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Wildlife Conservation Board



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Wildlife Conservation Board February 26, 2025 Board Meeting First Floor Auditorium, CNRA Headquarters Building





Item 1. Roll Call





Item 2. Approval of Agenda





Item 3. Discussion and Election of Board Chair





Item 4. Executive Director's Report





Item 5. Board Member Updates and Reports





Item 6. Funding Status - Informational





Item 7. Project Updates

Block Grants: Update

Slide 1

Background:

- Over \$70 million in block grant funding approved in January 2023
- Block grant structure: grantee funding to multiple subrecipients
- Semi-annual reporting requirement to WCB

Credit: Point Blue Conservation Science





Point Blue Roots Program Block Grant

Slide 2

Grant: \$26,000,000

Goals: Restore up to 40,000 acres of upland habitat and 5 miles of riparian habitat in at least 35 counties; complete at least 50% of restoration projects in disadvantaged communities.

Progress to date:

- 99 projects approved (78% of implementation funds)
- Fall 2025: Majority of selected projects will start implementation
- 46% of projects are with applicants who have never participated in a state/federal conservation program
- Half of the projects located in DAC/SDAC

Credits: Upper left, Point Blue Conservation Science; upper right, Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation; bottom, Colleen Mahoney, Private Landowner









Point Blue Sierra Meadows Partnership Block Grant

Slide 3

Grant: \$24,731,000

Goals: Restore 6,000 acres, plan for 4,000 acres, and identify the next 2,500 acres for meadow restoration.

Active projects:

- 17 meadow restoration implementation projects
- 19 meadow restoration planning projects
- 15 technical assistance projects

Results to date:

- 4,019 acres of Sierra meadow habitat will be restored
- 3,420 acres will be shovel ready for implementation
- 67% targeted meadow acreage to be completed by end of 2026

Credits: Upper left and bottom, Trout Unlimited; upper right, Butte County RCD









California Association of **Resource Conservation Districts Block Grant**

Slide 4

Grant: \$19,413,000

Goal: Complete up to 115 habitat restoration projects on public and private lands.

Progress to date:

- 32 projects contracted; 9 in planning stage
- Over 90% of funded projects have direct and/or indirect benefits to DACs
- 16 projects working with tribal nations
- Sourcing local communities, leveraging CCC

Credits: Upper left and bottom, Lisa Dibbell; upper right, Michelle Krieg











The California Onward Capacity Building and Grant Program:

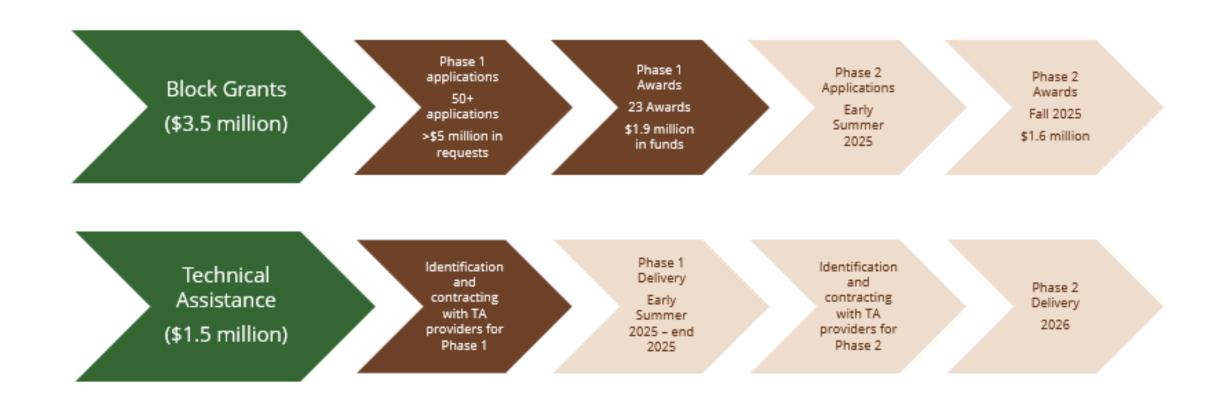
Accelerating Conservation to Reach 30x30

Annual Report to the Wildlife Conservation Board

February 26, 2025



Progress to-date on project delivery



Department of Conservation Grant Awards



\$74,000,864 Total Cost

\$1,954,373 Awarded Funding

The California Council of Land Trusts (CCLT) has awarded nearly \$2M in funding to 23 organizations as part of the Project Advancement Grants for projects that advance the goals of the State of California described in Pathways to 30x30 (30x30) and the Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy (NWLCSS).

40 Acre Conservation League

Tahoe National Park Capacity Project

California Rangeland Trust

Enhancing Conservation Efforts Through

Partnerships & Due Diligence

Wetlands for the Future: Tribal Partnership in Protecting Critical Habitats to Achieve California's 30x30 Goals

Donated Conservation Easement Funding

Sanctuary Forest Inc.

Upper Mattole Big Finley Tribal Protected Area

American River Conservancy California Rangeland Trust

Advancing Land Conservation in the Upper American River and Upper Cosumnes River Watersheds

Mother Lode Land Trust

Mendocino Land Trust, Inc.

Bell Point Land Return Acquisition and

Coastal Trail Planning

Program

Sempervirens Fund

Camp Krem: protecting redwoods and enabling outdoor experiences for the developmentally disabled

American River Conservancy

Sacramento Region Working Lands and Open Space Group

Gaviota Coast Conservancy Native American Land Conservancy Building a Conservation Future: Appraisals

State School Lands Back Project

Sequoia Riverlands Trust

Returning Ancestral Lands to the yak tityu tityu yak tiłhini Northern Chumash Tribe

Anderson Valley Land Trust

Indian Creek Restoration Plan

Lake County Land Trust

for Strategic Coastal Land Acquisition

Partnering with Lake County Pomo Tribes to Advance Natural Land Stewardship and Conservation

Ojai Valley Land Conservancy

OVLC & Water: Capacity Building for Engagement & Leadership

Siskiyou Land Trust

Siskiyou Migration Corridor and Habitat Acquisition Project Development

Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy

Acceleration of land acquisition for Los Angeles Wildlife Corridors

Land Trust of Napa County

Acquisition Program capacity

Oswit Land Trust

North Peak, acquisition of 958 acres in Western Riverside County

Tataviam Land Conservancy

Tribal Land Return Project Advancement

Big Sur Land Trust

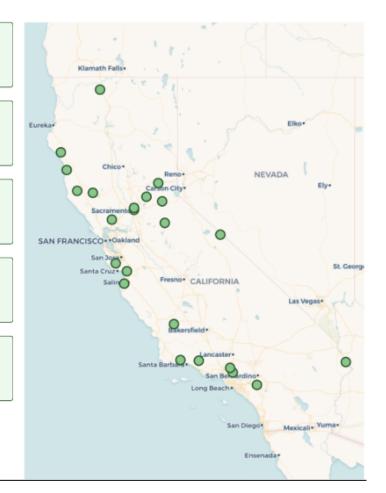
OCEN and BSLT Hiss Parcel Land Back Project

Land Trust of Santa Cruz County

Advancing Strategic Land Protection and Cultural Monitoring in Santa Cruz County

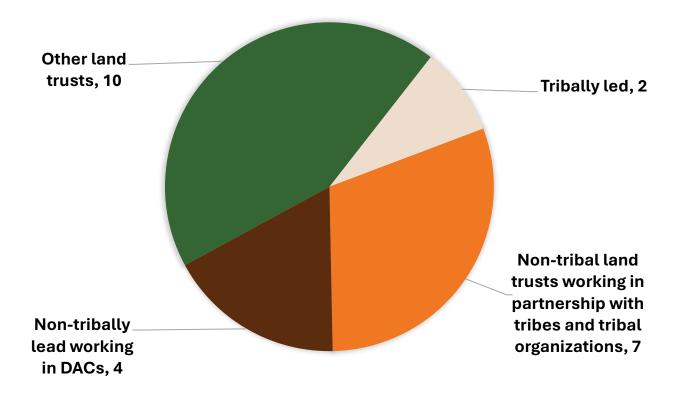
Placer Land Trust

Placer LandBack and Equitable Access Development



Phase 1 Grant Awards 23 Projects leveraging over \$70 million

PHASE 1 AWARDS TO LAND TRUSTS









Phase 1

Providing training and technical assistance to Land Trusts

Phase 1 Funded

- Four workshops on "How to Access Public Funding"
- State Appraisal Basics for Land Trusts
- Best Practices in GIS for Land Trusts
- Training for Certified Real Estate Appraisers on State Appraisal Specifications for Conservation

Combined Funding

- CCLT Conference in March
 - 300 attendees at 2024 conference
 - 380+ attendees <u>at</u> 2025
 - Multiple training tracks for multiple aspects of Land Trusts functions including land protection, stewardship, restoration
 - Stipends for tribal and BIPOC attendees

Other funding

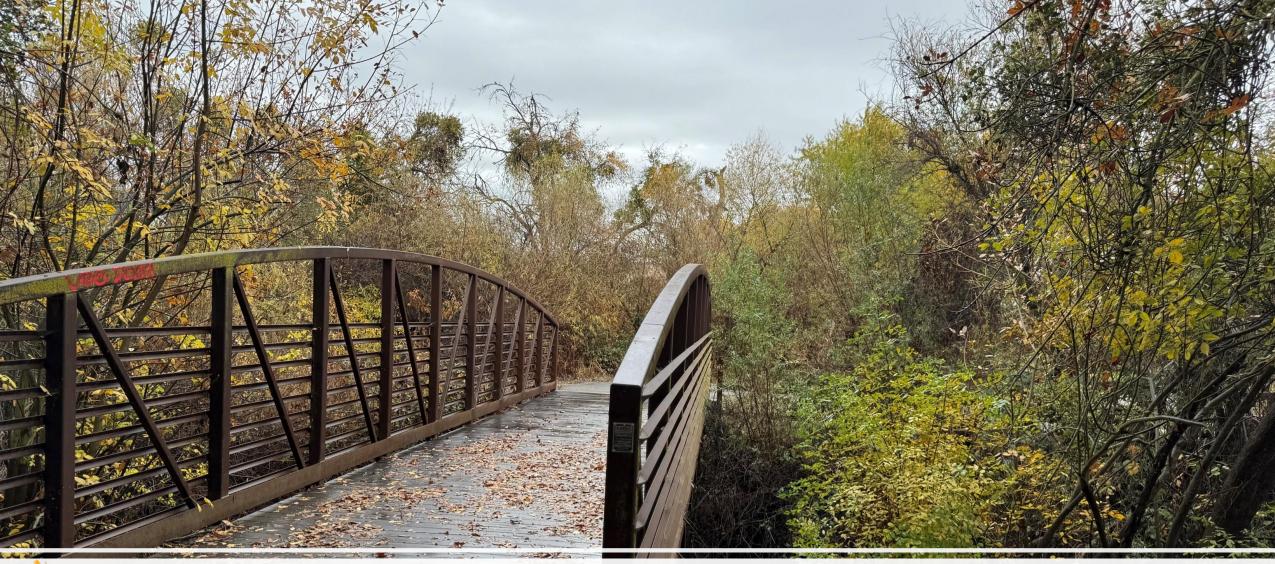
- Rematriation and Land Trusts:
 A Speaker Series for Land
 Trusts
- Empowering Land Trusts to Engage Online Audiences
- CCLT Conservation Forum



Wildlife Conservation Board California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD **PROPOSED PROJECTS** February 26, 2025 Fee Title (3) Restoration/Enhancement (6) Conservation Planning/Study (4) Land Exchange (1) Total Projects: 14

Wildlife Conservation Board Meeting February 26, 2025 Project Map





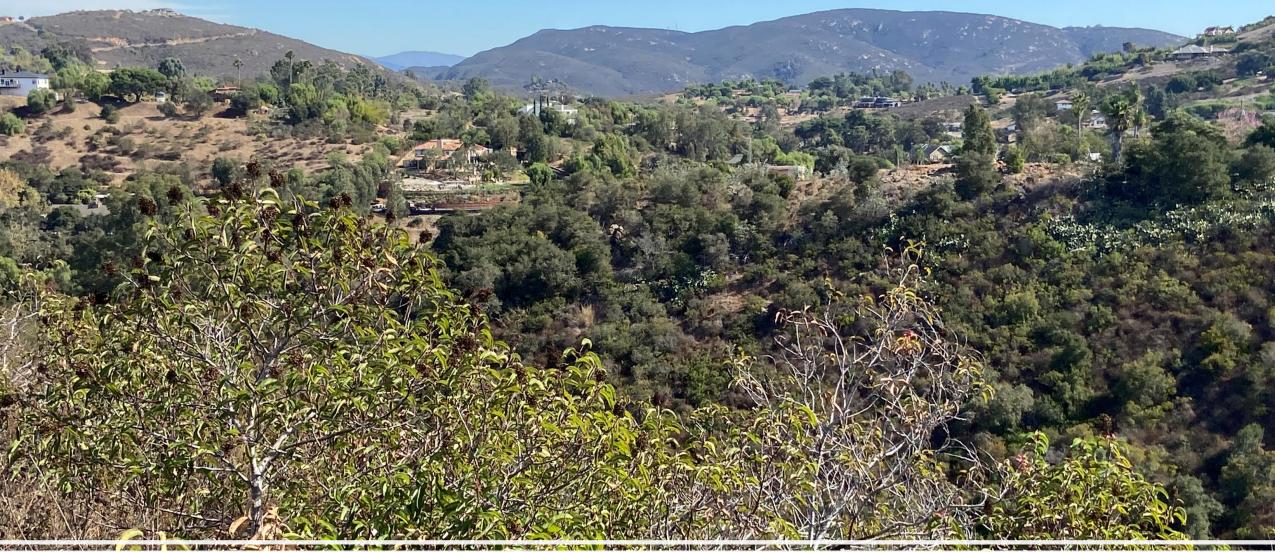


Consent Items 9-17, Excluding 9, 10, 13 & 14



Item 8. Recovery of Funds

Fund Name	Amount
General Fund	\$166,759.00
Habitat Conservation Fund	\$5,157.20
Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund	\$24,528.44
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River	
and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006	\$.17,966.80
Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Fund of 2014	\$34,066.01
The California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection,	
and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018	\$246,368.74
Total Recoveries for All Funds	\$494,846.19





Ross (30x30)
Withdrawn from consideration at this time





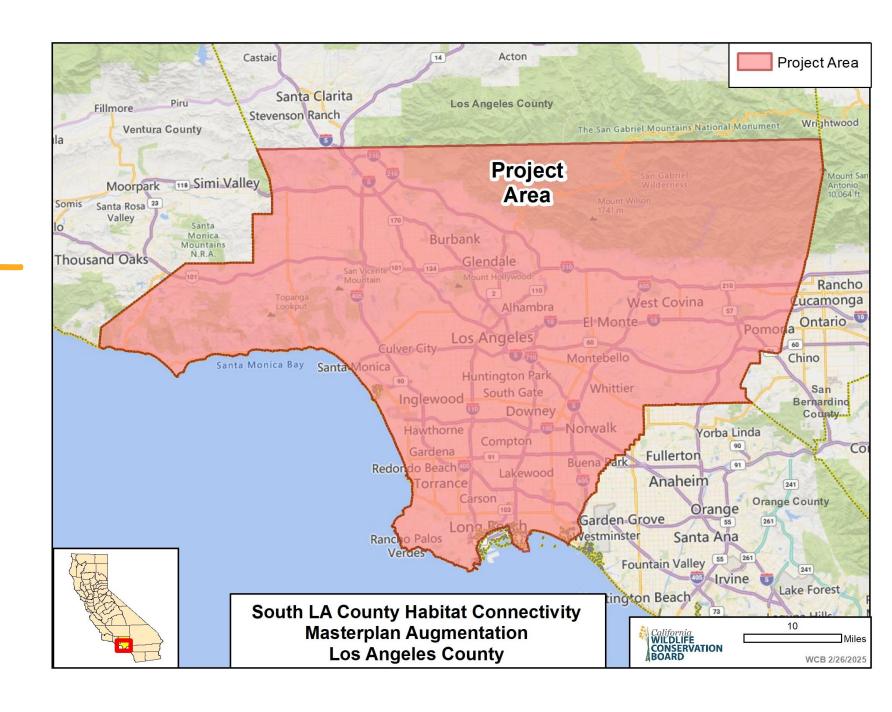
Silo Hills (30x30)
Withdrawn from consideration at this time

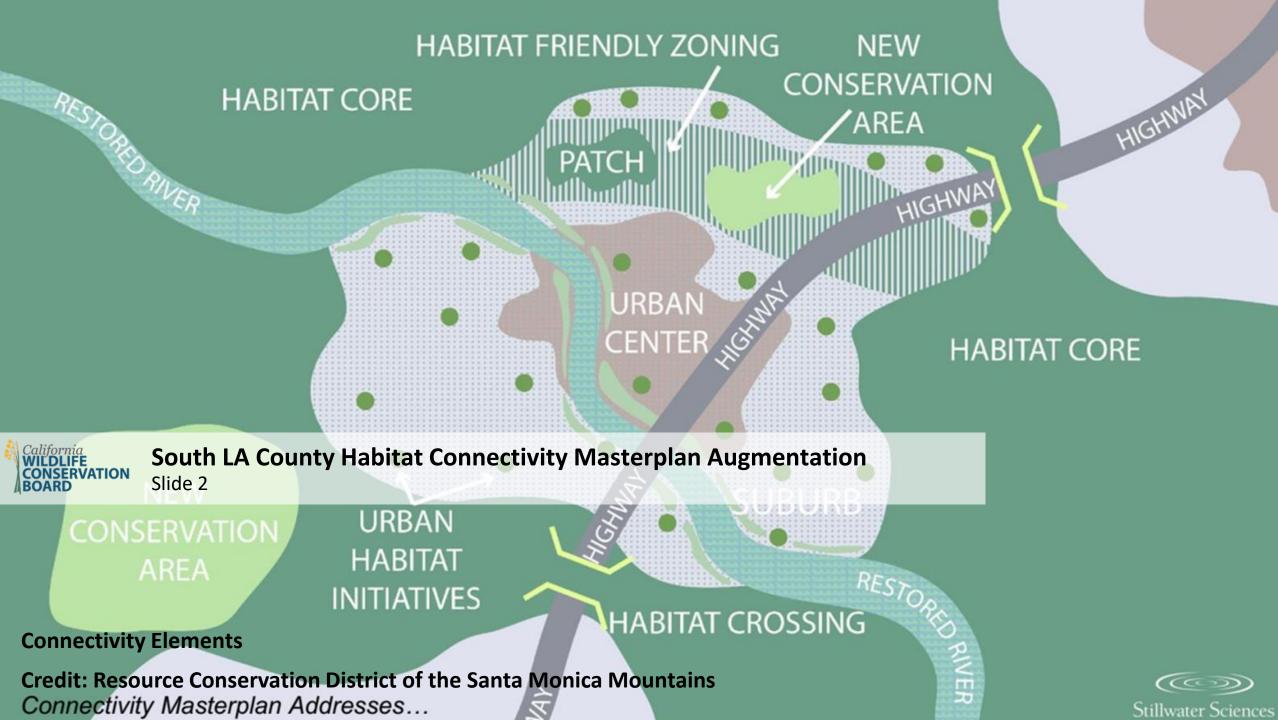
South LA County Habitat Connectivity Masterplan Augmentation

- WCB Request: \$787,000
- Applicant: Resourc
 Conservation District of the
 Santa Monica Mountains
- Over 10 million residents, Los Angeles County
- One of only 36 biodiversity hotspots in the world
- Fragment landscapes and threaten native biodiversity.

Credit: WCB







South LA County Habitat Connectivity Masterplan Augmentation

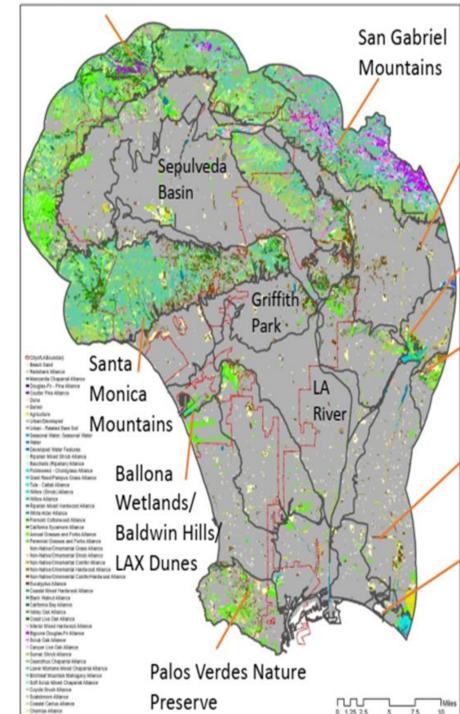
Slide 3

Project Elements:

- Maps of existing conditions and priority locations
- High-resolution physical plan for 6 subregional units
- Conceptual design for up to 8 priority projects
- Best practices guidance
 - Zoning, infrastructure improvement, water quality projects, and housing development
- Extensive outreach
 - Tongva, Gabreleño, Kizh, and Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians

Credit: Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains





Santa Fe Dam

(Upper San Gabriel Alluvial, Riversidian Sage Scrub)

Whittier Narrows

(Middle San Gabriel Alluvial, Riparian)

Puente Hills

(Puente Hills & Terraces, Oak Woodland, CSS, Chaparral)

El Dorado Park

(Lower San Gabriel Alluvial, Riparian, CSS)

Seal Beach

(San Gabriel River Intertidal, Saltmarsh, Dunes)

River West Fresno Restoration

• **Applicant:** City of Fresno

• **Project Type:** Implementation

 Location: "River West" on the San Joaquin River Parkway in Fresno, CA

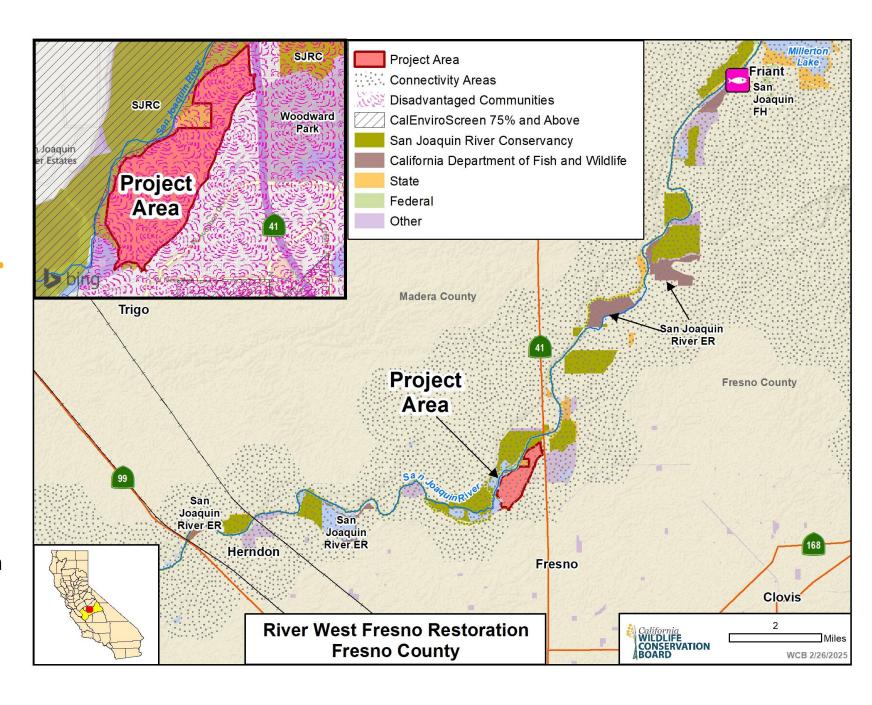
• WCB Ask: \$172,000

• Cost Share: \$1,600,000

 Purpose: Restoration of upland habitat associated with the River West Eaton Trail Extension Project (Trail Extension Project)

Credit: WCB





River West Fresno Restoration

Slide 2

The Trail Extension Project is a high priority for the San Joaquin River Conservancy

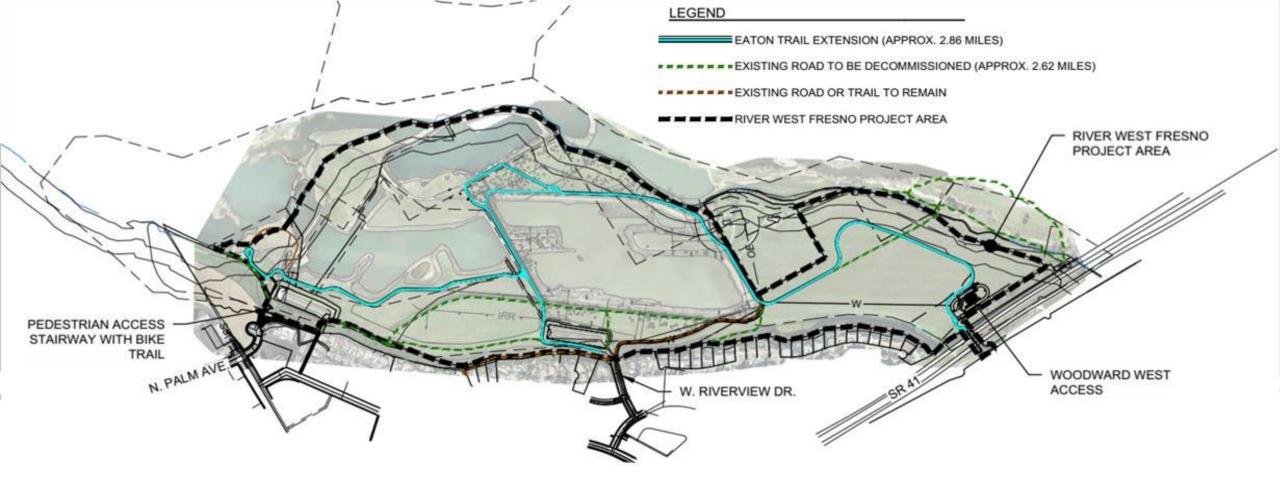
- The Proposed Project will implement postconstruction restoration
- Will follow the Habitat Restoration and Revegetation Plan (HRRP), which will mitigate habitat loss and restore the area

Restoration and revegetation area facing NW from Spano Park in Fresno, CA

Credit: Provost and Pritchard







River West Fresno Restoration

Slide 3

Project Area Map shows the existing roads the Proposed Project will decommission and restore (dashed, green line)

Credit: Provost and Pritchard









River West Fresno Restoration

Slide 4



Photos of the Project Site

Existing roads (left), view from Spano Park facing NW (middle) and view from Riverview Drive entrance facing W (right)

Credit: Provost and Pritchard





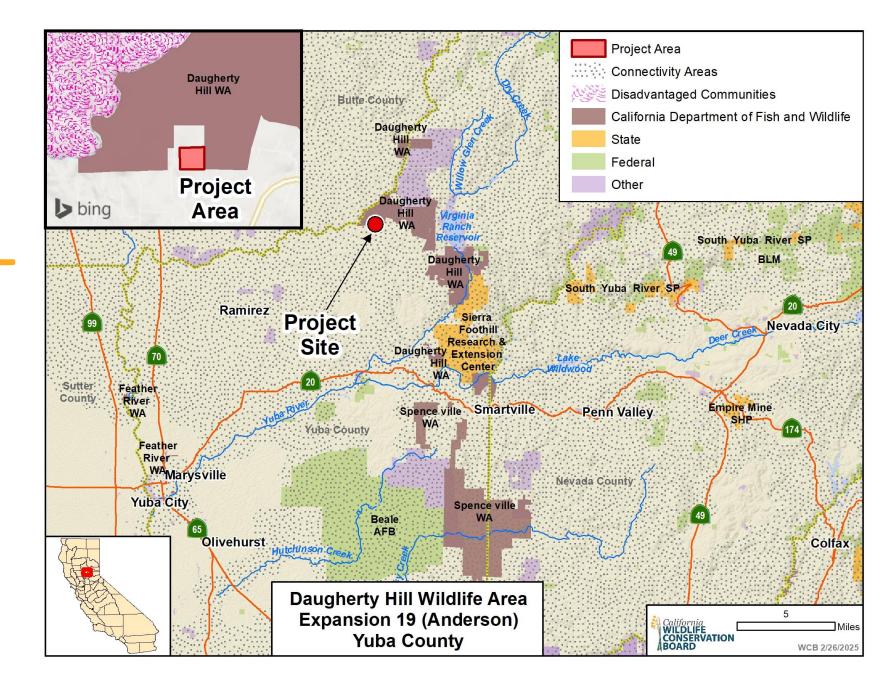
Mourier West (30x30)
Withdrawn from consideration at this time

Pleasant Grove Creek

Credit: Placer Conservation Authority

Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area Expansion 19 (Anderson)

- Addition to the Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area
- 22+/- acres
- \$200,000 purchase price
- Two miles northeast of Loma Rica
- Wildlife viewing, hiking and hunting





Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area Expansion 19 (Anderson)

Slide 2

Grassy Hillside

Credit: WCB







Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area Expansion 19 (Anderson)

The 2017 Cascade Fire burned much of the property

Credit: WCB

Slide 3





Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area Expansion 19 (Anderson)

Slide 4

View of the property from Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area Credit: WCB



Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area Expansion 19 (Anderson) Slide 5

Entrance to Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area from adjacent neighborhood

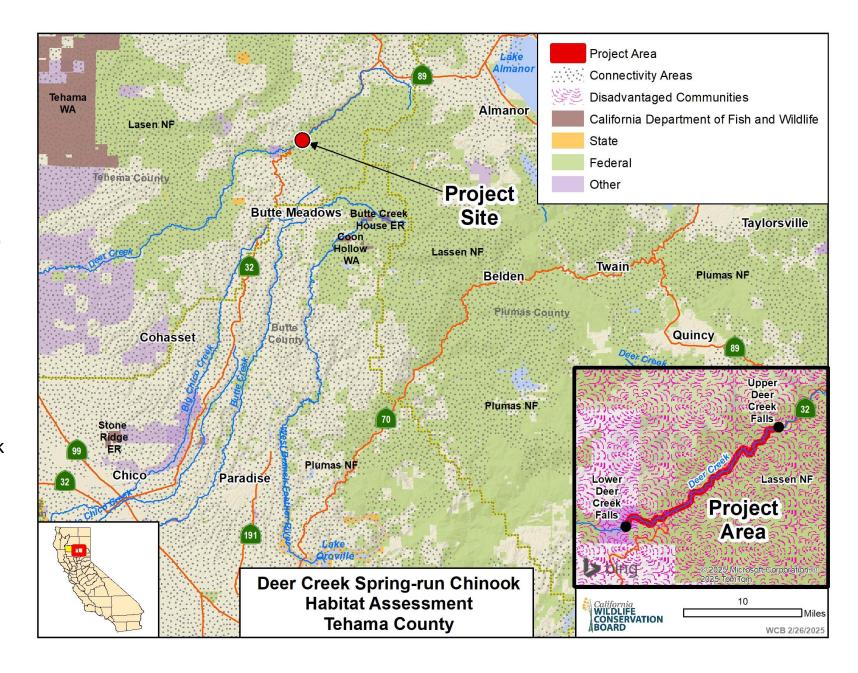




Deer Creek Spring-run Chinook Habitat Assessment

- Located in Tehama County between Chico and Lake Almanor
- Includes 5 miles of waterway
- \$998,000
- Grantee is the Resource Conservation District of Tehama County.
- This project will examine how sediment is transported through a reach of Deer Creek and develop plans to augment gravel for Spring-run Chinook Salmon spawning habitat
- Project is located in a disadvantaged community (DWR Mapping Tool)





Deer Creek Spring-run Chinook Habitat Assessment

Slide 2

- Deer Creek is one of only three remaining populations of Spring-run Chinook Salmon
- The Project will reach include Deer Creek between Upper and Lower Deer Creek Falls

Creek flowing through a wet meadow

Credit: Resource Conservation District of Tehama County







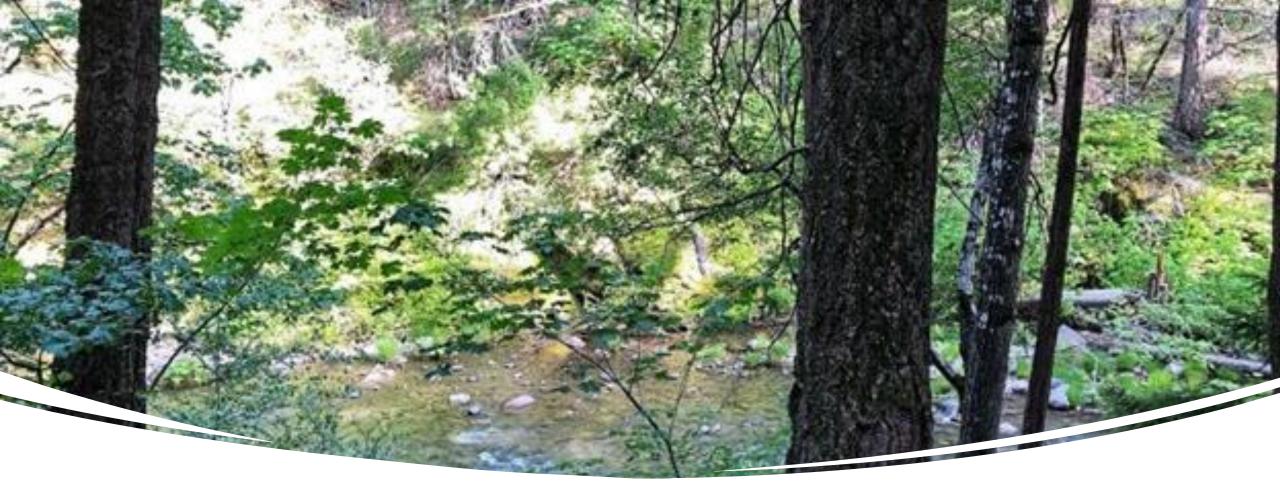
Deer Creek Spring-run Chinook Habitat Assessment

Slide 3

- Fish are able to access the project area via a fish ladder bypassing Lower Deer Creek Falls
- However, there is limited spawning gravel available
- Poor understanding of how sediment moves through or is constrained within the project area

Fish ladder around Lower Deer Creek Falls
Credit: Resource Conservation District of Tehama
County





Deer Creek Springrun Chinook Habitat Assessment

Slide 4

- This project will examine how sediment enter and move through the project area
- This project will also develop plans for gravel augmentation locations

Stream flowing through a forest Credit: Resource Conservation District of Tehama County



Deer Creek Spring-run Chinook Habitat Assessment

Slide 5

- Project will benefit an endangered and culturally important species
- Improve spawning conditions that will help stabilize one of only three populations of Spring-run Chinook Salmon

Upper Deer Creek Falls

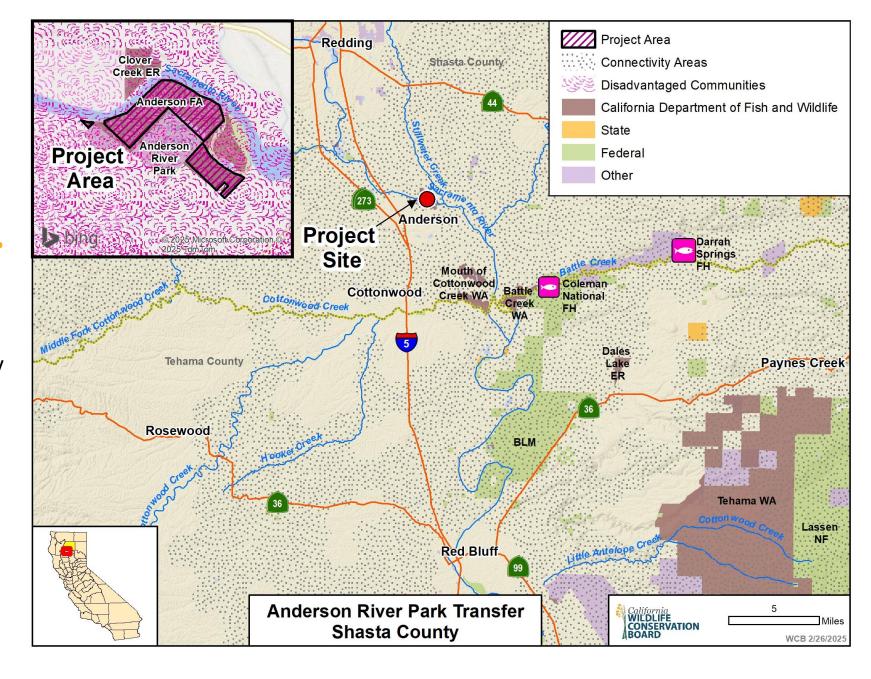
Credit: Resource Conservation District of Tehama County





Anderson River Park Transfer

- City of Anderson
- 212 acres
- City of Anderson, Shasta County
- No cost transfer





Anderson River Park Transfer

Slide 2

 Property allows public boating and fishing access along Sacramento River

Amphitheatre along Sacramento River

Credit: City of Anderson







Anderson River Park Transfer

Slide 3

Key Species:

- Elderberry longhorn beetle
- California red-legged frog
- Swainson's hawk
- Chinook salmon and steelhead trout

Public pathway along Sacramento River Credit: City of Anderson



Anderson River Park Transfer

Slide 4

Boat ramp access on Sacramento River

Credit: City of Anderson





Anderson River Park Transfer

Slide 5



Play area on property

Credit: City of Anderson





Consent Items 9-17, Motion, Excluding 9, 10, 13 & 14



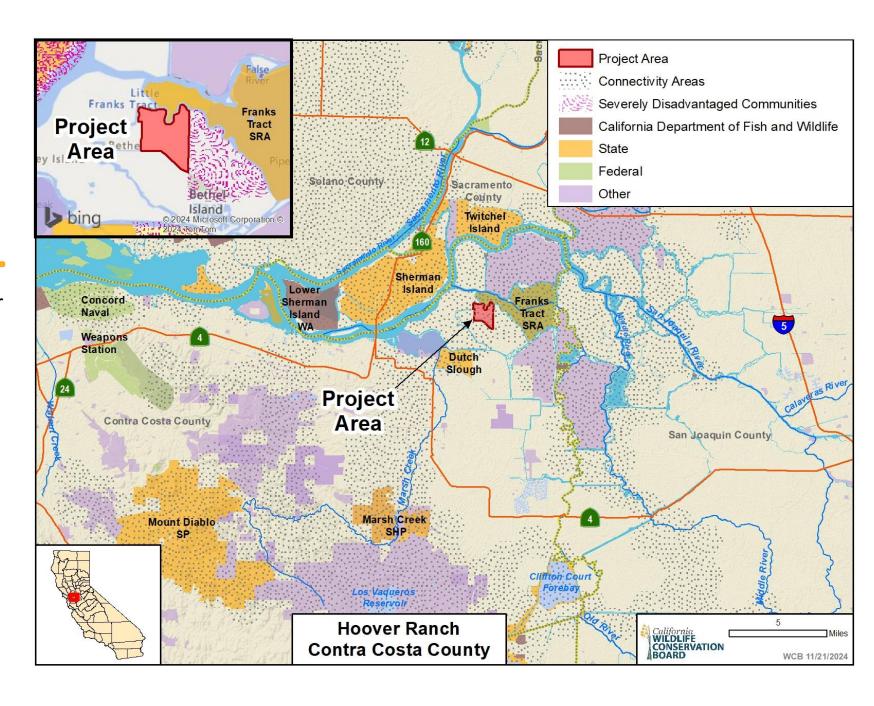


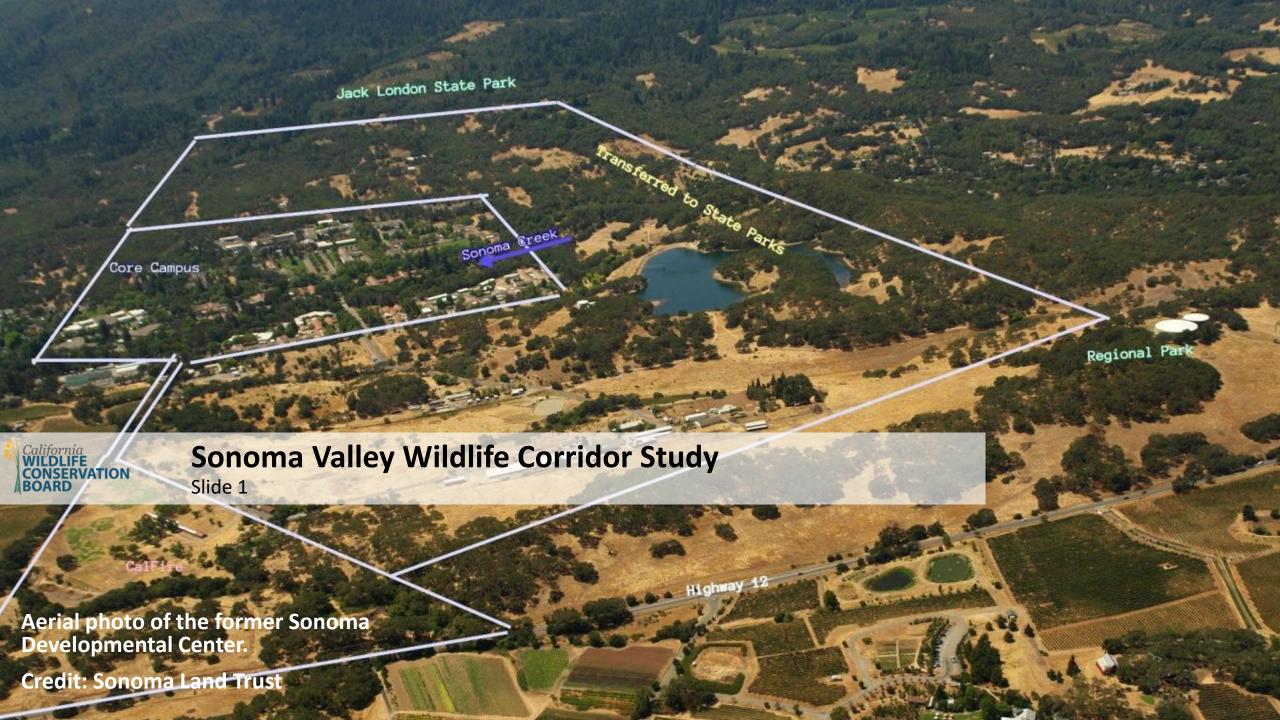
Presented Items 13, 18-25

Sonoma Valley Wildlife Corridor Study

- Project is located on the former 950-acre Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC)
- The SDC is located at the heart of the Sonoma Valley Wildlife Corridor between the Sonoma Valley Regional Park and Jack London State Historic Park













Sonoma Valley Wildlife Corridor Study

Slide 2

The study will:

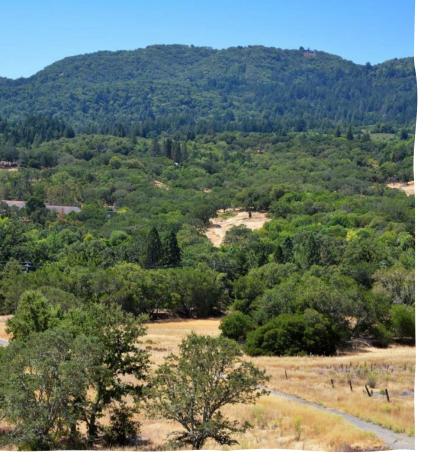
- Compile existing information and gather missing information about habitat, wildlife use, and proposed developments within the project areas
- Understand the impacts of proposed developments on existing conditions using a variety of analytical tools, analysis of biodata, and expert recommendations
- Compile findings and make recommendations for measures that could be taken to protect and improve wildlife connectivity and habitat within the project area

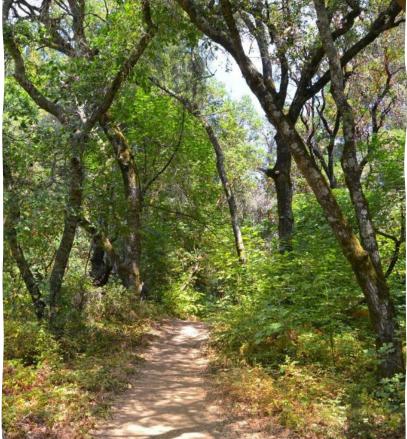
Top left: Lake Suttonfield

Bottom: Trails on the former SDC

Top right: View of the former SDC









Sonoma Valley Wildlife Corridor Study

Slide 3



Ultimately the study will include:

- Designation of areas most appropriate for limited development and public use to protect sensitive wildlife habitat
- Design guidelines that recommend avoidance, minimization and mitigation measures for any known development plans for the property

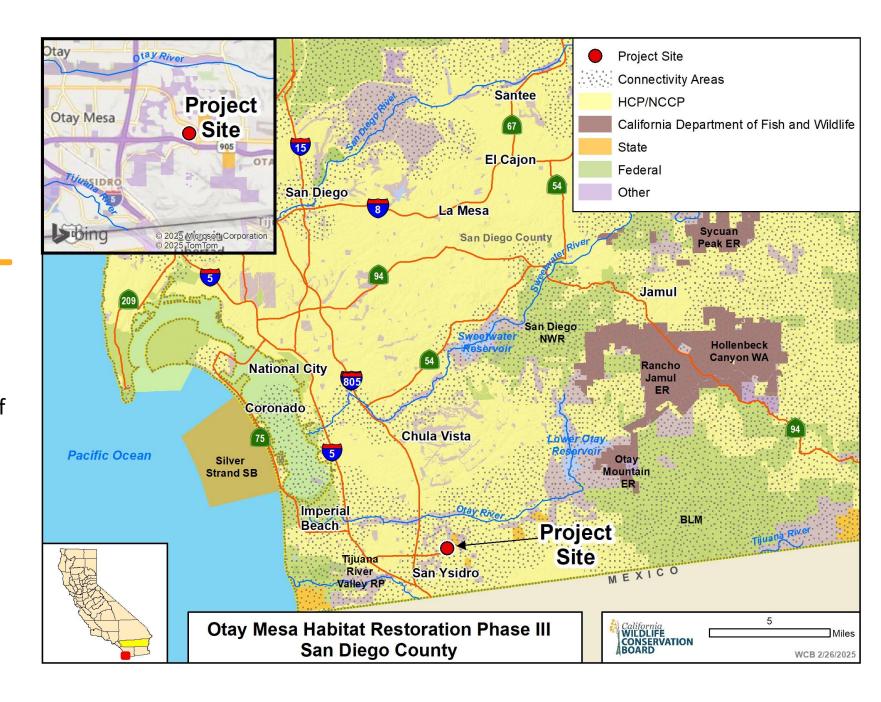
View of the hills at the former SDC property (left), trail on the former SDC property (middle), and Fern Lake (right)

Credit (left to right): Scott Hess, Sonoma Land Trust, Scott Hess

Otay Mesa Habitat Restoration Phase III

- WCB request: \$1,492,000
- Applicant: Chaparral Lands Conservancy
- Located in in the community of Otay Mesa near the international border with Mexico
- Project site (Clayton Preserve)
 was acquired in 2011 with
 partial funding from the WCB







Otay Mesa Habitat Restoration Phase III

Slide 2

5 acres of vernal pools and maritime succulent scrub

- Habitats prioritized by the San Diego County Multiple Species Conservation Plan (MSCP)
- 95–97% of vernal pool habitat in San Diego County has been lost

WCB Projects

- Dennery Canyon Acquisition 2003
- Clayton Property Acquisition 2011
- Phase I Restoration 2017
- Phase II Restoration 2021

Credit: Chaparral Lands Conservancy





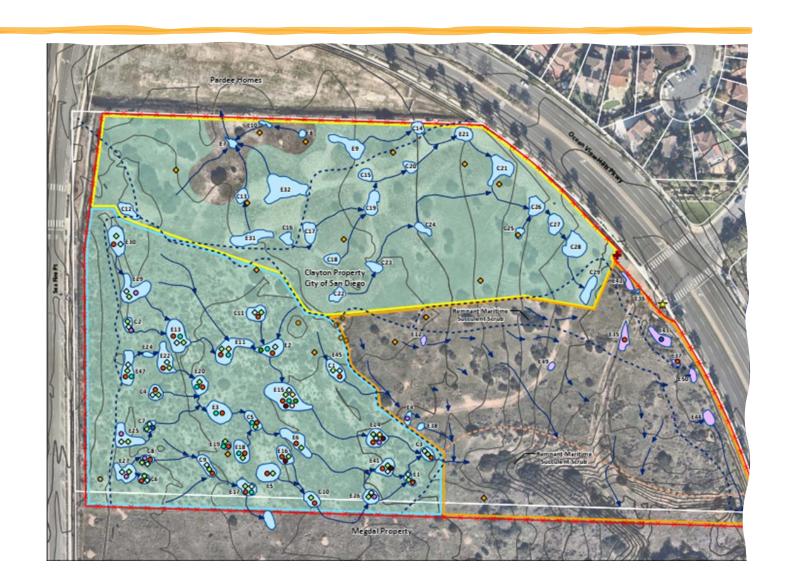
Otay Mesa Habitat Restoration Phase III

Slide 4

Clayton Property Restoration Progress

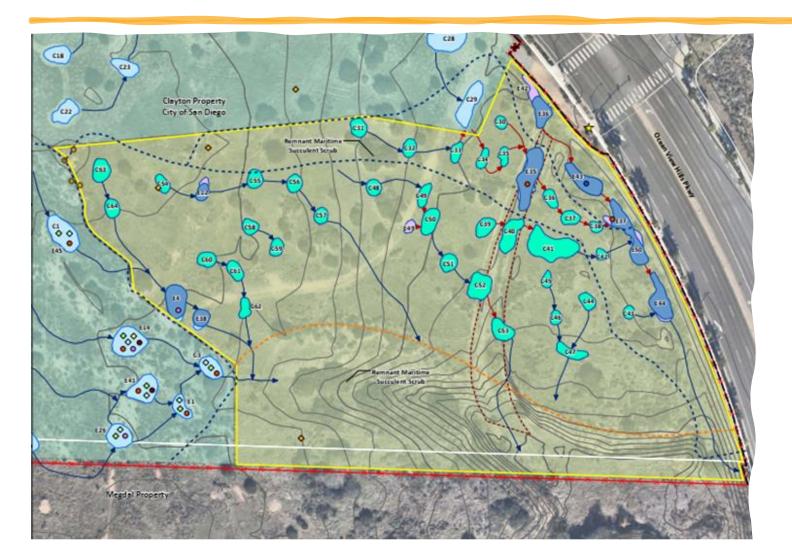
Credit: Chaparral Lands Conservancy





Otay Mesa Habitat Restoration Phase III

Slide 5



Phase III Site Map

Credit: Chaparral Lands Conservancy









Otay Mesa Habitat Restoration Phase III

Slide 6

California
WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION

Current Conditions at Project Site

Credit: Chaparral Lands Conservancy

Otay Mesa Habitat Restoration Phase III

Slide 7

Project Elements:

- 5 Acres of vernal pool and maritime succulent scrub habitat
- Site prep and weed management
- Vernal pool basin grading and recontouring
- Plant propagation and planting
- Local seed dispersion
- Introduction of Riverside and San Diego fairy shrimp
- Installation and maintenance of fencing and irrigation

Credit: Chaparral Lands Conservancy









State Route 91 B Canyon Wildlife Crossing

WCB Request: \$10,666,000

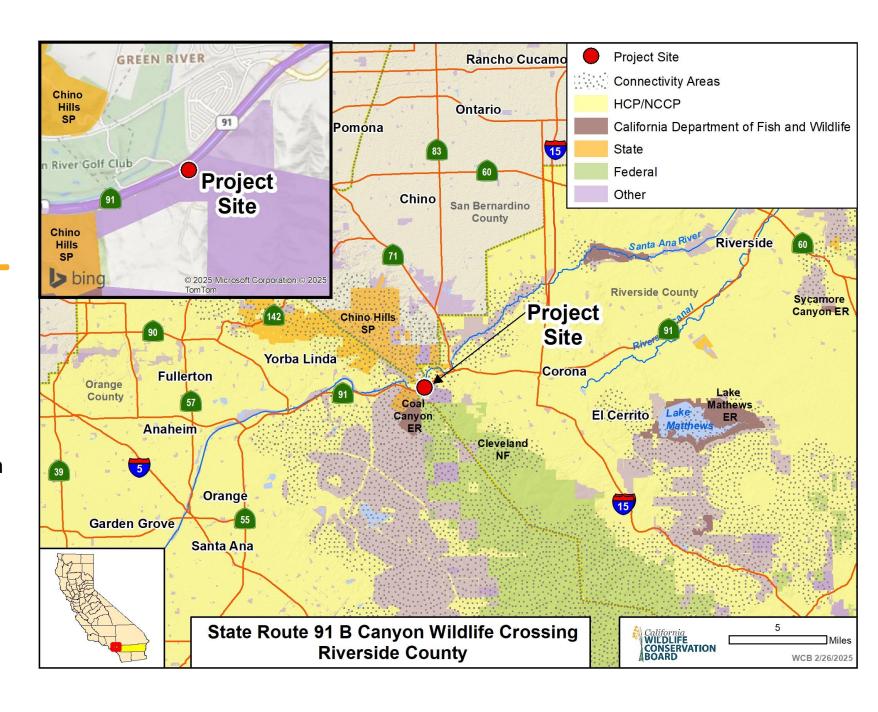
Applicant: Caltrans

 State Route 91 (SR-91) is a nearly impenetrable barrier

 Habitat fragmentation impairs genetic health of local mountain lions

 "B Canyon" listed on CDFW's Wildlife Movement Barrier Priorities List











State Route 91 B Canyon Wildlife Crossing

Slide 2



SR-91 (left), Looking South Towards Santa Ana Mountains (middle) and Looking North Towards Chino Hills (right)

Credit: Caltrans

State Route 91 B Canyon Wildlife Crossing

Slide 3

Bend in the culvert that developed due to incremental widening of the highway

- Eliminates line of sight through culvert
- Constrains functionality as a wildlife corridor

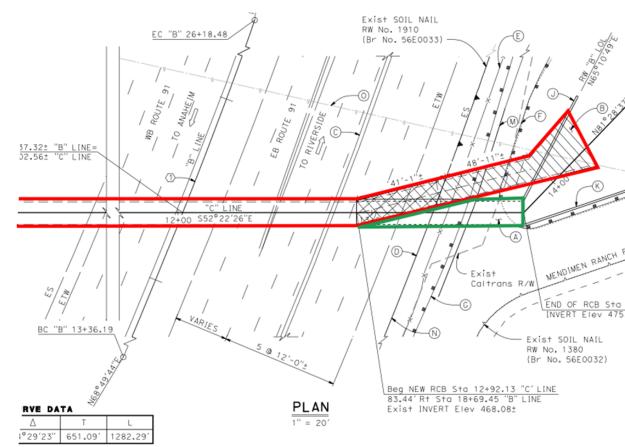
B Canyon culvert looking south (left), B Canyon culvert looking north (right) and project site map (bottom)

Credit: Caltrans









State Route 91 B Canyon Wildlife Crossing

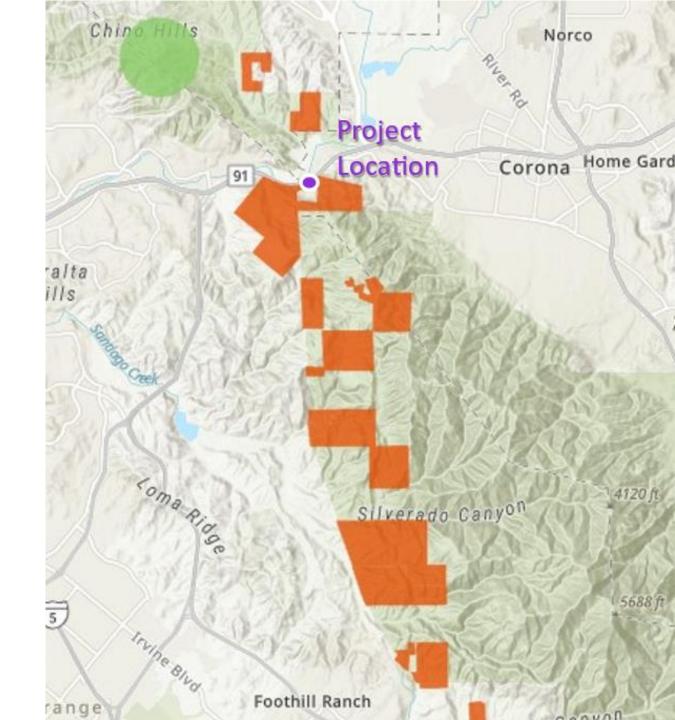
Slide 4

Project Elements:

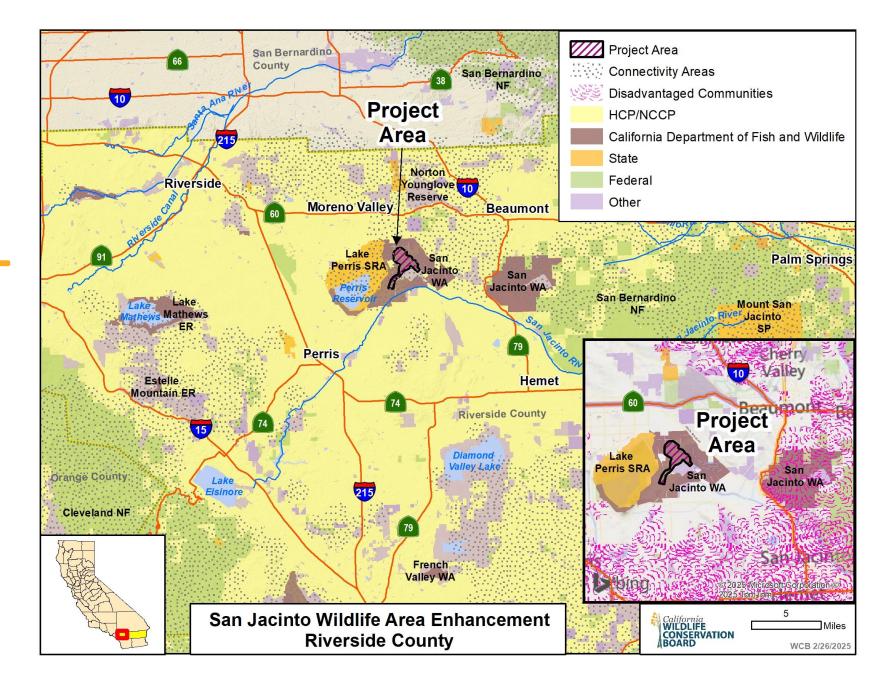
- Replacing southern portion of culvert at B
 Canyon with new structure that removes the kink
- Installing a sound wall
- Conducting public outreach
- Collecting baseline data

WCB Acquisitions near Project





- Located at CDFW owned San Jacinto Wildlife Area
- Funding Request: \$5,777,000
- Within Sonoran Joint Venture's "Priority Wetland Areas"





Slide 2

Seasonal and semi-permanent wetlands on the San Jacinto Wildlife Area

Seasonal wetland unit (top left & right), semipermanent wetland unit (bottom)

Credit: WCB & California Waterfowl Association









Slide 3

Key avian species at the San Jacinto Wildlife Area:

- Tricolored blackbird colonies (400-3000 individuals)
- Burrowing Owl
- Multiple raptor species

Top: Red-tailed hawk

Bottom: Tricolored blackbird

Credit: WCB & CDFW









Slide 4

San Jacinto Wildlife Area water supply is tertiary treated water

• Ultimate recycled water project!

"Purple pipe" water delivery pipe with valve



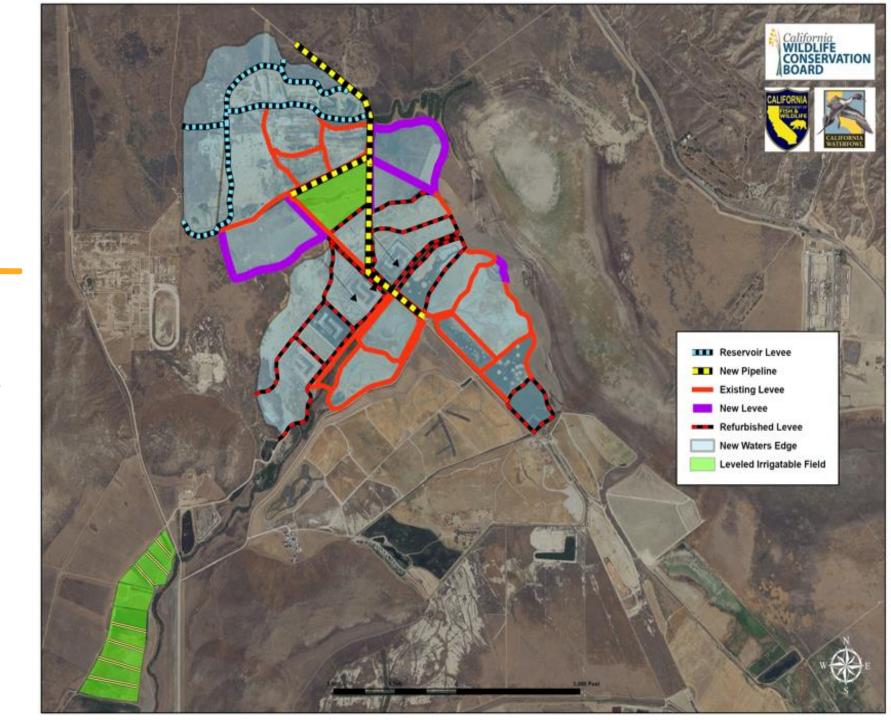
Map of project area improvements

Slide 5

- New semi-permanent wetlands shown in upper left
- Enhanced semi-permanent wetlands shown in lower right

Credit: California Waterfowl Association





Slide 6

Wetland unit to be enhanced

Wetland in foreground with San Jacinto Mountains in background







Slide 7

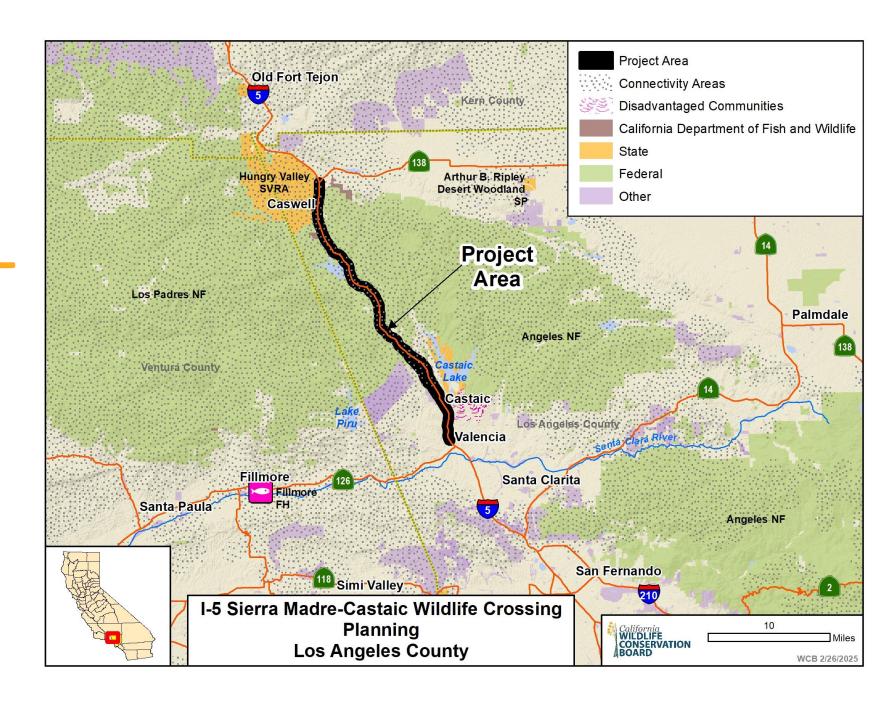
Upland area to be leveled and planted for waterfowl foraging



I-5 Sierra Madre-Castaic Wildlife Crossing Planning

- WCB Request: \$4,921,000
- Applicant: Mountains
 Recreation and Conservation
 Authority
- Interstate 5 from the City of Santa Clarita and running 26 miles northward
- Complete wildlife movement barrier between the Sierra Madre and Castaic Ranges





I-5 Sierra Madre-Castaic Wildlife Crossing Planning

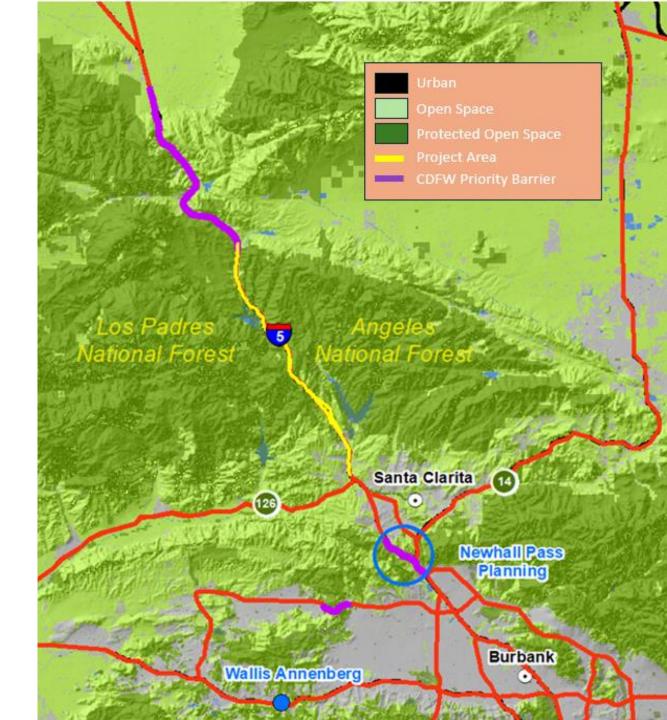
Slide 2

I-5 bisects Sierra Madre Mountains (Los Padres National Forest) and Castaic Range (Angeles National Forest)

Wildlife Impacts

- Mountain lions, deer, and black bear observed as roadkill
- Restricted gene flow
- No ability to shift ranges in response to fire, flood, and climate change







I-5 Sierra Madre-Castaic Wildlife Crossing Planning

Slide 3

Interstate 5 within project area

Credit: Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority









I-5 Sierra Madre-Castaic Wildlife Crossing Planning

Slide 4



Habitat adjacent to Interstate 5

Credit: Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority



I-5 Sierra Madre-Castaic Wildlife Crossing Planning

Slide 5

Project Elements

Collect and compile data on wildlife movement

Construction feasibility and constraints analyses for at least 4 priority wildlife crossings

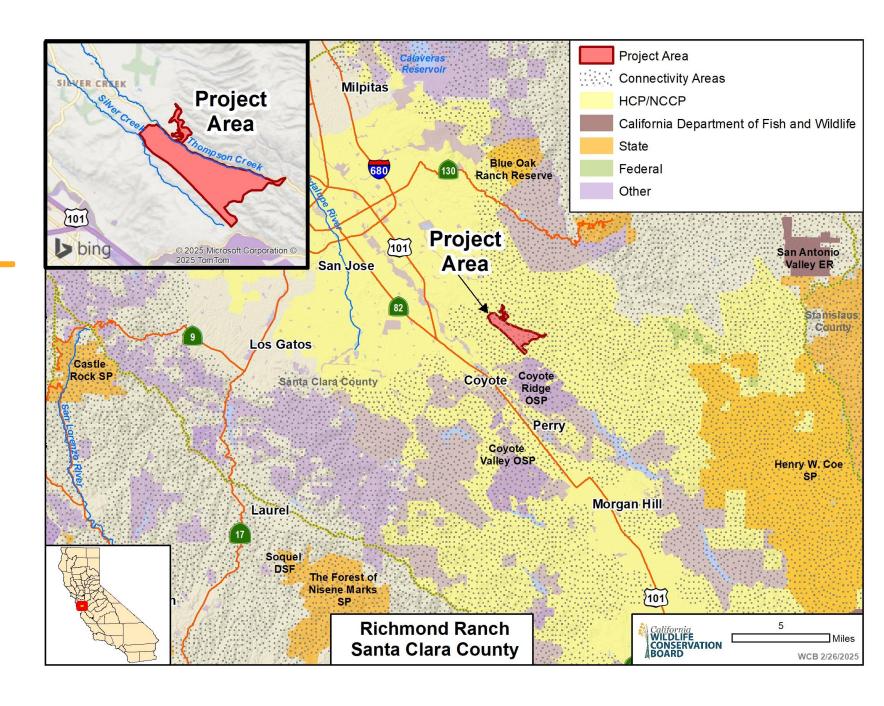
Preferred location

- 35% and 65% design plans
- Caltrans documentation
- Permits
- CEQA and NEPA



- Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency
- 1,218 acres
- City of San Jose, Santa Clara County
- WCB Request: \$4,000,000





Slide 2

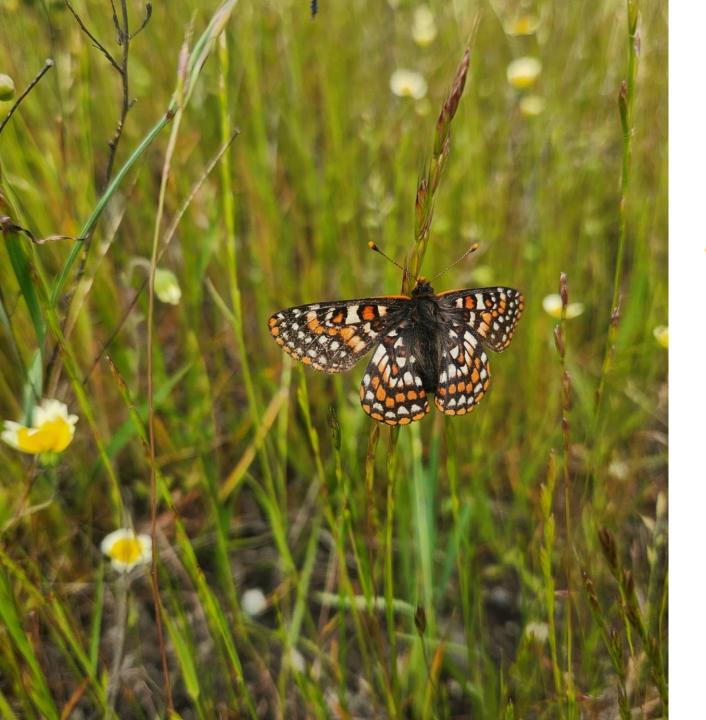
Property contains over 365 acres of serpentine habitat

Serpentine grasslands on property

Credit: Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency







Slide 3

Key Species:

- California red-legged frog
- California tiger salamander
- Bay checkerspot butterfly
- Overwintering western burrowing owl

Bay checkerspot butterfly on property
Credit: Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency

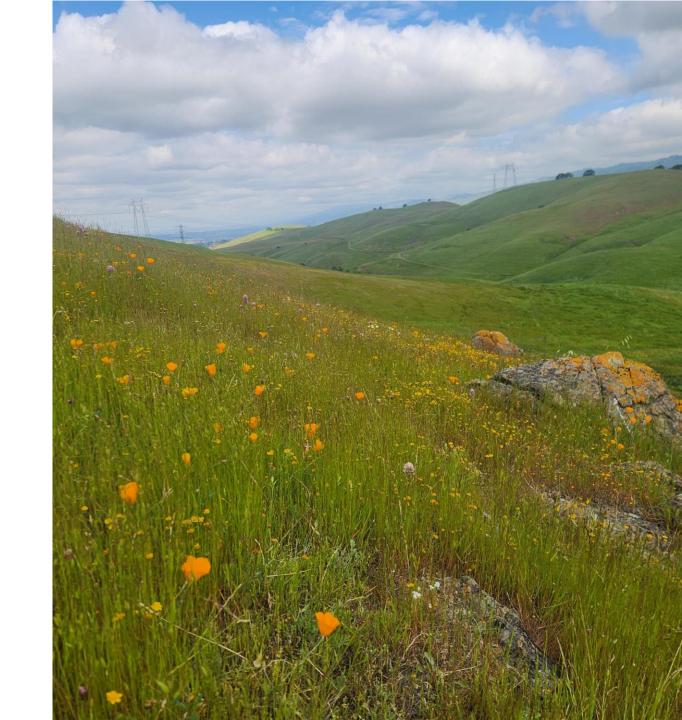


Slide 4

 Property to allow public access over a multi-use trail linking to the Bay Area Ridge Trail

View of wildflowers and rolling hills over property Credit: Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency







Slide 5

Rolling hills and oak woodlands on property

Credit: Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency



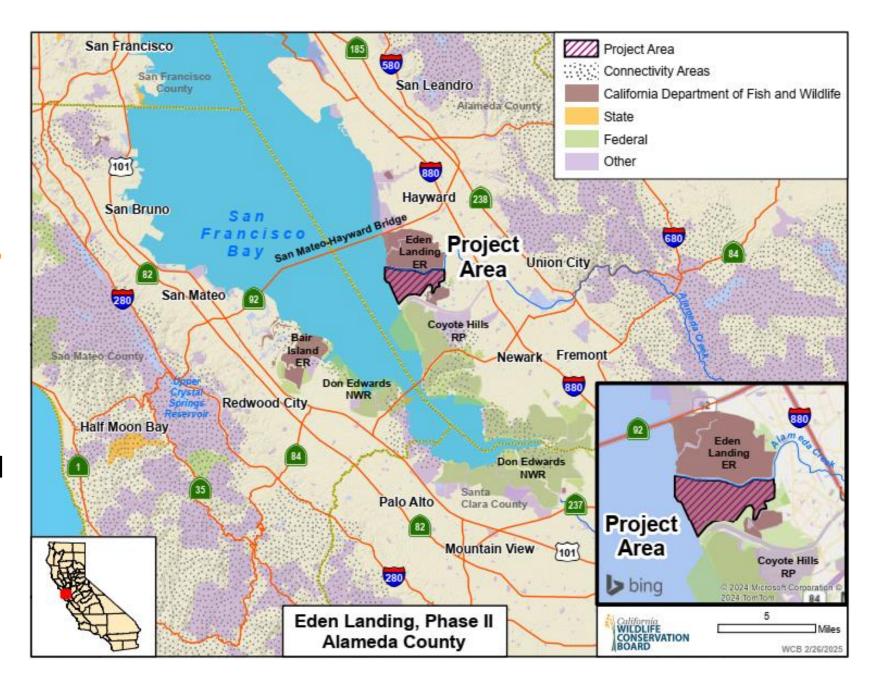
Eden Landing, Phase II

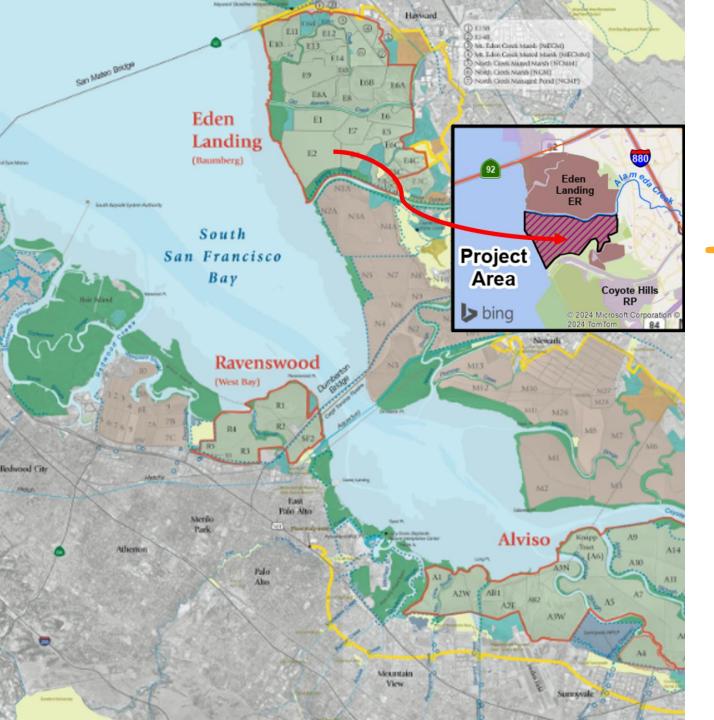
 Purpose: Restore tidal wetlands and enhance open water habitat in southern portion of the Eden Landing Wildlife Area

• Applicant: Ducks Unlimited

• **Grant request:** \$5,350,000







Eden Landing, Phase II

Slide 2

Implements the 15,000-acre South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project (SBSPRP)

SBSPRP areas:

- Ravenswood
- Alviso
- Eden Landing

 O Phase 1

 - Phase 2 (this project)

Credit: SBSPRP website/WCB (inset)



Eden Landing, Phase II

Slide 3

Goal: Transform approx. 2,100 acres of salt ponds into 1,300 acres of tidal marsh, and 800 acres of enhanced aquatic habitats.

Objectives:

- Convert salt ponds to tidal marsh (soil import, levee improvements, grading, breaching)
- Construct habitat islands and gently sloping habitat transition zones
- Enhance water flow to and within managed ponds
- Monitoring/adaptive management

Credit: Ducks Unlimited, Inc







Eden Landing, Phase II

Slide 4

Current Conditions: Bayside Levee, open water

Credit: Ducks Unlimited, Inc.



Eden Landing, Phase II

Slide 5

Current Conditions: Water control structures

Improve infrastructure to enhance water flow within the restored areas

- Salt marsh habitat (salt marsh harvest mouse, Ridgway's rail)
- Managed pond habitat (snowy plover, least tern)

Credit: Ducks Unlimited, Inc.



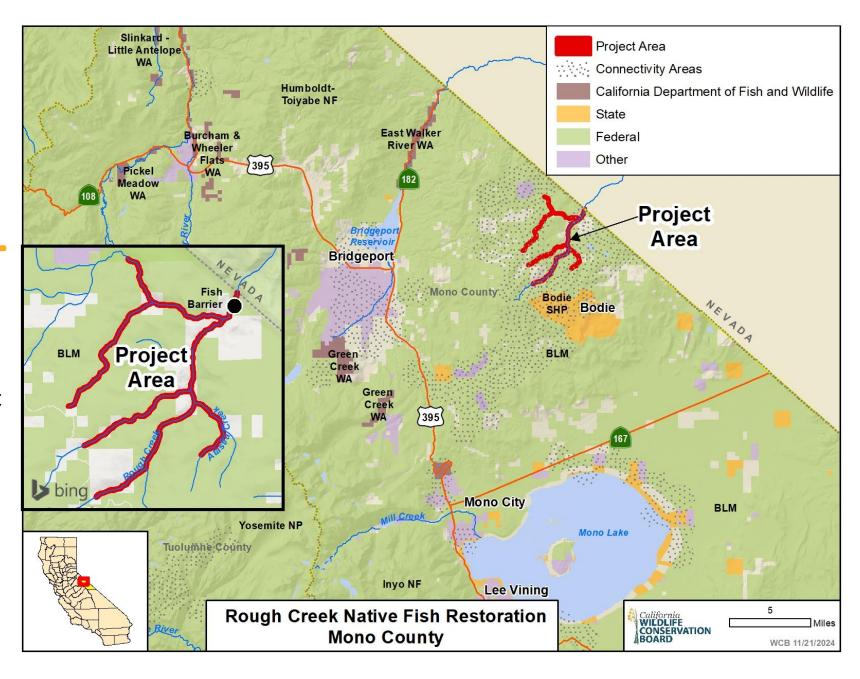






- Located near Bodie State Historic Park
- Includes 24 miles of waterway
- \$1,604,000
- Grantee is the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- This project will remove non-native trout and allow for native fish to be reintroduced to the area
- Project is located in a disadvantaged community (DWR Mapping Tool)





Slide 2

- Rough Creek is a large sub-basin of the Walker River
- The Project will reach from headwaters to confluence with the Walker River

Creek flowing through brush covered hills







Slide 3

- Historically, the Walker River held a diverse assemblage of native inland fish species
- Non-native trout now exclude the native fish

Top: Mountain Whitefish

Bottom: Trout





Slide 4

- This project will fund removal of all non-native fish from Rough Creek
- This will allow for the introduction of many native inland fish species

Stream curving past a rocky hillside



Slide 5

- Project will achieve objectives of the USFWS 20219 plan for Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Recovery
- Help stabilize declining species
- Restore an assemblage of native fish that has existed in living memory

Top: Trout

Bottom: Sucker





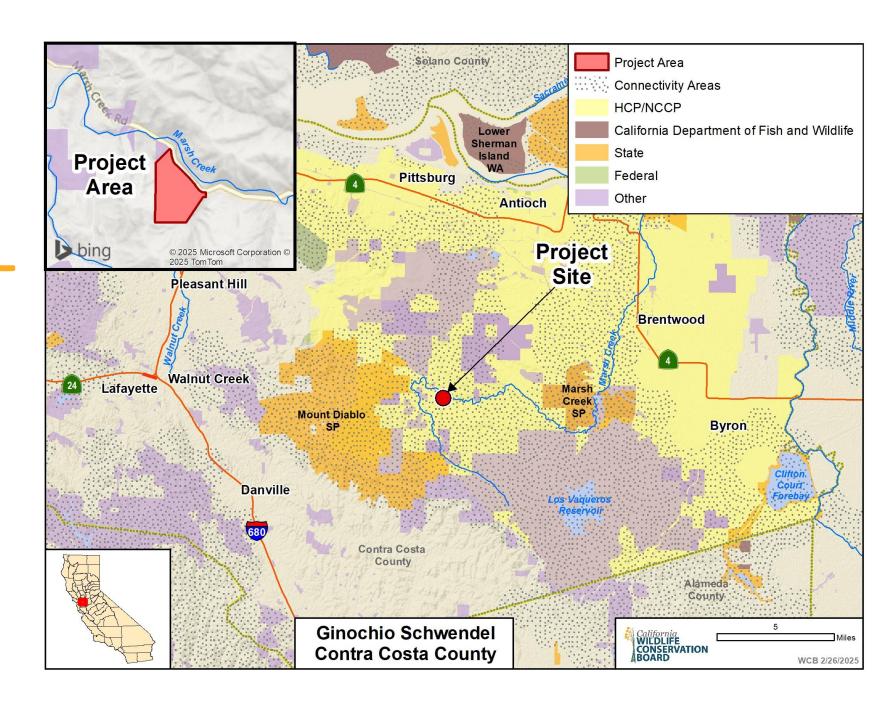
• WCB Grant: \$728,000

Grantee: Save Mount Diablo

Fee Acquisition

Acres: 98±







Slide 2

Property is a part of the Marsh Creek riparian corridor that connects Mt. Diablo to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

Credit: Cooper Ogden





Slide 3

Property includes rare dacite volcanic habitat.

Credit: Scott Hein









Slide 4



Property hosts a rich variety of plant species.

Pacific hound's tongue (left), blue oaks (middle) and *Collinsia* sp. and Mount Diablo fairy lantern (right)

Credit: Mary Nagle



Slide 5

Property supports upland habitat, including live oak and blue oak forests.

Credit: Mary Nagle







Item 26. Public Forum for Items not on the Agenda



California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

Item 27. Executive Session (Not Open to the Public)





Meeting Adjourned Next Board Meeting, May 22, 2025