

Funding Results: Environmental Enhancement Fund

Summary for the 2024 Request for Proposals

On November 6th, 2024, the Environmental Enhancement Committee (EEC) awarded \$7.5 million in grants to eight environmental enhancement projects. These projects will be funded by the Environmental Enhancement Fund (EEF) that supports environmental enhancement projects that are located within or immediately adjacent to waters of the state. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife Office of Spill Prevention and Response obtains these funds from oil spill related fines and penalties, or administrative actions related to oil spills, and the funds are deposited into the Environmental Enhancement Fund (CA Govt Code § 8670.70) for award using a competitive grant process. The EEF Grant Program received a record number of applications following the 2024 request for proposals, totaling over \$154 million in requests. The following eight projects located in six different counties throughout California were awarded funding by the EEC.

Enhancing Dune Habitat and Ecosystem Function at Northern Monterey County State Parks, Monterey County

Coastal Conservation and Research was awarded \$432,630.50 to expand upon the currently successful sensitive dune habitat restoration and coastal resilience efforts at Salinas River State Beach. The previously funded work was supported by State Coastal Conservancy and CDFW-OSPR, which will now be expanded to additional State Beaches along the Monterey Bay Coastline. The dunes along the northern Monterey County coastline form a natural barrier from the ocean as sea levels rise and dune habitat supports populations of federally and state listed species and species of special concern including the Western Snowy Plover, California legless lizard, Monterey spineflower, and sand gilia.

Riparian Restoration at the TNC Prairie Pacific Property, Santa Paula, Ventura County

Regents of University of California were awarded \$1,239,468 to expand restoration efforts that have successfully restored over 1,000 acres within the Santa Paula to Sespe river reach of the lower Santa Clara River to restore an additional 50 acres of riparian scrub and willow cottonwood habitat. This is a coordinated effort with UCSB, Nature Conservancy and the Santa Clara River Conservancy that will continue to 'fill in the gap' and increase habitat connectivity between two important groundwater dependent ecosystems that have already been restored and have greater potential to support riparian dependent wildlife including endangered least Bell's vireo, coast horned lizard (special status), pollinators, and monarch butterfly (State conservation priority).

Pismo State Beach Foredune Restoration and Improvement Project, San Luis Obispo County

Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District was awarded \$984,263.08 to restore native vegetation and reduce fuel load within 150 acres of coastal foredune habitat at Pismo Beach State Beach, improving coastal resiliency and enhancing habitat for state and federally listed species including the Western monarch, Northern California legless lizard, surf thistle, and beach spectacle pod. This is a collaborative project with CA State Parks and will complement ongoing habitat restoration at adjacent areas including the Pismo Beach Monarch Grove and the Guadalupe Nipomo Dunes Complex.

Shaahnaa' Lhook' Land Back and Salmon Stream Protection, Mendocino County

The Trust for Public Land was awarded \$765,000 to support the acquisition of a 657-acre property that will be conveyed to the Cahto Tribe of the Laytonville Rancheria as a first step in establishing a Cahto Tribe Protected Area over the Dutch Charlie Watershed, which is within the ancestral territory of the Tribe and is ecologically vital habitat for salmonids. Dutch Charlie Creek is specifically identified as a top conservation priority in plans for supporting populations of coho, chinook, and steelhead, and the tribe is fully committed to permanent protection of the property.

Upper Tryon Creek Habitat Restoration - Phase 1, Del Norte County

Smith River Alliance was awarded \$787,998.60 to restore habitat along 0.56 miles of Tryon Creek, a tributary to Yontocket Slough and the Smith River Estuary, that will improve migration of salmonids, restore natural hydraulic function, restore instream habitat, and enhance riparian habitat. This project will expand on Phase 2 of the project that was completed in 2024 with funding from CDFW's Fisheries Restoration Grant Program to restore 0.27 miles upstream of the Phase 1 project area. Tryon Creek is part of the Smith River Coastal Plain and provides non-natal low velocity winter rearing habitat, which has been shown to contribute to higher survival, greater productivity, and higher overall population life history diversity of Coho Salmon.

Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline Tidal Wetland Restoration Project, Alameda County

Supplybank.org was awarded \$2,000,000 to support the initial phases of the restoration of 33 acres of tidal and seasonal wetlands along the Martin Luther King Jr. Shoreline. This will be a collaborative project with the City of Oakland, East Bay Municipal District, Port of Oakland, East Bay Regional Park District, Bay Trail, Ninth Root, The Hood Planning Group and Oakland Unified School District to engage with and serve the disadvantaged communities of East Oakland with public access improvements. This effort is part of an initiative to transform a 100-acre blighted and seasonally flooded site into a revitalized tidal wetland and ecological habitat within San Leandro Bay ecosystem, benefiting endangered species such as Ridgway's Rail and the Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse.

Restoration of Sausal Creek Headwaters, Alameda County

Friends of Sausal Creek was awarded \$407,939.30 to restore and protect 3,200 linear feet of intermittent and perennial stream reaches of Fern Ravine and Orchard creeks and riparian habitat, and freshwater wetlands within a 50-acre publicly owned headwater sub-basin at Joaquin Miller Park in Oakland, CA. This project is a collaborative effort with the City of Oakland, Friends of Joaquin Miller Park, and local youth organizations to protect diverse habitats and provide community stewardship and ecological education to underserved youth and volunteers of East Oakland. Project implementation will help safeguard rare plants, amphibians and reptiles, resident and neotropical migrant birds, and mammals, including the San Francisco dusky-footed woodrat (State Species of Special Concern), and a variety of other mammals documented within Fern Ravine.

Restoring Ecosystem Health and Resilience at Anacapa Island, Channel Islands National Park, Ventura County

California Institute of Environmental Studies was awarded \$882,801 to significantly expand on active restoration work conducted since 2016 to control invasive plant species and revegetate the island with native plants with the National Park Service. Anacapa Island is home to several endemic species including the Channel Islands slender salamander, Anacapa deer mouse, and island mallow, it also supports the largest nesting colonies of seabirds in Southern California.