



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

Final Meeting Agenda

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

November 21, 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 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.

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Attachments

- Attachment A – Map of November 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. 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, Member
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:

GENERAL FUND (0001)	\$99,630,059.70
November 2024 Board Meeting Allocation:	(19,702,651.00)
Total Project Development:	(31,306,464.26)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	\$48,620,944.44
HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (0262)	\$48,223,081.86
November 2024 Board Meeting Allocation:	(5,116,233.25)
Total Project Development:	(10,677,483.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	\$32,429,365.61
GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION FUND (3228)	\$158,634,236.39
November 2024 Board Meeting Allocation:	(23,818,610.00)
Total Project Development:	(11,558,105.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	\$123,257,521.39
CALIFORNIA CLEAN WATER, CLEAN AIR, SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS AND COASTAL PROTECTION BOND FUND (Proposition 40) (6029)	\$172,000.00
November 2024 Board Meeting Allocation:	(0.00)
Total Project Development:	(12,500.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	\$159,500.00
WATER SECURITY, CLEAN DRINKING WATER, COASTAL AND BEACH PROTECTION FUND OF 2002 (Proposition 50) (6031)	\$7,230,173.50
November 2024 Board Meeting Allocation:	(0.00)
Total Project Development:	(5,231,066.74)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	\$1,999,106.76

SAFE DRINKING WATER, WATER QUALITY AND SUPPLY, FLOOD CONTROL, RIVER AND COASTAL PROTECTION FUND OF 2006 (Proposition 84) (6051)	\$5,978,602.27
November 2024 Board Meeting Allocation:	(0.00)
Total Project Development:	(2,937,812.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	\$3,040,790.27
 WATER QUALITY, SUPPLY, AND INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT FUND (Proposition 1) (6083)	 \$39,577,256.72
November 2024 Board Meeting Allocation:	(4,353,000.00)
Total Project Development:	(1,000,000.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	\$34,224,256.72
 THE CALIFORNIA DROUGHT, WATER, PARKS, CLIMATE, COASTAL PROTECTION, AND OUTDOOR ACCESS FOR ALL ACT OF 2018 (Proposition 68) (6088)	 \$56,578,712.17
November 2024 Board Meeting Allocation:	(972,960.12)
Total Project Development:	(4,245,324.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	\$51,360,428.05
 TOTAL – ALL FUNDS	 \$416,024,122.61
Grand Total – November 2024 Board Meeting Allocation:	(53,963,454.37)
Grand Total - Project Development:	(66,968,755.00)
Grand Total Projected Unallocated Balance:	\$295,091,913.24

6. Project Updates

Consent Items

Items 7-20 are part of the Consent Calendar

7. Recovery of Funds, Thursday, November 21, 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

Fund Name	Amount
General Fund	\$215,634.93
Habitat Conservation Fund	\$10,016.46
Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund	\$55,052.39
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006	\$.076
Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Fund of 2014	\$1,406,553.15
The California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018	\$1.36
Total Recoveries for All Funds	\$1,687,259.05

Table 2 - General Fund

Project Name	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Arcanum Ranch	\$570,000.00	\$557,954.00	\$12,046.00
Barnett Ranch	\$2,017,000.00	\$2,011,379.00	\$5,621.00
Beach Ranch	\$5,000,000.00	\$5,000,000.00	\$0.00
Cosumnes River Ecological Reserve, Expansion 12 (Singh)	\$1,872,000.00	\$1,838,442.07	\$33,557.93
Green Valley Creek Rural Water Conservation Project, Phase II Augmentation	\$51,219.00	\$51,219.00	\$0.00
Island Dairy	\$11,135,000.00	\$11,110,522.00	\$24,478.00
Lakeside Ranch	\$10,020,000.00	\$10,014,402.00	\$5,598.00
LI Livestock Ranch Conservation Easement	\$1,081,124.00	\$1,061,750.00	\$19,374.00
Miner's Creek	\$2,770,000.00	\$2,755,626.00	14,374.00
Morgan Valley Exp 1 (Aigner)	\$30,000.00	\$19,324.00	\$10,676.00
Morgan Valley Expansion 2	\$40,194.00	\$30,194.00	\$10,000.00
Mountain Meadows, Exp. 1 (101 Ranch)	\$970,000.00	\$962,668.00	\$7,332.00
San Felipe Valley Wildlife Area, Expansion 6 (Geis)	\$35,000.00	\$22,978.00	\$12,022.00
Tiburon Ridge (Martha)	\$5,550,000.00	\$5,508,342.00	\$41,658.00
Upper Bear Creek Meadows Conservation Easement	\$4,500,000.00	\$4,494,118.00	\$5,882.00

Project Name	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Western Placer County HCP/NCCP (Redwing Ranch North)	\$20,000.00	\$6,984.00	\$13,016.00
Total Recoveries to General Fund			\$215,634.93

Table 3 - Habitat Conservation Fund

Project Name	Allocated	Expended	Balance
(CAL FIRE) Reist Ranch	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00
Los Osos Wetland Restoration	\$157,494.00	\$157,477.54	\$16.46
San Felipe Valley Wildlife Area, Expansion 6 (Geis)	\$413,000.00	\$413,000.00	\$0.00
Total Recoveries to Habitat Conservation Fund			\$10,016.46

Table 4- Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund

Project Name	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Large Tree Mapping Across the Sierra Nevada	\$300,000.00	\$244,947.61	\$55,052.39
Total Recoveries Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund			\$55,052.39

Table 5 - Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006

Project Name	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Deadman II Forest Resilience Project	\$885,500.00	\$885,499.24	\$0.76
Total Recoveries to Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006			\$0.76

Table 6- Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Fund of 2014

Project Name	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Farmers Ditch Water Use Efficiency and Flow Enhancement Planning	\$319,295.00	\$319,257.92	\$37.08
Green Valley Creek Rural Water Conservation Project, Phase II	\$870,121.00	\$869,926.71	\$194.29
Otay Valley Regional Park Hydrology Study and Restoration Planning	\$892,051.00	\$0.00	\$892,051.00
Parks Creek Flow Enhancement and Fish Passage	\$3,807,868.00	\$3,297,231.23	\$510,636.77
Salinas River Arundo Eradication Project, Phase IV	\$2,868,781.00	\$2,865,147.00	\$3,634.00

Project Name	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Weaver Creek Watershed Flow Enhancement Project	\$171,355.00	\$171,354.99	\$0.01
Total Recoveries to Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Fund of 2014			\$1,406,553.15

Table 7- The California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018

Project Name	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Meadow Restoration Planning in the American and Pine Creek Watersheds	\$299,028.00	\$299,028.00	\$0.00
Morgan Valley Exp 1 (Aigner)	\$70,000.00	\$70,000.00	\$0.00
Shoreline Park Public Access, Planning	\$500,000.00	\$499,998.64	\$1.36
Total Recoveries to The California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018			\$1.36

8. San Juan Creek Estuary Planning

Restoration – Planning

WCB Grant: \$1,616,610

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

Grantee: Trout Unlimited South Coast Chapter

Landowner: California State Parks

Location: Adjacent to Dana Point

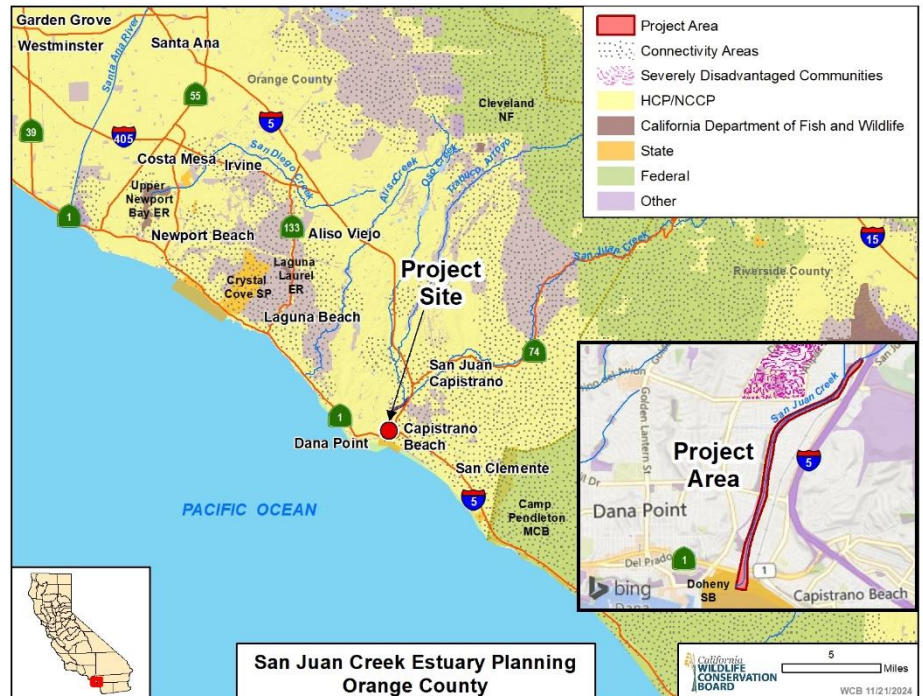
County: Orange

Project Highlights

- Located in Doheny State Beach
- Key species: southern steelhead trout and tidewater goby
- Project connects to the I-5 and Metrolink Trabuco Creek fish passage projects and other barrier removal projects in the headwaters of San Juan and Trabuco creeks watersheds

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, 4.3



Project Description

The San Juan Creek Estuary Planning (Project) site is comprised of the San Juan Creek Estuary and lower watershed within Doheny State Beach. San Juan Creek has been heavily channelized to manage flood risks and control water flow. Channelization of the creek and urban development resulted in habitat loss and fragmentation and altered the natural hydrology and sediment dynamics within the watershed. As a result, endangered steelhead and tidewater goby, among other native species, have not been supported in this urbanized watershed. The Project aims to address limiting factors to southern steelhead trout and tidewater goby migration within the San Juan Creek Estuary and lower watershed by:

- Completing feasibility studies to evaluate and analyze technical and regulatory constraints and opportunities.
- Completing baseline technical studies and monitoring to inform the design alternatives and then evaluate alternative design performance under a range of climate and future development scenarios.

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- Developing 65% designs and environmental compliance which will be used to restore and enhance estuarine and riparian habitats in the San Juan Creek Estuary and lower watershed.
- Establishing a technical advisory committee made up of local, regional, state, and federal agencies to steer the project design and implementation and develop an adaptive management and monitoring program for long term site management.
- Holding up to four public and tribal outreach meetings to present and receive input on the conceptual designs and present the preferred alternative design and key findings of the technical studies.
- 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	\$283,736	---	\$283,736
System Understanding	\$416,736	---	\$416,736
Design	\$403,879	---	\$403,879
Environmental Compliance	\$164,308	---	\$164,308
Outreach	\$137,089	---	\$137,089
Indirect	\$210,862	---	\$210,862
Total	\$1,616,610	---	\$1,616,610

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Katrina Foley, Supervisor, Orange County Board of Supervisors, Fifth District
- Melisa D. Rodriguez, Marine Habitat Resource Specialist, NOAA Restoration Center
- Rick Shintaku, General Manager, South Coast Water District
- Grant Sharp, Manager of the South Orange County Watershed Management Area, Orange County Public Works
- Robyn Takeshita, School Programs and Sumer Camp Senior Manager, Ocean Institute
- Ray Hiemstra, Associate Director of Policy and Projects, Orange County Coastkeeper

Opposition:

- None received

CEQA

The Project is statutorily exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (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 approval of this proposal by the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB), the appropriate Notice of Exemption (NOE) will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

State Government

- Senate: Senator Janet Nguyen, District 36
- Senate: Senator Catherine Blakespear, District 38
- Assembly: Assemblymember Laurie Davies, District 74

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 the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to proceed substantially as planned.

9. Montezuma Slough Fish Screen Augmentation

Restoration – Implementation

WCB Grant: \$2,018,000

Fund Source(s): General Fund, Budget Act of 2023, Fish & Wildlife Resources - Climate Change Impacts on Wildlife (AB102, Sec. 84(1))

Grantee: Ducks Unlimited, Inc. (DU)

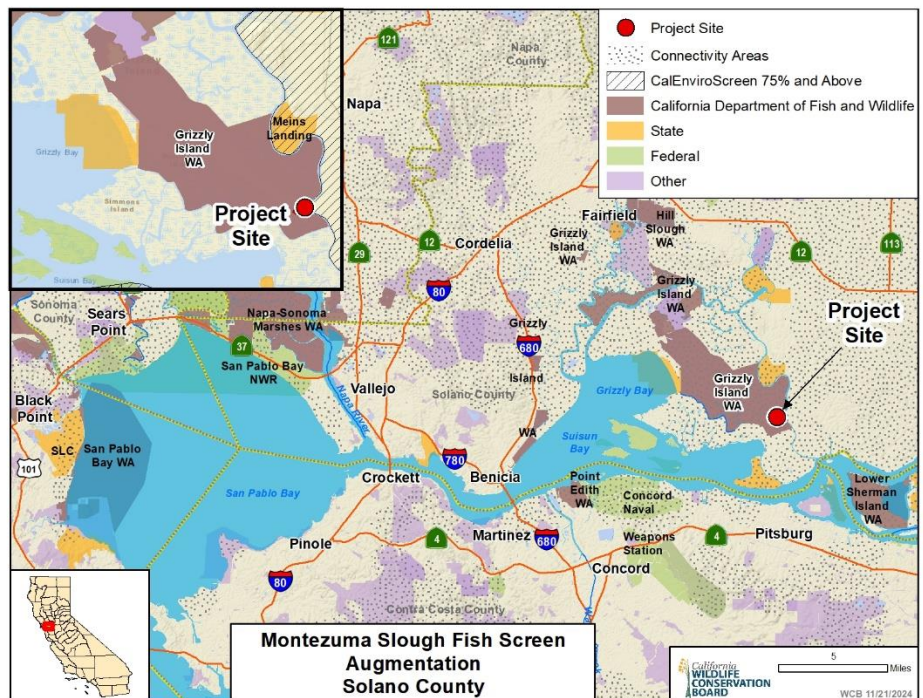
Landowner: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Location: 13 miles southeast of Fairfield

County: Solano

Project Highlights

- Located on Grizzly Island Wildlife Area, within the Suisun Marsh.
- Approximately 3,000 acres of managed wetland and upland habitat will be enhanced.
- Project will install fish screen/water diversion infrastructure benefitting anadromous fish and migratory birds.
- Listed on CDFW 2023 Fish Passage Priorities “Top Priorities” list.
- Key species: Sacramento River winter-run Chinook, Central Valley steelhead, North American green sturgeon, delta smelt, longfin smelt, salt marsh harvest mouse, Swainson’s hawk, and numerous waterbird, shorebird, and waterfowl species.



Priority Metrics

- Benefits Justice Communities: No
- Tribal Partnerships: No
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 6, Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship
- WCB Strategic Plan Goal B and Objective 2.1

Project Description

This item is for an augmentation of funding for the Montezuma Slough Fish Screen (Project) approved by WCB for funding in February 2024. The water supply for nearly half of the Grizzly Island Wildlife Area (GIWA) is provided through two 30-year-old, 48-inch water control structures. These two intakes are located on the eastern boundary of the GIWA and pull water via gravity and tidal fluctuation from Montezuma Slough. The existing intakes are approximately three river miles upstream from the confluence of

Montezuma Slough and the Sacramento River. This proximity to the Sacramento River is important, as it provides a source of relatively freshwater to the GIWA.

These existing intakes are beyond repair and must be replaced entirely. New water delivery intakes and fish screens are needed to enhance the wetland habitat and wildlife values of GIWA while protecting anadromous fish within the Montezuma Slough system. The Project will achieve these goals by:

- Relocating and replacing the existing water diversion intakes and associated fish screens approximately 1,500 feet to the southeast of the existing structures.
- Installing two 36-inch water control structures at the current water diversion location to serve as a drain to Montezuma Slough.
- Construction of a ponding basin as a permanent wetland to help reduce erosion at the new discharge location.
- Installation of three new water control structures to control water levels in the new permanent pond.
- Interior ditch cleaning and levee improvements within the Project area to improve water delivery capabilities and ensure ditch integrity.
- Herbicide: No

During the subcontractor bidding process, 12 contractors attended the mandatory pre-site bid meeting. Contractors were given all necessary paperwork and allowed 30 days to prepare and submit bids. DU received two construction bids; however, both bids were substantially greater than the available funding to complete the Project.

Another contributing factor to increased project cost is the unanticipated cost of cathodic protection. Historically, projects have installed anodes for protection against high salinity conditions for fish screens throughout the Suisun Marsh and the San Francisco Bay area. Due to the larger surface area size of this intake and the substantial amount of metal in contact with marsh soils/water, the consulting cathodic engineer indicated that standard anodes would be insufficient to protect the facility from corrosion. The construction of a more robust electronic cathodic protection system is required and resulted in unanticipated costs.

Key Management Responsibilities

CDFW has adopted a Management Plan that guides management actions for the Project, including management of the Project area. If at any time during the 25-year life of the Project, DU 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	Original WCB Allocation	Non-WCB Funds	Augmentation	Totals
Project Management	\$124,912	---	\$15,000	\$139,912
Construction	\$1,763,264	\$3,210,000	\$1,860,026	\$6,833,290
Indirect Costs	\$32,187	---	\$142,974	\$175,161
Contingency	\$192,637	---	---	\$192,637
Total	\$2,113,000	\$3,210,000	\$2,018,000	\$7,341,000

Non-WCB funders include:

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife - \$3,210,000

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- James Cogswell, Coordinator, Central Valley Joint Venture

Opposition:

- None received

CEQA

CDFW, as lead agency, prepared an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Project pursuant to the provisions of 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 Notice of Determination (NOD) will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

State Government

- Senate: Senator Bill Dodd, District 3
- Assembly: Assemblymember Lori D. Wilson, District 11

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.

10. Cal Expo and Woodlake Crossing Planning, Augmentation Restoration – Planning

WCB Grant: \$300,132

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

Grantee: Sacramento County Department of Regional Parks

Landowner: Sacramento County Department of Regional Parks

Location: Approximately three miles northeast of the State Capitol

County: Sacramento

Project Highlights

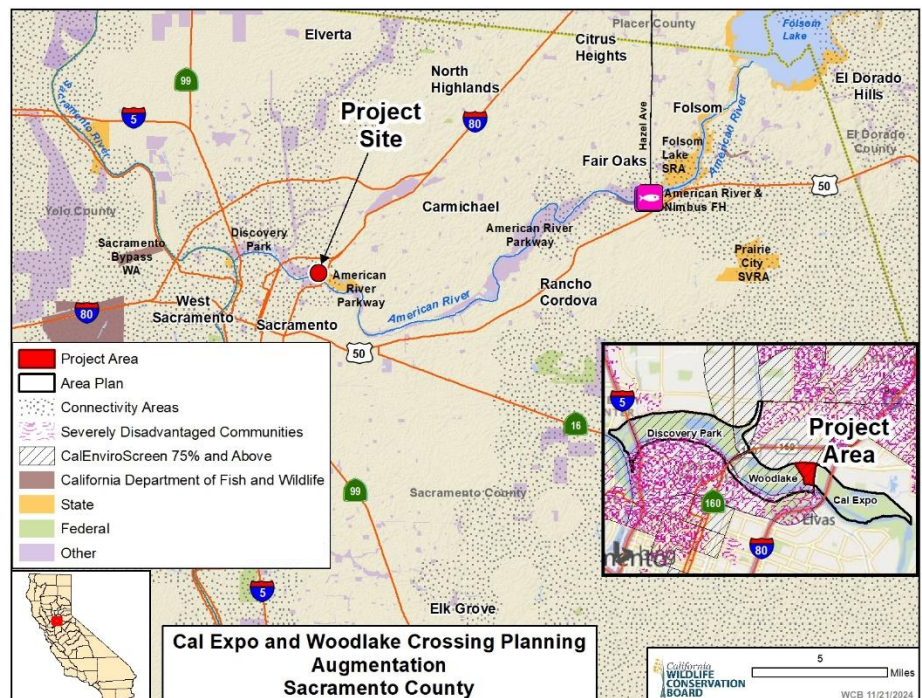
- Located in the American River Parkway.
- Designing a bridge crossing over a stormwater channel to restore trail connections and safe access for emergency response vehicles.
- Designing habitat restoration that advances the American River Parkway Natural Resources Management Plan.

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 Goals B and C and Objectives 2.1, 3.1, 4.3

Project Description

The original Cal Expo and Woodlake Crossing Planning (Project) was recommended by the Lower American River Conservancy Program Advisory Committee for submittal to WCB on September 1, 2021. WCB approved the Project for \$149,400 on November 18, 2021. The Project will complete engineering and environmental surveys, designs, permitting, and environmental review for a stormwater channel crossing and over 25 acres of habitat restoration in the Woodlake area of the American River Parkway. In the winter of 2017-18, receding floodwaters washed out a culvert crossing that provided safe access across the stormwater channel for trail users and authorized vehicles.



Habitat along the channel is degraded due to erosion and increased use of the area by illegal campers. The Woodlake area has been identified in the American River Parkway Natural Resources Management Plan as an area for naturalization, with a specific goal of expansion of the riparian corridor and is adjacent to a large-scale ecosystem restoration project proposed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

Due to unanticipated costs associated with the protection of unknown archaeological resources and the federally listed valley elderberry longhorn beetle, the Grantee is requesting a funding augmentation. The requested augmentation would cover additional costs associated with:

- Engineering and environmental oversight by the County's Architectural Service Division and the Planning and Environmental Review Department.
- Permitting for geotechnical investigations.
- Employing scent dogs for a known archaeological site.
- Redesigning the conceptual bridge crossing to avoid impacting a newly detected sensitive area.
- Hydraulic modeling associated with the City of Sacramento's Stormwater Pump 151 and the USACE's Contract 4a project.
- Herbicide: No

The funding augmentation request was recommended for submittal to WCB by the Advisory Committee on October 4, 2024. American River Parkway Compliance Analysis was completed for the Project at the October 28, 2021, Recreation and Parks Commission meeting, in accordance with Public Resources Code section 5845.5. The Project was determined to be consistent with the American River Parkway Plan.

Long-Term Management

Not applicable to this Project

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	---	---	\$114,388	\$114,388
Trail Crossing Surveys, Design, and Specs	\$69,071	\$75,000	\$21,736	\$165,807
Habitat Restoration Surveys, Design, and Specs	\$154,135	\$38,465	\$33,869	\$226,469

Project Task	WCB Augmentation	Original WCB Funds	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Outreach and Technical Review	\$(10,000)	\$10,000	\$2,500	\$2,500
Environmental Compliance and Permitting	\$86,926	\$25,935	\$25,443	\$138,304
Total	\$300,132	\$149,400	\$197,936	\$647,468

Non-WCB funders include:

- County of Sacramento - \$197,936

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- None received

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 Government

- Senate: Senator Angelique V. Ashby, District 8
- Assembly: Assemblymember Kevin McCarty, District 6

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.

11. Petaluma River Park - Planning

WCB Grant: \$1,287,000

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);

General Fund, Budget Act of 2023, Fish & Wildlife Resources - Climate Change Impacts on Wildlife (AB102, Sec. 84(1)(1))

Grantee: Petaluma River Park Foundation

Landowner: Petaluma River Park Foundation

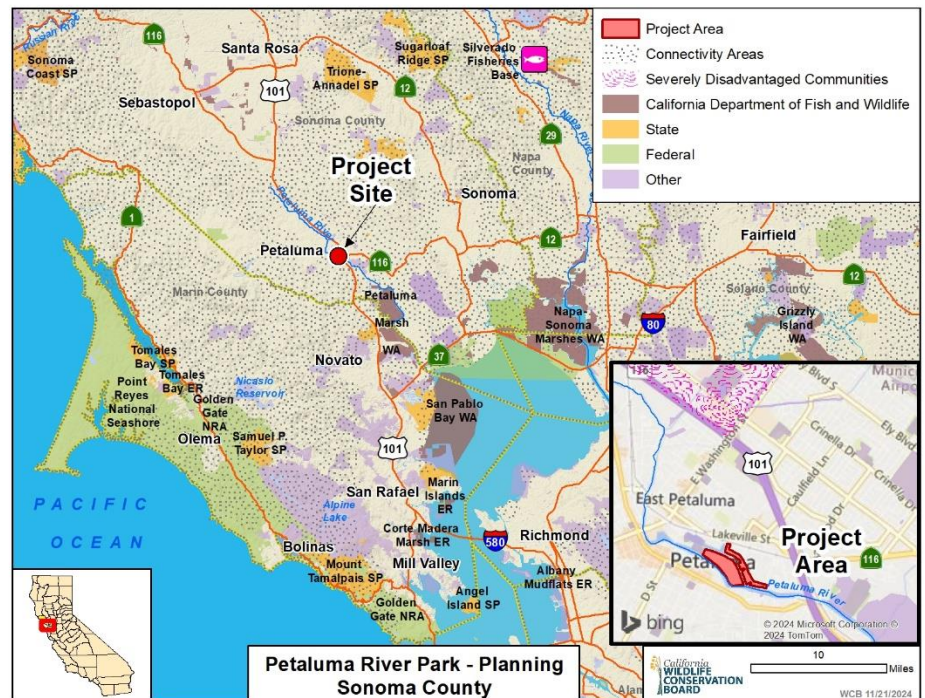
Location: Within Petaluma city limits

County: Sonoma

Public Access – Planning

Project Highlights

- Planning for accessible green space for residents of East Petaluma.
- Located 0.8 miles from a Severely Disadvantaged Community and easily accessible by public transportation.
- Robust community planning focused on equity and diversity.
- Planning for ADA-accessible amenities and educational signage in both English and Spanish.
- Planning to enhance tidal wetland, riparian, and vernal pool habitats.



Priority Metrics

- Located in a Justice Community: No
- Tribal Partnerships: Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria are engaged with the project and discussions are ongoing.
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 6, Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship
- WCB Strategic Plan Goal C and Objective 3.1

Project Description

Petaluma River Park is a riverfront parkland in the heart of downtown Petaluma, consisting of approximately 35 acres over two sites: the McNear Peninsula and directly across the McNear Channel at 500 Hopper Street. The park is owned and managed by the Petaluma River Park Foundation (PRPF); a nonprofit organization formed in 2019 with significant community support. The peninsula property is now open to the public in its undeveloped and scenic setting, and portions of the Hopper site are anticipated to open for public use in several years.

Together with the community, PRPF is engaged in an inclusive and equity-focused planning process to achieve the many potential public and ecological benefits of this land. Petaluma River Park - Planning (Project) will fund planning, design, bioengineering and regulatory permitting required to prepare for project implementation. When results of the Project are implemented, the River Park will serve as both an educational model of tidal marsh and riparian habitat restoration, and a vibrant, community gathering space that fosters a love of nature.

- Herbicide: No

Primary Habitat Creation Opportunities:

- Improving the shoreline for fish and turtles
- Expanding the brackish tidal marshes surrounding the site
- Preserving and enhancing the vernal pool on the peninsula
- Adding shrubs and trees, including native oaks, to provide shade, increase habitat diversity, and support a variety of bird species

Potential Park Amenities:

- Walking and bike paths, benches, picnic areas, restrooms
- Variety of spaces for play and recreation
- Water access for fishing
- Interpretive elements with a focus on untold histories

Justice Communities:

- East Petaluma contains two Disadvantaged Communities and one Severely Disadvantaged Community. Spanish is spoken fluently by 17% of the population, with approximately half of those being monolingual Spanish speakers.
- Petaluma River Park is situated on the traditional homelands of the Coast Miwok, who today are included within the federally recognized Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria (FIGR). Conversations between FIGR and PRPF have identified multiple ways FIGR prefers to engage with this Project, and discussions are ongoing.

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	\$211,875	\$196,088	\$407,963
Design and Permitting	\$875,090	\$799,117	\$1,674,207
Community Engagement	\$63,750	\$662,075	\$725,825
Indirect Costs	\$136,285	\$142,991	\$279,276
Total	\$1,287,000	1,800,271	\$3,087,271

Non-WCB funders include:

- Petaluma River Park Foundation (local donations) - \$100,000
- State Coastal Conservancy - \$1,395,791
- Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District - \$274,480
- City of Petaluma - \$30,000

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Misti Arias, General Manager, Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District
- Brian Oh, Director of Community Development, City of Petaluma
- Faith Ross, President, Petaluma Blacks for Community Development

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 Government

- Senate: Senator Bill Dodd, District 3; 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.

12. Euer Valley Sustainable Public Access Restoration and Infrastructure – Implementation

WCB Grant: \$890,000

Fund Source(s): General Fund, Budget Act of 2024, Cascades and High Sierra Upper Watersheds Program (SB 108, Sec. 108(1)(3))

Grantee: Truckee River Watershed Council

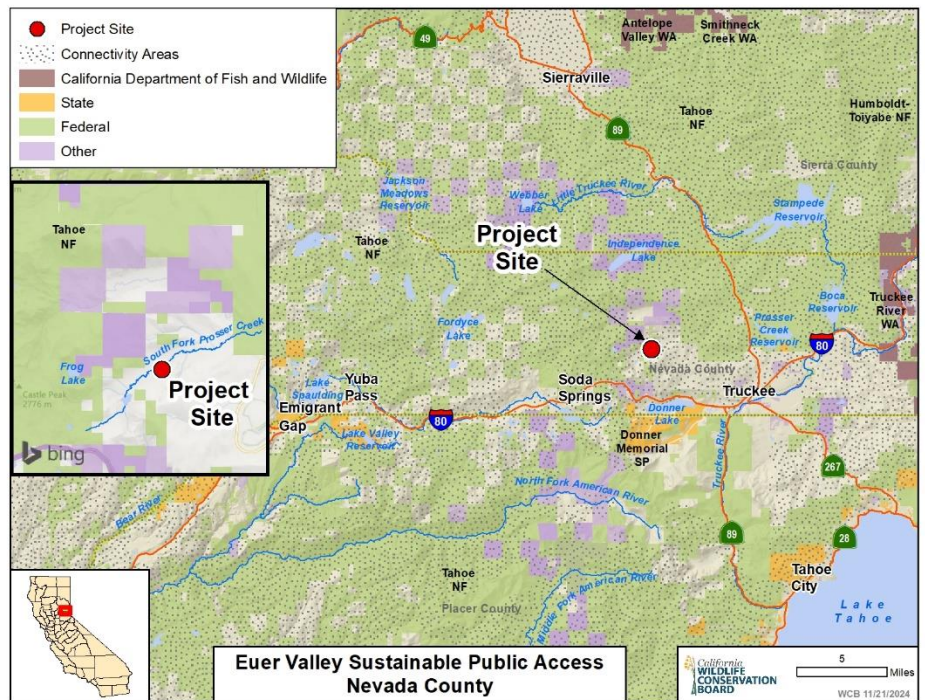
Landowner: Tahoe Donner Association

Location: Seven miles northwest of Truckee

County: Nevada

Project Highlights

- Protection of high-quality meadow habitat in an active recreation area
- Project promotes sustainable and responsible recreation through an improved public trail and robust educational signage
- Amount of habitat enhanced or protected: 30 acres of wet meadow, 0.5 miles of South Fork Prosser Creek
- Key species: Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog (SNYLF), rainbow trout, willow flycatcher, yellow warbler, American beaver



Priority Metrics

- Located in a Justice Community: No
- Tribal Partnerships: Yes. The Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California is a project partner
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 6, Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship
- WCB Strategic Plan Goal C and Objectives 2.2, 3.4

Project Description

The Euer Valley Sustainable Public Access (Project) site, like the rest of the Truckee River watershed, has a long history of human disturbance including logging, grazing, and stream realignment. Today, the Project area is part of the 7,000 acres managed by the Tahoe Donner Association (TDA), a mutual benefit association of landowners which provides programs, facilities, natural resource stewardship, and significant trail systems

that are available to the public. The dominant land use is recreation by residents and visitors to the Tahoe area. The section of the TDA trail system traversing the Project area is popular for hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding in the summer and cross-country skiing in the winter. The trail intersects South Fork Prosser Creek at Coyote Crossing, which currently consists of an anchored plywood walkway set over corrugated metal culverts. Improper culvert construction has resulted in high flow levels breaching the areas around the culverts, causing bank erosion, an incised channel, and significant loss of riparian habitat. In the adjacent meadow areas, the formation of additional, unauthorized recreational trails (dispersed recreation) has exacerbated erosion, degrading the condition of an otherwise healthy meadow ecosystem.

This Project will restore habitat conditions, improve recreational infrastructure, and better manage user access in order to protect high-quality meadow and stream habitat in the headwaters of Prosser Creek. The Project outcomes include:

- Replace a failed culvert crossing with a bridge, allowing multi-use recreational access to continue without impacting the floodplain and natural flow regimes
- Install or repair 30 features (e.g. culverts and rolling dips) along one mile of degraded roadway to improve hydrologic connectivity
- Install 15 instream and bank features to improve aquatic habitat in Prosser Creek
- Improve recreational trails and install a raised boardwalk to accommodate public recreation and mitigate impacts to the meadow

The 500-foot-long and 10-foot-wide boardwalk will include interpretive panels and two pull-outs to allow pedestrians, bikers, and equestrians to pass safely. Fencing will direct bikers and equestrians onto the bridge and boardwalk to protect the meadow from damage. Truckee River Watershed Council (TRWC) will engage Tribal members early in the process of developing interpretative panels to incorporate information about traditional land-use and highlight species of importance to the area's indigenous peoples. The Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California was invited to participate in the Project evaluation and design process and will be invited to be present during any excavation activities to ensure that, if cultural resources are unearthed, they can advise on work stoppage and resource avoidance as necessary.

- Herbicide: No

Long-Term Management

TDA and TRWC have adopted a Management Plan that guides management actions for the Project. If at any time during the 25-year life of the Project, TRWC 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	\$54,510	\$42,000	\$96,510
Final Design and Permits	\$2,600	\$30,000	\$32,600
Project Monitoring	\$8,600	\$65,000	\$73,600
Project Implementation	\$657,128	\$1,630,000	\$2,287,128
Indirect Costs	\$108,426	---	\$108,426
Contingency	\$58,736	\$20,000	\$78,736
Total	\$890,000	\$1,787,000	\$2,677,000

Non-WCB funders include:

- Sierra Nevada Conservancy - \$400,000
- State Water Resources Control Board - \$540,000
- Tahoe Donner Association - \$475,000
- Point Blue Conservation Science - \$372,000 (Source is WCB funds via block grant to Point Blue)

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- N. Mo Loden, Regional 319 Project Manager, Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Jon Mitchell, Director of Capital Projects and Facilities, Tahoe Donner Association

Opposition:

- None received

CEQA

Nevada County, as lead agency, prepared an Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Project pursuant to the provisions of the CEQA. Staff considered the MND and 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 Brian Dahle, District 1
- Assembly: Assemblymember Megan Dahle, District 1

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.

13. Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area Expansion #18 (Soper) CE Acquisition
CDFW Conservation Easement

Purchase Price: \$790,200

Fund Source(s): Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117),

Fish and Game Code Section 2786(a)

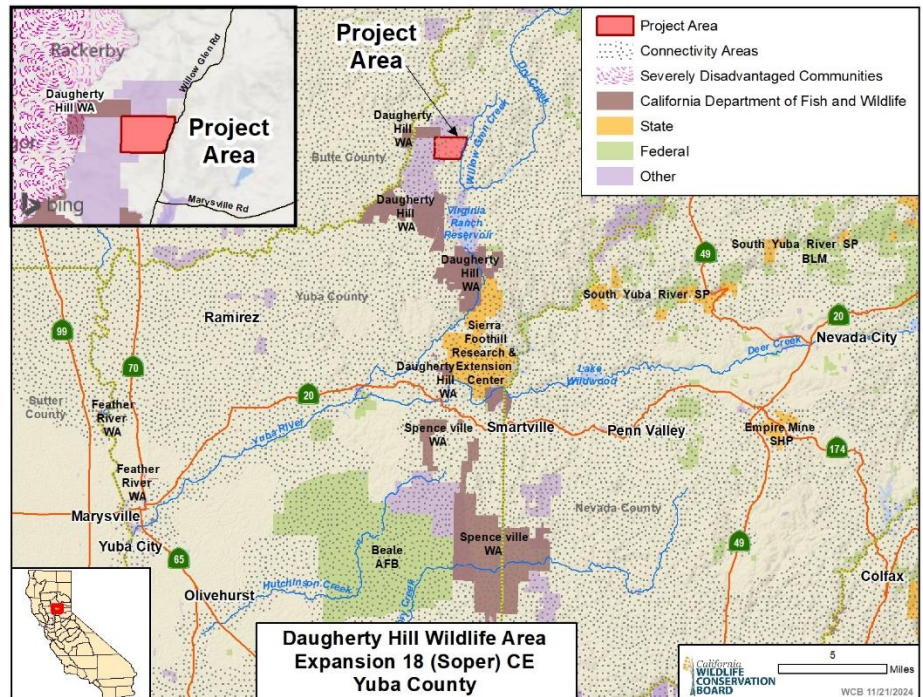
Location: Four miles southwest of Brownville

County: Yuba County

Acres: 878± (Property)

Property Highlights

- Expansion of CDFW's Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area.
- Habitats represented: blue oak, blue oak-foothill pine, annual grasslands, and mixed chaparral.
- Key species: foothill yellow-legged frog, California quail, wild turkey, black bear, mourning dove, gray squirrel, mountain lion, and golden eagle.
- Critical winter range for the Mooretown deer herd. 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 3, Increase Voluntary Conservation Easements
- WCB Strategic Plan Goal A and Objectives 1.2, 1.3, 2.1
- Public Access: No

Conservation Easement Restriction Highlights

- Limited grazing will be allowed in the easement area to maintain and improve habitat quality. CDFW developed a grazing plan with the landowner to ensure enough vegetation for cattle and wildlife.

Long-Term Management

CDFW will manage this property as part of its Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area.

Project Funding

The Department of General Service approved fair market value of the conservation easement is \$880,000, and the landowner has agreed to sell at a reduced price of \$790,200. The proposed funding breakdown is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$790,200
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$790,200

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- None received

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.

14. Sierra Valley Conservation Area, Expansion 9 (Grashuis Phase II)

Acquisition Conservation Easement

WCB Grant: \$1,200,000

Fund Source(s): General Fund, Budget Act of 2024, Cascades and High Sierra Upper Watersheds Program (SB 108, Sec. 108(1)(3))

Grantee: Feather River Land Trust

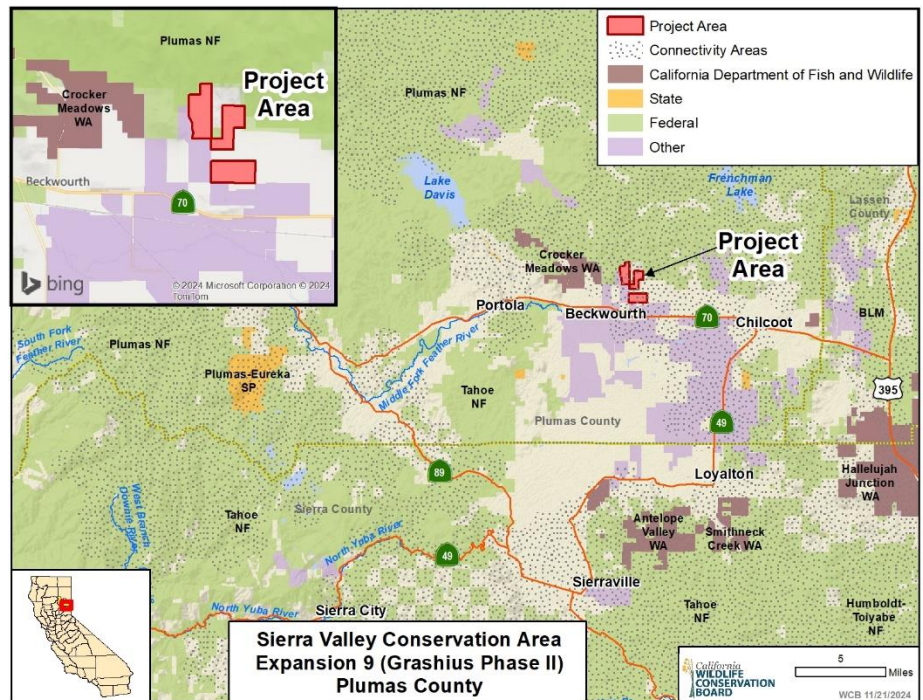
Location: Two and one-half miles east of Beckwourth

County: Plumas

Acres: 944± (Property)

Property Highlights

- Habitats represented: wet meadows, black oak woodlands, upland bitterbrush, mountain mahogany and sagebrush, conifers, unique rock outcrops and boulders, and montane riparian.
- Key species: Doyle Interstate deer herd, gray wolf, golden eagle, Swainson's hawk, ferruginous hawk, bald eagle, greater sandhill crane, northern harrier, olive-sided flycatcher, peregrine falcon, and prairie falcon.
- Acquisition will permanently conserve the Property as a corridor for wildlife movement, will add to the network of conserved lands surrounding CDFW's 1,700-acre Crocker Meadows Wildlife Area, and protect critical deer winter habitat for the Doyle Interstate deer herd.



Priority Metrics

- Located in a Justice Community: No
- Tribal Partnerships: No
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 2, Execute Strategic Acquisitions; Pathway 3 Increase Voluntary Conservation Easements
- WCB Strategic Plan Goal A and Objectives 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 2.1
- Public Access: No

Conservation Easement Restriction Highlights

- Easement will restrict development of the Property and prevent any use that could impair the natural, scenic, open-space, wildlife habitat and agricultural values.
- Easement will protect and manage the Middle Fork of the Feather River and its tributaries for watershed protection and as a source of cold, clean water for fish and other species.
- Agricultural practices involving plowing, discing, and/or cultivation are only allowed outside the Property's Upland Zone. Landowner shall not hay, mow, or harvest for seed during specified nesting seasons for birds whose populations are in significant decline.
- Grazing practices shall not cause significant deterioration of stream banks, riparian vegetation, or water quality, or cause significant degradation of topsoil quality.

Long-Term Management

An overlay easement will incorporate existing adjacent WCB and Natural Resources Conservation Service-funded Goodwin Ranch Conservation Easement under the same ownership to be managed as one 1,400-acre working ranch and will prohibit the two components from being separately conveyed in the future.

Project Funding

The DGS approved fair market value is \$1,200,000. The proposed funding breakdown is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$1,200,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$1,200,000

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- None received

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.

15. Angelo Coast Range Reserve, Phase 2 Infrastructure – Implementation

WCB Grant: \$232,500

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(c)

Grantee: Regents of the University of California, Berkeley

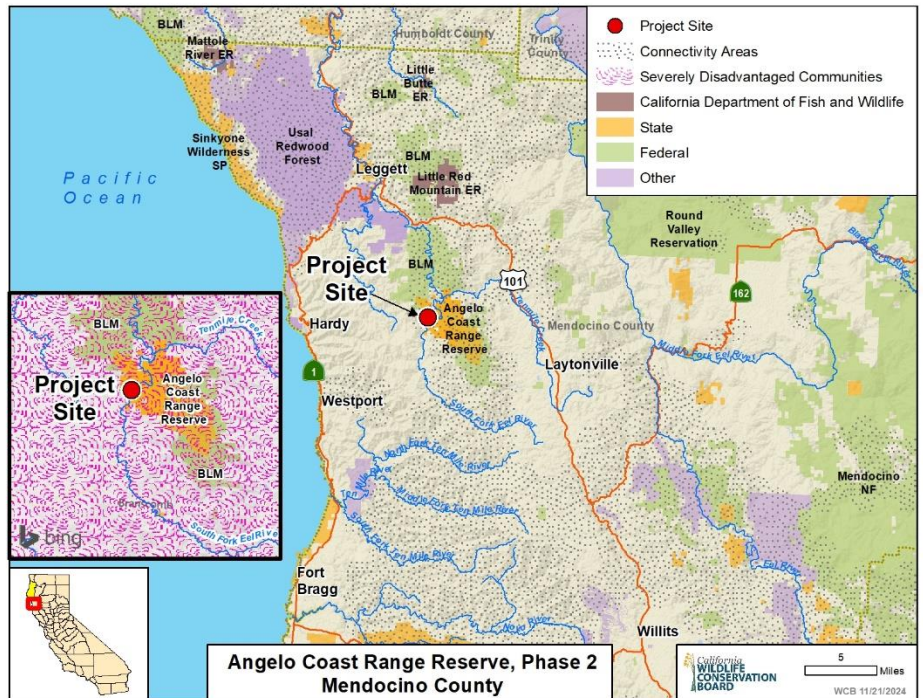
Landowner: Regents of the University of California, Berkeley

Location: Branscomb

County: Mendocino

Project Highlights

- Angelo Coast Range Reserve (Reserve) established as part of the University of California Natural Reserve System in 1959.
- Phase II of a 2015 WCB funded project.
- Located on the South Fork of the Eel River, encompassing four aquatic and 26 terrestrial habitat types.
- Hosts California's largest virgin Douglas-fir forest community.
- Students and researchers can study Olympic salamanders, flying squirrels, black bears, northern spotted owls, salmon, steelhead trout, river otters, and Pacific giant salamanders.



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 Objective 1.3

Project Description

Since its establishment as a University of California Natural Reserve System site, the Angelo Coast Range Reserve Phase II (Project) has increased capacity at the Reserve through the addition or modification of housing units, meeting spaces, and teaching

spaces to meet the needs of research and education users. The current size of the Reserve is 4,336 acres with 21 buildings including visitor housing, staff housing, workshop/storage space, researcher offices, wet and dry lab, classroom, and restrooms totaling some 19,000 sq ft of interior space. Housing units were constructed between 1895 and 2015. Although most buildings have received material upgrades during the last 30 years (including electrical system improvements, insulation, dual-pane windows, and energy-efficient appliances), the age of many structures, along with decades of heavy use, means that many of the housing units require some improvements to maintain their usefulness as accommodations.

The Project will implement facility enhancements by:

- Installing a solar array and associated battery bank with dedicated back-up generator to support power usage at the Wilderness Lodge (user capacity of 6) and Fox Creek Lodge (user capacity of 35). The generating and storage capacity of the new system will support new electric household appliances (refrigerators, range, and washer/dryer) along with visitors' computers, phones, and research gear.
- Installing a bathroom at the Bunkhouse, eliminating the need for Bunkhouse visitors to use bathroom facilities in other Reserve buildings. The Project will also install partitions within the Bunkhouse, providing privacy and greater security for users while creating a small common area between Bunkhouse rooms for relaxing, reading, or working while others are sleeping.
- 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 Reserve. 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	---	\$46,922	\$46,922
Construction	\$232,500	\$65,409	\$297,909
Contingency	---	\$33,000	\$33,000
Total	\$232,500	\$145,331	\$377,831

Non-WCB funders include:

- Regents of the University of California, Berkeley - \$145,331

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Michael W. 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, consisting of maintenance or minor alteration of existing public facilities. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate 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.

16. Eel River Wildlife Area, Expansion 7 (Hansen)

Purchase Price: \$420,000

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

County: Humboldt

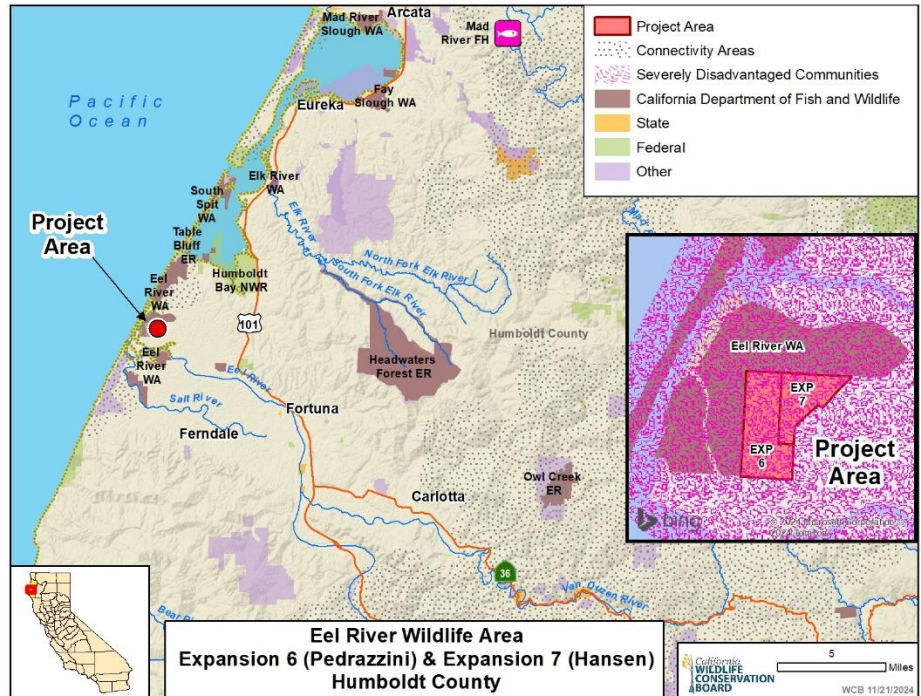
Location: Eel River Delta area in the community of Loleta

Acres: 84± (Property)

**Acquisition
CDFW Fee**

Property Highlights

- Will be incorporated into the Cannibal Island Unit of the Eel River Wildlife Area.
- Historically estuary habitat comprised of estuarine tidal marsh and tidal channels prior to the area being diked and drained for agricultural purposes.
- CDFW in collaboration with CalTrout is in the planning stages of a large-scale estuary restoration project which will include the Property. CEQA for a future project will occur prior to implementation.
- Future restoration will return the landscape to a mosaic of natural habitats, including estuarine and tidal slough channels, brackish ponds, and native marsh by restoring the natural full tidal exchange and sediment transport. Will increase the resiliency of this habitat to Sea Level Rise (SLR) by improving marsh accretion rates and allowing the marsh to keep pace with SLR.
- Increased tidal exchange and connectivity will promote recovery and maintenance of estuarine and tidal marsh habitats that support a variety of native fish, wildlife, and plant species, including Sensitive Natural Communities, rare plants, and State and Federal Endangered Species Act-listed fish, such as coho salmon, Chinook salmon, longfin smelt, and tidewater goby.



Priority Metrics

- Located in 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 Goal A and Objectives 1.2, 1.3, 1.4
- Public Access: Yes, Property will be incorporated into the CDFW Eel River Wildlife Area which is open to public access.

Key Management Objectives and Needs

CDFW will manage the Property as part of the existing Eel River Wildlife Area. CDFW regional staff anticipates that nominal management costs would be associated with limited perimeter fencing and signage for the Property. Additional staffing will not be required. Management objectives and needs associated with future restoration will be considered by CDFW prior to implementation and any environmental review required by CEQA will occur before CDFW authorizes restoration work on the Property.

Project Funding

The DGS approved fair market value is \$420,000. The proposed funding breakdown is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$420,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$420,000

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- None received

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 and Local 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.

17. Eel River Wildlife Area, Expansion 6 (Pedrazzini)

Purchase Price: \$680,000

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

County: Humboldt

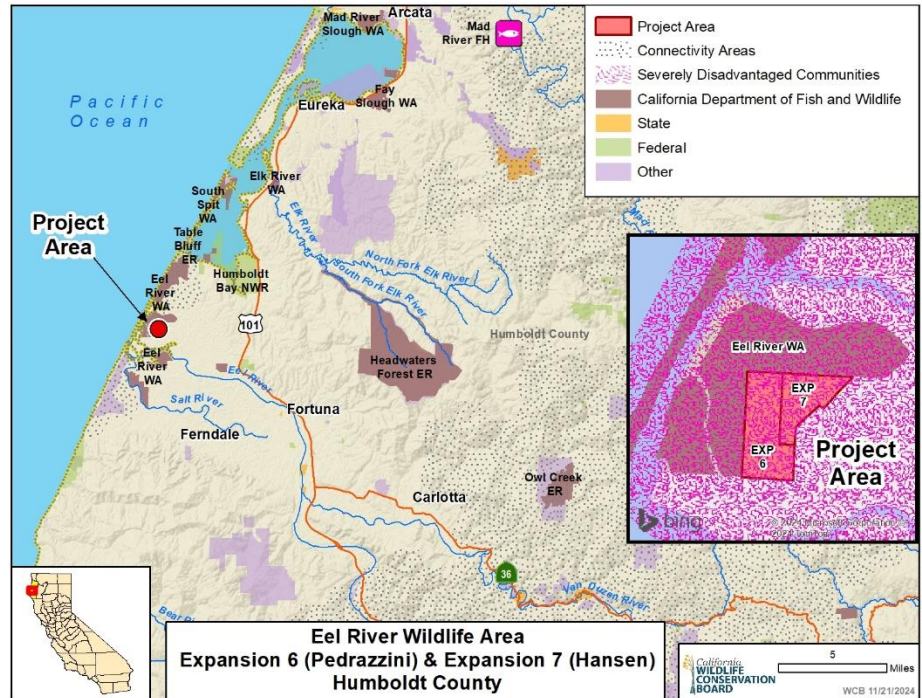
Location: Eel River Delta area in the community of Loleta

Acres: 136± (Property)

**Acquisition
CDFW Fee**

Property Highlights

- Will be incorporated into the Cannibal Island Unit of the Eel River Wildlife Area.
- Historically estuary habitat comprised of estuarine tidal marsh and tidal channels prior to the area being diked and drained for agricultural purposes.
- CDFW in collaboration with CalTrout is in the planning stages of a large-scale estuary restoration project which will include the Property. CEQA for a future project will occur prior to implementation.
- Future restoration will return the landscape to a mosaic of natural habitats, including estuarine and tidal slough channels, brackish ponds, and native marsh by restoring the natural full tidal exchange and sediment transport. Will increase the resiliency of this habitat to Sea Level Rise (SLR) by improving marsh accretion rates and allowing the marsh to keep pace with SLR.
- Increased tidal exchange and connectivity will promote recovery and maintenance of estuarine and tidal marsh habitats that support a variety of native fish, wildlife, and plant species, including Sensitive Natural Communities, rare plants, and State and Federal Endangered Species Act-listed fish, such as coho salmon, Chinook salmon, longfin smelt, and tidewater goby.



Priority Metrics

- Located in 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 Goal A and Objectives 1.2, 1.3, 1.4
- Public Access: Yes, Property will be incorporated into the CDFW Eel River Wildlife Area which is open to public access.

Key Management Objectives and Needs

CDFW will manage the Property as part of the existing Eel River Wildlife Area. CDFW regional staff anticipates that nominal management costs would be associated with limited perimeter fencing and signage for the Property. Additional staffing will not be required. Management objectives and needs associated with future restoration will be considered by CDFW prior to implementation and any environmental review required by CEQA will occur before CDFW authorizes restoration work on the Property.

Project Funding

The DGS approved fair market value is \$680,000. The proposed funding breakdown is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$680,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$680,000

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- None received

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 and Local 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.

18. French Creek Water Rights Dedication

Restoration – Implementation

WCB Grant: \$267,000

Fund Source(s): General Fund, Budget Act of 2023, Fish & Wildlife Resources - Climate Change Impacts on Wildlife (AB102, Sec. 84(1))

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy

Landowner: The Nature Conservancy and Private Landowner

Location: 6.4 miles south of Etna

County: Siskiyou

Project Highlights

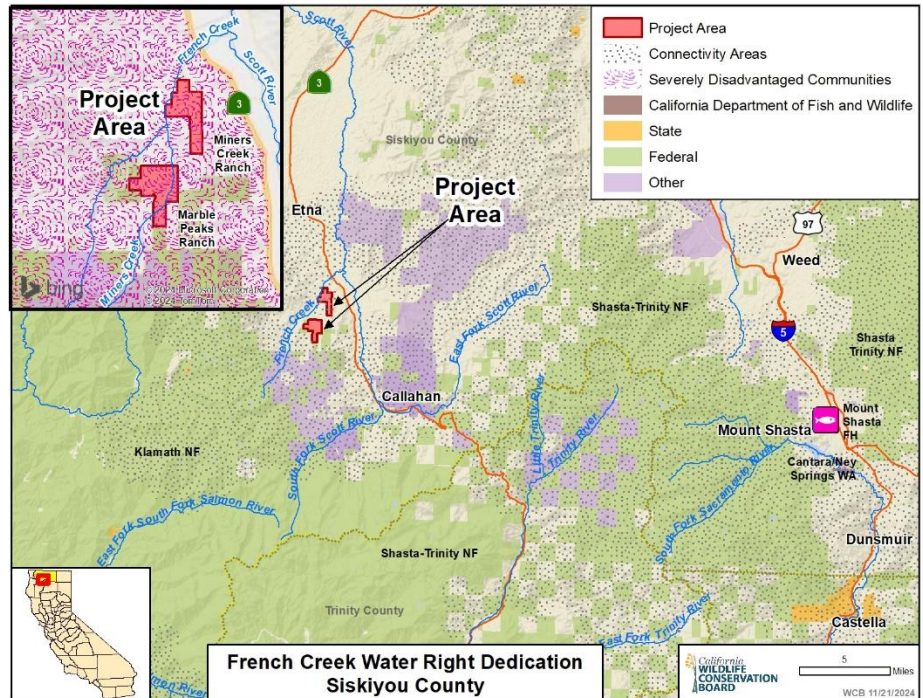
- Located on a tributary to the Scott River which flows into the Klamath River
- Project will meaningfully increase dry season base flows in French Creek
- Will benefit state and federally listed coho salmon and other state investments in habitat restoration in the area
- Will serve as a local example to other stakeholders and landowners

Priority Metrics

- Located in a Justice Community: Yes
- Tribal Partnerships: Yes. Quartz Valley Indian Reservation, Karuk Tribe, and Yurok Tribe are all advising on the water dedication project and surrounding habitat restoration projects.
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 6, Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship
- WCB Strategic Plan Goal B and Objective 1.3

Project Description

Dry season flows in the Scott River and its tributaries have been reduced by past land use practices such as timber harvest, channel straightening, and wetland draining. These resulted in lower dry season flows, and low dry season flows have been found to be a limiting factor for growth and survival of juvenile salmonids including coho salmon, Chinook salmon, and steelhead. French Creek is the site of some of the highest coho salmon spawning densities in the state, and so is a high priority waterway for instream



flow dedications. The dedication of water rights from two ranches along French Creek to instream flow is a mechanism to ensure that water remains in waterways for the benefit of fish and other wildlife species.

This project will increase instream flows in the Scott River watershed during the dry season by:

- Completing a detailed analysis of the consumptive water use of the water rights on the two ranches included in this project
- Permanently dedicating water rights of two ranches along French Creek via submission of two Water Code Section 1707 change petitions to protect the dedicated water
- Conduct outreach to local stakeholders and landowners to explain benefits of water dedications and explain the Section 1707 petition process
- Herbicide: No

Long-Term Management

The Nature Conservancy 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	\$71,000	---	\$71,000
Consumptive Use Analysis	\$25,000	---	\$25,000
Section 1707 Applications	\$136,000	---	\$136,000
Irrigated Pasture Transition Plan	---	\$100,000	\$100,000
Indirect	\$35,000	\$16,228	\$51,228
Total	\$267,000	\$116,228	\$383,228

Non-WCB funders include:

- The Nature Conservancy - \$116,228

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Russell A. Attebery, Tribal Chairman, Karuk Tribe
- Sarah Schaefer, Environmental Director, Quartz Valley Indian Reservation
- Shari Witmore, Fisheries Fish Biologist, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Charnna Gilmore, Executive Director, Scott River Watershed Council

Opposition:

- None received

CEQA

The project is proposed as exempt from CEQA pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15304, Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land, consists of minor alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees. 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.

19. Lake Earl Wildlife Area (Evans)

WCB Grant: \$214,000

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

Location: North of Crescent City, off Lakeview Loop

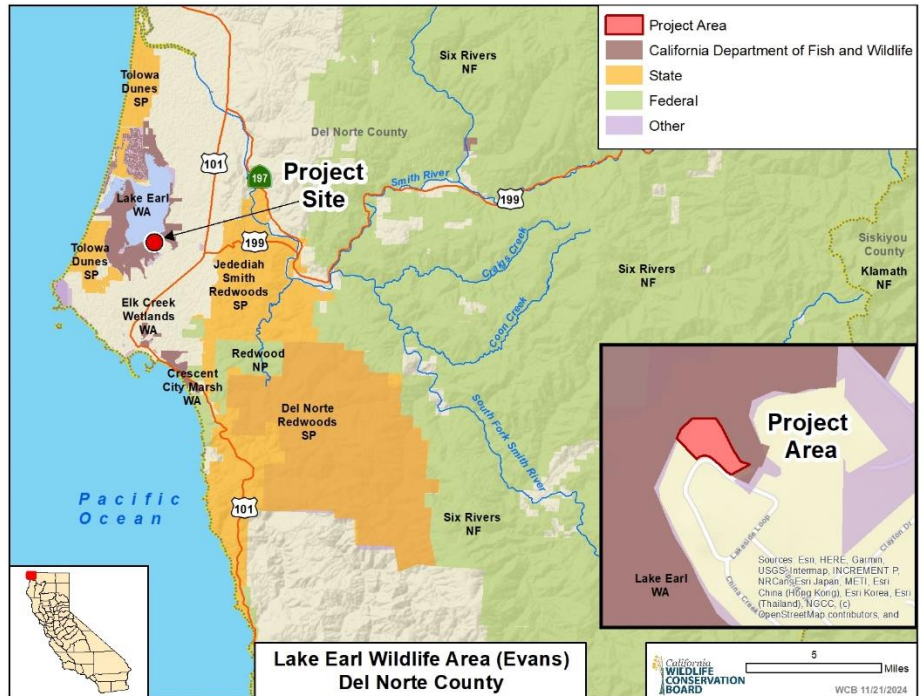
County: Del Norte

Acres: 3± (Property)

**Acquisition
CDFW Fee**

Property Highlights

- Addition to CDFW's Lake Earl Wildlife Area (LEWA) to allow for the further protection of Lake Earl and its associated coastal dune, wetland, upland, and forest habitats, and the protection and enhancement of threatened and endangered species habitat.
- Consisting largely of sensitive dune and wetland habitat, the land was subdivided in the 1960s into approximately half-acre lots and sold to individual owners. However, the sensitive habitat, natural hazards, and water quality concerns, made development and infrastructure impractical and CDFW has been pursuing available parcels.
- To date, WCB has acquired approximately 587 acres in the Pacific Shores Subdivision to be incorporated into the LEWA on behalf of CDFW.
- Key species: bald eagle, peregrine falcon, western snowy plover, marbled murrelet, sand dune phacelia, Oregon silverspot butterfly, seaside hoary elfin and greenish blue butterflies, tidewater goby, green sturgeon, coho salmon, steelhead, and coastal cutthroat trout. The California Species of Special Concern list includes 40 bird species found at Lake Earl.



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 1.3, 2.1

- Public Access: Yes. Property will be incorporated into the LEWA, which is open to the public.

Long-Term Management

Acquisition of the Property will assist in securing the unique resources, habitat protection and restoration, and would add acreage to the existing LEWA. Additional costs to CDFW for management and operation of the parcels are expected to be negligible.

Project Funding

The DGS approved fair market value is \$214,000. The proposed funding breakdown is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$214,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$214,000

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- None received

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 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.

20. CDFW Natural Community Conservation Planning 30x30 Land Acquisition Grant Program

Background: The Natural Community Conservation Planning (NCCP) Program is one of the CDFW programs tasked with working to address increasing threats to California's biodiversity. The NCCP Program takes a broad-based ecosystem approach to planning for the protection and perpetuation of biological diversity. There are currently 17 approved NCCPs, and additional NCCPs are in various stages of planning. Together these will provide conservation for nearly 400 special status species and a wide diversity of natural community types throughout California. Each plan assembles land to build a preserve system, a key element of the NCCP Program conservation strategy.

The 2022 Budget Act included 30x30 funding to support programs and activities that advance multi-benefit and nature-based solutions. The goal of the 30x30 initiative is to conserve 30 percent of California's land and water habitat by 2030. To be considered part of 30x30, the conserved land and coastal water areas need to be durably protected and managed to sustain functional ecosystems, both intact and restored, and the diversity of life that they support.

To support 30x30, CDFW received funds to provide grants to support development and implementation of NCCPs and Habitat Conservation Plans. WCB will assist CDFW in administering this program by processing transactions through WCB's Land Acquisition Program. This item is for the interdepartmental fund transfer. All acquisitions will be brought to the Board for approval through separate action.

Staff Recommendation

Accept approximately \$24,583,699 of grant funding from CDFW for implementation of its NCCP 30x30 Land Acquisition Grant Program, authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project, and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Presentation

21. Skyline North

WCB Grant: \$1,936,558

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

Grantee: Endangered Habitats Conservancy

Location: Eight miles northeast of Jamul

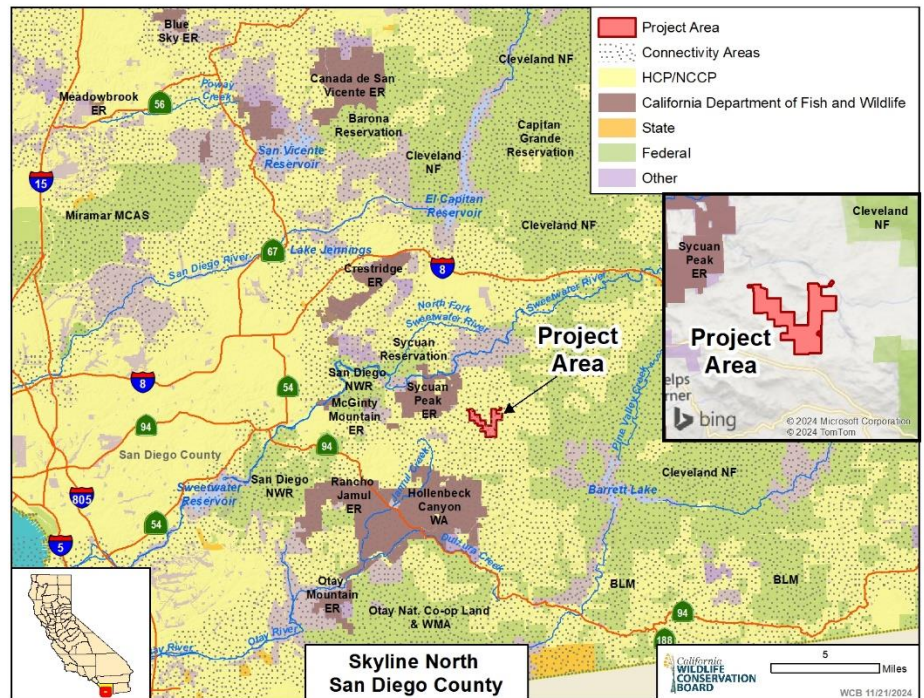
County: San Diego

Acres: 557± (Property)

**Acquisition
Fee**

Property Highlights

- Habitats represented: chaparral, chamise chaparral, granitic southern mixed chaparral, and southern coast live oak riparian forest vegetation.
- Located within the County of San Diego Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) Subarea Plan and provides a critical link between the South County MSCP and the draft East County MSCP conservation areas.
- Key species: Quino checkerspot butterfly, Hermes copper butterfly, spiny redberry, Dehesa beargrass, rufus crowned sparrow, Cooper's hawk, San Diego horned lizard, black-tailed jack rabbit, and San Diego wood rat.
- Property is a key wildlife linkage between Cleveland National Forest, USFWS National Wildlife Refuge and the Sycuan Peak, McGinty Mountain, Rancho Jamul, Otay Mountain, and Skyline South Ecological Reserves.
- EHC intends to transfer the Property to CDFW within one to two years after acquisition.



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, upon transfer to CDFW

Long-Term Management

Endangered Habitats Conservancy will own and manage the Property with the intention of transferring it to CDFW. EHC manages land throughout San Diego County and the addition of this Property is not anticipated to significantly impact their existing operations. Upon transfer to CDFW, the Property will be managed as part of the Sycuan Peak Ecological Reserve.

Project Funding

The DGS approved fair market value is \$1,936,558. The proposed funding breakdown is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$1,936,558
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$1,936,558

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Crystal Benham, Chief of Resource Management, San Diego County Parks and Recreation
- Robert Fisher, Ph.D., Supervisory Research Biologist, U.S. Geological Survey
- Dr. Peter Andersen, Vice Chair, Sierra Club San Diego Conservation Committee

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 Steve Padilla, District 18
- Assembly: Assemblymember Marie Waldron, District 75

Staff Recommendation

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

22. Building Resilience on Santa Cruz and Santa Rosa Islands

Restoration – Implementation

WCB Grant: \$4,513,000

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

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy

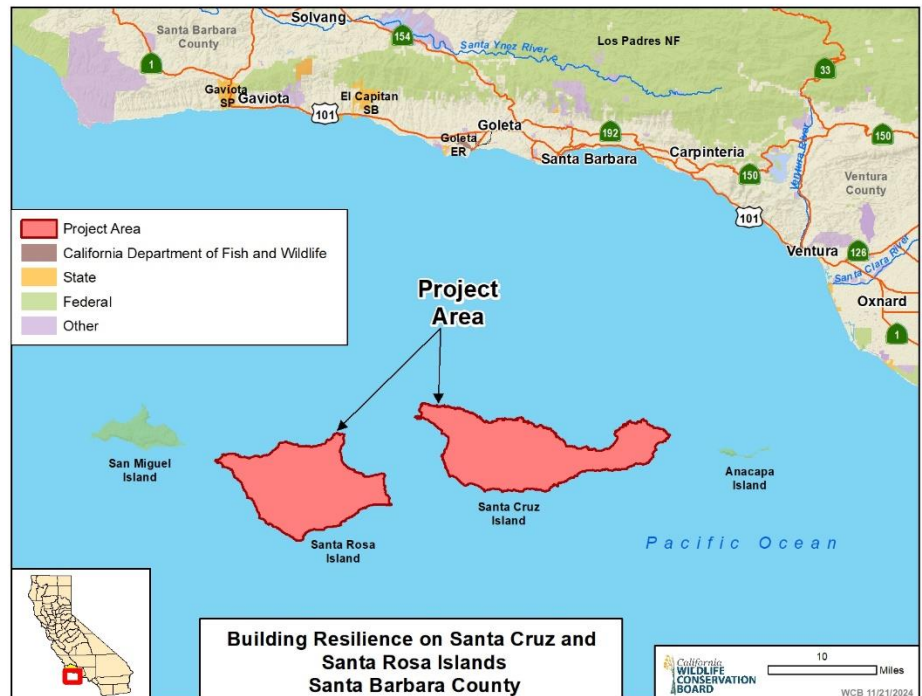
Landowner: The Nature Conservancy and National Park Service

Location: 25 miles west of Oxnard

County: Santa Barbara

Project Highlights

- Located in the Channel Islands off the coast of Santa Barbara
- Habitats restored: 15 acres of cloud forest chaparral and woodland on Santa Rosa Island and 15 acres of riparian, oak woodland, chaparral, and coastal scrub on Santa Cruz Island
- The Channel Islands are a biodiversity hotspot with 975 taxa (species and subspecies) of native terrestrial plants, including 20 plant taxa listed as endangered or threatened



Priority Metrics

- Located in a Justice Community: No
- Tribal Partnerships: Participation of Chumash tribal bands in the restoration will be encouraged through outreach to individual Chumash tribal bands and the Lulapin Chumash Foundation which is a Chumash-led non-profit that serves the various tribal bands as well as unaffiliated Chumash individuals and families through education, economic development, and ecological stewardship.
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 6, Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship
- WCB Strategic Plan Goal B and Objectives 1.3, 1.6, 2.1, 4.1

Project Description

The Building Resilience on Santa Cruz and Santa Rosa Islands (Project) is located within the Channel Islands. The islands were once on the brink of ecological collapse

from the effects of over-grazing and browsing by introduced herbivorous animals. After sustained collaborative efforts over the last three decades to remove all the introduced mainland mammals, a natural “passive recovery” process transitioned the islands from 72% invasive grassland and bare ground to 77% native woodland/shrubland. However, there are areas that remain resistant to this passive recovery which require active intervention to create thriving native habitats. This includes upland slopes that are devoid of vegetation due to decades of grazing and subsequent wind exposure and have suffered significant soil loss that prevented a natural recovery. The rugged terrain of the islands also presents challenges of access for eradication efforts, and there are holdouts of invasive plant species that take extra vigilance and time to eradicate.

The Project will improve habitat quality on Santa Cruz and Santa Rosa Islands by:

- Increasing the area of fog-harvesting cloud forest on Santa Rosa Island
- Reducing infestations of high priority invasive plants in Santa Cruz Island’s riparian habitat through a combination of hand pulling and mechanical methods.
- Increasing the area of resilient riparian woodlands in the Central Valley watershed on Santa Cruz Island
- Increasing populations of four priority-listed plant species on both islands
- Involving the public in meaningful ways with the restoration projects on both islands
- Herbicide: No

Long-Term Management

The Nature Conservancy 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: Non-WCB funders include:

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Project Management	\$525,058	\$648,544	\$1,173,602
Restoration	\$2,903,290	\$896,356	\$3,799,646
Irrigation	\$190,000	---	\$190,000
Monitoring	\$225,000	---	\$225,000
Outreach	\$81,000	\$36,468	\$117,468
Indirect Charges	\$588,652	---	\$588,652
Total	\$4,513,000	\$1,581,368	\$6,094,368

Non-WCB funders include:

- California Coastal Commission - \$7,500
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife - \$83,202
- California Institute of Environmental Studies - \$46,908
- National Park Service - \$630,604
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service - \$813,154

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Ethan McKinley, Channel Islands National Park Superintendent, National Park Service
- Michael Parker, Executive Director, California Institute of Environmental Studies

Opposition:

- None received

CEQA

The Project is proposed as exempt from CEQA under Section 15304 Class 4, as a minor alteration in land, water, and vegetation which does not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees. Subject to approval by WCB, the appropriate NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

State Government

- Senate: Senator Monique Limon, District 19
- Assembly: Assemblymember Gregg Hart, District 37

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. Toro Creek Phase II

WCB Grant: \$3,500,000

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

Location: Two miles north of the city of Morro Bay

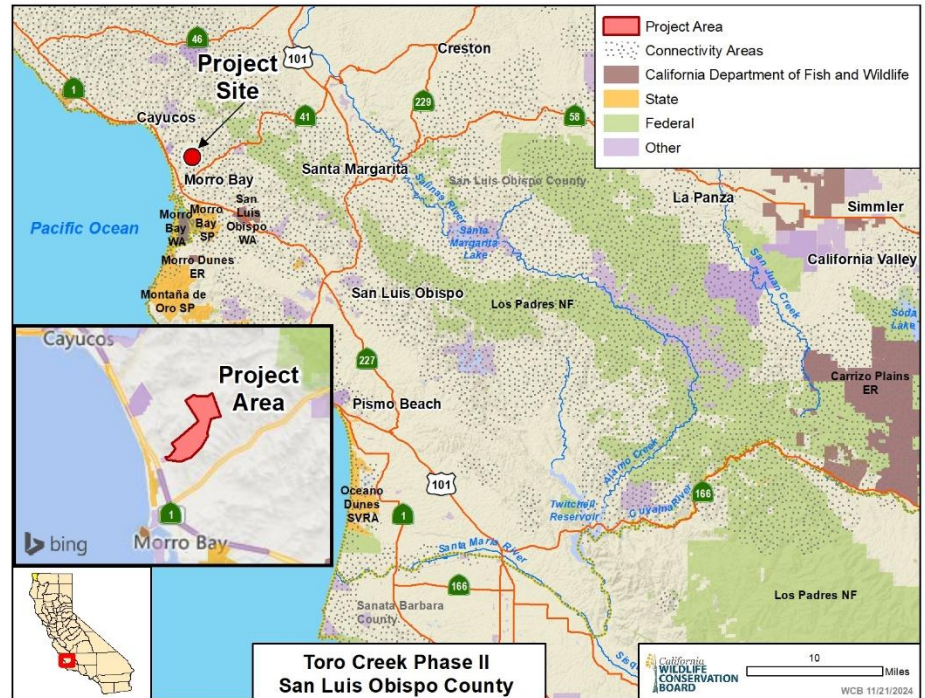
County: San Luis Obispo

Acres: 748± (Property)

Acquisition Fee

Property Highlights

- Second phase of three acquisitions that will ultimately preserve approximately 1,400 acres as a county park which will include opportunities for hiking, beach access, and low-cost camping.
- Permanently prohibits future residential and commercial development and protects water resources and habitats within the Toro Creek watershed.
- Expands the network of protected lands in the region known as the La Panza Range – San Geronimo Corridor, an important wildlife corridor that traverses a significant portion of coastal San Luis Obispo County.
- Habitats represented: Grassland intermixed with coastal scrub and pockets of oak woodland and ribbons of riparian habitat featuring coast live oak, western sycamore, and black cottonwood.
- Key species: deer, mountain lion, bobcat, red-tailed hawk, white-tailed kite, barn owl, California red-legged frog, and southwestern pond turtle.



Priority Metrics

- Located in a Justice Community: No
- Tribal Partnerships: No
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 2 Execute Strategic Acquisitions
- WCB Strategic Plan Goals A and C and Objectives 1.2, 1.3, 3.1, 3.4
- Public Access: Yes. Property will be open for hiking and non-consumptive wildlife recreation.

Long-Term Management

The County has developed and will implement a management plan that has defined the actions to be taken to conserve the natural and cultural resources of the Property and to provide sustainable coastal recreational activities.

Project Funding

The DGS approved fair market value is \$5,500,000. The proposed funding breakdown is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$3,500,000
California State Coastal Conservancy	\$1,500,000
Cayucos Land Conservancy	\$300,000
Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County	\$200,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$5,500,000

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- None received

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 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.

24. Hershey Ranch

WCB Grant: \$2,389,475

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

Grantee: Tule River Indian Tribe

Location: Approximately 15 miles southeast of Porterville

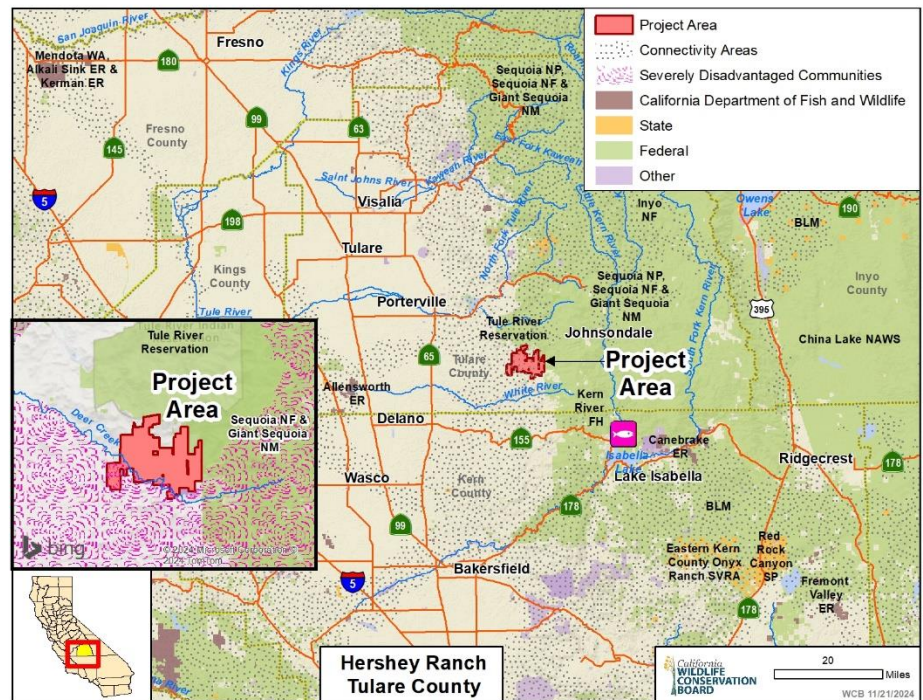
County: Tulare County

Acres: 14,672± (Property)

Acquisition Fee

Property Highlights

- Acquisition of the Property by the Tule River Indian Tribe reconnects the Yokuts, Tubatulabal, and other California Native tribes, who are now members of the Tule River Indian Tribe, with their ancestral land.
- Contributes to biodiversity and species conservation goals by enhancing landscape-scale connectivity between the San Joaquin Valley and the Sierra Nevada Range, creating critical linkages between the Tule River Indian Reservation, Giant Sequoia National Monument, Bureau of Land Management property, and other conserved land.
- Habitats represented: grassland and blue oak dominated woodland, with significant riparian areas, patches of chaparral, and black oak/ponderosa pine woodlands at higher elevations.
- Key species: California condor and southern Sierra Nevada distinct fisher population.
- Potential summer range for the Yowlumni wolf pack.
- High potential for streambed restoration on about 45 miles of perennial and seasonal creeks, which could improve water sources for downstream disadvantaged communities.



Priority Metrics

- Located in a Justice Community: Yes

- Tribal Partnerships: Yes, grantee is the Tule River Indian Tribe, a Federally Recognized Tribe.
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 2: Execute Strategic Acquisitions
- WCB Strategic Plan Goals A and C, and Objectives 1.2, 1.4, 2.1, 3.1
- Public Access: Yes. The Tule River Indian Tribe will create a management plan that will provide managed public access to outdoor activities including hiking, equestrian activities, camping, and outdoor education for youth groups and other members of the public.

Long-Term Management

The Property will be managed for multiple uses including traditional plant gathering and land management, sustainable livestock grazing, hunting, fishing, educational programs for tribal and local youth, and beaver and tule elk reintroduction.

Project Funding

The DGS approved fair market value is \$14,670,000 and the landowner has agreed to sell at a reduced price of \$8,103,000. The proposed funding breakdown is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$2,389,475
CNRA Tribal Nature-Based Solutions Program	\$5,713,708
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$8,103,183

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Dennis Townsend, Chairman, Tulare County Board of Supervisors
- Angela Avery, Executive Officer, Sierra Nevada Conservancy
- Barbara Brydolf, President and Conservation Chair, Alta Peak Chapter, California Native Plant Society
- Brock Dolman and Kate Lundquist, WATER Institute Directors, Occidental Arts & Ecology Center
- Denise Kadara, President, Allensworth Progressive Association
- Logan Robertson Huecker, Executive Director, Sequoia Riverlands Trust
- Teresa Benson, Forest Supervisor, United States Forest Service

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 Shannon Grove, District 12
- Assembly: Assemblymember Vince Fong, District 32

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.

25. Pico Blanco (Esselen)

WCB Grant: \$1,400,000

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

Grantee: Western Rivers Conservancy

Successor Grantee: Esselen Tribe of Monterey County

Location: Four miles north of the town of Big Sur

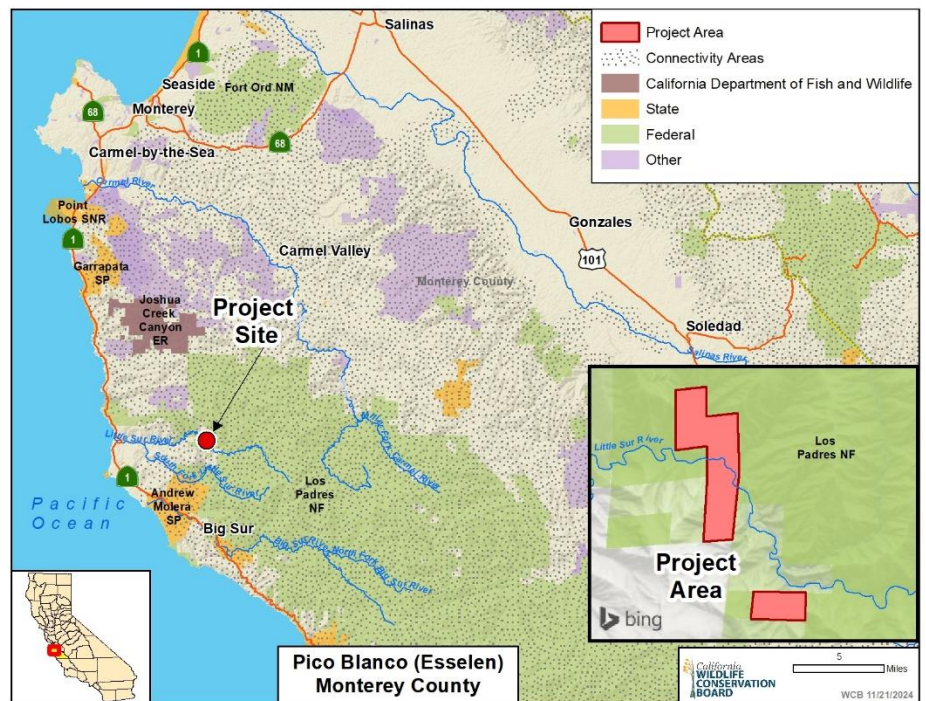
County: Monterey

Acres: 327± (Property)

**Acquisition
Fee**

Property Highlights

- Acquisition of the Property by the Esselen Tribe of Monterey County reconnects the Tribe with its ancestral land.
- Project will secure and ensure the protection of the rich cultural and archaeological resources on the Property for future generations. The acquisition will provide a location for tribal ceremonies and sharing of tribal knowledge and culture with tribal members, inter-tribal communities, youth groups, underserved communities, veterans, and the general public.
- Surrounded by the Los Padres National Forest on three sides and its long eastern border abuts the Ventana Wilderness.
- Habitats represented: Old-growth redwood forest, riparian forest (including 1.3 miles of Little Sur River).
- Key species: Northern spotted owl, marbled murrelet, South-Central Coast steelhead, California condor, and foothill yellow-legged frog.
- Contains one of only a handful of populations of the rare Dudley's lousewort as well as the Santa Lucia Fir, which is considered the rarest fir in the world.
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's recovery plan for South-Central Coast steelhead identifies the Little Sur River steelhead population as "Core 1" (highest priority for recovery).



Priority Metrics

- Located in a Justice Community: Yes
- Tribal Partnerships: Yes, Western Rivers Conservancy, in partnership with the Esselen Tribe of Monterey County, is working to acquire the lands surrounding Boy Scout Camp Pico Blanco. The Esselen Tribe will provide long-term management and stewardship for the Property.
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 2, Execute Strategic Acquisitions
- WCB Strategic Plan Goal A and Objectives 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 2.1, 3.1
- Public Access: Yes, traditional ceremonies for tribal members and youth, and environmental and cultural education opportunities.

Long-Term Management

The Esselen Tribe of Monterey County's stewardship of the Property will be focused on preservation, restoration, and enhancement of the fragile natural and cultural resources of the land, including use for both traditional tribal activities and environmental education for tribal members and other members of the public, focusing on disadvantaged and underserved communities.

Project Funding

The DGS approved fair market value is \$1,440,000, and the landowner has agreed to sell at a reduced price of \$1,400,000. The proposed funding breakdown is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$1,400,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$1,400,000

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Senator John Laird, Senate District 17
- Assemblymember Mark Stone, Senate District 29
- Assemblymember Robert Rivas, Senate District 29
- Trish Chapman, Central Coast Regional Manager, California State Coastal Conservancy
- Jeannette Tuitele-Lewis, President/CEO, Big Sur Land Trust
- Brian LeNeve, President MBCNPS, California Native Plant Society
- Daniel R. Baldwin, President/CEO, Community Foundation for Monterey County
- Steve Park, President, Carmel River Steelhead Association
- Cheryl Goetz, Fire Chief, Mid Coast Fire Brigade
- David Jacobs, President, Board of Directors, Ventana Wilderness Alliance
- Kelly Sorenson, Executive Director, Ventana Wildlife Society
- Butch Kronlund, Executive Director, Community Association of Big Sur

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 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.

26. Carr Lake Restoration and Park Development

WCB Grant: \$4,064,653

Fund Source(s): General Fund, Budget Act of 2023, Nature Based Solutions, DAC

Provision (AB102, Sec. 85(3)(a))

Grantee: Big Sur Land Trust

Landowner: Big Sur Land Trust

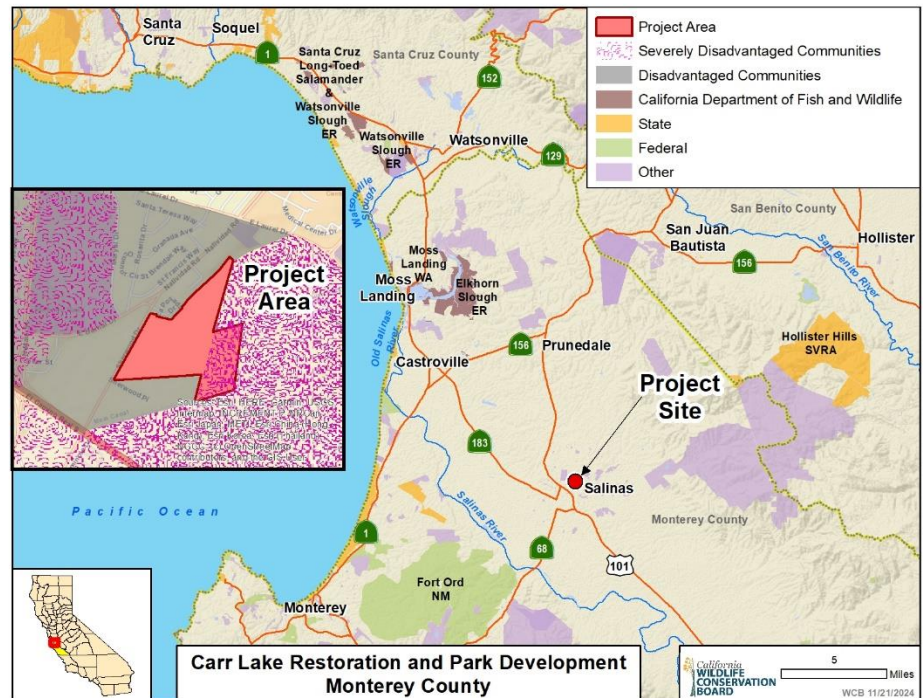
Location: Salinas

County: Monterey

Infrastructure – Implementation

Project Highlights

- Restores 67 acres of wetland, riparian, and upland habitat in the heart of the city of Salinas.
- Increases park space in a community with very low ratios of parkland per person (less than 1/3 the national median for high-density cities).
- Provides public access for disadvantaged and severely disadvantaged communities and offers opportunities for non-consumptive wildlife recreation, including hiking and birdwatching.
- Provides green infrastructure that captures and treats stormwater through biological processes.
- Restored wetland and riparian areas will provide ongoing carbon sequestration.
- Implements a completed planning grant funded by WCB in November 2021 (\$776,000).



Priority Metrics

- Located in a Justice Community: Yes.
- Tribal Partnerships: The Ohlone/Costanoan-Esselen Nation, a documented previously recognized tribe, was in direct consultation on the project during the planning process. Upon completion, the project site will be re-named Ensen Community Park, an indigenous name for blackberry, an important food for local tribes.
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 6, Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship
- WCB Strategic Plan Goals B.1, C.1, C.4 and Objectives 3.1, 3.4, 4.3

Project Description

The Carr Lake Restoration and Park Development (Project) transforms a portion of the Carr Lake basin into a neighborhood park and restored green space, with multiple environmental, social, and health-related benefits for the community. Over a century ago, Carr Lake was the largest of a seven-lake system that captured water from the upper Gabilan watershed and then discharged the flow into a network of creeks and wetlands all the way to Monterey Bay. Carr Lake historically oscillated between a shallow lake and swampy wetlands each rainy season, depending on annual variability in rainfall and runoff. During the early part of the 20th century, the three creeks that once flowed naturally through Carr Lake were channelized and a reclamation ditch was built to drain Carr Lake and allow flood-prone areas to be farmed. The creeks are now nearly devoid of habitat and carry runoff from upstream urban areas and nearby agricultural parcels into the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

The Project will restore natural conditions, provide critical green infrastructure, as well as open park space by:

- Creating 67 acres of open green space, much of it publicly accessible.
- Restoring the currently channelized ditches to up to 26 acres of riparian habitat, made up of freshwater emergent wetland, freshwater forested/shrub wetland, seasonal wetland, and riparian tree grove upland. The restored habitat areas will attenuate and treat stormwater flows.
- Restoring over 30 acres of diverse upland grassland habitat.
- Constructing 1.7 miles of nature trails.
- Increasing the citywide park acreage ratio from 1.6 acres per 1,000 people to 2.1 acres per 1,000 people.
- Improving habitat for birds and other wildlife, including three special status species (California tiger salamander, California red-legged frog, and the South-Central California coast steelhead).
- Improving water quality and increasing nutrient loads by enhancing natural physical and biological processes and constructing stormwater treatment green infrastructure.
- Herbicide: No

Long-Term Management

The Big Sur Land Trust has adopted a Management Plan that guides management actions for the Project, including management of the restored segment of the Carr Lake basin. If at any time during the 25-year life of the Project, Big Sur Land Trust 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	\$99,980	\$140,000	\$239,980
Pre-construction preparation	\$350,000	\$401,000	\$751,000
Pre- and post-project monitoring	---	\$312,000	\$312,000
Construction	\$3,554,375	\$11,961,917	\$15,516,292
Interpretive signs	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$100,000
Outreach	---	\$173,000	\$173,000
Indirect costs	\$10,298	\$636,000	\$646,298
Total	\$4,064,653	\$13,673,917	\$17,738,570

Non-WCB funders include:

- California Natural Resources Agency: \$3,673,917
- California State Coastal Conservancy: \$8,000,000
- California Department of Water Resources: \$2,000,000

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Robert Rivas, Speaker of the Assembly, California State Assembly
- Natalie Herendeen, Executive Director, Center for Community Advocacy
- Andrea Manzo, Executive Director, Building Healthy Communities of Monterey County

Opposition:

- None received

CEQA

The City of Salinas, 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 Anna Caballero, District 14
- Assembly: Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas, District 29

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.

27. Enhancing Biodiversity and Resilience in the Amargosa Basin

Restoration – Planning

WCB Grant: \$2,930,326

Fund Source(s): General Fund, Budget Act of 2023, Nature Based Solutions, DAC Provision (AB102, Sec. 85(3)(a))

Grantee: American Bird Conservancy

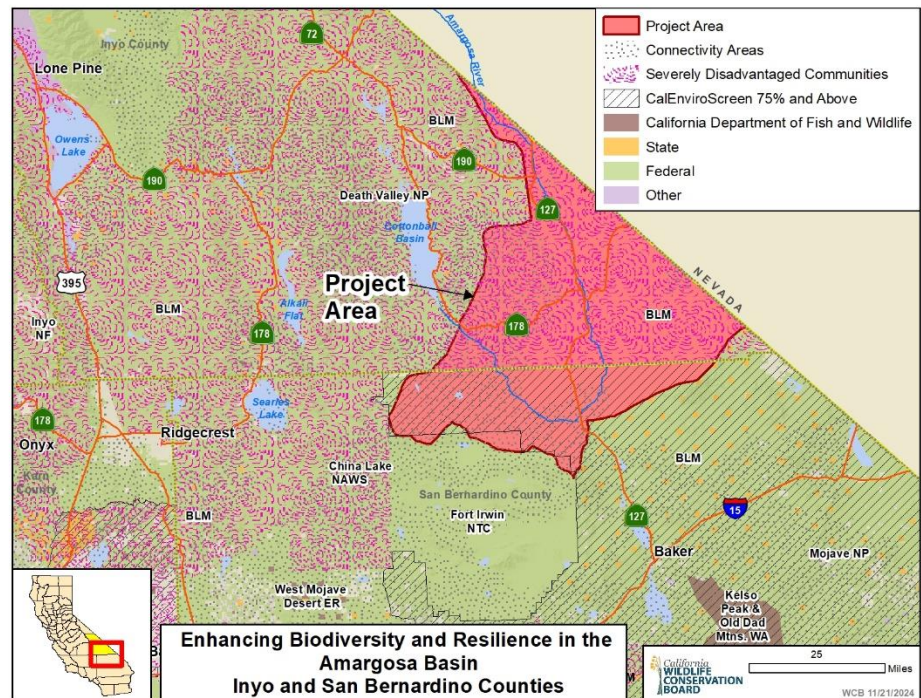
Landowner: Bureau of Land Management, CDFW Tecopa Ecological Reserve, The Nature Conservancy, Private Landowners

Location: 56 miles north of Baker

County: Inyo and San Bernardino

Project Highlights

- Preparation of a habitat restoration plan for the endangered Amargosa vole.
- Preparation of a riparian restoration plan for the Amargosa River and Willow Creek.
- Continuance of research study on groundwater in the Amargosa Basin by monitoring a key indicator - spring discharge.
- Key species: Amargosa vole, southwestern willow flycatcher, and numerous sensitive bird species.
- Project includes recovery objectives per the Recovery Plan for the Amargosa Vole (*Microtus californicus scirpensis*) (USFWS 1997 and amended 2019).



Priority Metrics

- Located in a Justice Community: Yes
- Tribal Partnerships: Currently, there is no formal partnership for these specific projects; however, coordination with the Timbisha Shoshone Tribe has occurred and they are aware of the project. Additional discussions will be held with the tribe.
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 6, Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship
- WCB Strategic Plan Goal B and Objectives 1.3, 2.1, 3.1

Project Description

The Enhancing Biodiversity and Resilience in the Amargosa Basin (Project) is a collection of three primary tasks that are necessary for conservation efforts in one of the driest regions of North America. The springs, wetlands, and riparian areas within the Southern Amargosa Basin are sustained by an interconnected system of subsurface hydrological flows originating from upgradient drainages. In a landscape where average annual rainfall ranges between 2-4 inches, wildlife and human communities alike are dependent on the continued flow of ancient groundwater associated with the Amargosa River, which is facing depletion due to development pressures.

The Project will further the understanding of the complex hydrological system which is critical to informing sustainable groundwater and resource management, and to developing effective habitat restoration strategies, especially in the face of climate change. The Project includes the following:

- Hydrological monitoring that will improve capacity for understanding the basin's hydrology, study water flow, and monitor local springs and water flow paths. These data will ultimately be used to inform the Bureau of Land Management's Amargosa River Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan, prepare two State of the Basin Reports, and contribute information to both the riparian and Amargosa vole habitat restoration plans.
- Preparation of a shovel-ready riparian restoration plan for the Amargosa River and Willow Creek that will expand and coordinate ongoing public and private restoration efforts, increase available habitat for sensitive bird and fish species, and develop and improve recreational access to riparian areas for local residents and visiting tourists. As part of this planning effort, seed will be collected and stored for future restoration activities.
- Preparation of a habitat restoration plan to create one or more "megamarsh" habitat patches to ensure greater population persistence and resilience of Amargosa voles (and co-existing marsh plant and animal species). The final plan will include up to 20 acres of restoration of critical desert wetland (bulrush) habitat.
- 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	\$230,928	---	\$230,928
Hydrological Monitoring	\$760,219	\$76,000	\$836,219

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Riparian Restoration Plan	\$737,838	\$30,000	\$767,838
Seed Banking for Restoration Plan	\$33,745	---	\$33,745
Amargosa Vole Habitat Restoration Plan	\$887,800	\$72,682	\$960,482
Indirect Costs	\$279,796	---	\$279,796
Total	\$2,930,326	\$178,682	\$3,109,008

Non-WCB funders include:

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife - \$14,136 (in-kind)
- Bureau of Land Management - \$30,000 (in-kind)
- University of California, Davis - \$26,546 (in-kind)
- Amargosa Conservancy - \$76,000 (in-kind and additional funding)
- Shoshone Village - \$32,000 (housing)

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Marc Stamer, Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management
- Brian Croft for Scott A. Sobiech, Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Brian Brown, Owner, China Ranch Date Farm

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. 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 and Section 15306, Class 6, Information Collection. Class 4 consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes. Class 6 consists of basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. These may be strictly for information gathering purposes, or as part of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded. 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
Senator Shannon Grove, District 12
- 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.

28. Rough Creek Native Fish Restoration

Restoration – Implementation

WCB Grant: \$1,604,000

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

Grantee: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Landowner: U.S. Bureau of Land Management and Private Landowner

Location: 10 miles southwest of Bridgeport

County: Mono

Project Highlights

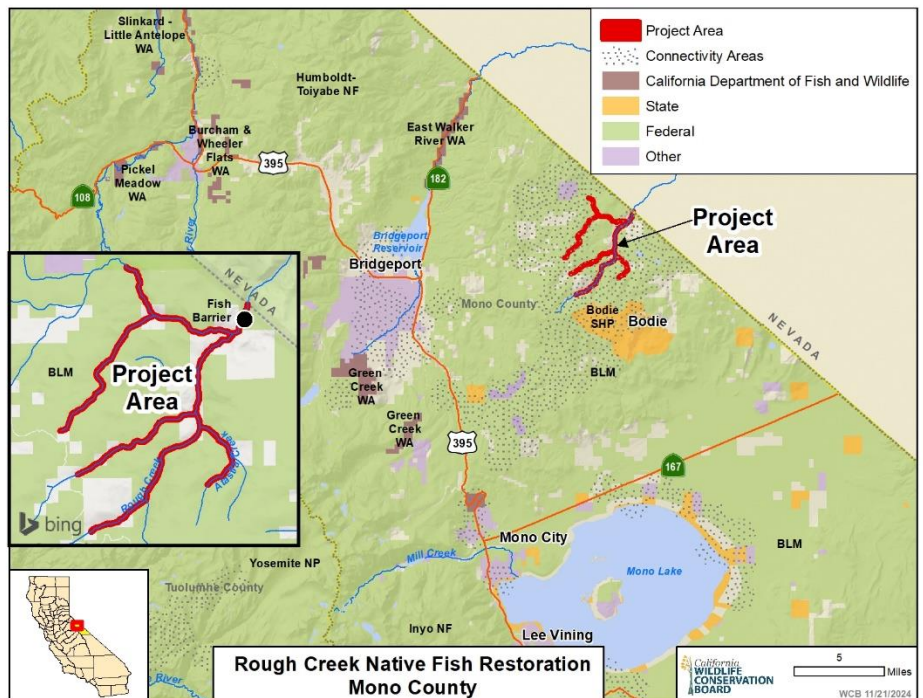
- Located on a tributary to the Walker River on the east side of Sierra Nevada mountains
- Remove all invasive trout from all 24 miles of the Rough Creek watershed
- Establish populations of seven species of native inland fish, including several listed fish species
- Recreate an assemblage of native fish that has not existed in over a century

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, 1.6

Project Description

Invasive trout were introduced to the Walker River for angling opportunities. The invasive trout consumed and/or excluded many native inland fish species throughout the Walker River system. These native fish species are now limited to fragmented reaches of isolated streams and lakes which are separated from one another. This project is focused on Rough Creek, one of the larger subbasins of the Walker River. This project will remove the invasive trout in this project and then recreate and monitor a native fish assemblage that has not existed in over a century and conduct floodplain habitat restoration in the lower Rough Creek watershed to further improve conditions for native fish. These will be accomplished by:



- Installing a fish barrier at the confluence of Rough Creek and the Walker River
- Using electrofishing to remove the invasive trout from all 24 miles of the Rough Creek watershed from the fish barrier to the headwaters
- Monitoring to confirm that total removal of invasive trout is successful
- Reintroducing at least seven species of native inland fish to establish a historic native fish community
- Herbicide: No

Long-Term Management

CDFW has adopted a Management Plan that guides management actions for the project, including management of the property as Designated Wild and Heritage Trout Waters which includes partnerships with federal and private landowners. If at any time during the 20-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
Barrier Permitting and Installation	---	\$185,000	\$185,000
Invasive Fish Removal	\$1,604,000	\$132,175	\$1,736,175
Fish Reintroduction	---	\$14,300	\$14,300
Monitoring	---	\$80,000	\$80,000
Watershed Habitat Restoration	---	\$100,000	\$100,000
Total	\$1,604,000	\$511,475	\$2,115,475

Non-WCB funders include:

- CDFW- \$296,475
- US Fish and Wildlife Service - \$100,000
- US Natural Resource Conservation Service - \$100,000
- Walker Basin Conservancy - \$15,000

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Sherri Lisius, Field Manager, U.S. Bureau of Land Management
- Jodie Mamuscia, Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- Peter Stanton, Executive Director, Walker Basin Foundation

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. The activities of this project will be limited to within the narrow waterways in this watershed. Those waterways are comprised of the narrow bands of the streams themselves. This total area is less than five acres. Using electrofishing equipment and then removing invasive trout by hand from this waterway, habitat conditions will be enhanced to the point where native fish reintroduction will be feasible. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

State Government

- Senate: Senator Marie Alverado-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.

29. Coyote Valley Landscape Linkage Expansion 1

**Acquisition
Fee**

WCB Grant: \$5,000,000

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

Grantee: Santa Clara Open Space Authority

Location: Borders San Jose

County: Santa Clara

Acres: 142± (Property)

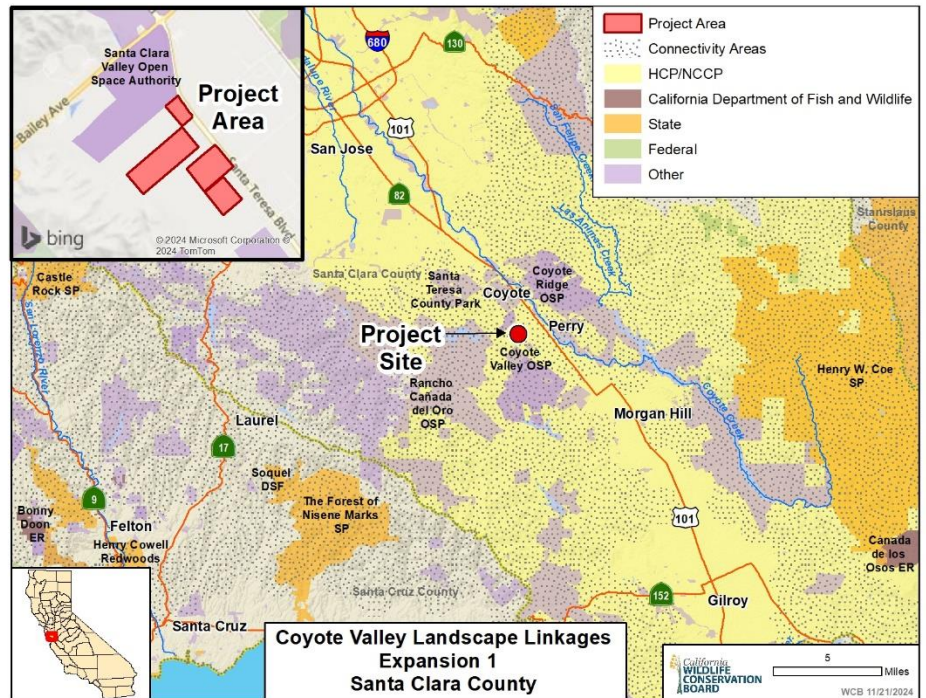
Property Highlights

Supports large regional landscape connectivity for wildlife migrating between the Santa Cruz Mountains and Diablo Range.

- Located within Santa Clara County's largest freshwater wetland, the Laguna Seca which is upstream of urbanized San Jose. The Property provides stormwater retention and infiltration and mitigates downstream flooding from increasingly frequent large storm events. Fisher Creek, the main tributary to Coyote Creek, and the Laguna Seca are particularly important for flood mitigation.
- Additional habitats represented: riparian, floodplain, mixed riparian forest and woodland, oak woodland, seasonal wetland, valley freshwater marsh, willow riparian forest, and scrub habitat.
- Key species: western burrowing owl, Northern harrier, dusky-footed woodrat, and American badger.
- Regional Plans: Coyote Valley Landscape Linkage: A Vision for a Resilient, Multi-benefit Landscape (2017).

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: Yes, public access will be provided depending on the outcome of a future planning project; low-impact public access compatible with wildlife conservation and habitat such as a portion of the Bay Area Ridge Trail is being considered.

Long-Term Management

The Open Space Authority will develop and implement a management plan to conserve the natural and cultural resources of the Property and to provide sustainable access.

Project Funding

The DGS approved fair market value is \$8,300,000, and the landowner has agreed to sell at a reduced price of \$5,100,000. The proposed funding breakdown is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$5,000,000
Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority	\$100,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$5,100,000

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- John Laird, California State Senator, Senate District 17
- Ash Kalra, California Assembly Member, Assembly District 27
- Mark Stone, California Assembly Member, Assembly District 29
- Charlene Nijmeh, Tribal Chairwoman, and Monica Arellano Tribal Vice Chairwoman, Muwekma Ohlone Indian Tribe of the San Francisco Bay Area Region
- Alice Kaufman, Legislative Advocacy Director, Green Foothills

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 John Laird, District 17
- Assembly: Assemblymember Gail Pellerin, District 28
- Assembly: Assemblymember Dave Cortese, District 15

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. Hoover Ranch

WCB Grant: \$5,090,000

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

Grantee: John Muir Land Trust (JMLT)

Location: North side of Bethel Island, approximately five miles east of the city of Oakley

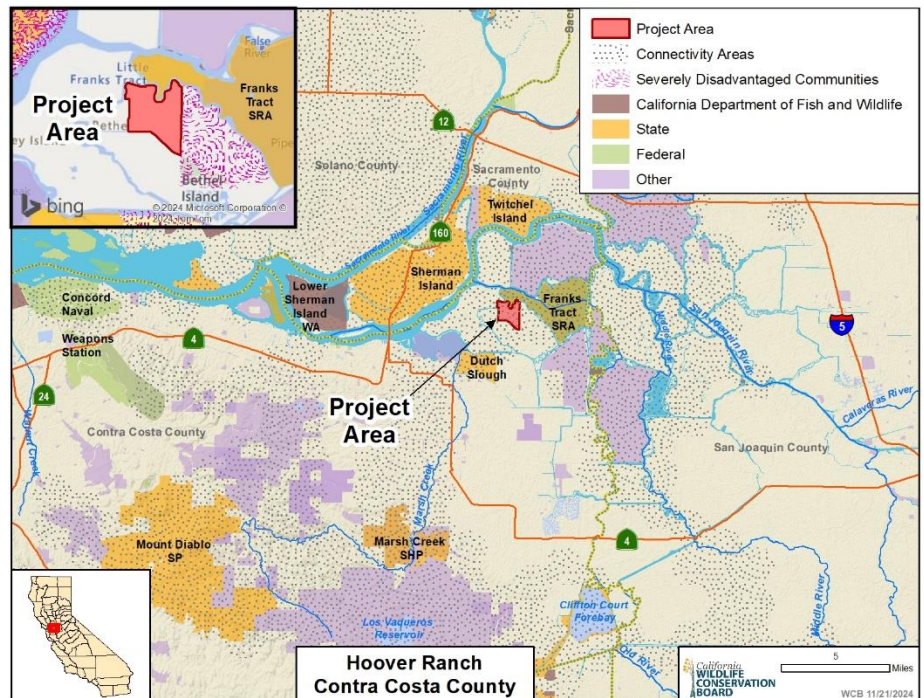
County: Contra Costa

Acres: 600± (Property)

**Acquisition
Fee**

Property Highlights

- Bethel Island is part of the Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta, a biodiverse ecosystem that spans approximately 1,150 square miles and supports over 700 species of fish and wildlife.
- Bethel Island is a 3,500± acre diked, subsided island and one of the very few delta islands that has an established residential and commercial community, with a current population of approximately 2,000 residents.
- Habitats represented:
 - Wetlands and riparian woodlands.
- Tidal marsh wetlands and riparian woodlands are among the most rare and endangered ecosystems in California.
- The conversion of wetlands to agriculture use has created subsidence that threatens the existence of delta islands, including Bethel Island.
- This project permanently protects and establishes this combination of wetlands and riparian woodlands and offers significant biodiversity and climate resilience benefits for the island, region, and state.
- Key species: sandhill crane, snow geese, white-tailed kite, northern harrier, western pond turtles, western burrowing owl, Swainson's hawk, Modesto song sparrow, valley elderberry longhorn beetle, and giant garter snake.
- Fish likely to be present in sloughs adjacent to the Property that may indirectly benefit from its protection include green sturgeon, Delta smelt, steelhead, and longfin smelt.



- Improves air quality by capturing carbon, reduces subsidence, and contributes to levee protection vital to California's water supply and economy. Establishes habitat-sensitive public access contributing to public health and well-being.

Priority Metrics

- Located in a Justice Community: Yes
- 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. JMLT will establish safe, habitat-sensitive and levee-protective public access.

Long-Term Management

After acquisition, JMLT intends to inundate portions of the Property using existing siphons to establish wetlands with native tule and riparian woodlands. Native habitats will capture carbon and create conditions necessary for wildlife to flourish.

Project Funding

The DGS approved fair market value is \$8,490,000, and the landowner has agreed to sell at a reduced price of \$8,090,000. The proposed funding breakdown is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$5,090,000
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy	\$2,000,000
Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation	\$1,000,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$8,090,000

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Assemblymember Lori Wilson, California State Assembly, District 11
- Federal Glover, Chair, Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors

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 Steve Glazer, District 7
- Assembly: Assemblymember Lori Wilson, District 11

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.

31. Mokelumne Forest Health Enhancement Restoration – Implementation

WCB Grant: \$3,986,000

Fund Source(s): General Fund, Budget Act of 2024, Cascades and High Sierra Upper Watersheds Program (SB 108, Sec. 108(1)(3))

Grantee: Upper Mokelumne Watershed Authority

Landowner: U.S. Forest Service Eldorado National Forest

Location: 16 miles west of Kirkwood

County: Amador, Calaveras, Alpine, El Dorado, Tuolumne

Project Highlights

- Habitats restored: 112 acres aspen, 755 acres conifer stands
- Key species: Northern goshawk, California spotted owl
- Pilot project with Washoe Tribe of Nevada & California for ten acres of aspen stand restoration
-

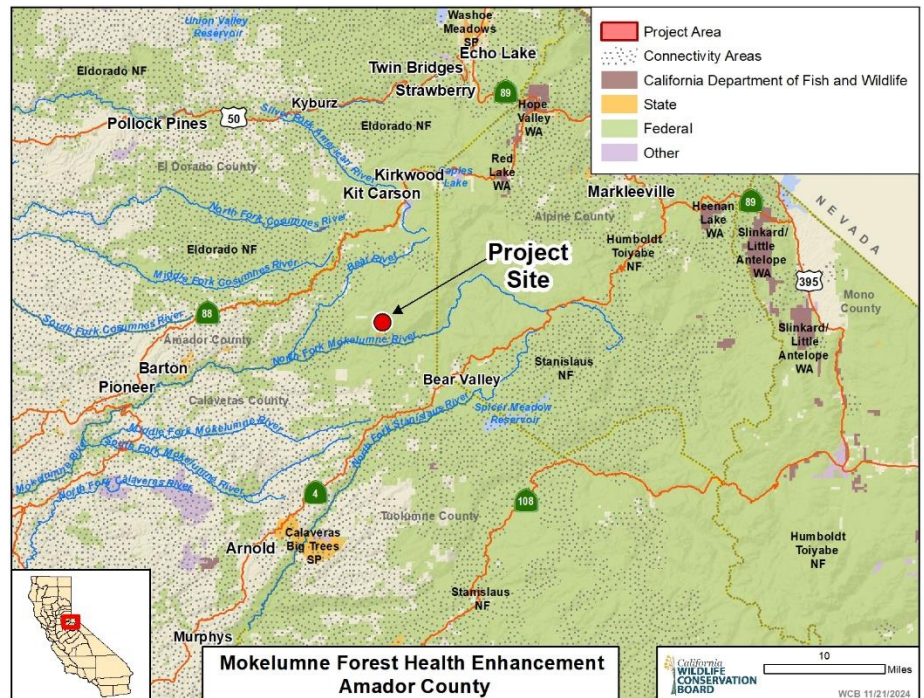
Priority Metrics

- Located in a Justice Community: Yes
- Tribal Partnerships: Yes, the federally recognized Washoe Tribe of Nevada & California's workforce development crews will participate in aspen restoration
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 6, Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship
- WCB Strategic Plan Goal B and Objectives 1.6, 2.1, 4.1

Project Description

The Mokelumne Forest Health Enhancement (Project) occurs within the upper Mokelumne River watershed. The region is densely forested with rugged terrain interspersed by hydrologic resources (lakes, streams, wet meadows, etc.) contributing to a habitat-rich area surrounded by lands that have been impacted by severe wildfires, including the 2021 Caldor Fire to the north and several smaller fires to the south. The scenic beauty and diversity of recreation experience draws over 800,000 visitors to the Eldorado National Forest annually (U.S. Forest Service).

The Project primarily funds implementation of forest health and fuels treatments in the Cedar project area as delineated in the "Forest Project Plan-Phase 1" (FPP Phase 1)



NEPA decision memo. FPP Phase 1 is a landscape scale habitat enhancement plan initiated in 2022 as an effort to increase the pace and scale of forest restoration in the face of increasing wildfire pressure. Ten percent of the requested funding supports a separate NEPA/CEQA environmental planning project known as the “Mokelumne Amador Calaveras Forest Health and Resilience Project - Phase 2” (MAC NEPA Planning) for a 247,000-acre analysis area in the upper Mokelumne River watershed.

FPP Phase 1C Cedar Implementation

The Project seeks to protect an important headwaters area, improve forest resilience, and mitigate wildfire risk through tree thinning and fuels reduction on 866 acres. The specific treatment units in the Project area hold a high density of degraded aspen stands at risk of loss to conifer encroachment. Ladder fuels treatments will decrease the risk of high intensity wildfires, protect aspen stands from high-intensity wildfire, and promote the development of old-forest characteristics. The Project will implement forest management activities increasing forest health and climate resiliency by:

- Aspen stand enhancement through conifer removal, ten acres of which will be implemented directly by workforce development crews from the Washoe Tribe of Nevada & California
- Mechanical treatment (mastication and hand thinning) to reduce vertical and horizontal continuity of vegetation
- Herbicide: No

MAC NEPA Planning

In addition to forest treatment, the Project will facilitate future forest management activities by supporting circulation and public review of the Environmental Impact Statement for 247,000 acres that do not have current environmental compliance. Example activities undergoing analysis include: conifer removal above 10” diameter at breast height within aspen stands, meadow restoration, commercial thinning, and road decommissioning. .

Long-Term Management

FPP Phase 1C Cedar Implementation

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) 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, Upper Mokelumne Watershed Authority 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.

MAC NEPA Planning

This portion of the Project is for planning, a long-term management plan is not applicable.

Project Funding

The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Project Management	\$176,050	\$50,000	\$226,050
Monitoring & Operations Oversight	\$227,750	\$13,160	\$240,910
FPP Phase 1C Cedar Implementation	\$2,819,675	\$4,739,056	\$7,558,731
MAC NEPA Planning	\$400,000	\$180,170	\$580,170
Indirect	\$362,525	---	\$362,525
Total	\$3,986,000	\$4,982,386	\$8,968,386

Non-WCB funders include:

- U.S. Forest Service - \$193,330
- Sierra Nevada Conservancy - \$4,739,056
- Upper Mokelumne Watershed Authority - \$50,000

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Megan Dahle, Assemblywoman, State Assembly District 1
- Linda Helm, District Ranger, Amador Ranger District, USFS
- Ray Cablayan, P.E., District Ranger Calaveras Ranger District, USFS
- Steven Fredrick, General Manager, Jackson Valley Irrigation District
- Serrell Smokey, Chairman, Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California
- Leana Weissberg, California Director, American Forests
- Jennie Bernstein, Project Development Manager, Blue Forest
- Rodney Siegel, Ph.D., Executive Director, The Institute for Bird Populations
- Matt Millar, Sierra Nevada Program Director, National Forest Foundation

Opposition:

- None received

CEQA

FPP Phase 1C Cedar Implementation

Governor Jerry Brown signed Senate Bill 901, on September 21, 2018 which addressed a number of wildfire-related items including the creation of Public Resources Code

4799.05 (d)(1) Division 13 (Commencing with Section 21000), which provides that CEQA does not apply to projects that include prescribed fire, thinning, or fuel reduction actions undertaken on federal lands to reduce the risk of high-severity wildfire that have been reviewed under the federal National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

MAC NEPA Planning

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 approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

State Government

- Senate: Senator Marie Alvarado-Gil, District 4
- 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.

32. Kiser Ranch

WCB Grant: \$4,885,000

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

Grantee: Sonoma Land Trust (SLT)

Location: Five miles south of the city of Sonoma

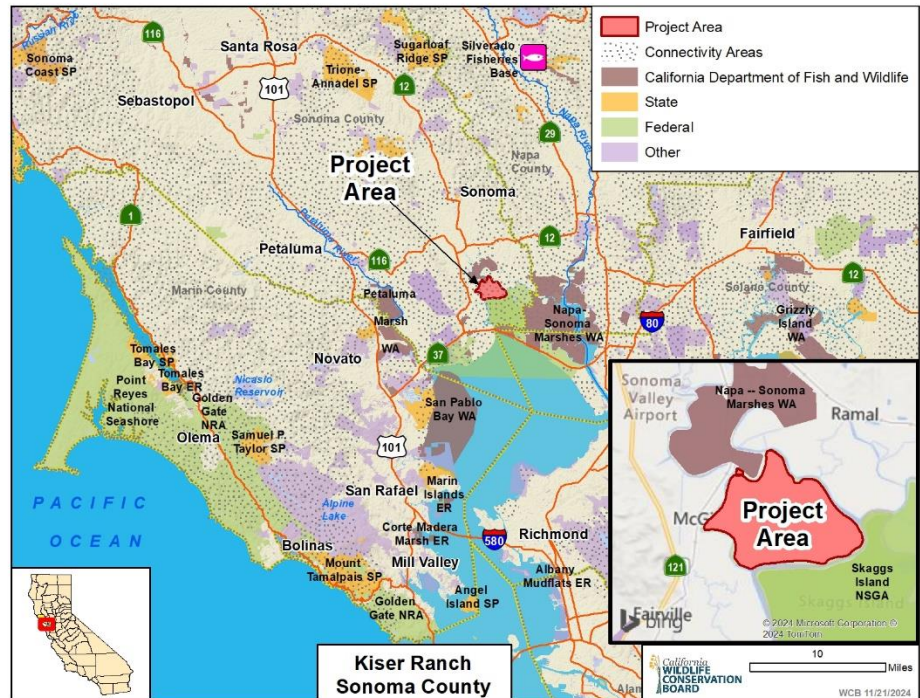
County: Sonoma

Acres: 1,459± (Property)

Acquisition Fee

Property Highlights

- Enables future restoration of tidal wetland habitat benefiting a variety of wildlife species including steelhead trout, Chinook salmon, California Ridgway's rail, and the salt marsh harvest mouse.
- Protection and enhancement of future Pacific Flyway habitat for millions of shorebirds and waterfowl.
- Planned reestablishment of tidal flow and habitat connectivity between Kiser Ranch and adjacent protected properties (Skaggs Island and Camps 2 and 4).
- Community benefits include flood protection, sea level rise mitigation, carbon sequestration, and public access for recreation, education, and stewardship.
- Long-term goal of transferring the Property into the U. S. Fish and Wildlife's (USFWS) San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge.
- Listed in the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture (SFBJV) Priority Project List and is consistent with, and helps achieve, the SFBJV Implementation Strategy.



Priority Metrics

- Located in a Justice Community: No
- Tribal Partnerships: No
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 2, Execute Strategic Acquisitions, and Pathway 8, Align Investments to Maximize Conservation Benefits
- WCB Strategic Plan Goal A and Objectives 1.3, 1.4, 2.4, 2.5, 3.3, 3.4

- Public Access: Once ownership transfers to the USFWS, public access and opportunities for recreation, education, and community stewardship will be explored as part of long-term management and stewardship.

Long-Term Management

A baseline documentation report will be completed as part of the requirements for the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority grant. The planning phase is expected to take five years. SLT will continue to farm the Property under a management services agreement with the Kiser family and their farming lessee during this phase. SLT will implement restoration of the Property and hold fee title until transfer to the USFWS is completed.

Project Funding

The DGS approved fair market value is \$12,365,000. The proposed funding breakdown is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$4,885,000
San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority	\$5,730,000
Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation	\$1,750,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$12,365,000

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Mike Thompson, Member of Congress, 4th District, Congress of the United States

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 Henry Stern, District 27
- Assembly: Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin, District 42

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.

33. Navarro Watershed-Mill Creek Streamflow Enhancement

Restoration – Implementation

WCB Grant: \$2,749,000

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

Grantee: Mendocino County Resource Conservation District

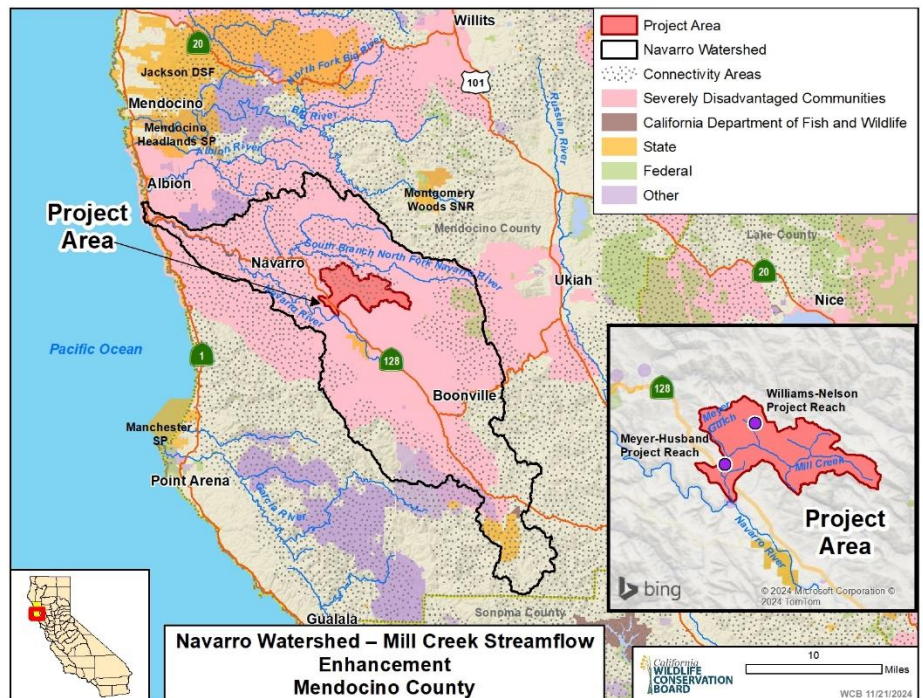
Landowner: Private Landowners

Location: Four miles northeast of Navarro

County: Mendocino

Project Highlights

- Located in the Mill Creek sub-basin of the Navarro River watershed
- Increases dry-season instream flow, repairs incised channels and creates salmonid habitat
- Key species: Central California coast coho salmon, Northern California steelhead
- Regional or Species Plan: National Marine Fisheries Service Recovery Plan for Central California Coast coho salmon
- Implements results of WCB funded planning and prioritization projects



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 2.1, 2.3

Project Description

The Navarro Watershed-Mill Creek Streamflow Enhancement (Project) sites are located along Mill Creek and its tributaries. This area historically hosted thriving salmonid populations, but in recent years has suffered from extremely low flows during the dry

season, going completely dry on several occasions. Mill Creek also suffers from channel incision and lack of habitat for salmonids and other riparian obligate species.

This Project builds on several prior WCB investments including phases 1-3 of the Navarro River Streamflow Enhancement Planning and Prioritization effort. The Project consists of five project activities to be completed on three privately-owned properties: the Meyer-Husband property, the Williams property, and the Nelson property. The Project will increase dry season instream flows and enhance riparian habitat through:

- Placement of three large wood structures to provide complex cover and velocity refugia for juvenile salmonids and increase deposition of spawning gravels.
- Installation of a 2,400 square foot infiltration basin planted with native plants to recharge groundwater and slow winter flushes of water to combat sedimentation of creek.
- Construction of a 63,000 gallon off-stream steel water storage tank and development of a 20-year forbearance agreement to collect and store water during the wet season and prevent extraction of creek water in the dry season.
- Addition of rock and log grade control structures to repair channel incision and increase the water table elevation, thereby releasing groundwater into the creek during the dry season.
- Upgrading an existing four-acre foot pond with a new release valve to direct water into creek and developing a water release plan to augment instream flow.
- Herbicide: No

Long-Term Management

The Mendocino County Resource Conservation District has adopted a Management Plan that guides management actions for the Project, including management of the properties. If at any time during the 20-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	\$314,207	\$0	\$314,207
Implementation and Monitoring	\$2,108,839	\$48,825	\$2,157,664
Indirect	\$325,954	\$0	\$325,954
Total	\$2,749,000	\$48,825	\$2,797,825

Non-WCB funders include:

- The Nature Conservancy - \$48,825

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Jared Huffman, Member of Congress, 2nd District, California, Congress of the United States, House of Representatives
- Mike McGuire, Senator, 2nd District, California State Senate
- Ted Williams, 5th District Supervisor, Mendocino County Board of Supervisors
- Joshua Fuller, North Coast Branch Supervisor, North Central Coast Office, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Price Sheppy, Conservation Director, Anderson Valley Land Trust
- Arnaud Weyrich, Senior Vice President, Roederer Estate, Inc., Anderson Vineyards, Inc.
- Marta L. McKenzie, Vice President, Holmes Ranch Association

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 and Section 15333, Class 33, Small Habitat Restoration Projects. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate 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.

34. Public Forum for Items not on the Agenda

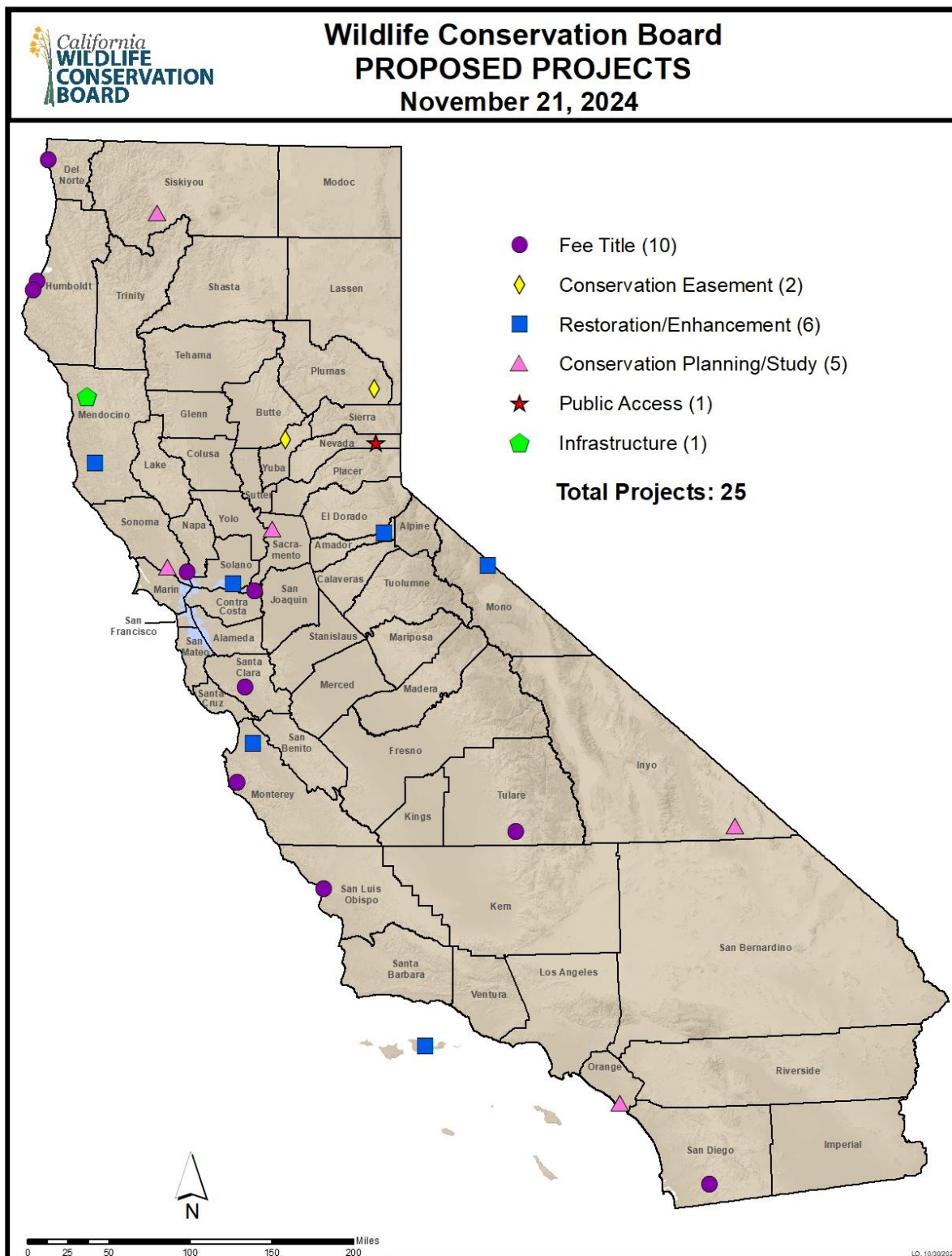
This item provides an opportunity for the general public to share comments or concerns on topics that are not included in this agenda. Speakers shall be limited to two minutes. The Board may not discuss or take action on any matter raised during this item, except to decide whether to place the matter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

35. 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 NOVEMBER 21, 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.