(3)(d), enactment year 2023 in the amount of \$36,000 to General Fund, Budget Act of 2024, Land Acquisition and Habitat Enhancement Program SB 108, Sec. 108(1)(4). This shift will fully commit the Audubon Starr Ranch Sanctuary Restoration grant with no disruption to project payments or progress.

## 7. Randall Preserve Resource Planning

## Restoration – Planning

WCB Grant: \$600,000

Fund Source(s): Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, Budget Act of 2024, Climate Change Resilience (SB 108, Sec. 107(1)(4))

Grantee: Coastal Corridor Alliance

Landowner: Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA)

Location: Adjacent to Costa Mesa and Newport Beach

County: Orange

### Project Highlights

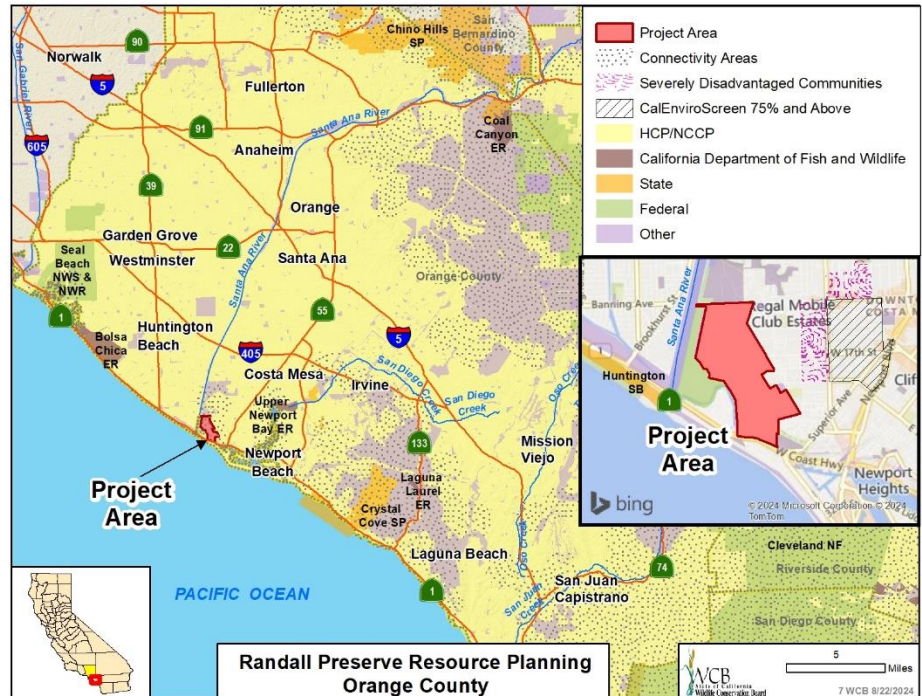
- WCB provided more than \$15 million for the acquisition of the Randall Preserve.
- Develops resource management and access plans and a coastal resilience strategy through a public process and in consultation with local tribes
- Key species: Coastal California gnatcatcher, fairy shrimp, western spadefoot toad, and southwestern pond turtle.

### Priority Metrics

- Located in a Justice Community: No
- Tribal Partnerships: Tribal partnerships will be established as part of this planning project.
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 6, Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship
- WCB Strategic Plan Goal B, C and Objectives 2.2, 3.4, 4.3

### Project Description

The Randall Preserve Resource Planning (Project) site served as an oil field for decades until it was acquired by MRCA in 2022. The acquisition agreement required that MRCA develop a property management plan that encompasses a Resource Management Plan (RMP) and a Tribal Access and Engagement Plan that both, collectively, inform a Public Access Plan (PAP). This Project will develop the required RMP and PAP, and a separate but related Coastal Resilience Strategy by:



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- Performing biological surveys including vegetation mapping, rare plant surveys, invasive plant species mapping, species specific surveys, and California Rapid Assessment Method Wetland survey.
- Conducting a literature review to describe current land uses and issues of concern for the property as an open space preserve.
- Establishing an Advisory Committee comprised of a member from the Randall family, designated non-profits, tribal leaders, elected officials, and more that will meet to discuss and finalize plan development.
- Complete a RMP, PAP, and Coastal Resilience Strategy with community and Advisory Committee input.
- Conducting community outreach to facilitate, promote, and engage a wide range of individuals.
- Herbicide: No

### Long-Term Management

Not applicable to this Project.

### Project Funding

The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Project Management	\$211,702	\$607,065	\$818,767
Data Gathering & Research	\$80,000	\$176,000	\$256,000
Planning Documents	\$123,000	\$300,000	\$423,000
Community Engagement and Advisory Committee	\$135,000	\$60,000	\$195,000
Indirect	\$50,298	\$41,935	\$92,233
Total	\$600,000	\$1,185,000	\$1,785,000

Non-WCB funders include:

- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation - \$1,000,000
- Trust for Public Land - \$155,000
- Orange County Community Foundation - \$30,000

### Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Assemblymember Cottie Petrie-Norris, California State Assembly, 73<sup>rd</sup> District
- Dr. Kailen Mooney, Professor Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, University of California Irvine
- Vince Rodriguez, Ed.D., President, Coastline College

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- Guillermo Rodriguez, Vice President – Pacific Region, Trust for Public Land
- Dan Silver, Executive Director, Endangered Habitats League
- Mary Cappellini, Executive Director, Save Our Youth
- Susan Sheakley, Conservation Chair, Sea & Sage Audubon Society

### Opposition:

- None received

## CEQA

The Project is statutorily exempt from CEQA pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15262, Feasibility and Planning Studies, as it involves only feasibility and planning studies for possible future actions. Subject to authorization by WCB, a Notice of Exemption (NOE) will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

## State Government

- Senate: Senator Dave Min, District 37
- Senate: Senator Janet Nguyen, District 36
- Assembly: Assemblymember Diane Dixon, District 72

## Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed, authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project, and authorize staff and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to proceed substantially as planned.

## 8. Huntington State Beach Dune Restoration

WCB Grant: \$864,000

Fund Source: California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68), Public Resources Code Section 80132(c)(1)

Grantee: Huntington Beach Wetlands Conservancy

Landowner: California Department of Parks and Recreation

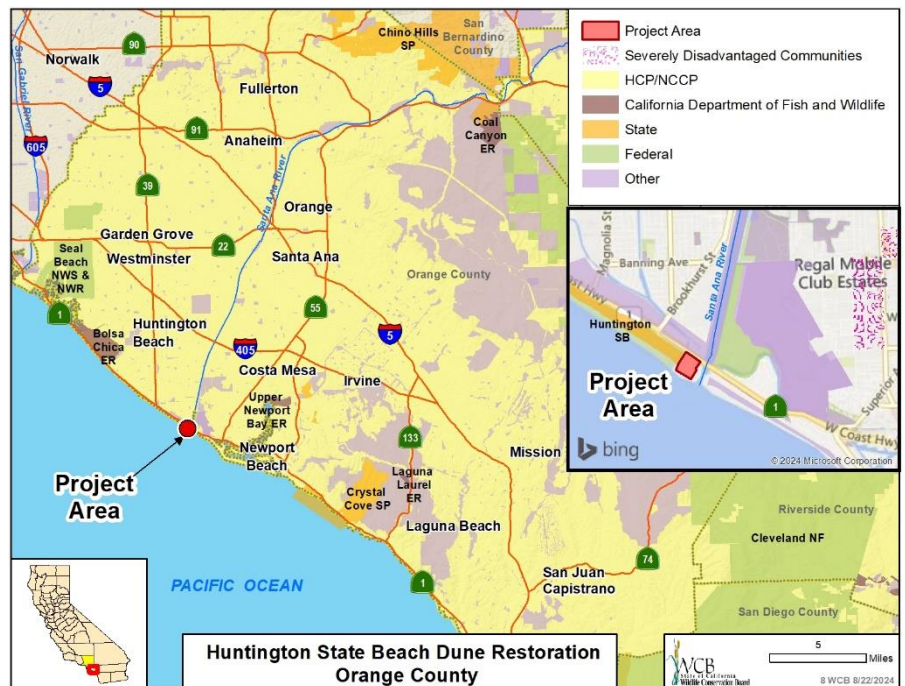
Location: Three miles southeast of Huntington Beach

County: Orange

## Restoration – Implementation

### Project Highlights

- The Project site is located at the 12-acre California Least Tern Natural Preserve (Preserve) on Huntington State Beach.
- The Preserve is one of the top five breeding colonies for the California least tern (CALT) within the state.
- Urban development has degraded the majority of coastal dune habitat historically in Southern California and sea level rise is threatening what remains.
- Habitats restored: 12 acres of coastal dune habitat.
- Key species: The endangered CALT and the threatened western snowy plover.



### Priority Metrics

- Located in a Justice Community: No
- Tribal Partnerships: No
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 6, Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship
- WCB Strategic Plan Goal B and Objectives 1.3, 2.1

### Project Description

The Huntington State Beach Dune Restoration (Project) site is characterized by a coastal strand ecosystem which is habitat that has been heavily impacted by development in Southern California. The site area has been able to maintain breeding colonies for bird species reliant on coastal dune habitat due to being protected by the



Preserve. The Preserve has become one of the top five breeding colonies for the CALT within the state. The western snowy plover also uses the Preserve for breeding.

The Preserve is vulnerable to storm surge and high tide events which are projected to increase with climate change related sea level rise and could eventually flood the colony and render the site unsuitable for nesting birds. Additional threats to nesting CALTs come from being concentrated within small colony areas by coastal development and recreational use of the beaches, which results in the high-density breeding colonies becoming magnets for predation by raptors and small mammals. The Project will improve nesting habitat for threatened and endangered birds by:

- Counteracting the effects of sea level rise by making sand deposits inside the Preserve that will increase the elevation of the Preserve by 2 to 4 feet.
- Propagating and planting of 4 to 5 coastal strand plant species in the coastal dunes, which will improve biodiversity and add vertical structure to provide shelter for nesting birds.
- Reducing the likelihood of heavy raptor predation on nesting birds by structurally modifying the top of the fence surrounding the Preserve to disallow perching by raptors.
- Performing raptor behavioral modification and local raptor nest monitoring and modification to deter predation within the Preserve.
- Conducting a small mammal depletion study that will inform future management actions and focus efforts in and around the Preserve to understand CALT nest predation from ground squirrels and rats.
- Herbicide: No

### Long-Term Management

The Huntington Beach Wetlands Conservancy (Grantee) has adopted a Management Plan that guides management actions for the Project, including management of the property. If at any time during the 25-year life of the Project, Grantee does not manage and maintain the Project improvements, the Grant Agreement requires that it refund to the state of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the Project life.

### Project Funding

The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Project Management	\$75,000	\$40,000	\$115,000
Predator Management	\$271,750	\$166,500	\$438,250
Dune Restoration	\$290,675	\$208,500	\$499,175

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Mammal Study	\$114,000	\$56,000	\$170,000
Indirect Costs	\$112,575	---	\$112,575
Total	\$864,000	\$471,000	\$1,335,000

Non-WCB funders include:

- Huntington Beach Wetlands Conservancy - \$15,000
- California Department of Parks and Recreation - \$456,000

### Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Scott Thomas, Conservation Vice Chair, Sea and Sage Audubon
- S. Jake Manley, President, Wildlife Innovations
- Thomas Ryan, Principal, Ryan Ecological Consulting

Opposition:

- None received

### CEQA

The Project is proposed as exempt from CEQA pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15301 Class 1 as the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use; Section 15304 Class 4, as a minor alteration in land, water, and vegetation which does not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees; and Section 15306 Class 6 as basic data collection and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

### State Government

- Senate: Senator Dave Min, District 37
- Assembly: Assemblymember Diane Dixon, District 72

### Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed, authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project, and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.



**9. Ballona Wetlands Drain Removal**

Withdrawn from consideration at this time.

**Restoration – Implementation**

**10. Ballona Wetlands Tribal Engagement**

**Restoration-Implementation**

Withdrawn from consideration at this time.

## 11. Avila Pier Rehabilitation - Augmentation

WCB Grant: \$422,000

Fund Source(s): California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68), Public Resources Code Section 80132(a)

Grantee: Port San Luis Harbor District

Landowner: Port San Luis Harbor District

Location: Town of Avila Beach

County: San Luis Obispo

## Infrastructure – Implementation

### Project Highlights

- Avila Pier is a 1,685-foot Pier extending from Avila Beach into San Luis Bay
- Popular for fishing, whale watching and general enjoyment of scenery
- Facilities on the pier terminus: restroom, boat landing
- Closed to the public due to safety concerns (storm damage resulted in reduced load capacity)
- Repair and/or replacement of structural components, redecking, upgrading utilities
- After redecking is completed, entire pier will be ADA-compliant



### Priority Metrics

- Located in a Justice Community: No
- Tribal Partnerships: No
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 6, Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship
- WCB Strategic Plan Goal C and Objective 3.4

### Project Description

Considered the heart of Avila Beach, Avila Pier has provided residents, visitors, boaters, marine life enthusiasts, and anglers with a place to gather and recreate since the early 1900's. Ongoing maintenance and repairs address common wear and tear issues, but large storms and high surf events over the long life of the pier have caused lasting

damage. In June 2015, the entire pier was closed to the public due to safety concerns. Avila Pier Rehabilitation (Project) will restore full public access to Avila Pier resulting in wildlife viewing opportunities, year-round fishing opportunities, and enhanced ADA accessibility. The WCB approved \$1,250,000 in funding for the Project at its May 2020 Board Meeting.

Original Project Scope: Replace or repair approximately 40 pilings, replace decking pile caps and stringers, and improve ADA accessibility. New piles will be driven into the substrate and piles that can be repaired will be wrapped and re-grouted to restore load capacity and ensure long-term structural integrity of the pier. The surface will be re-decked, reducing gaps between boards for safety and ADA compliance. The full project completed with partner funds will also repair the boat launch beneath the pier terminus.

Need For Augmentation: During the Project term in the winters of 2022/23 and 2023/24, major storms caused additional, significant damage to the pier. The repairs originally planned for will not be sufficient to safely re-open the pier to the public. In addition, the Covid-19 pandemic and inflation caused material prices to surge. The prices of lumber and pilings have increased by 32% and 95%, respectively, compared with materials purchased in 2018.

Additions and Changes to Project Scope:

- The number of pilings needing replacement or repair has risen to approximately 50.
- The original repairs were largely focused on the trestle section (bents 0-89). However, the pier terminus (bents 90-111) was the hardest hit by the recent winter storms. To restore access to the full pier and the amenities located on the terminus, the scope of the above-described repairs will be expanded to include the terminus.
- The pier's fire, water, and sewer lines are 40 years old and facing corrosion from exposure to the marine environment. Friends of Avila Pier has pledged a portion of its Project donations to replacing the pier's utilities and lighting.
- Herbicide: No

## Long-Term Management

The Port San Luis Harbor District has adopted a Management Plan that guides management actions for the Project, including maintenance of the pier. Friends of Avila Pier has been a strong fundraising partner in efforts to re-open the pier. Port San Luis Harbor District intends to place any excess partner funds into a reserve account to support future maintenance and repairs, ensuring continued public access. If at any time during the 25-year life of the Project, Port San Luis Harbor District does not manage and maintain the project improvements, the Grant Agreement requires that it refund to the state of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the Project life.

## Project Funding

The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB Augmentation	Original WCB Grant	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Planning, Permitting, and Project Management	---	---	\$356,000	\$356,000
Pile Replacement and Repair	\$253,180	\$750,000	\$345,937	\$1,349,117
Upper Pier Replacement and ADA Corridor	\$84,820	\$500,000	\$2,324,116	\$2,908,936
Landing Repair and Demolition	---	---	\$343,907	\$343,907
Utilities & Lighting Replacement	\$84,000		\$713,233	\$797,233
Total	\$422,000	\$1,250,000	\$4,083,193	\$5,755,193

Non-WCB funders include:

- Port San Luis Harbor District - \$1,909,650
- State Coastal Conservancy - \$250,000
- Department of Boating and Waterways - \$200,000
- State Lands Commission - \$200,000
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) - \$1,101,877
- Friends of Avila Pier - \$411,666
- Avila Beach Community Foundation - \$10,000

## Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- None received

Opposition:

- None received

## CEQA

The Project is proposed as exempt from CEQA pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15301, Class 1, Existing Facilities, as the repair or maintenance of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographic features involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

## State Government

- Senate: Senator John Laird, District 17
- Assembly: Assemblymember Dawn Addis, District 30

## Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that WCB approve this Project as proposed, authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this Project, and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

## 12. Amargosa Basin Alkali Wetland Restoration and Seed Collection Restoration – Study

WCB Grant: \$961,000

Fund Source(s): Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, Budget Act of 2024, Climate Change Resilience (SB 108, Sec. 107(1)(4))

Grantee: Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden DBA California Botanic Garden

Landowner: Bureau of Land Management (BLM), CDFW, and Private Landowner

Location: 56 miles north of Baker

County: Inyo County

### Project Highlights

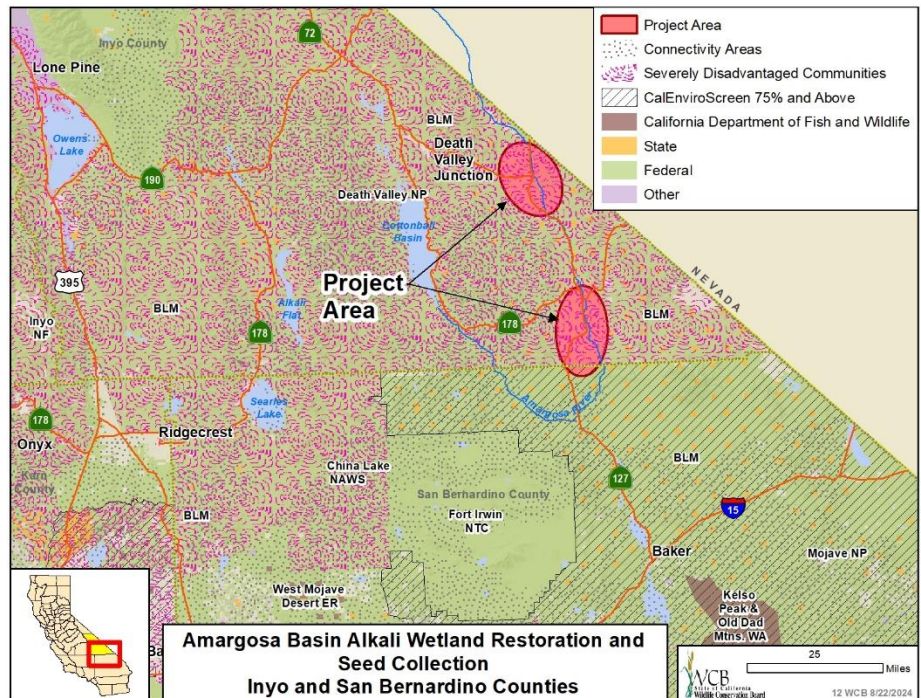
- Collecting seed of endemic alkali wetland plants.
- Working in partnership with the Timbisha Shoshone tribe to help recover culturally important medicinal and edible plant species.
- 27 acres of alkali wetland habitat will be enhanced and restored.
- Key species: Amargosa niterwort (state and federally listed as endangered).

### Priority Metrics

- Located in a Justice Community: Yes
- Tribal Partnerships: Yes, the project would establish a partnership between the Timbisha Shoshone tribe and the California Botanic Garden to learn seed saving and restoration techniques to enable the Timbisha Shoshone tribe to restore culturally important vegetation types.
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 6, Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship
- WCB Strategic Plan Goal B and Objectives 1.3, 2.1

### Project Description

The Amargosa Basin Alkali Wetland Restoration and Seed Collection (Project) will ameliorate threats to alkali wetland plants and ecosystems, including the federally endangered Amargosa niterwort, via construction of a protective fence and population augmentation of occupied habitat. The Project will secure seed of alkali wetland plants and culturally important plants to support restoration and the enduring connection



between people, plants, and place. Ongoing hydrological monitoring will support critical data gathering necessary for Amargosa niterwort recovery. Further, the Project seeks to provide a robust set of information on the distribution of plant species and vegetation assemblages along the full length of the California portion of the Amargosa River via a botanical inventory. This work will not only restore rare plant populations and their habitats, but it will also foster cultural connections to the landscape by creating a framework that brings together traditional ways of knowing and western scientific approaches to seed saving, stewardship, and rare plant conservation. The Project consists of the following:

- Seed collection – increase seed availability of alkali wetland plants for future restoration projects by securing 50 seed collections of alkali wetland plants and 10 collections of culturally important plants.
- Cultural seed banking partnership with the Timbisha Shoshone to help support their seed saving needs and restoration efforts for the mesquite bosques in the Death Valley region.
- Advance the recovery of the state and federally listed Amargosa niterwort with the installation of 1.6-miles of fencing to prevent vehicle incursion and the out-planting of 720 Amargosa niterwort and 200 companion plants resulting in the enhancement/restoration of 27 acres of niterwort habitat.
- Produce and publish a comprehensive botanical inventory of the Amargosa River in California.
- Monitor shallow groundwater that supports Amargosa niterwort in lower Carson Slough to provide a valuable data set.
- Engage with neighboring community members and business owners about proposed restoration activities and educate the public about endangered plant species and their habitats.
- Herbicide: No

### Long-Term Management

The California Botanic Garden has a Management Plan that guides management actions for the Project, including approximately 1.6-miles of fencing. If at any time during the 10-year life of the Project, Grantee does not manage and maintain the project improvements, the Grant Agreement requires that it refund to the state of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the Project life.



## Project Funding

The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds176,145	Totals
Seed Collection	\$176,145	\$125,000	\$301,145
Cultural Seed Bank Partnership	\$259,206	---	\$259,206
Amargosa niterwort Restoration	\$132,395	\$15,000	\$147,395
Maintenance, Monitoring and Data Collection (for Amargosa niterwort restoration)	\$72,530	\$113,030	\$185,560
Botanical Inventory	\$78,400	\$43,000	\$121,400
Hydrological Monitoring for Amargosa niterwort	\$61,477	---	\$61,477
Community Engagement and Education	\$15,000	---	\$15,000
Project Management	\$40,500	\$25,600	\$66,100
Indirect Costs	\$125,347	\$45,400	\$170,747
Total	\$961,000	\$367,030	\$1,328,030

Non-WCB funders include:

- California Botanic Garden (in-kind) - \$154,000
- Bureau of Land Management - \$183,030
- National Science Foundation - \$20,000
- USFWS - \$10,000

## Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Marc Stamer, Field Manager, BLM
- Scott A. Sobiech, Field Supervisor, USFWS
- Susan Sorrells, President, Shoshone Development, Inc.

Opposition:

- None received

## CEQA

The Project is proposed as exempt from CEQA pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines, Title 14, Chapter 3, Section 15304, Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land, as minor alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation, and Section 15306, Class 6, Information Collection, consisting of basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

## State Government

- Senate: Senator Marie Alvarado-Gil, District 04
- Assembly: Assemblymember Jim Patterson, District 08
- Assemblymember Tom Lackey, District 34

## Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that WCB approve this Project as proposed, authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this Project, and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

### 13. Big Rock

WCB Grant: \$520,000

Fund Source(s): Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(a)

Grantee: American Indian Council of Mariposa County (AICMC)

Location: 2.5 miles due east of Mariposa

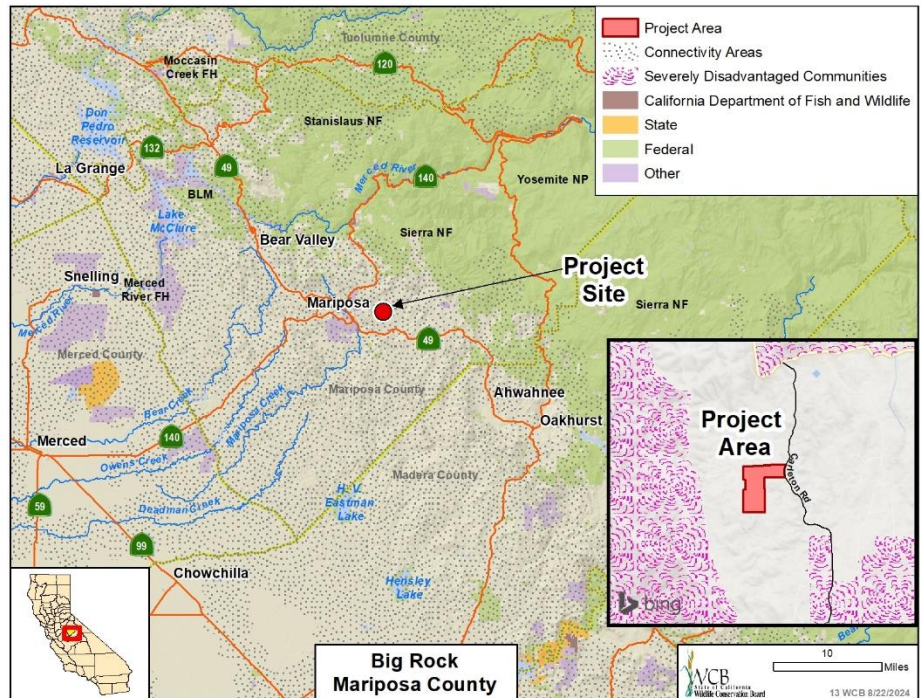
County: Mariposa

Acres: 96± (Property)

**Acquisition  
Fee**

#### Property Highlights

- Project combines habitat conservation, cultural preservation, and ecological stewardship, offering an opportunity to protect ancestral lands and biodiversity while supporting the AICMC's desire to re-connect with their traditional way of life.
- Habitats represented: native oak woodlands, mixed evergreen/lower foothill pine ecotones with water resources including meadow wetland areas, year-round pond, seasonal wetland, and a portion of Pegleg Creek.
- Key species: Gray Owl, western pond turtle, and multiple rare plants such as Mariposa lupine.
- Property is named "Big Rock" after a prominent feature, a large granitic formation, featuring a significant archeological site including dozens of Native American bedrock mortars, and cupules, utilized for processing acorns, medicinal plants, and foods from the abundant native food-source plants found onsite. The Property holds archaeological significance as the historic Miwok village of Eyeyaku.
- The Sierra Foothill Conservancy (SFC) is partnering with the AICMC to lend its experience in support and facilitation of the AICMC's first ever land acquisition grant, first ever land acquisition, and land transaction.



#### Priority Metrics

- Located in a Justice Community: Yes

- Tribal Partnerships: Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation (SSMN)
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 2, Execute Strategic Acquisitions
- WCB Strategic Plan Goal A and Objectives 1.2, 1.3, 2.1, 2.4, 3.4
- Public Access: Yes, both consumptive and non-consumptive access to the Property will be allowed in the future. Consumptive access includes the intended tribal uses of the SSMN, and the Property will be open to the public for non-consumptive access by invitation only.

### Long-Term Management

The Property under the ownership and stewardship of the AICMC will transform the current land use from vacant/light recreation to active management, engaging Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK). These Tribal land uses include healing reciprocal relations between people and landscape, implementation, and teaching of TEK, ceremonies, tending and gathering food and fiber, and caretaking for the abundant plants and wildlife present on the Property. These traditional activities will be the foundation of the Property's long-term stewardship and management. SFC has an ongoing voluntary but non-formal partnership with the AICMC and SFC's intent is to continue to work and collaborate with the AICMC on planning and procuring resources for stewardship, restoration, and enhancement of the Property.

### Project Funding

The Department of General Services (DGS) approved fair market value is \$520,000. The proposed funding breakdown is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$520,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$520,000

### Letters of Support or Opposition

#### Support:

- Beth Pratt, California Regional Executive Director, National Wildlife Federation
- Alison Deak, Fire Advisor for Mariposa, Madera, and Fresno Counties, University of California Cooperative Extension
- David Mecchi, Board President, Mariposa County Resource Conservation District
- Angela Avery, Executive Officer, Sierra Nevada Conservancy

#### Opposition:

- None received

### CEQA

The project has been reviewed for compliance with CEQA requirements and is proposed as exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15313, Class 13, as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes, and Section 15325, Class 25, as a

transfer of an ownership interest in land to preserve open space and existing natural conditions, including plant or animal habitats. Subject to authorization by WCB, an NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

### State Government

- Senate: Senator Maries Alvarado-Gil, District 4
- Assembly: Assemblymember Jim Patterson, District 8

### Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed, authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project, and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

#### 14. Bolinas Lagoon South End Habitat Adaptation and Resilience Planning Augmentation

#### Restoration – Planning

WCB Grant: \$270,968

Fund Source(s): Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, Budget Act of 2024, Climate Change Resilience (SB 108, Sec. 107(1)(4))

Grantee: Greater Farallones Association

Landowner: Marin County Parks, Audubon Canyon Ranch, Private Landowners

Location: Six miles west of Mill Valley

County: Marin

#### Project Highlights

- Bolinas Lagoon is located within the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary.
- Bolinas Lagoon provides foraging, breeding, and wintering habitat for 50,000 migratory birds and 245 bird species year-round.
- Project will develop shovel-ready plans that will utilize nature-based techniques to develop a sustainable and adaptable living shoreline to mitigate the impacts of sea-level rise while preserving the benefits of the coastal ecosystem.



#### Priority Metrics

- Located in a Justice Community: No
- Tribal Partnerships: No
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 6, Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship
- WCB Strategic Plan Goal B and Objectives 1.3, 2.2, 2.4, 2.5, 3.4

#### Project Description

The Bolinas Lagoon South End Habitat Adaptation and Resilience Planning Augmentation (Project) site is increasingly threatened by rising sea level and storm events, with mid-sea level rise projections predicting dramatic decline in the lagoon's wetlands by 2050 and complete loss of high and mid-marsh by 2100. To mitigate the



effects of sea level rise and storm events, the Project will create shovel-ready plans that will utilize available upland space to create a living shoreline that enhances feeding, breeding, and nursery habitat along the marsh zone and restores healthy, wide transition zones to accommodate habitat transgression as water levels rise.

This Project was approved by the Board in November 2021. This budget augmentation will provide additional funds to bolster essential components such as design consulting, engineering planning, and scientific and technical costs, and cover the unforeseen costs of technical advice and legal counsel for environmental compliance, permitting, and land-use agreements and easements. The Project will develop these planning documents by:

- Performing site assessments including wetland delineation, water level and salinity analysis, topographic and habitat surveys, cultural/historical resources analysis, hydrodynamic modeling, and erosion analysis.
- Completing preliminary design alternatives and preferred design selection. Project design (30%) will be developed along with a Basis of Design Report to identify next steps and/or data gaps based on feasibility study findings.
- Completing land agreement and long-term monitoring and reporting plan.
- Developing a regulatory and permitting matrix, and a financing roadmap for implementation.
- Performing outreach including input and feedback on designs.
- Completing CEQA and permit application processes, creating final designs (60%-90%), and developing a Habitat Restoration Plan and Construction Work Plan.
- Herbicide: No

### Key Management Responsibilities

Not applicable to this project.

### Project Funding

The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	Original WCB Funds	WCB Augmentation	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Project Management	\$14,175	\$69,718	\$64,212	\$148,105
Feasibility Study	\$193,349	\$122,980	\$296,770	\$613,099
Environmental Review & Permitting	\$14,174	\$70,000	\$197,846	\$282,020
Outreach	---	---	\$52,133	\$52,133
Indirect	\$6,300	\$8,270	\$31,157	\$45,727
Total	\$227,998	\$270,968	\$642,118	\$1,141,084

Non-WCB funders include:

- Seadrift Homeowners Association - \$40,000
- Greater Farallones Association - \$107,502
- CDFW - \$494,616

## Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Maria Brown, Superintendent, Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary
- Sandra Scoggin, Coordinator, San Francisco Bay Joint Venture
- Max Korten, Director and General Manager, Marin County Park
- Gwen Heistand, Martin Griffin Preserve Manager and Resident Biologist, Audubon Canyon Ranch
- Kiren Niederberger, General Manager, Seadrift Association

Opposition:

- None received

## CEQA

The Project is statutorily exempt from CEQA pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15262, Feasibility and Planning Studies, as it involves only feasibility and planning studies for possible future actions.

## State and Local Government

- Senate: Senator Mike McGuire, District 2
- Assembly: Assemblymember Damon Connolly, District 12

## Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed, authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project, and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.



## 15. Wilson Ranch Meadow Restoration, Augmentation

## Restoration – Implementation

WCB Grant: \$250,032

Fund Source(s): Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement

Act of 2014, Section 79733 (Proposition 1)

Grantee: American Rivers, Inc.

Landowner: U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Eldorado National Forest

Location: Approximately 20 miles northeast of Pollock Pines

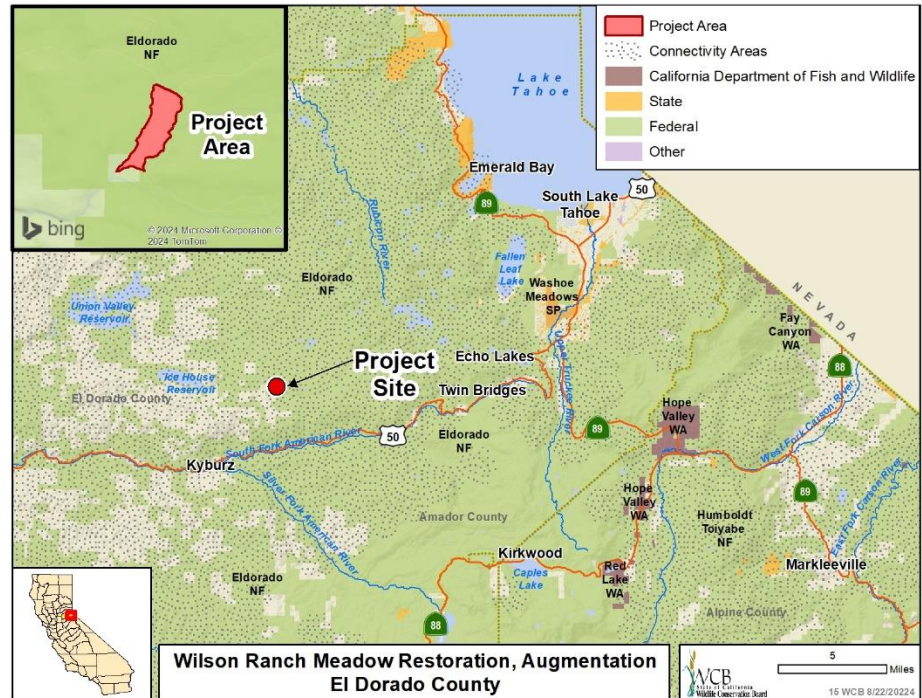
County: El Dorado

### Project Highlights

- Habitat restored: 90 acres of montane meadow habitat in the headwaters of the South Fork American River.
- Project will enhance stream flow, water quality, groundwater storage, carbon sequestration, and wildlife habitat.
- Key species: Willow flycatcher, Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, and southern long-toed salamander.

### Priority Metrics

- Located in a Justice Community: No
- Tribal Partnerships: No
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 6, Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship
- WCB Strategic Plan Goal B and Objectives 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 2.3



### Project Description

Wilson Ranch Meadow Restoration, Augmentation (Project) site has been impacted by ranching, logging, road construction, and recreational uses. For example, an undersized vented ford road crossing at the top of the meadow concentrated flow, causing erosion and channel incision. Additionally, paved roadways along the east and north ends of the meadow (Wright's Tie Road and Wright's Lake Road) lead to the vented ford. These roadways concentrate dispersed hillslope flows and redirect them into the vented ford. The concentration of flow has caused the channel to incise through approximately three quarters of the meadow, lowering the water table and causing hydrologic disconnection from the meadow floodplain. As a result, vegetation on the floodplain has partially

converted from wet meadow to upland vegetation, which includes extensive conifer encroachment. In its degraded state, the meadow drains rapidly, constraining the size and duration of pooling on the floodplain surface, a resource that could be used by Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog and southern long-toed salamander. This loss of saturated conditions also reduces and degrades willow flycatcher habitat.

In November of 2022, WCB approved an \$892,000 grant for the Wilson Ranch Meadow Restoration Project to restore the meadow's hydrologic functions and ecological processes by:

- Replacing the vented ford with a series of eight appropriately sized culverts to spread flows entering the meadow.
- Filling the incised Wilson Ditch tributary and reconnecting a network of natural swales to increase the frequency and duration of meadow floodplain connectivity, improve groundwater recharge, and raise the water table.
- Installing a grade control feature at the confluence of the Wilson Ditch tributary and South Fork Silver Creek to stabilize the confluence of the two waterways and protect the Project upstream.
- Installing three boulder weirs in South Fork Silver Creek to stabilize the channel grade, particularly at the confluence, and to create a mild backwater condition to spread flows across a broader floodplain area.
- Herbicide: No

In the fall of 2023, American Rivers, Inc. implemented the upstream portions of the Project, including replacement of the vented ford and filling the Wilson Ditch tributary. A funding augmentation is necessary to address cost increases driven by sector-wide increases in construction costs that have occurred since Project inception. The augmentation will provide funding needed to construct the remaining Project elements during the 2024 construction season and complete all tasks described in the original grant.

### Long-Term Management

The USFS has adopted the Eldorado Land and Resource Management Plan and subsequent amendments, including the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment, which guides management actions for the property. If at any time during the 25-year life of the Project, American Rivers, Inc. does not manage and maintain the project improvements, the Grant Agreement requires that it refund to the state of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the Project life.

## Project Funding

The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB Augmentation	Original WCB Funds	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Project Management	---	\$113,551	\$20,000	\$133,551
Restoration	\$250,032	\$671,723	\$508,420	\$1,430,175
Indirect Costs	---	\$25,726	\$16,580	\$42,306
Contingency	---	\$81,000	---	\$81,000
Total	\$250,032	\$892,000	\$545,000	\$1,687,032

Non-WCB funders include:

- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation - \$448,420
- Eldorado National Forest - \$80,000
- American Rivers, Inc. - \$16,580

## Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Dionne Uzes, Pacific District Ranger, Eldorado National Forest

Opposition:

- None received

## CEQA

The Project is proposed as exempt from CEQA pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15333, Class 33, Small Habitat Restoration Projects, as a project not exceeding five acres in size to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of habitat for fish, plants, or wildlife. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

## State Government

- Senate: Senator Brian Dahle, District 01
- Assembly: Assemblymember Megan Dahle, District 01

## Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that WCB approve this Project as proposed, authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project, and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

## 16. Napa River Watershed Planning

## Restoration– Planning

WCB Grant: \$899,639

Fund Source(s): General Fund, Budget Act of 2022, Fish & Wildlife Resources - Climate Change Impacts on Wildlife Provision (SB154)

Grantee: Napa County Resource Conservation District (Napa RCD)

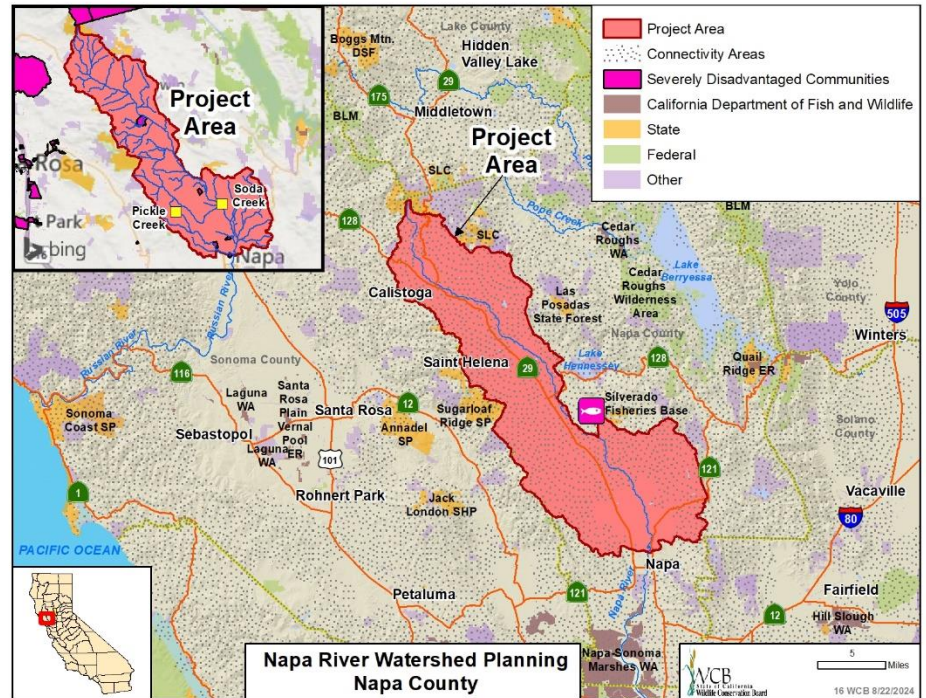
Landowner: N/A - Planning

Location: Planning activities to occur throughout 430 sq. mi. Napa River Watershed

County: Napa

### Project Highlights

- Design and permit removal of five high priority fish passage barriers.
- Prioritize the remediation of known, but lesser studied fish migration barriers.
- Enhance existing fish monitoring approaches to better support barrier prioritization and assess effectiveness of restoration efforts.
- Engage community members in fish passage restoration to build capacity for future collaborative environmental stewardship projects.



### Priority Metrics

- Located in a Justice Community: No
- Tribal Partnerships: Yes. The Mishewal-Wappo Tribe of Alexander Valley, Guidiville Indian Rancheria, Kletsel Dehe Band of Wintun Indians, Middletown Rancheria of Pomo Indians, Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, and Confederated Villages of Lisjan Nation will participate in a Technical and Cultural Working Group to review project details and make recommendations on project designs.
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 6, Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship
- WCB Strategic Plan Goal B and Objectives 1.2

## Project Description

Over the past century, stream modifications and in-channel structures were constructed throughout the Napa River watershed in a way that blocked passage for anadromous fish spawning runs. This resulted in significant salmonid population declines by limiting access to spawning and rearing habitat. Most of the barriers that exist today are in tributary streams with both perennial and intermittent flows from the Mayacamas and Vaca Mountain ranges flanking the Napa Valley. These tributary streams are the preferred spawning and rearing areas for steelhead. While there is some level of steelhead smolt production each year, there are no recent efforts to understand which of these tributary streams are the most productive for fish. By expanding access to as much historic habitat as possible, steelhead and other anadromous fish will have greater access to a diversity of habitat for spawning and rearing.

The Napa River Watershed Planning (Project) builds on over two decades of work by the Napa RCD and partners that have removed 20 artificial fish passage barriers to date. Excluding municipal dams, there are 36 known sites with varying degrees of fish passage impediment, and likely additional unknown sites that need further analysis. The Project will directly benefit federally threatened Central California Coast Steelhead as well as other anadromous species throughout the Napa River watershed through implementation of the following objectives:

- Complete designs and permitting needed to remediate five high-priority fish passage barriers,
- Create a living fish passage barrier assessment document that can be used as a project pipeline to request additional funding for future design, regulatory compliance, implementation, and monitoring efforts,
- Enhance Napa RCD's existing fish monitoring approach to support barrier prioritization and better assess the effectiveness of these restoration efforts in the watershed, and
- Engage community members in fish passage restoration to build capacity for future collaboration in support of environmental stewardship projects.

## Long-Term Management

Not applicable to this Project



## Project Funding

The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Barrier Assessment and Implementation Project Pipeline Development	\$601,513	\$1,941,804	\$2,543,317
Fish Passage Design and Permitting (Pickle Creek and Soda Creek)	\$26,175	\$1,095,320	\$1,121,495
Enhancing Fish Monitoring Approach	\$155,120	---	\$155,120
Community Engagement	\$25,000	\$99,856	\$124,856
Indirect Costs	\$91,831	\$51,238	\$143,069
Total	\$899,639	\$3,188,218	\$4,087,857

Non-WCB funders include:

- NOAA – Fish Passage Barrier Removal Program - \$3,188,218

## Letters of Support or Opposition

None received

## CEQA

The Project is statutorily exempt from CEQA pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15262, Feasibility and Planning Studies, as it involves only feasibility and planning studies for possible future actions. Subject to authorization by WCB, an NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

## State Government

- Senate: Senator Bill Dodd, District 3
- Assembly: Assemblymember Cecilia M. Aguiar-Curry, District 4

## Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the WCB approve this Project as proposed, authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this Project, and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

## 17. Sagehen Creek Field Station Improvements

WCB Grant: \$149,561

Fund Source(s): California Parks Drought, Water, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68), Public Resources Code Section 80111(c)

Grantee: Regents of the University of California, Berkeley

Landowner: Regents of the University of California, Berkeley

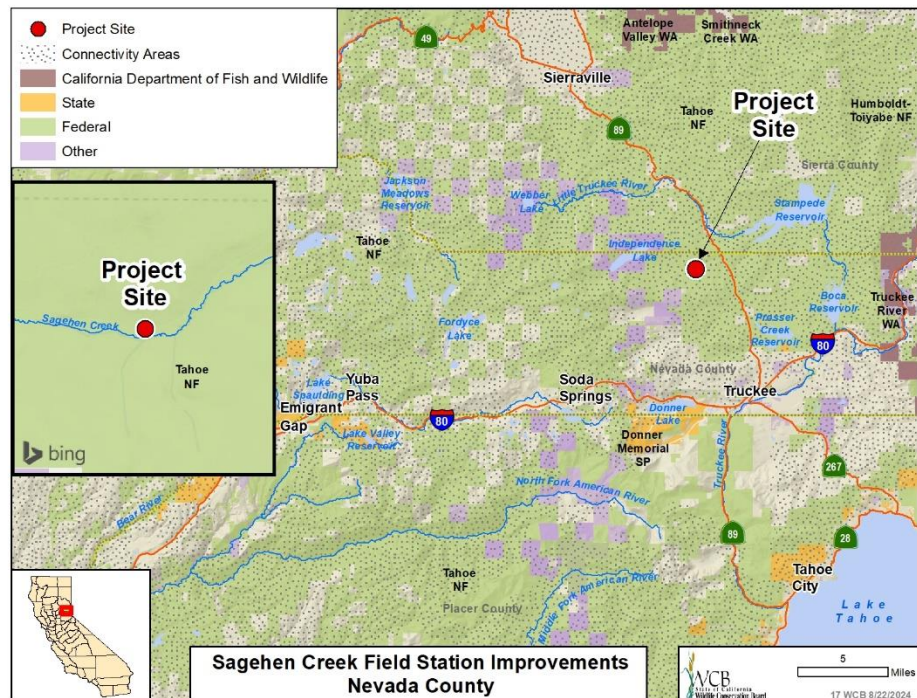
Location: 11 miles north of Truckee

County: Nevada

## Restoration – Implementation

### Project Highlights

- Sagehen Creek Field Station is managed within the University of California Natural Reserve System.
- 9,000-acre property established in 1951 to support research and education.
- Sagehen provides housing and facilities for up to 59 people year-round.
- Property includes forest, mountain meadows, and multiple streams.
- Research includes avian monitoring, pollinator use of mountain meadows, stream runoff modeling, and forest health research.
- Currently site for national pilot project applying spatially placed fuel treatments (forest health).



### Priority Metrics

- Located in a Justice Community: No
- Tribal Partnerships: No
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 6, Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship
- WCB Strategic Plan Goal B.1 and Objectives 1.3

### Project Description

Since establishment, many facilities have been built at the Sagehen Creek Field Station including 14 cabins, manager's residence, botany lab, classroom, outdoor classroom,

tool shed, kitchen, dining room, and library which are spread between three different “camps” or locations. The harsh winter conditions at high elevation have taken a toll on many of these structures, and many of have fallen into disrepair. Some structures are constructed with material that is now recognized as unsafe (including lead paint and crumbling asbestos floor tiles), and/or interfere with research conducted at the site (i.e. wood burning stoves interfering with atmospheric gas measurements). The Sagehen Creek Field Station Improvements (Project) will focus on the renovation and restoration of the Manager’s Residence, Station Office, Botany Lab and the Johnson Cabin to provide safe and functional facilities for staff and guests.

Project renovations include:

- Re-roofing the Manager’s Residence
- Lead paint and asbestos abatement within the Station Office and Manager’s Residence
- Replace subfloor and flooring in the Station Office and Manager’s Residence
- Renovation of Station Office including construction of a small sterile lab and ADA accessible restroom
- Renovating the Botany Lab including installation of insulation and drywall
- Installing new siding and insulation on the Johnson Cabin
- Install carport to protect heavy equipment from inclement weather
- Herbicide: No

### Long-Term Management

The Regents of the University of California, Berkeley has adopted a Management Plan that guides management actions for the Project, including management of the Sagehen Creek Field Station. If at any time during the 25-year life of the Project, Grantee does not manage and maintain the project improvements, the Grant Agreement requires that it refund to the state of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the Project life.

### Project Funding

The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Construction	\$149,561	\$46,500	\$196,061
Total	\$149,561	\$46,500	\$196,061

Non-WCB funders include:

- Regents of the University of California, Berkeley: \$46,500



## Letters of Support or Opposition

### Support:

- Michael Kisgen, M.E.M., J.D., Associate Director, UC Natural Reserve System

### Opposition:

- None received

## CEQA

The Project is proposed as exempt from CEQA pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15301, Class 1, Existing Facilities, as the repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

## State Government

- Senate: Senator Brian Dahle, District 1
- Assembly: Assemblymember Megan Dahle, District 1

## Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that WCB approve this Project as proposed, authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this Project, and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

## 18. Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area Expansion #17 (Soper)

**Acquisition  
Fee**

Purchase Price: \$1,587,000

Fund Source(s): Habitat Conservation Fund Fish and Game Code Section 2786(a)

Seller: Sugarloaf Land & Cattle Company, LLC

CDFW Fee Acquisition

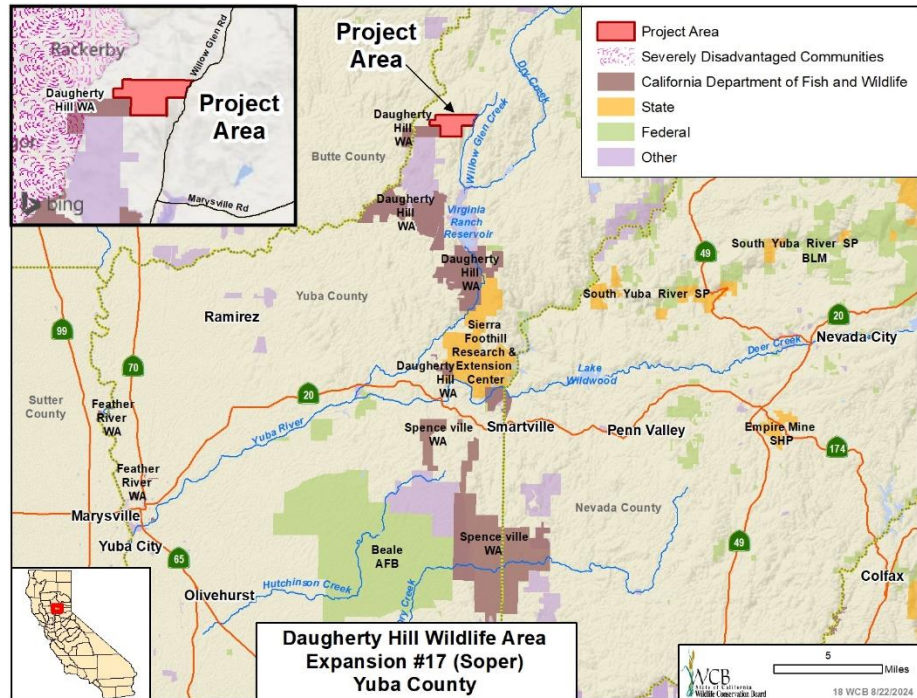
Location: Four miles southwest of Brownsville

County: Yuba County

Acres: 953± (Property)

### Property Highlights

- Expansion of CDFW's Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area.
- Protection and enhancement of blue oak, blue oak-foothill pine, annual grasslands, and mixed chaparral habitats for deer, California quail, wild turkey, black bear, mourning dove, gray squirrel, mountain lion, and golden eagle.
- Key Species: Foothill yellow-legged frog, a California State Endangered species and a Federal Species of Concern.
- The Property is critical winter range for the Mooretown deer herd and protection of this range is imperative for the ongoing health of the herd.



### Priority Metrics

- Located in a Justice Community: No
- Tribal Partnerships: No
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 2, Execute Strategic Acquisitions; Pathway 4, Enhance Conservation of Existing Public Lands and Coastal Waters
- WCB Strategic Plan Goals A, C and Objectives 1.2, 1.3, 2.1, 3.3, 3.4
- Public Access: Yes: wildlife viewing, hiking, and hunting

### Long-Term Management

CDFW will manage this property as part of their Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area. Limited grazing will be implemented to enhance habitat quality and reduce fire risk.

### Project Funding

The DGS approved fair market value is \$1,800,000, and the landowner has agreed to sell at a reduced price of \$1,587,000. The proposed funding breakdown is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$1,587,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$1,587,000

### Letters of Support or Opposition

None received

### CEQA

The project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to Public Resources Code 21080.28, Acquisition of an Interest in Land by a Public Agency, as an acquisition of an interest in land by a public agency for preservation of natural conditions existing at the time of transfer, including plant and animal habitats. Subject to Board approval of the project, staff will file the appropriate NOE with the State Clearinghouse and the county clerk.

### State Government

- Senate: Senator Roger Niello, District 6
- Assembly: Assemblymember James Gallagher, District 3

### Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed, authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project, and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

## 19. Willow Creek Ranch Conservation Easement

WCB Grant: \$775,000

Fund Source(s): Habitat Conservation Fund

Fish and Game Code Section 2786a

Grantee: California Rangeland Trust

Location: 15 miles north of Susanville

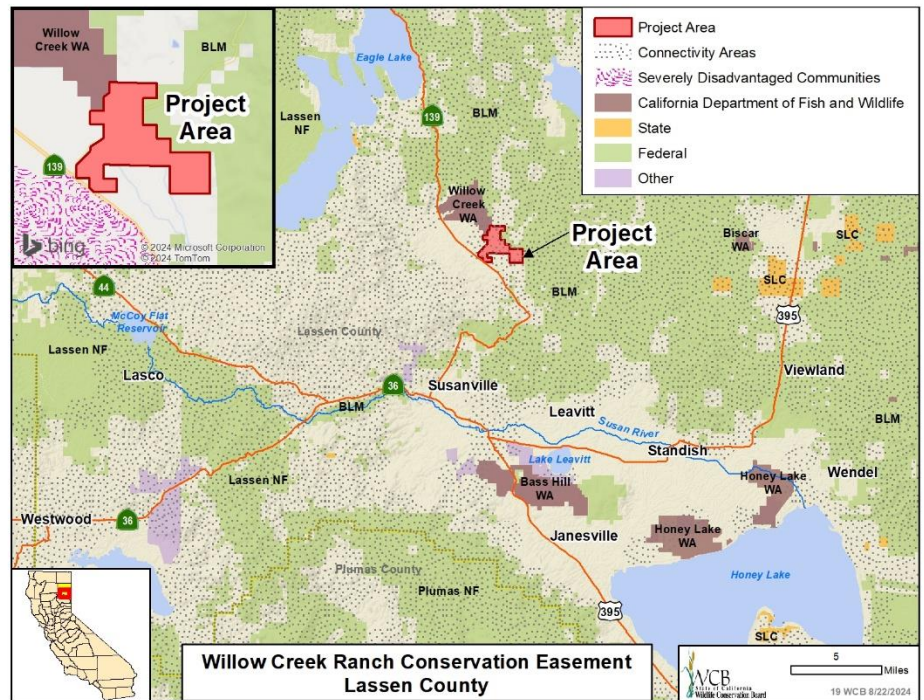
County: Lassen

Acres: 1,585± (Property)

## Acquisition Conservation Easement

### Property Highlights

- Property includes 997 acres of seasonal wetlands, and 577 acres of irrigated pasture.
- Located adjacent to CDFW's 2,700-acre Willow Creek Wildlife Area, the 19,984-acre Tunnison Mountain Wilderness Study Area, and BLM-managed greater sage grouse grazing lands.
- Within a critical zone of the Pacific Flyway. This region provides critical migration habitat for millions of waterfowl, shorebirds, and waterbirds
- Approximately half of all wintering ducks in the Central Valley of California and one-third of all northern pintails in North America use the region annually. These private lands are seasonally flooded meadows and pastures used for livestock forage production and occur on altered seasonal wetlands fed by t snowmelt, overbank flooding, and irrigation.
- Provides a migration corridor for antelope and deer as they transition from the sagebrush steppe of the Modoc Plateau to the Cascade Mountains.
- Key species: Significant breeding habitat for priority species such as greater sandhill cranes (listed as threatened under the California Endangered Species Act), white-faced ibis, dabbling ducks and other wetland dependent species. Greater sage grouse leks are nearby and the birds use habitat on the Property.



Regional or Species Plan: The project is a priority within a regional habitat conservation program, Southern Oregon North-Eastern California (SONEC)

Working Wet Meadows Initiative-developed and guided by the Intermountain West Joint Venture (IWJV) for the protection of key wetland habitats.

### Priority Metrics

- Located in a Justice Community: No
- Tribal Partnerships: No
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 2, Execute Strategic Acquisitions
- WCB Strategic Plan Goal A, and Objectives: 1.2, 1.3, 2.1
- Public Access: No

### Conservation Easement Restriction Highlights

- Protects wetlands and waterways for bird habitat from non-compatible agricultural or development use.
- Support wildlife-friendly grazing practices under which the Property's natural and wildlife values have flourished during the ownership-family's long-term stewardship.
- Protects the Property in its natural, scenic, agricultural, and open space condition.
- Maintains connectivity to protected land, and wildlife corridors in the Pacific Flyway and from the Modoc Plateau to the Cascades Mountains.

### Long-Term Management

California Rangeland Trust (CRT) and the landowner will develop an Agricultural Land Easement Plan that will describe the ranch management, natural resource protection, and practices that may be implemented to promote long-term viability of the land to meet the conservation goals. CRT will annually monitor compliance with the easement and report to WCB. CRT holds easements on nearly 400,000 acres of rangeland and has endowment funding for monitoring and enforcement consistent with Land Trust Accreditation standards.

### Project Funding

The DGS approved fair market value is \$1,550,000. The proposed funding breakdown is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$775,000
NRCS	\$775,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$1,550,000

### Letters of Support or Opposition

None received

## CEQA

The project has been reviewed for compliance with CEQA requirements and is proposed as exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15313, Class 13, as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes, and Section 15325, Class 25, as a transfer of an ownership interest in land to preserve open space and existing natural conditions, including plant or animal habitats. Subject to authorization by WCB, an NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

## State Government

- Senate: Senator Brian Dahle, District 1
- Assembly: Assemblymember Megan Dahle, District 1

## Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed, authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project, and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

**20. North Coast Range Fen Conservation Area (Wojcik)**

Withdrawn from consideration at this time.

**Acquisition  
CDFW Fee**



## Presentation Items

### 21. Deadman III Forest Resilience

### Restoration – Implementation

WCB Grant: \$1,050,000

Fund Source(s): Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, Budget Act of 2024, Climate Change Resilience (SB 108, Sec. 107(1)(4))

Grantee: Save The Redwoods League (League)

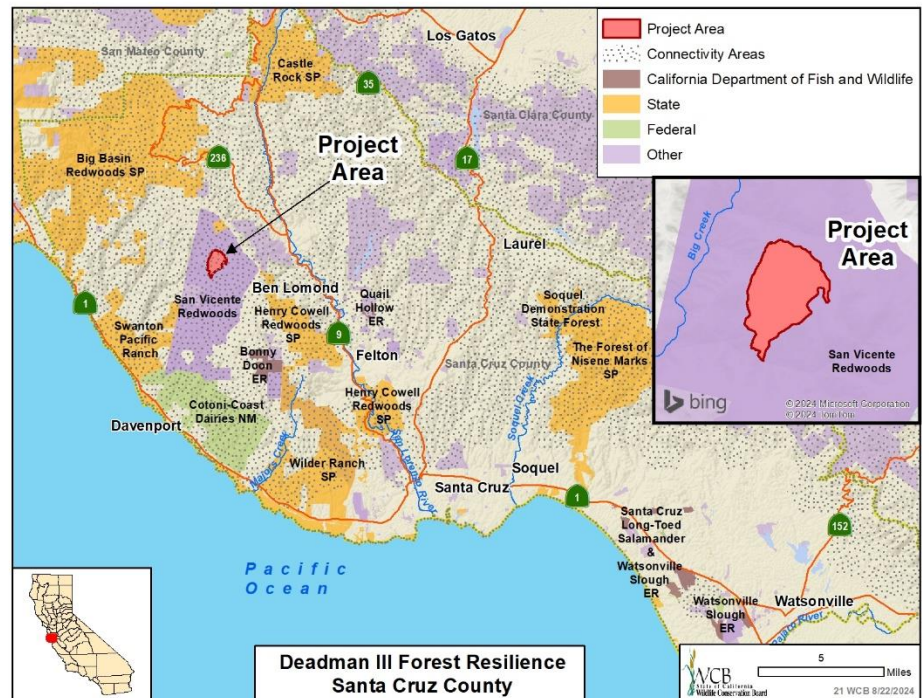
Landowner: Peninsula Open Space Trust and Sempervirens Fund (joint owners)

Location: 12 miles north of Santa Cruz, one mile south of Big Basin State Park

County: Santa Cruz

### Project Highlights

- Located within the 8,532-acre San Vicente Redwoods that connects 27,500 acres of contiguous protected woodland in the Santa Cruz Mountains.
- In 2019, WCB contributed \$1,239,000 to support Deadman II restoration.
- Supports post-fire recovery, promotes long-term fire and climate resilience, and enhances carbon sequestration and storage.
- In 2011, WCB contributed \$10,060,000 to Save the Redwoods League for purchase of a conservation easement over San Vicente Redwoods.



### Priority Metrics

- Located in a Justice Community: No
- Tribal Partnerships: Yes, Amah Mutsun Tribal Band through the Amah Mutsun Land Trust (AMLT) has participated in cultural surveys, seedling planting, and pile burning in Deadman I and II. AMLT is restructuring its field crew, and if the opportunity is available, the League intends to work with AMLT again on this project.
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 6, Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship
- WCB Strategic Plan Goal B and Objectives 1.4, 2.4, 4.1



## Project Description

The entire San Vicente Redwoods (Reserve) burned in the 2020 CZU Fire with large portions of the Reserve burning at high severity. Deadman III is 300 acres within the Reserve, consisting of mixed conifer and hardwood forestland burned in the 2020 CZU Complex Fire. In areas that burned at high severity during the CZU Fire, the vegetation and growing conditions were highly altered. Stands previously dominated by hardwood and Douglas-fir have largely converted to shrub dominated landscapes with resprouting hardwoods. In coast redwood dominated stands, redwoods largely survived the fire and have resprouted. The Deadman III Forest Resilience (Project) will implement forest management activities increasing forest health and climate resiliency by:

- Restoration thinning of 300 acres of redwood and hardwood forests within the Scotts Creek watershed.
- Clearing access roads of fallen trees and brush growth in order to establish access to the treatment unit.
- Thinning within redwood dominated stands to accelerate growth and fire resistance of dominant redwood trees.
- Restoring three stream crossings along the access route to address failing culverts and erosion issues that cause sedimentation into streams.
- Retaining live Douglas-fir trees and snags with evidence of wildlife use.
- Assess the treated areas to identify suitable units to be burned in the future.
- Herbicide: No

## Long-Term Management

The Peninsula Open Space Trust has adopted a Management Plan that guides management actions for the Project, including management of the property. If at any time during the 25-year life of the Project, Save The Redwoods League does not manage and maintain the project improvements, the Grant Agreement requires that it refund to the state of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the Project life.

## Project Funding

The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Road Repair	\$200,000	\$50,000	\$250,000
Planning and Unit Marking	---	\$121,000	\$121,000
Crew Oversight	---	\$51,000	\$51,000
Forest Restoration	\$850,000	---	\$850,000
Total	\$1,050,000	\$222,000	\$1,272,000

Non-WCB funders include:

- Save the Redwoods League - \$222,000

## Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Jimmy Panetta, U.S. Congressperson, 19<sup>th</sup> District
- John Laird, Senator, 17<sup>th</sup> District
- Gail Pellerin, Assemblymember, 28th District
- Justin Cummings, Supervisor, District 3, Santa Cruz County
- Laura McLendon, Director of Land Conservation, Sempervirens Fund
- Dan Winterson, Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation
- Walter T. Moore, President, Peninsula Open Space Trust

Opposition:

- None received

## CEQA

CAL FIRE, as lead agency, prepared a Timber Harvest Plan (THP) for the Project under a certified state regulatory program pursuant to the provisions of CEQA. Staff considered the THP and has prepared proposed written findings, documenting WCB's compliance with CEQA. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOD will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

## State Government

- Senate: Senator John Laird, District 17
- Assembly: Assemblymember Gail Pellerin, District 28

## Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that WCB adopt the written findings and approve this Project as proposed, authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this Project, and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

## 22. Tidewater Day Use Area

## Public Access – Implementation

WCB Grant: \$2,650,000

Fund Source(s): California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68), Public Resources Code Section 80111(d), SDAC

Grantee: East Bay Regional Park District

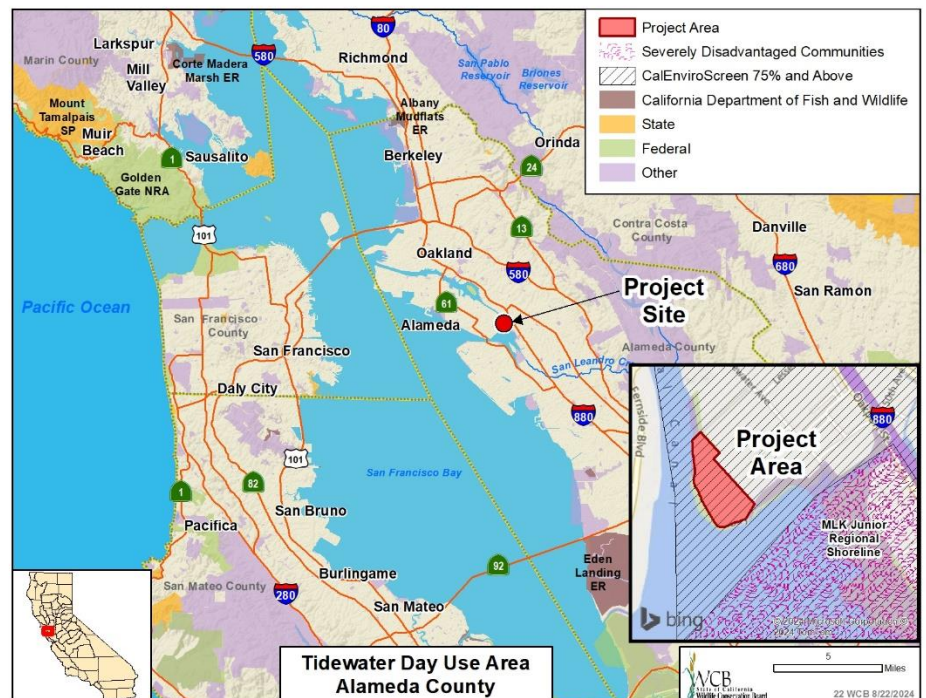
Landowner: East Bay Regional Park District

Location: City of Oakland

County: Alameda

### Project Highlights

- Eight-acre expansion to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Regional Shoreline
- Adjacent to San Francisco Bay Trail and Tidewater Boating Center
- Benefits an underserved community by providing green space and supporting Park District's youth development programs
- Interpretive signs and programs will address coastal ecology, environmental health, and cultural history
- ADA-compliant facilities



### Priority Metrics

- Located in a Justice Community: Yes
- Tribal Partnerships: No
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 6, Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship
- WCB Strategic Plan Goal C and Objectives 3.1, 3.4

### Project Description

Tidewater Day Use Area (Project) is an expansion to the popular Martin Luther King, Jr. Regional Shoreline in Oakland along the San Leandro Bay. The Project will transform a former industrial site into eight acres of usable park space, providing recreational, social, and environmental benefits to the surrounding community. The Tidewater expansion will serve some of Oakland's most under-resourced communities. Residents

are exposed to poor air quality, suffer from high rates of asthma and cardiovascular disease, and are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, including coastal flooding and sea level rise. The Project will expand opportunities for interpretive and recreational programming and provide vital access to green space through the installation of over 200 native trees, shrubs, and perennial grasses. Users will have easy access to the San Francisco Bay Trail, boating, and formal recreation programs offered by the Park District and can walk the new internal trails added to the park. Features in the Project will be ADA-compliant and will include a multi-use turf area, a nature play area, several small and group picnic spaces, paved and natural trails, an outdoor classroom, two waterfront overlooks, and restrooms. WCB is contributing a portion of overall funding, which will primarily support construction of the following features:

- ADA-compliant restroom
- Interpretive and trail signage
- Outdoor classroom
- Other accessory structures, seating, and walkways (i.e. fences, gates, benches, boardwalk)
- Herbicide: No

### Long-Term Management

East Bay Regional Park District operates and manages 73 park units, including the Martin Luther King, Jr. Regional Shoreline, and will absorb the ongoing maintenance for the Project. If at any time during the 25-year life of the Project, East Bay Regional Park District does not manage and maintain the project improvements, the Grant Agreement requires that it refund to the state of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the Project life.

### Project Funding

The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Project Management	---	\$250,000	\$250,000
Final Planning	---	\$350,000	\$350,000
Construction	\$1,900,000	\$5,280,000	\$7,180,000
Construction Management	\$750,000	\$1,050,000	\$1,800,000
Total	\$2,650,000	\$6,930,000	\$9,580,000

Non-WCB funders include:

- East Bay Regional Park District - \$2,925,000
- National Park Service - \$1,000,000

- State Coastal Conservancy - \$3,000,000
- StopWaste Alameda County - \$5,000

## Letters of Support or Opposition

### Support:

- U.S. Congressman Barbara Lee, District 12
- State Senator Nancy Skinner, District 9
- Cesar Barragan, Executive Director, Brothers On The Rise
- W. Dana Hooper, Executive Director, Oakland Strokes

### Opposition:

- None received

## CEQA

The Project is proposed as exempt from CEQA pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15303, Class 3, New Construction, and Section 15304, Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

## State Government

- Senate: Senator Nancy Skinner, District 9
- Assembly: Assemblymember Mia Bonta, District 18

## Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that WCB approve this Project as proposed, authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this Project, and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.



### 23. San Francisco Bay Invasive Plant Control

WCB Grant: \$2,639,000

Fund Source(s): Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, Budget Act of 2024, Climate Change Resilience (SB 108, Sec. 107(1)(4))

Grantee: State Coastal Conservancy

Landowner: Various private, local, state and federal

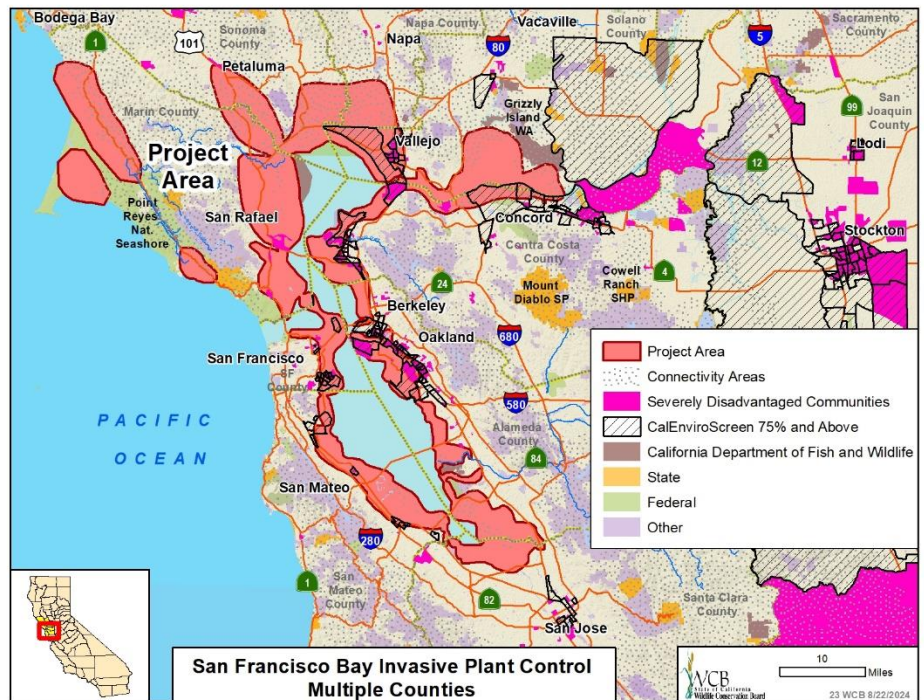
Location: San Francisco Bay

Counties: Alameda, Santa Clara, San Mateo San Francisco, Marin, Sonoma, Napa, Solano, and Contra Costa

### Restoration – Implementation

#### Project Highlights

- Project will contribute to the enhancement of 70,000 acres of tidal marshes and mudflats in the Bay Delta.
- Project builds upon WCB grant awarded in 2013 to remove invasive Spartina from the Bay Delta.
- New USFWS 10-year Biological Opinion allows Spartina control in sites with largest remaining infestations.
- Key species: California Ridgway's rail, salt marsh harvest mouse.
- Project will install 50,000 native plants within the project area.
- State and Regional: San Francisco Estuary Blueprint, USFWS Recovery Plan for Tidal Marsh Ecosystems, BCDC Coastal Management Program, San Francisco Bay Joint Venture's Implementation Strategy, CA Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy, and State Wildlife Action Plan.



#### Priority Metrics

- Located in a Justice Community: Yes
- Tribal Partnerships: No
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 6, Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship
- WCB Strategic Plan Goal B and Objectives 1.4, 2.1

## Project Description

The San Francisco Bay Invasive Plant Control (Project) will continue work to control invasive Spartina within the San Francisco Bay Delta. Invasive Spartina hybrids are a result of Atlantic cordgrass planted in the 1970s by the Army Corps of Engineers hybridizing with native Spartina, or Pacific cordgrass. The Invasive Spartina hybrids can grow both higher and lower on the tidal elevational gradient than the native Pacific cordgrass, colonizing open mudflats, the mid and high marsh, and adjacent upland transition habitats. It also outcompetes other native vegetation, presenting a significant problem for the native marsh community of plants and wildlife. It reduces biodiversity, degrades foraging habitat for shorebirds and migratory waterfowl, clogs flood control channels, and creates standing water for mosquitoes to breed. The Project will enhance tidal marsh and mudflats within the Bay Delta through:

- Monitoring and treatment by herbicide of invasive Spartina populations within the Project area. Most sites are treated with herbicide by small crews using backpack sprayers, some sites are treated from special airboats or trucks when access allows.
- Propagation and revegetation of treated areas with native Pacific cordgrass in low marsh zones and marsh gumplant in mid-marsh and high-marsh zones.
- California Ridgway's rail monitoring will be conducted annually at 62 transects, including the native revegetation and high tide refuge island sites.
- Twenty high tide refuge islands will be designed and constructed to provide high tide cover for California Ridgway's rail and other marsh species.
- Herbicide: Yes, invasive Spartina treatment will be carried out using the broad-spectrum herbicide imazapyr in a formulation labeled for aquatic/estuarine use.

## Long-Term Management

The Landowners have adopted Management Plans that guide management actions for the Project, including management of the Project sites. If at any time during the 25-year life of the Project, the State Coastal Conservancy does not manage and maintain the project improvements, the Grant Agreement requires that it refund to the state of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the Project life.

## Project Funding

The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Project Management	\$30,929	---	\$30,929
Restoration	\$2,512,304	\$4,100,000	\$6,612,304
Indirect Charges	\$19,272	---	\$19,272
Contingency	\$76,495	---	\$76,495
Total	\$2,639,000	\$4,100,000	\$6,739,000

Non-WCB funders include:

- California State Coastal Conservancy - \$1,400,000
- United States Environmental Protection Agency - \$2,500,000
- Valley Water - \$200,000

## Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Matthew Brown, Project Leader, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Doug Johnson, Executive Director, California Invasive Plant Council
- Stefan Parnay, Agricultural Commissioner, Marin County
- David Beaupre, Deputy Director of Planning & Environment, Port of San Francisco
- Sandra Guldman, Friends of Corte Madera Creek
- Barbara Salzman, President, Marin Audubon Society
- Julian Wood, San Francisco Bay Program Leader, Point Blue Conservation Science
- Caitlin Sweeney, Director, San Francisco Estuary Partnership

Opposition:

- Mary McAllister, Webmaster, Conservation Sense and Nonsense
- Melinda MacNaughton, El Granada Advocates
- Lance Mellon, San Francisco
- San Francisco Forest Alliance
- Marilyn Ho
- Anastasia Glikshtern
- Kim Konte, Founder, Non-Toxic Neighborhoods

## CEQA

The California State Coastal Conservancy, as lead agency, prepared an EIR for the project pursuant to the provisions of the CEQA. Staff considered the EIR and has prepared proposed, written findings documenting WCB's compliance with CEQA. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOD will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

## State Government

- Senate: Senate Districts 2, 3, 7, 9, 10, 11 & 13
- Assembly: Assembly Districts 4, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24 & 26

## Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that WCB adopt the written findings and approve this Project as proposed, authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this Project, and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.



Restoring San Francisco Bay's Tidal Wetlands via Invasive Plant Control, Native Revegetation,  
and High Tide Refuge Islands

**Herbicide Use Questionnaire**

*Please describe current vegetation conditions and composition at project site. Provide a description or list of the dominant native and invasive plant species, any rare or sensitive species, percent cover of invasive species, and if they occur in monocultures or mixed communities with natives.*

The Invasive Spartina Project (ISP) addresses 222 unique sites. Invasive hybrid *Spartina* grows across a range of tidal elevations, from mud flats that are normally without vegetation, up to the highest extent of the mid-marsh pickleweed plain.

The dominant native plants are Pacific cordgrass (*Spartina foliosa*), perennial pickleweed (*Sarcocornia pacifica*), and jaumea (*Jaumea carnosa*). At the transition from the mid-marsh to high marsh one finds marsh gumplant (*Grindelia stricta*), alkali heath (*Frankenia salina*), saltgrass (*Distichlis spicata*), and sea lavender (*Limonium californicum*). New invasive *Spartina* infestations may grow in a mix with native plants, but major infestations are monocultures. At a portion of sites, ISP revegetates with native plant stock. Percent cover of native plants can range from very low to very high.

There are only a handful of rare plant species in the Estuary's tidal marshes and these species are only present at a very small number of ISP's sites. Soft salty bird's beak (*Chloropyron molle* ssp. *molle*) and California sea-blite (*Suaeda californica*) are Federally endangered. These rare plants are normally found at higher tidal elevations than the *Spartina* zone and are not at risk from treatment activities.

The tidal marshes are home to the endangered California Ridgway's rail and salt marsh harvest mouse. The ISP only works in marshes outside of rail breeding season and has biologists as monitors who accompany crews to ensure all activities are conducted with the least impact possible. Annual surveys track rail populations to gauge any impacts, as required by the USFWS Biological Opinion. Treatment at large sites is phased over several years to minimize impacts to resident rails.

*Please describe which herbicides and adjuvants will be used, including tank mix concentrations, application rates, and timing of application. Where applicable, identify selective herbicides that will be used to target specific plant life forms (grasses, broadleaf, woody, etc.).*

Herbicide: The ISP uses the broad-spectrum herbicide imazapyr in a formulation labeled for aquatic/estuarine use, sold under the tradenames Polaris® or Habitat®. The ISP selected imazapyr as its herbicide tool by following recommendations from university researchers, the scientific literature on invasive plant management, and test plots conducted in the marshes of the Estuary early in the project.

Adjuvants: The ISP uses Liberate (a soybean derivative) or Competitor (an ethylated seed oil) as a surfactant.

Tank mix/application rate: The ISP conducts spot treatment on hybrid *Spartina* clones and new recruits using a tank mix of 3% of the imazapyr product and 1% of a surfactant

approved for aquatic use, along with a marker dye to ensure full coverage without overapplication.

Timing: Invasive *Spartina* is treated during the active growing season (and outside of California Ridgway's rail breeding season), late June to early November. This allows for maximum uptake and translocation down into the perennial root structures/rhizomes to achieve the most lasting impact on the infestation. Applications are made at low or outgoing tides to maximize herbicide drying time before the next tide, which greatly improves efficacy.

Selective herbicides: There are no selective herbicides for monocots (such as grasses like *Spartina*) labeled by USEPA for use in the estuarine environment. However, the most widespread native tidal marsh plants growing with hybrid *Spartina* are less impacted by any incidental overspray. Perennial pickleweed is the dominant native plant of the marsh plain at the middle tidal elevation, and it normally withstands incidental overspray, bouncing back from energy stored in its perennial roots.

Reduction: Herbicide treatment at a highly infested site drops rapidly. The average reduction in *Spartina*, and thus herbicide use, is 70% after one year of treatment. It can take many years to find and treat all hybrid *Spartina* at a site, but the amounts are small at that point.

*If your project will use glyphosate, have other herbicides been considered to eliminate glyphosate usage? If not, why was glyphosate chosen as the preferred herbicide?*

The ISP does not use glyphosate. Glyphosate was tried early in the project, but it was ineffective, likely because it adsorbs to sediment coating *Spartina* leaves, which inhibits its uptake and translocation.

*If your project includes the use of a glyphosate product, have safer formulations (i.e. those registered for aquatic applications), or alternative herbicides been considered to reduce the potential for non-target environmental impacts? Please provide justification for the formulations and tank mixes selected as the preferred approach.*

No glyphosate is used in this project.

*If adjuvant(s) will be used in this project, are safer products that do not contain nonylphenol (often listed as "alkylphenol ethoxylate" on labels) being used to reduce the potential for non-target environmental impacts?*

No adjuvants containing nonylphenol are used in this project. The ISP uses Liberate (a soybean derivative) or Competitor (an ethylated seed oil) as a surfactant.

*Please describe any non-chemical treatments that will be used to minimize the amount and/or concentration of herbicides used at the project site. What negative effects might these treatments have on the biological community?*

In the early years of the ISP, during preparation of the Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR), a wide range of options for controlling invasive *Spartina* were explored, including a suite of non-chemical methods. Herbicide was selected as the most effective, safest, and lowest impact treatment method taking all considerations into account.

Manual or mechanical removal is ineffective due to the rhizomatous nature of the hybrid *S. alterniflora* root structure. Digging breaks the rhizome into pieces and stimulates vegetative

growth. It is impossible to remove every bit of rhizome from the substrate for any established plant larger than a young seedling. Large scale excavation would destroy the integrity of the marsh plain which has developed over hundreds of years.

Tarping has been tried by the ISP on very small infestations of hybrid *S. alterniflora*. There are very few populations of a scale that could be successfully controlled using tarps. (Successful control with tarping also kills all vegetation within its footprint, including desirable natives.) Tarps are difficult to secure in the high-energy tidal environment and require frequent maintenance to keep sprouts from growing out around the edge of the tarp. The 200 treatment sites are remote and difficult to access, so repeated over the course of a season is not feasible.

*Please describe all herbicide application measures the project will employ to reduce negative impacts to water quality, non-target plant species, pollinators, and other wildlife species.*

Treatment applications to invasive *Spartina* are normally conducted at low tide or on a receding tide to minimize the potential for overspray into adjacent surface waters. The ISP complies with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) general permit through the State Water Board, with annual water quality monitoring that has been an integral part of the ISP since treatment began.

Treatment crews are paired with trained biologists who serve as treatment monitors, helping applicators avoid nontarget impacts to native vegetation or wildlife.

Marsh activities are conducted in a manner that will minimize disturbance and impacts to the endangered California Ridgway's rail. Mapping and treatment activities each year are only allowed to start on specific dates that coincide with the end of the rail's breeding season. The full suite of wildlife species that may be present at any site have been evaluated in the project's Biological Assessment. Mitigation measures associated with each sensitive species are employed by field crews, including requirements to time various activities to coincide with less vulnerable life cycle stages.

*Would removal of invasive weeds within the project area be possible using only non-chemical methods (hand-pulling, mowing, burning, etc.)? Please describe whether biocontrol has been considered and why or why not it was incorporated into the IPM approach for this project.*

No, invasive hybrid *Spartina* cannot be managed using only non-chemical methods, as described earlier.

To date, no effective biocontrol agents for *Spartina alterniflora* have been found. Researchers in Washington introduced the delphacid planthopper *Prokelisia marginata* in Willapa Bay to mixed results. *P. marginata* is already present in the San Francisco Estuary, with no significant impact on invasive hybrid *Spartina* infestations.

*Please provide a total cost estimate for using **only** non-chemical removal methods for the invasive species where this approach would be possible. Please estimate both the project cost and long-term management costs, including an estimate of any additional personnel or contracts required.*

Not feasible, as described above.

***For California Department of Fish and Wildlife owned/managed properties only:***

*Have you worked with CDFW's Pest Control Advisor to develop an integrated pest management plan that uses the safest and most effective herbicide formulation(s) and application method(s) for your project?*

Yes, we worked with CDFW IPM Coordinator Joel Trumbo (now retired) as part of choosing imazapyr as the safest and most effective tool to manage the hybrid *Spartina* infestation in the San Francisco Estuary. The strategies used by the ISP were developed by experts in the field, including researchers and marsh managers from around the world who are also working tidal marsh invasive plant management.

CDFW has been an active partner in the ISP since the inception of the project, and CDFW is part of the Project Management Team. Historically the CDFW representative was John Krause, now Senior Environmental Scientist Supervisor and South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project Manager for CDFW's Bay Delta Region. Carly White is the new Unit Biologist overseeing Eden Landing Ecological Reserve, one of several CDFW Ecological Reserve that collectively contain thousands of acres of high-quality tidal habitat that are vulnerable to incursion from hybrid *Spartina*.

## 24. Roddy Ranch Golf Course Restoration

WCB Grant: \$2,453,000

Fund Source(s): California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68), Public Resources Code Section 80111(b)

Grantee: East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD)

Landowner: EBRPD

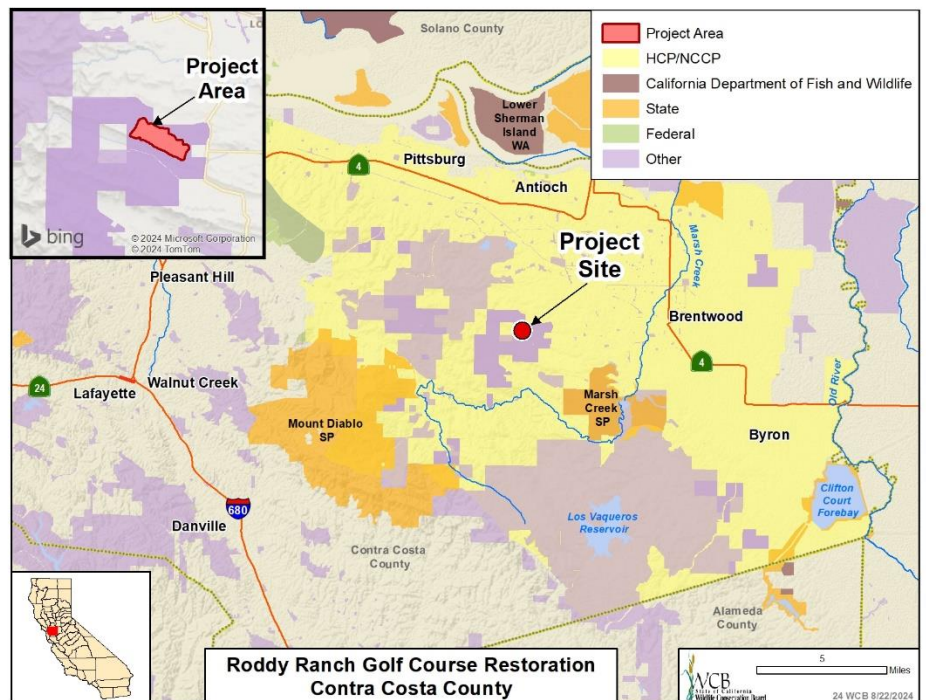
Location: One mile south of Antioch

County: Contra Costa

## Restoration – Implementation

### Project Highlights

- WCB provided funding for the acquisition (2018) and the planning phase (2020) for this project.
- Located at the former Roddy Ranch Golf Course.
- Key habitats to be restored: native grassland and seasonal freshwater wetlands.
- This site provides habitat connectivity between the western extent of the San Joaquin Valley and the eastern reach of the Diablo Range.
- Regional Plans: East Contra Costa County HCP/NCCP and East Bay Regional Park District 2013 Master Plan.



### Priority Metrics

- Located in a Justice Community: No
- Tribal Partnerships: No
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 6, Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship
- WCB Strategic Plan Goal B and Objectives 2.1

### Project Description

The Roddy Ranch Golf Course Restoration (Project) site is a former golf course that has been heavily degraded and is comprised of non-native grassland and tree species.

Today, remnants of the golf course remain, including six miles of golf cart paths, a subsurface drainage system, irrigation ponds, water quality basins, a 142-space parking

lot, a septic system, restrooms, and a pump house. The Project will restore the ecological and hydrological functions of this site by:

- Demolishing and removing existing infrastructure and remnant golf course features.
- Regrading sand traps and artificial golf course grading to a natural topography to ensure sustainable drainage and support grassland and wetland function.
- Restoring approximately 83.5 acres of native grassland habitats by reestablishing native vegetation at freshly graded areas with bare soils through the re-placement of suitable topsoil to utilize the local seed bank. In areas without suitable topsoil, sterile or native seed or plantings will be placed to encourage revegetation.
- Restoring approximately 0.6 acres of seasonal freshwater wetlands by modifying two constructed ponds and one constructed basin to provide aquatic habitat to support special status species.
- Daylighting and restoring nearly a mile of ephemeral drainages.
- Herbicide: No

### Long-Term Management

EBRPD has adopted a Management Plan that guides management actions for the Project, including management of the property. If at any time during the 25-year life of the Project, EBRPD does not manage and maintain the project improvements, the Grant Agreement requires that it refund to the state of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the Project life.

### Project Funding

The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Mobilization and General Demolition	\$853,000	---	\$853,000
Restoration Construction	\$1,600,000	---	\$1,600,000
Public Access	---	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000
Construction Management	---	\$225,000	\$225,000
Permit Compliance Monitoring	---	\$150,000	\$150,000
Total	\$2,453,000	\$5,375,000	\$7,828,000

Non-WCB funders include:

- CA State Parks - \$5,000,000
- EBRPD - \$375,000

## Letters of Support or Opposition

### Support:

- Federal D. Glover, Chair, Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors
- Abigail Fateman, Executive Director, East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy

### Opposition:

- None received

## CEQA

EBRPD, as lead agency, prepared an EIR Addendum for the Project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA. Staff considered the EIR Addendum and has prepared proposed, written findings documenting WCB's compliance with CEQA. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOD will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

## State Government

- Senate: Senator Steven M. Glazer, District 7
- Assembly: Assemblymember Timothy Grayson, District 15

## Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that WCB adopt the written findings and approve this Project as proposed, authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this Project, and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.



## 25. Education Center at Mount Diablo State Park

WCB Grant: \$2,624,000

Fund Source(s): California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68), Public Resources Code Section 80111(d)

Grantee: Mount Diablo Interpretive Association (MDIA)

Landowner: Department of Parks and Recreation

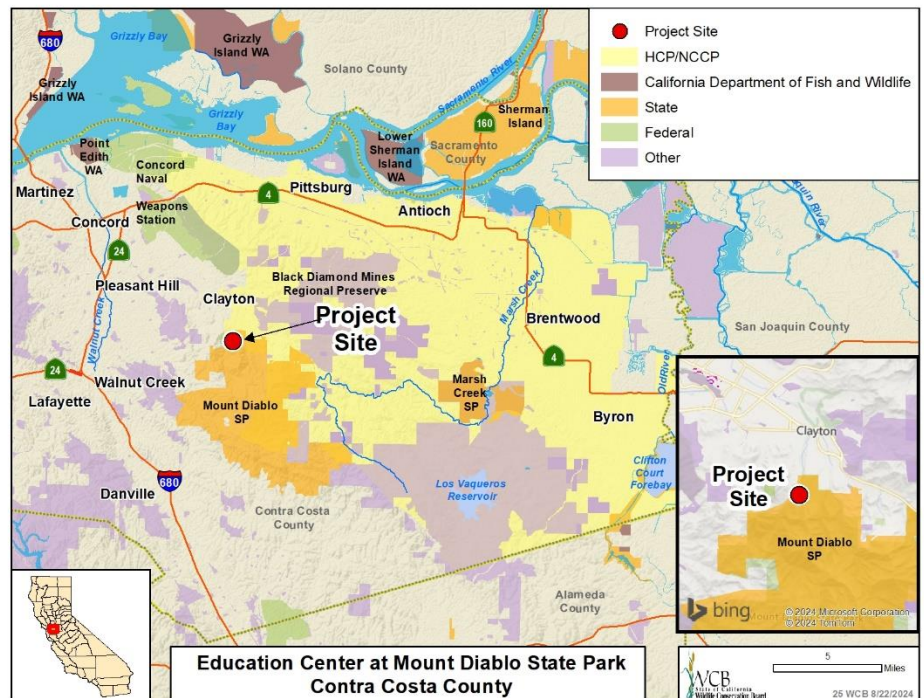
Location: One mile from Clayton, within Mt. Diablo State Park

County: Contra Costa

## Infrastructure – Implementation

### Project Highlights

- Located in Mount Diablo State Park
- Education Center with indoor and outdoor spaces, and sufficient capacity to welcome school groups
- All new facilities will be ADA accessible
- Exhibits will introduce visitors to the natural and cultural history of Mount Diablo, including indigenous history and culture
- Content guided by K-12 science standards and collaboration with local tribes



### Priority Metrics

- Located in a Justice Community: No.
- Tribal Partnerships: Indian Canyon Nation, a California tribe on the Native American Heritage Contact List, has participated in visioning and planning sessions for the educational programming. Several tribes have expressed interest and may participate in further planning sessions. The project budget includes compensation for their time and knowledge.
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 6, Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship
- WCB Strategic Plan Goal C and Objectives 3.1, 3.4

### Project Description

The Mitchell Canyon entrance and staging area at Mount Diablo State Park is a primary location for in-person interpretive programs. This area of the park features popular



hiking trails, and a variety of native habitats, providing abundant opportunities for appreciating and learning about the natural world. However, the park hosts very few field trips due to a lack of infrastructure. The Mitchell Canyon site is school bus accessible but does not have a facility that can accommodate a classroom of students, and it is not ADA-accessible. The Education Center at Mount Diablo State Park (Project) will construct a new Education Center which will allow for expansion and enhancement of educational programming. Features of the new construction include:

- A new 1,600 square foot accessible structure to house educational exhibits and park information
- Parking lot improvements including grading, ADA parking spaces, and a bus loading/drop-off zone
- A covered entrance pavilion which will serve as outdoor instructional space and access point to the existing Native Plant Garden and trailhead
- ADA upgrades to the pathways in the Native Plant Garden
- ADA upgrades to the existing restrooms

Initial visioning for educational programs and exhibit design has begun and will continue during the implementation period. The Education Center will introduce visitors to the history and natural beauty of Mount Diablo, teach California science curriculum, align with the missions and goals of California State Parks, and tell the full story of the local indigenous communities. Though the Education Center will benefit all visitors, MDIA and State Parks are particularly interested in expanding access for school groups, with a focus on serving local Title I schools. MDIA is setting aside \$10,000 to fund the cost of school buses during the first year of operation to initiate this effort.

- Herbicide: No

### Long-Term Management

MDIA together with California State Parks will manage the Project. After the Project is completed, State Park staff will operate and maintain the Education Center with assistance from MDIA. If at any time during the 25-year life of the Project, MDIA does not manage and maintain the project improvements, the Grant Agreement requires that it refund to the state of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the Project life.

### Project Funding

The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Project Management	---	\$178,200	\$178,200
Construction	\$2,464,000	\$2,000,000	\$4,464,000
Exhibit Design/Fabrication	\$150,000	---	\$150,000

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Tribal Consultation	\$10,000	---	\$10,000
Total	\$2,624,000	\$2,178,200	\$4,802,200

Non-WCB funders include:

- Mount Diablo Interpretive Association (private donations and in-kind volunteer hours) - \$1,178,200
- Department of Parks and Recreation (California Legislative budget allocation) - \$1,000,000

## Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Senator Steven M. Glazer, District 7
- Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, District 16
- Ken Carlson, Contra Costa County Supervisor, District 4
- Brian Dewey, Assistant Deputy Director of Facilities and Development, California State Parks
- Clinton Elsholz, District Superintendent, California State Parks
- Lynn Mackey, Superintendent of Schools, Contra Costa County
- Sabrina B. Landreth, General Manager, East Bay Regional Park District
- Edward Sortwell Clement, Jr., Executive Director, Save Mount Diablo
- Katherine Perez, Chairperson, Nototomne Cultural Preservation
- Kanyon Sayers-Roods, Tribal Chairwoman, Indian Canyon Nation
- Herbert "Lou" Griffin, Executive Director, Cultural Preservation Department, Wilton Rancheria

Opposition:

- None received

## CEQA

The Project is proposed as exempt from the CEQA pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines Section 15301, Class 1, Existing Facilities; Section 15302, Class 2, Replacement or Construction; Section 15303, Class 3, New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures; and Section 15304, Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

## State Government

- Senate: Senator Steven M. Glazer, District 7
- Assembly: Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, District 16

### Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that WCB approve this Project as proposed, authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this Project, and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

## 26. American River Ranch Animal Barn Construction

## Infrastructure – Implementation

WCB Grant: \$2,012,000

Fund Source(s): California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68), Public Resources Code Section 80100(a)(3)

Grantee: Soil Born Farms Urban Agriculture and Education Project

Landowner: County of Sacramento Department of Regional Parks

Location: American River Parkway, approximately one mile northwest of City of Rancho Cordova

County: Sacramento

### Project Highlights

- A new 3,000 square foot ADA-compliant interpretive animal barn.
- First flagship interpretive facility on the historical American River Ranch and on the south side of the American River Parkway.
- Expanded educational partnership with Cordova High School.
- Holistic land stewardship of 150 acres of Parkway land.

### Priority Metrics

- Located in a Justice Community: Yes
- Tribal Partnerships: No
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 6, Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship; Pathway 8, Align Investments to Maximize Conservation Benefits.
- WCB Strategic Plan Goal B, C and Objectives 1.4, 3.1

### Project Description

The American River Ranch Animal Barn Construction (Project) will replace outdated, undersized, and unsafe animal pens with an ADA-compliant animal barn that will support new educational programming and a grazing program for managing lands within the American River Parkway. The animal barn is designed to:

- Shelter up to 60 sheep, 20 rabbits, and 200 chickens year-round.
- Serve 60 people at a time for classes and the visiting public.
- Provide intensive hands-on practice and demonstration for Future Farmers of America students.
- Provide space for chick incubation and veterinarian care for all farm animals.



- Demonstrate a living roof featuring drought-tolerant native grasses, forbs, and succulents.
- Demonstrate raised garden bed management with urban farm animals.
- Interpret organic farming, habitat plantings, oak and elderberry forest restoration, Cordova Creek naturalization, and American River watershed through multi-lingual signage.
- Secure feed, tools, and instructional supplies.

The Project will complete land improvements for rotational grazing by:

- Establishing 6 acres of perennial pasture and 2.5 acres of alfalfa plantings for hay.
- Installing 6 raptor perches and 20 bluebird boxes.
- Installing solar panels and wildlife-friendly mobile electric fencing for rotational grazing.
- Installing mobile watering system and livestock shade structures.
- Modifying irrigation system to support hay and pasture blocks.

The Project will set the stage for implementing the final phase of Soil Born Farm's Animal Program which will:

- Reintroduce livestock to the American River Ranch.
- Launch targeted grazing for improving soil health, controlling invasive plants, reducing fuel loads, managing habitat, and preparing sites for habitat restoration on over 150 acres in the Parkway.
- Serve over 300 underserved urban teens per year in partnership with Cordova High School's Agriculture Academy.
- Provide internships and paid job training for up to 15 teens per year.
- Provide up to 10 new adult classes specific to urban livestock and land stewardship.
- Herbicide: No

### Long-Term Management

Soil Born Farms adopted a Management Plan that guides management actions for the Project, including management of the animal barn and pasture fields. If at any time during the 25-year life of the Project, Soil Born Farms does not manage and maintain the project improvements, the Grant Agreement requires that it refund to the state of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the Project life.

### Project Funding

The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Project Management	---	\$172,181	\$172,181
Site Preparation	---	\$18,750	\$18,750

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Barn Construction	\$2,012,000	\$294,890	\$2,306,890
Indirect	---	\$28,640	\$28,640
Total	\$2,012,000	\$514,461	\$2,526,461

Non-WCB funders include:

- Grantee - \$18,750
- City of Rancho Cordova - \$495,711

## Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Pat Hume, Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, 5<sup>th</sup> District
- Liz Bellas, Director, Sacramento County Department of Regional Parks
- Micah Runner, City Manager, City of Ranch Cordova
- Jim Huber, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent Educational Services, Folsom Cordova Unified School District
- Evan Schmidt, Chief Executive Officer, Valley Vision

Opposition:

- None received

## CEQA

The project is proposed as exempt from the CEQA pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15303, Class 3, New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures, consisting of the construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures and the installation of small new equipment and facilities and Section 15304, Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land, consisting of minor private alterations in the conditions of land, water, and/or vegetation. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

## State Government

- Senate: Senator Roger W. Niello, District 6
- Assembly: Assemblymember Josh Hoover, District 7

## Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that WCB approve this Project as proposed, authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this Project, and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.



## 27. Upper Carpenter Valley

WCB Grant: \$2,500,000

Fund Source(s): General Fund, Budget Act of 2024, Cascades and High Sierra

Upper Watersheds Program (SB 108, Sec. 108(1)(3))

Grantee: Truckee Donner Land Trust (TDLT)

County: Nevada

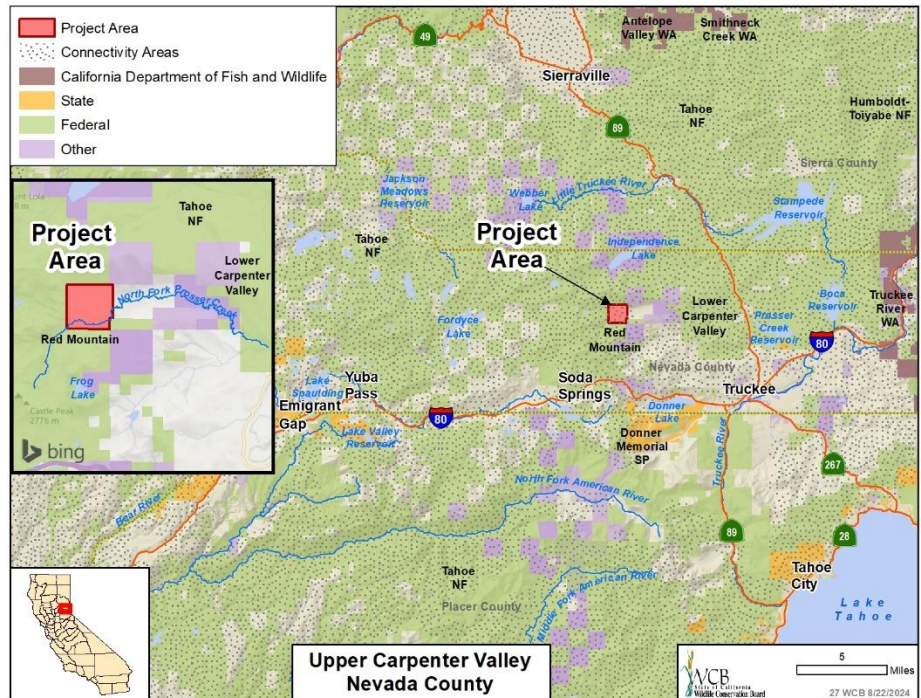
Location: Approximately three miles northwest of Truckee

Acres: 691± (Property)

## Acquisition Fee

### Property Highlights

- Habitats represented: wet meadow, fresh water emergent wetland and riverine habitat types, as well as red fir, lodgepole pine, and mixed conifer forest.
- Prime habitat for the recovery of wolverine, Lahontan cutthroat trout, Sierra Nevada red fox, Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, bald eagle, fisher, great gray owl, greater sandhill crane, southern mountain yellow-legged frog, and willow flycatcher. Wolverine and gray wolf were sighted near the Property in the last year.
- Located at the headwaters of North Fork Prosser Creek, a tributary of the Truckee River. Unlike many mountain meadows in the area, the stream course has not been altered for grazing and the meadow ecosystem remains intact.
- Key parcel for protecting the Truckee River watershed and completing protection of Carpenter Valley.
- Nearby WCB funded conservation projects include Lower Carpenter Valley, Frog Lake, Red Mountain, Carpenter Ridge, Independence Lake, and Webber Lake.



### Priority Metrics

- Located in a Justice Community: No
- Tribal Partnerships: No
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 2, Execute Strategic Acquisitions
- WCB Strategic Plan Goal A and Objectives 1.2, 1.3



- Public Access: Yes. TDLT will open the Property to the public for year-round wildlife viewing and recreation.

### Key Management Objectives and Needs

TDLT will own and manage the Property. In the summer, TDLT will manage the Property for non-motorized public use. There is an existing network of trails which the public currently uses. In the future, TDLT may pursue opportunities to improve the existing trail system by adding new trails, dedicated trailheads, and signage, both directional and interpretive. TDLT currently manages over 40,000 acres and has experience in building and maintaining trails, habitat restoration, forestry, and managing public access compatible with natural resources.

### Project Funding

The DGS approved fair market value is \$4,500,000, and the landowner has agreed to sell at a reduced price of \$4,400,000. The proposed funding breakdown is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$2,500,000
TDLT	\$1,900,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$4,400,000

### Letters of Support or Opposition

None received

### CEQA

The project has been reviewed for compliance with CEQA requirements and is proposed as exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15313, Class 13, as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes, and Section 15325, Class 25, as a transfer of an ownership interest in land to preserve open space and existing natural conditions, including plant or animal habitats. Subject to authorization by WCB, an NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

### State Government

- Senate: Senator Brian Dahle, District 1
- Assembly: Assemblymember Megan Dahle, District 1

### Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the WCB approve this project as proposed, authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project, and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

## 28. Feather River Side Channels Restoration Plan Restoration – Planning

WCB Grant: \$2,199,000

Fund Source(s): Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Fund of 2014 (Proposition 1), Water Code Section 79733

Grantee: Sutter County Resource Conservation District

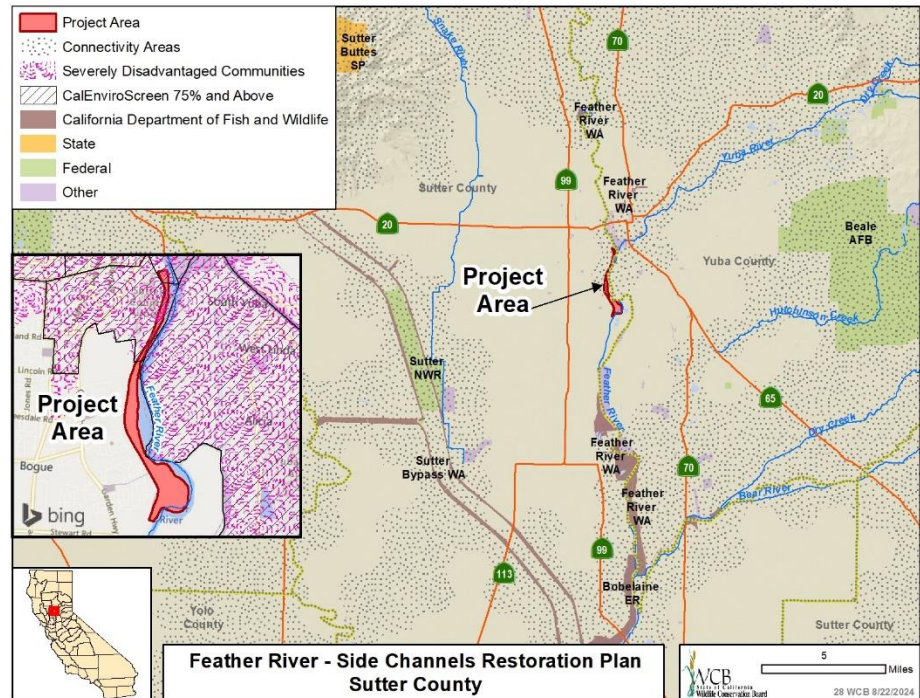
Landowner: Sutter County

Location: Adjacent to Yuba City

County: Sutter

### Project Highlights

- Located adjacent to Yuba City on the west bank of the Feather River.
- Project will develop plans and permits for 1.5 miles of side channel habitat that will reconnect 231 acres of floodplain and riparian habitats.
- Project will develop an invasive species control plan.
- Key species: Chinook salmon, steelhead, bank swallow.
- Project will include educational components involving local schools.



### Priority Metrics

- Located in a Justice Communities: Yes.
- Tribal Partnerships: Estom Yumeka Maidu Tribe, a federally recognized tribe, supports the project and will participate and collaborate on project design, planting plan development, and other contributions of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK)
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 6, Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship
- WCB Strategic Plan Goal B and Objectives 2.4

### Project Description

Side channel and floodplain habitat is very important to salmonid rearing and survival, however few areas of these habitat types exist in the lower Feather and Yuba rivers. This planning project will develop designs, environmental permits, incorporate TEK into the project, plan revegetation actions, and prepare invasive plant removal plans for the

creation of 1.5 miles of side-channel habitat at the confluence of the Feather and Yuba rivers. This will result in the improvement of 231 acres of riparian and connected floodplain habitat, which will benefit migratory salmonids. The project area is directly adjacent to eastern boundary of Yuba City in Sutter County, and the habitat restoration activities planned under this project will:

- Develop 90% engineering design plans to excavate 1.5 miles of side channel habitat and reconnect to 231 acres of floodplain and riparian habitat.
- Secure all necessary environmental permits and CEQA documents.
- Develop a native revegetation planting plan.
- Develop plans for removal of invasive species including arundo, tamarisk, and Himalayan blackberry.
- Conduct hydrologic modeling to ensure that side channel and floodplain habitats will remain functional as river level changes.
- Herbicide: No

### Project Funding

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Project Management, Administration, and Team Coordination	\$477,434	\$40,000	\$517,434
Engineering, Design, and Geotechnical Services	\$1,014,998	\$19,000	\$1,033,998
Environmental Planning and Permitting	\$393,907	\$50,000	\$443,907
Flow Monitoring	\$145,149	---	\$145,149
Revegetation Plan	\$67,785	---	\$67,785
Indirect	\$99,727	---	\$99,727
Total	\$2,199,000	\$109,000	\$2,308,000

Non-WCB funders include:

- Applicant - \$40,000
- CDFW - \$15,000
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation - \$50,000
- Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency - \$4,000

## Letters of Support or Opposition

### Support:

- James Gallagher, California State Assemblymember, 3<sup>rd</sup> District
- Glenda Nelson, Chairwoman, Estom Yumeka Maidu Tribe of Enterprise Rancheria
- Steven M. Smith, County Administrator, Sutter County Board of Supervisors
- Chuck Wyllie, Chairman, Sutter County Fish and Game Commission
- Tom Reusser, Superintendent, Sutter County Superintendent of Schools
- Bob Boucke, Owner, JBT Marine
- Kathy DeMillie, Board Member, SAYLove Sutter and Yuba

### Opposition:

- None received

## CEQA

The project is statutorily exempt from CEQA pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15262, Feasibility and Planning Studies, as it involves only feasibility and planning studies for possible future actions. Subject to authorization by WCB, an NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

## State and Local Government

- Senate: Senator Roger W. Nielo, District 6
- Assembly: Assemblymember James Gallagher, District 3

## Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed, authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project, and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

## 29. Lost Coast Redwoods

WCB Grant: \$8,500,000

Fund Source(s): Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, Budget Act of 2024, Climate Change Resilience (SB 108, Sec. 107(1)(4))

Grantee: Save the Redwoods League

Successor Grantee: BLM

Location: 25 miles north of Fort Bragg

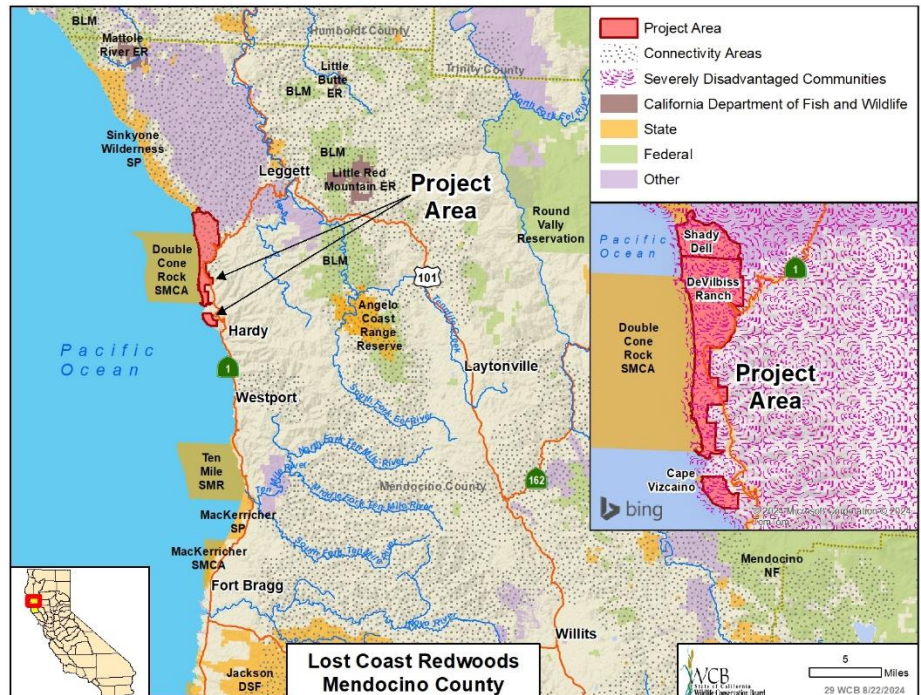
County: Mendocino

Acres: 4,566± (Property)

**Acquisition  
Fee**

### Property Highlights

- Property includes approximately 3,100 acres of scattered old-growth and mature second-growth redwood and Douglas-fir forest, and more than 1,450 acres of grasslands, open meadow/coastal prairie, coastal bluffs, extensive beaches, springs, and riparian areas.
- Conservation of eight miles of rugged coastline adjacent to the offshore Double Cone Rock State Marine Conservation Area and the California Coastal Monument, managed by BLM. Once in public ownership, it will comprise a key section of a connected landscape along a 45-mile stretch of California's Lost Coast.
- Adjacent to the 7,800-acre Sinkyone Wilderness State Park to the north and the 49,500-acre Redwood Forest Foundation Property to the east, which is protected by a working forest conservation easement funded by WCB. Also, to the north is the 4,531-acre Intertribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council land, which connects to the 60,000-acre King Range National Conservation Area, managed by BLM.
- Protecting 30 miles of Class I, II, and III streams and other salmonid and fish bearing streams. This includes five miles of Class I fish-bearing streams that provide critical habitat for and support the recovery of state and federally listed species (coho salmon, Chinook salmon, and steelhead trout).
- Habitat for the federally and/or state listed species including northern spotted owl, marbled murrelet, pacific fisher, coho salmon, and steelhead trout. Other species of special concern include seaside bittercress, Whitney's farewell to spring, Point





Reyes horkelia, foothill yellow-legged frog, pacific tailed frog, and southern torrent salamander. The Property is also home to common species such as Roosevelt elk, bear, bobcats, and mountain lions.

- Lost Coast Redwoods mature second-growth coast redwood forest is projected to sequester approximately 235,500 metric tons (Mg) of CO<sub>2</sub>e (carbon dioxide equivalents) over the next decade.
- Transfer to BLM will increase public access points and trails within existing natural areas, permit the construction of new trail networks and connect to existing trails, and conserve and manage lands and coastal waters to remove and store atmospheric carbon dioxide.

### Priority Metrics

- Located in a Justice Community: Yes
- Tribal Partnerships: Intertribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council and SRL entered into a “Statement of Shared Understandings and Goals for Lost Coast Redwoods” in 2023 and the Council supports transfer to BLM.
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 2, Execute Strategic Acquisitions
- WCB Strategic Plan Goal A, C and Objectives 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 3.1, 3.4
- Public Access: Yes, transfer to BLM is to allow public access, recreation, and development of public facilities.

### Long-Term Management

BLM will incorporate Lost Coast Redwoods into the Northwest California Integrated Resource Management Plan and will manage the Property for natural resource and water quality protection, open space preservation, cultural resource protection, wildfire resilience and restoration forestry, and public access compatible with cultural and natural resource protection. Once transferred to BLM, Save the Redwoods League will continue to advise and provide expertise it has gained from management of the Property and restoration forestry techniques successfully practiced through the Redwoods Rising Initiative.

### Project Funding

The DGS approved fair market value is \$53,940,000. The League has agreed to a bargain sale the property for \$44,125,500. The proposed funding breakdown is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$8,500,000
SCC	\$8,500,000
BLM	\$27,125,500
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$44,125,500

## Letters of Support or Opposition

### Support:

- Congressman Jared Huffman, United States Congress 2<sup>nd</sup> District California
- Senator Mike McGuire, California Senate District 2
- Assembly Member Jim Wood, California Assembly District 2
- Collin Ewing, Field Manager, United States Department of the Interior, BLM
- Board of Directors, Inter-Sinkyone Tribal Wilderness Council
- Tim Bray, President, Mendocino Coast Audubon Society
- Conrad Kramer, Executive Director, Mendocino Land Trust

### Opposition:

- None received

## CEQA

The project has been reviewed for compliance with CEQA requirements and is proposed as exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15313, Class 13, as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes, and Section 15325, Class 25, as a transfer of an ownership interest in land to preserve open space and existing natural conditions, including plant or animal habitats. Subject to authorization by WCB, an NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

## State Government

- Senate: Senator Mike McGuire, District 2
- Assembly: Assemblymember Jim Wood, District 2

## Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that WCB approve this project as proposed, authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project, and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.



### 30. Black Oak Ranch Water Conservation and Flow Enhancement

### Restoration – Implementation

WCB Grant: \$3,564,000

Fund Source(s): Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Fund of 2014 (Proposition 1), Water Code Section 79733

Grantee: Salmon Restoration Federation

Landowner: Private Landowner

Location: Approximately 5 miles north of Laytonville

County: Mendocino

#### Project Highlights

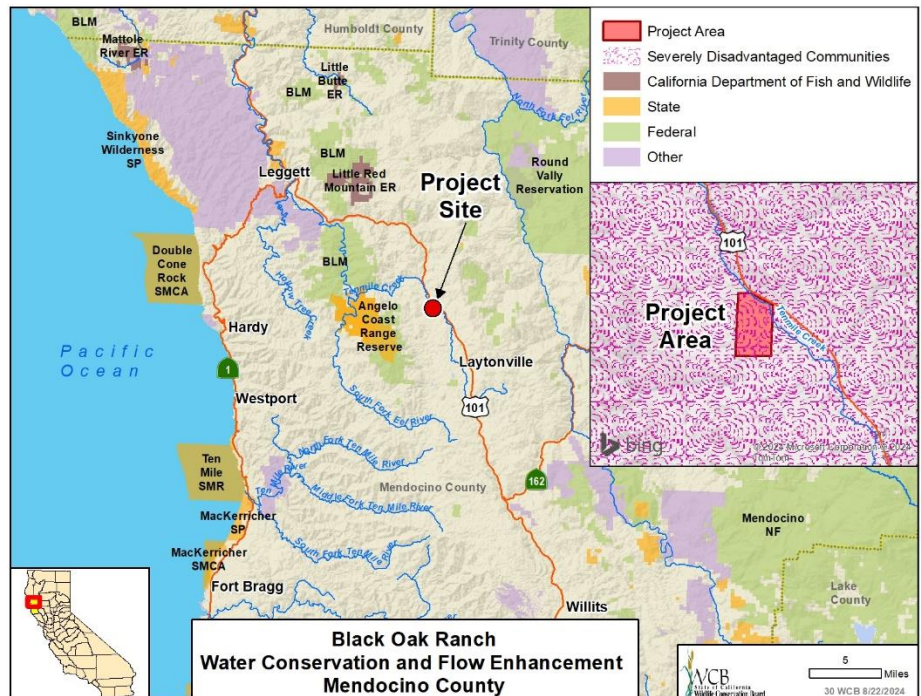
- Project will create a 4-million-gallon water holding pond and construct nine 90,000-gallon storage tanks
- Project will secure a forbearance agreement so that 4,800,000 gallons of water per year remains in Streeter Creek during the dry season to benefit Chinook salmon, coho salmon, and steelhead
- Project will include ADA-compliant educational signage

#### Priority Metrics

- Located in a Justice Community: Yes
- Tribal Partnerships: The Cahto Tribe, a federally recognized tribe, will be involved in surveys for sensitive species and improving cultural resources for tribal use
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 6, Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship
- WCB Strategic Plan Goal B and Objectives 2.4

#### Project Description

Tenmile Creek and Streeter Creek are tributaries in the South Fork Eel River watershed, and support populations of Chinook salmon, coho salmon, and steelhead. During the dry season, and particularly during drought years, these tributaries are reduced to disconnected pools and may even dry completely. Because of these factors, this watershed has been identified by NOAA and CDFW as a high priority area for flow enhancement and salmonid restoration. Black Oak Ranch is one of the larger water



diverters that pulls water from Tenmile and Streeter Creeks to irrigate Irene's Organic Produce (a local farm) and Camp Winarainbow (a camp that provides underserved rural and inner-city youth with connections to art and nature). This project will assemble a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to provide input to the project, construct a pond, install storage tanks, and install a rainwater capture system to collect and hold wet season water for use during the dry season. This project will also include a 25-year forbearance agreement such that the landowner will not divert water from Tenmile Creek or Streeter Creek during the dry season, keeping more water instream. The project will implement water capture and storage activities improving stream conditions and climate resiliency by:

- Constructing a 4-million-gallon water holding pond
- Constructing nine 90,000-gallon steel water storage tanks
- Constructing a water capture system to fill the pond and tanks
- Establish a forbearance agreement of water from the PODs during dry season (May to September) allowing 4,800,000 gallons of water per year to remain instream in Streeter and Tenmile creeks
- Herbicide: No

### Key Management Responsibilities

The Salmon Restoration Federation has adopted a Management Plan that guides management actions for the project, including management of the property. If at any time during the 25-year life of the project, Grantee does not manage and maintain the project improvements, the Grant Agreement requires that it refund to the state of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the project life.

### Project Funding

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Project Management	\$38,000	---	\$38,000
Technical Advisory Committee	\$28,000	\$4,000	\$32,000
Construction	\$3,058,000	\$9,600	\$3,067,600
Post-Construction Operations and Maintenance	\$134,000	\$2,500	\$136,500

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Education and Outreach	\$11,000	\$1,350	\$12,350
Indirect	\$295,000	---	\$295,000
Total	\$3,564,000	\$17,450	\$3,581,450

Non-WCB funders include:

- Landowner - \$13,950
- Trout Unlimited - \$3,500

### Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Mike McGuire, State Senator, District 2
- John Haschak, Mendocino County Board of Supervisors, 3<sup>rd</sup> District
- Bob Pagliuco, Marine Habitat Resource Specialist, NOAA Fisheries

Opposition:

- None received

### CEQA

The State Water Resources Control Board, as lead agency, prepared a(n) EIR for the project pursuant to the provisions of the CEQA. Staff considered the EIR and has prepared proposed, written findings documenting WCB's compliance with CEQA. Subject to approval of this proposal by the WCB, the appropriate NOD will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

### State and Local Government

- Senate: Senator Mike McGuire, District 2
- Assembly: Assemblymember Jim Wood, District 2

### Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that WCB adopt the written findings and approve this project as proposed, authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project, and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

### 31. 'O Rew Lower Prairie Creek Floodplain Restoration

### Restoration – Implementation

WCB Grant: \$3,712,000

Fund Source(s): Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Fund of 2014 (Proposition 1), Water Code Section 79733

Grantee: California State Coastal Conservancy

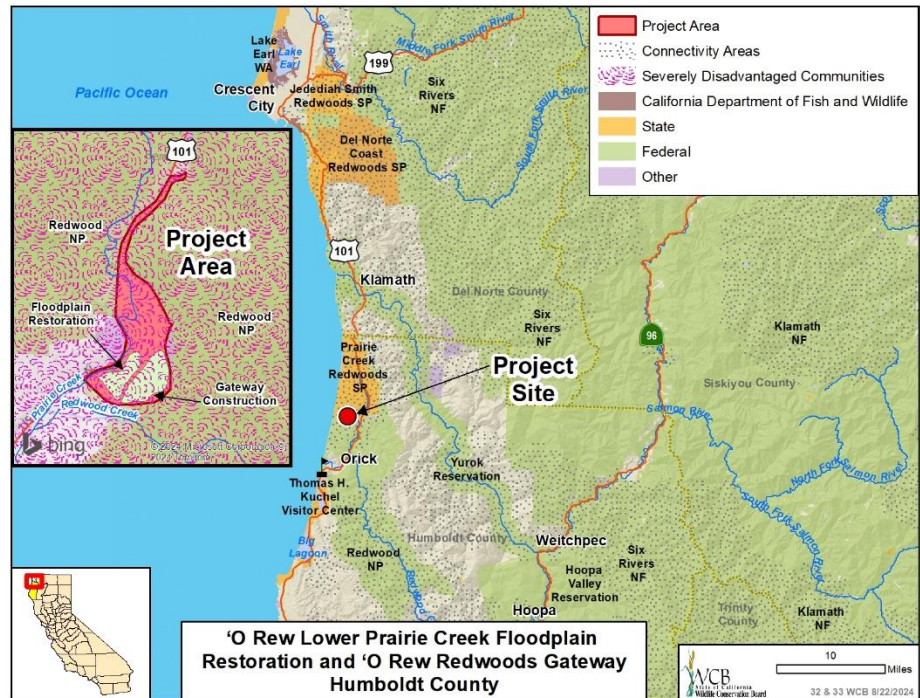
Landowner: Save the Redwoods League

Location: Approximately 1.5 miles north of the unincorporated town of Orick

County: Humboldt

#### Project Highlights

- Project will conserve and enhance a key watershed in a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Restores 0.5 miles of instream and backwater habitat and 15.7 acres of floodplain/ wetland habitat.
- Benefits Southern Oregon/Northern California coast coho salmon, Northern California steelhead, and California coastal Chinook salmon.
- Will complete the fourth and final phase of restoration, connecting nearly one mile of restored creek and 30 acres of floodplain habitat.
- Project facilitates ancestral land return to the Yurok Tribe and is supported by strong partnerships between state, federal, and tribal governments, and private landowner.



#### Priority Metrics

- Located in a Justice Community: Yes
- Tribal Partnerships: Yes. The Yurok Tribe is a federally recognized tribe and will be the main subcontractor for constructing the fish and wildlife habitat restoration. When construction is complete, the 125-acre site will be transferred to the Yurok Tribe and co-managed by the tribe, National Parks Service, and California State Parks in perpetuity.
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 4, Enhance Conservation of Existing Public Lands and Coastal Waters; Pathway 6, Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship; Pathway 7, Strengthen Coordination Among Governments
- WCB Strategic Plan Goal B and Objectives 2.1, 4.3

## Project Description

Prairie Creek is a major tributary to Redwood Creek, and both creeks together comprise the Redwood Creek watershed. This watershed is home to three salmonid species listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act, including Southern Oregon/Northern California coast coho salmon (coho), Northern California steelhead (steelhead), and California coastal Chinook salmon (Chinook). NMFS identifies the Redwood Creek watershed population of coho as “core” to the species recovery and the watershed’s populations of Chinook and steelhead as “essential” to their recovery. Lower Prairie Creek provides the last opportunity for salmonid rearing habitat before it merges with Redwood Creek and flows 3.5 miles to the Pacific Ocean along a leveed channel with poor habitat quality. The former 125-acre Orick Mill site was situated on lower Prairie Creek and drastically altered the landscape and the creek’s fluvial processes and pushed the creek against Highway 101 which resulted in the creek’s incision, simplification, and disconnection with the floodplain. The disconnected floodplain restricts juvenile fish from accessing the beneficial foraging and refugia that would otherwise be found in an inundated floodplain, wetlands, and tributaries.

In 2013, Save the Redwoods League acquired the Orick Mill site to restore the degraded site to high-quality fish and wildlife habitat and to move Prairie Creek away from its constrained location along Highway 101. The ‘O Rew Lower Prairie Creek Floodplain Restoration (Project) is the final phase of a multiple-phased project that will enhance and expand rearing habitat and refugia conditions for listed salmonids and reconnect the creek with its historical floodplain. This agenda item will be managed by staff along with the ‘O Rew Redwoods Gateway item together (32) as one grant project.

The Project will finalize the creek and floodplain restoration by:

- Excavating a new 2,233-foot channel to move the creek away from Highway 101 and connect it with a new 800-foot channel constructed in the previous phase.
- Lowering an elevated pasture by 10 feet to reconnect the creek with over 15 acres of historical floodplain.
- Placing fill in the abandoned channel along Highway 101.
- Revegetating 15.7 acres of riparian, wetland, and forest habitat with native plants, and controlling invasive plants with manual and mechanical methods.
- Monitoring and adaptively managing all four phases of restoration, including nearly 30 acres of restored wildlife habitat and 1 mile of enhanced stream and aquatic habitat.
- Herbicide: No

## Long-Term Management

As part of the Project, a Co-Management Plan will be developed between the Yurok Tribe, NPS, and State Parks for the site’s long-term management. If at any time during the 25-year life of the Project, the Yurok, NPS, and State Parks do not manage and maintain the project improvements, the Grant Agreement requires that Grantee refund



to the state of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the Project life.

## Project Funding

The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Project Management	\$65,000	\$251,650	\$316,650
Final Design, Environmental Compliance, Construction Oversight & Support	---	\$1,321,840	\$1,321,840
Revegetation Planning & Procurement	\$500,000	\$1,676,375	\$2,176,375
Restoration & Adaptive Management	\$2,647,000	\$6,491,458	\$9,138,458
Monitoring	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$1,000,000
Total	\$3,712,000	\$10,241,323	\$13,953,323

Non-WCB funders include:

- State Coastal Conservancy - \$3,711,683
- NOAA - \$6,529,640

## Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Mike McGuire, Senator, Second District, State Senate
- Jim Wood, Assemblymember, Second District, State Assembly
- Steve Madrone, Fifth District, Humboldt County Board of Supervisors
- Steven N. Mietz, Superintendent, Redwood National Park, National Park Service
- Victor Bjelajac, Superintendent, North Coast Redwoods District, Department of Parks and Recreation
- Donna Hufford, Director, Orick Chamber of Commerce
- Ron Barlow, Board Chair, Orick Community Services District
- Joseph James, Chairperson, Yurok Tribe

Opposition:

- None received

## CEQA

The California State Coastal Conservancy, as lead agency, prepared a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA. Staff considered the MND and has prepared proposed, written findings documenting WCB's

compliance with CEQA. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOD will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

### State Government

- Senate: Senator Mike McGuire, District 2
- Assembly: Assemblymember Jim Wood, District 2

### Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that WCB adopt the written findings and approve this Project as proposed, authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this Project, and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.



### 32. 'O Rew Redwoods Gateway

### Public Access – Implementation

WCB Grant: \$2,870,000

Fund Source(s): California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68), Public Resources Code Section 80111(d)

Grantee: California State Coastal Conservancy

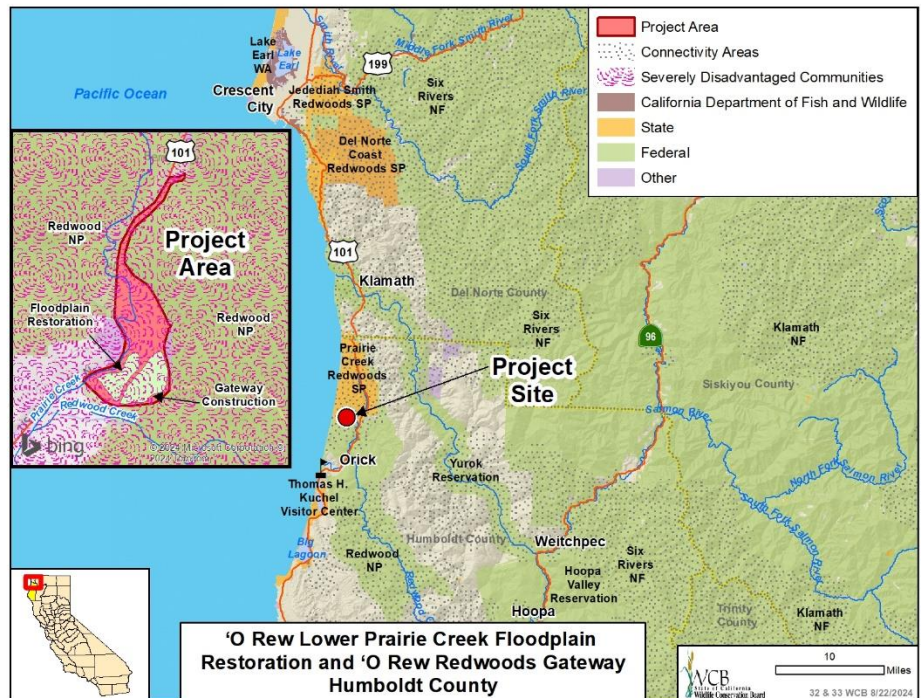
Landowner: Save the Redwoods League

Location: Approximately 1.5 miles north of the unincorporated town of Orick

County: Humboldt

#### Project Highlights

- Project has a strong partnership between state, federal, and tribal governments, and private landowner.
- Project will expand access to nature in a justice community and contribute to local economic and community development and new educational opportunities for local schools.
- Project will construct a new trail and trail connections with the Redwood National and State Park trail network.
- Project will provide new ADA-compliant wildlife-viewing opportunities, parking spaces, and orientation and interpretive information in multiple languages.
- Project will provide onsite Yurok cultural programs.
- Project facilitates ancestral land return to the Yurok Tribe.



#### Priority Metrics

- Located in a Justice Community: Yes.
- Tribal Partnerships: Yes. The Yurok Tribe is a federally recognized tribe and when construction is complete, the 125-acre site will be transferred to the Yurok Tribe and co-managed by the tribe, National Parks Service, and California State Parks in perpetuity.
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 7, Strengthen Coordination Among Governments; Pathway 8, Align Investments to Maximize Conservation Benefits.
- WCB Strategic Plan Goal C and Objective 3.1

## Project Description

Demand for access to Redwood National and State Park (RNSP) has been increasing over the last decade, with a conservative estimate exceeding 1.1 million visitors in 2021, and access can be difficult because of the park's sheer size and location. With limited parking, the parks' trailheads are often crowded, and insufficient accessible parking spaces and wildlife-viewing opportunities are available. The former 125-acre Orick Mill property was acquired by Save the Redwoods League in 2013 to restore the degraded site to high-quality fish and wildlife habitat while also developing a new recreational gateway to Redwood National and State Parks (RNSP) and Yurok ancestral lands. The 'O Rew Redwoods Gateway (Project) will provide the first location on the southern boundary of RNSP, along Highway 101 and in the heart of Yurok ancestral lands, where visitors can directly access old-growth redwoods and the greater RNSP trail network and two popular nearby attractions, the Ladybird Johnson Grove, and the Tall Trees Grove, as well as learn about the forest, site and regional restoration, and the living Yurok culture. The Project will increase recreational capacity for RNSP, alleviate overcrowding for its annual visitors, and provide local access to RNSP for the Orick community and cultural interpretation and programming by and for the Yurok Tribe in Yurok ancestral lands. This agenda item will be managed by staff along with the 'O Rew Lower Prairie Creek Floodplain Restoration item (31) together as one grant project.

The Project will complete the recreational and visitor-serving amenities by:

- Constructing a 0.56-mile wetland trail.
- Paving a large vehicle parking lot for 12 Class A and Class C RV spaces and 3 fifth wheel spaces.
- Constructing an 11,328 square foot bioretention area to remediate runoff from impervious surfaces.
- Fabricating and installing 18 interpretive graphics and 13 wayfinding signs.
- Revegetating 12.3 acres of the Gateway area to blend in with the surrounding restored habitats and to serve as screening for parking and framing of views.
- Hosting at least three programs/events that serve the local communities prior to the public opening of the site.
- Hosting once monthly programming from May to October in 2026 and 2027.
- Herbicide: No

## Long-Term Management

As part of the Project, a Co-Management Plan will be developed between the Yurok Tribe, NPS, and State Parks for the site's long-term management. If at any time during the 25-year life of the Project, the Yurok, NPS, and State Parks do not manage and maintain the project improvements, the Grant Agreement requires that Grantee refund to the state of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the Project life.

## Project Funding

The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Project Management	---	\$200,000	\$200,000
Finalize Interpretive Signage	---	\$50,000	\$50,000
Site Preparation	\$443,000	---	\$443,000
Construction	\$2,427,000	\$2,163,601	\$4,590,601
Total	\$2,870,000	\$2,413,601	\$5,283,601

Non-WCB funders include:

- State Coastal Conservancy - \$1,983,333
- Save the Redwoods League - \$430,268

## Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Mike McGuire, Senator, Second District, State Senate
- Jim Wood, Assemblymember, Second District, State Assembly
- Steve Madrone, Fifth District, Humboldt County Board of Supervisors
- Steven N. Mietz, Superintendent, Redwood National Park, National Park Service
- Victor Bjelajac, Superintendent, North Coast Redwoods District, Department of Parks and Recreation
- Donna Hufford, Director, Orick Chamber of Commerce
- Ron Barlow, Board Chair, Orick Community Services District
- Joseph James, Chairperson, Yurok Tribe

Opposition:

- None received

## CEQA

The California State Coastal Conservancy, as lead agency, prepared an MND for the project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA. Staff considered the MND and has prepared proposed, written findings documenting WCB's compliance with CEQA. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOD will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

## State Government

- Senate: Senator Mike McGuire, District 2
- Assembly: Assemblymember Jim Wood, District 2

### Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that WCB adopt the written findings and approve this Project as proposed, authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this Project, and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

**33. New Logo Presentation - Informational**

**34. 2025 Board Meeting Dates**

The Board will be asked to approve WCB meetings dates for 2025:

Wednesday, February 26, 2025

Thursday, May 22, 2025

Thursday, August 28, 2025

Thursday, November 20, 2025

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

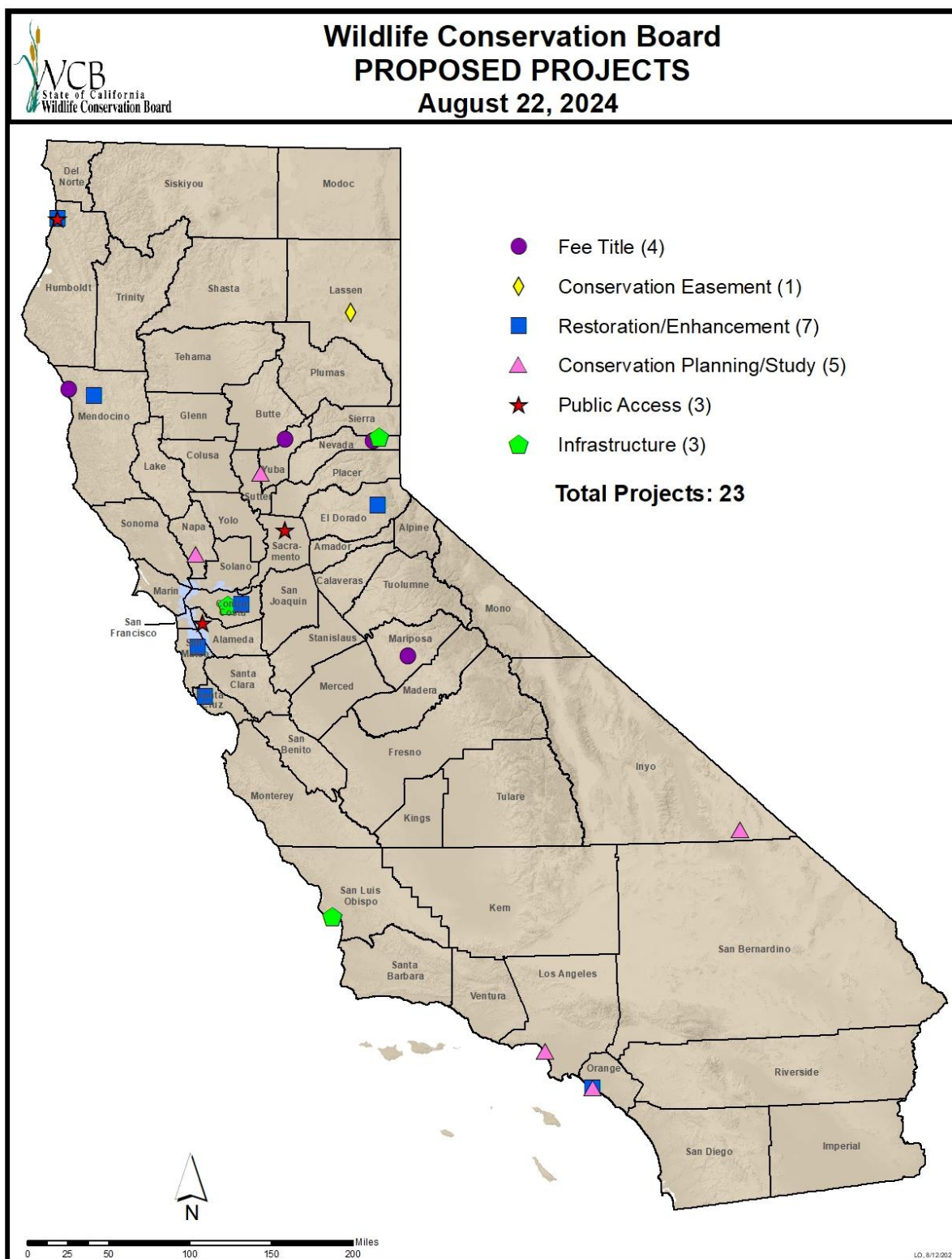
This item provides an opportunity for the general public to share comments or concerns on topics that are not included in this agenda. Speakers shall be limited to two minutes. The Board may not discuss or take action on any matter raised during this item, except to decide whether to place the matter on the agenda of a future meeting. (Sections 11125, 11125.7(a), Government Code)

**36. Closed Session**

The Board may meet in closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 11126(a)(1) to discuss the appointment, employment, evaluation of performance, or dismissal of a public employee. After closed session, the Board will reconvene in public session, which may include announcements about actions taken during closed session.

**Adjourn**

**ATTACHMENT A – MAP OF AUGUST 22, 2024, PROJECTS**





## ATTACHMENT B – WCB DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS

### DEFINITIONS

Disadvantaged Community – a community with a median household income less than 80 percent of the statewide average (PRC § 80002[e]).

Severely Disadvantaged Community – a community with a median household income less than 60 percent of the statewide average (PRC § 80002[n]).

Justice Community(ies) – a community within census tracts that have the top 25% of the [CalEnviroScreen 4.0](#) overall score; a community within census tracts designated as severely disadvantaged communities (SDAC) according to the [Department of Water Resources' Disadvantaged Communities Mapping tool](#); or are a California Native American tribe or Native American-led nonprofit organization.

### ACRONYMS

Americans with Disabilities Act	ADA
Bureau of Land Management	BLM
California Department of Fish and Wildlife	CDFW
California Department of Finance	DOF
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection	CAL FIRE
California Department of General Services	DGS
California Department of Transportation	Caltrans
California Department of Water Resources	DWR
California Endangered Species Act	CESA
California Environmental Quality Act	CEQA
California Fish and Game Commission	FGC
California Natural Resources Agency	CNRA
Conceptual Area Protection Plan	CAPP
Disadvantaged Community	DAC
Enactment Year	EY
Habitat Conservation Plan	HCP
Land Acquisition Evaluation	LAE
Mitigated Negative Declaration	MND
National Environmental Policy Act	NEPA
National Marine Fisheries Service	NMFS
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	NOAA
Natural Community Conservation Plan	NCCP
Negative Declaration	ND
Notice of Determination	NOD
Notice of Exemption	NOE
Resource Conservation District	RCD
Resource Conservation Investment Strategy	RCIS
Severely Disadvantaged Community	SDAC
Sierra Nevada Conservancy	SNC
State Coastal Conservancy	SCC



Sustainable Groundwater Management Act  
Tahoe National Forest  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
U.S. Forest Service  
Wildlife Conservation Board

SGMA  
TNF  
USFWS  
USFS  
WCB

## **ATTACHMENT C – WCB STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

### **GOAL A. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION**

Acquire and invest in wildlife habitat and natural areas, and work towards long-term, landscape level conservation, habitat quality and connectivity, and the success of wildlife species and populations.

**A.1** Fund projects and landscapes that provide resilience for native wildlife and plant species in the face of climate change.

**A.2** Fund projects and landscape areas that conserve, protect, or enhance water resources for fish and wildlife.

**A.3** Fund projects that support the implementation of Natural Community Conservation Plans, Habitat Conservation Plans and recovery of listed species.

**A.4** Invest in priority conservation projects recommended under CDFW's land acquisition evaluation process or within other conservation plans supported by CDFW.

**A.5** Improve transparency and efficiency of WCB and CDFW project evaluation and recommendations to approve or deny applications

**A.6** Coordinate acquisition application processes to ensure that WCB project evaluation is unified across programs to the fullest possible extent.

### **GOAL B. ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENT**

Work with partners to restore and enhance natural areas, create viable habitat on working lands, manage adaptively, and ensure long-term ecosystem health.

**B.1** Invest in projects and landscape areas that help provide resilience in the face of climate change, enhance water resources for fish and wildlife and enhance habitats on working lands.

**B.2** Strengthen the grant application process to further highlight the importance of the following factors in project design and selection: robustness and resilience to extreme weather events, ecosystem services (e.g. groundwater recharge, flood reduction, fire prevention, etc.), water quality and quantity, and compatible public use and access.

**B.3** Improve transparency and efficiency of WCB and CDFW project evaluation and recommendations to approve or deny applications.

**B.4** Expand project monitoring and evaluation of restoration activities to assess long-term project success, moving beyond compliance monitoring.

**B.5** Provide opportunities for greater public involvement in restoration projects.

### **GOAL C. PUBLIC USE AND RECREATION**

Leverage WCB investments in programs and projects by expanding opportunities for outdoor wildlife-oriented recreational activities that are compatible with conservation goals.

**C.1** Support a wide range of recreational activities (e.g. hunting, fishing, birding, hiking, camping, photography, etc.) in conjunction with other land uses and without degrading environmental resources.

**C.2** Document and describe the current public access project evaluation and selection processes and explore the option of establishing a competitive grant making cycle for the Public Access Program.

**C.3** Standardize existing project monitoring protocols to facilitate consistent reporting and improved performance management.

**C.4** Place greater emphasis on projects that accommodate compatible wildlife-oriented public uses, while supporting urban areas and disadvantaged communities.

#### **GOAL E. Fiscal and Organizational Effectiveness**

**E.1** Maximize expenditure of remaining bond funds and identify opportunities to leverage existing funds as effectively as possible.

#### **SI 1: CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION, RESILIENCY, AND MITIGATION (PLAN GOALS A, B, AND C)**

**OBJECTIVE SI 1.1** Invest in at least three wildlife under-or over-crossings each year for the next three years (2019 - 2021), in locations deemed high priority by both transportation and fish and wildlife agencies.

**OBJECTIVE SI 1.2** Invest in at least five projects that contribute to connectivity as highlighted in the California Terrestrial Connectivity Map, or linkages as mapped in regional assessments.

**OBJECTIVE SI 1.3** Ensure 40 percent of all acquisition and restoration projects are in areas identified as habitat for vulnerable species or as highly resilient to climate change.

**OBJECTIVE SI 1.4** Invest in at least five projects that provide long-term measurable carbon sequestration benefits.

**OBJECTIVE SI 1.5** Collaboratively develop and publish criteria for addressing catastrophic natural resource events like extreme fire and prolonged drought, for inclusion as priorities in future solicitations.

**OBJECTIVE SI 1.6** Collaboratively identify and fund five upper watershed improvement projects each year that have a primary or secondary purpose of providing resilience to climate change

#### **SI 2: BIODIVERSITY ACTIONS (PLAN GOALS A AND B)**

**OBJECTIVE SI 2.1** Increase habitat for sensitive species to support biodiversity through statewide protection or restoration of oak woodlands, riparian habitat, rangeland, grazing land, and grassland habitat by funding at least 10 projects in each of these WCB programs with at least 25 percent of restoration projects on conserved lands.

**OBJECTIVE SI 2.2** Each year, invest in at least three acquisitions and two restoration grants that advance habitat and natural community targets embodied in RCIS, NCCPs, or regional conservation plans.

**OBJECTIVE SI 2.3** Implement at least 10 projects each year that enhance stream flow, increase water resiliency and meet priorities in the California Water Action Plan.

**OBJECTIVE SI 2.4** Ensure 75 percent of all approved projects meet one or more conservation priorities expressed in the SWAP.

**OBJECTIVE SI 2.5** Protect or restore at least 1,000 acres each of riparian, wetlands, and grassland habitats in priority areas as defined in the SWAP.

### **SI 3: PUBLIC ACCESS AND WILDLIFE-ORIENTED RECREATION (PLAN GOAL C)**

**OBJECTIVE SI 3.1** Invest in at least five projects providing public access for disadvantaged or severely disadvantaged communities.

**OBJECTIVE SI 3.2** Invest in at least five projects providing boating/fishing/hunting access to disadvantaged communities and providing additional facilities for mobility-impaired visitors and/or access compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

**OBJECTIVE SI 3.3** Invest in at least 10 projects that provide hunting or fishing opportunities (at least five each).

**OBJECTIVE SI 3.4** Invest in at least 10 projects that have a primary or secondary purpose of non-consumptive wildlife recreation, such as bird watching or hiking.

**OBJECTIVE SI 3.5** Attend or conduct at least two meetings per year that provide outreach, workshops, and materials to increase visibility of the WCB Public Access Program. At least one should be in a disadvantaged community.

### **SI 4: ECOSYSTEM SERVICES (PLAN GOAL A, B AND D)**

**OBJECTIVE SI 4.1** Each year, invest in at least five acquisition or restoration projects that have a demonstrated and measurable upper watershed ecosystem services benefit.

**OBJECTIVE SI 4.2** Each year, invest in at least three projects that have a primary purpose of conserving or restoring native pollinator habitat in locations that provide a measurable ecosystem services benefit.

**OBJECTIVE SI 4.3** Invest in at least five projects that provide tangible ecosystem services benefits to local lower watershed (urban or rural) communities, and document that benefit.

### **SI 5: PARTNERSHIPS (PLAN GOALS A, B, C, AND D)**

**OBJECTIVE SI 5.1** Invest in at least three projects that support state or federal Safe Harbor programs.

**OBJECTIVE SI 5.2** Conduct outreach, including meetings or field visits to five new partners per year.

**OBJECTIVE SI 5.3** Implement at least three competitive grant solicitations over the next five years that have been coordinated among multiple organizations and are directed at a high priority habitat per WCB program priorities.

**OBJECTIVE SI 5.4** Per the USFWS Urban Wildlife Conservation Program, establish a new partnership with one urban community each year to support nature and wildlife connections consistent with WCB programs.

**SI 6: WCB ORGANIZATION AND TRANSPARENCY (PLAN GOALS D AND E)**

**OBJECTIVE SI 6.1** By the end of 2020, implement a system to make WCB meetings accessible online.

**OBJECTIVE SI 6.2** By the end of 2020, make substantial progress in standardizing solicitation content, criteria, and process, and develop an online application portal for competitive grants.

**OBJECTIVE SI 6.3** By the end of 2020, update the WCB website to include current goals, targets, metrics, and conservation priorities for each WCB Program.

**OBJECTIVE SI 6.4** By the end of 2020, develop and make mapped data that illustrates WCB projects and their relationship to program conservation objectives available to the public.

**OBJECTIVE SI 6.5** Each year, hold at least one conservation partner workshop in a different part of the state, to discuss competitive grant programs and receive feedback.

**OBJECTIVE SI 6.6** Sponsor at least five conferences or workshops each year throughout the state and distribute outreach materials about WCB programs.

**SI 7: NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP (PLAN GOALS D AND E)**

**OBJECTIVE SI 7.1** Take the lead to coordinate among the state conservancies and other agencies, regarding habitat-based priorities for upcoming competitive grant solicitations.

**OBJECTIVE SI 7.2** Participate in the development and implementation of the natural working lands elements of the State Safeguarding and Scoping Plans.

**OBJECTIVE SI 7.3** With CDFW, complete a unified, simplified process to identify CDFW's acquisition investment priorities and obtain CDFW's review and endorsement of WCB projects

**OBJECTIVE SI 7.4** Participate in statewide policy development efforts to improve fire resiliency and forest management through natural resource protection and restoration.

**OBJECTIVE SI 7.5** Refine priority conservation areas for each WCB program (consistent with overall WCB goals), and report progress toward program-specific goals annually or biannually

**SI 8: MONITORING AND PROGRAM EVALUATION (PLAN GOAL E)**

**OBJECTIVE SI 8.1** By 2021, define criteria for effectiveness monitoring by program, habitat or geography.

**OBJECTIVE SI 8.2** Through continued implementation of the annual monitoring program, by 2024, cumulatively monitor 20 percent of completed projects, summarize the project compliance results, and post on the WCB website.

**OBJECTIVE SI 8.3** By 2024, make the monitoring survey platform accessible on the WCB website for use by project partners.

**OBJECTIVE SI 8.4** Include monitoring data in each WCB annual report and list projects by county and by SWAP habitat type.

**OBJECTIVE SI 8.5** By 2022, update the WCB 60-year assessment—for WCB’s 75th anniversary—to highlight program accomplishments, including the acreage of habitat type preserved and restored.