



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

### WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

Thursday, May 22, 2025, 10:00 a.m.

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

### Preliminary Agenda Items

*The public and Board members will participate in the meeting in person or via Zoom. A recording will be posted after the meeting.*

*Note: Public comments on Agenda Items and Items Not on the Agenda will be limited to 2 (two) minutes. Letters of support/opposition must be received by WCB by close of business on Thursday, May 8, 2025, to be listed in the Final Agenda. Letters of support or opposition received after May 8, 2025, will be provided to the Board to inform decision-making.*

#### **Item Number**

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Executive Director's Report
4. Board Member Updates and Reports
5. Funding Status — Informational
6. Project Updates

**Consent Items**

**7. Remediation of Tongva Land for Traditional Ecological Knowledge Los Angeles County (Change of Scope)**

To consider changing the scope of a grant to the Tongva Taraxat Paxaavxa Conservancy for a project to restore a sage scrub ecosystem that will serve as a valuable agricultural learning process for Tongva Community Members to revitalize culture, language, and traditional land stewardship. The Eaton Fire of 2025 impacted the project site in a manner that requires design work that was not approved of as part of the original grant. This revision will allow the Tongva to continue restoring the native plants used for traditional foods, tools, spiritual fulfillment, and medicines at their home in Altadena, within Los Angeles County.

**8. Purisima Hills Junak Conservation Easement Santa Barbara County \$721,360**

To consider the acceptance of a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Recovery Land Acquisition grant and the approval to subgrant these federal funds to the Land Trust of Santa Barbara County (LTSB), and to consider a WCB grant to LTSB to acquire a conservation easement over 556± acres of land for the protection of its sensitive biological resources, including coast oak woodland, annual grasslands, costal scrub, ephemeral riparian drainages, and ephemeral ponds which provide important aquatic refugia for California tiger salamander and other sensitive amphibians, located north of Highway 246 between Lompoc and Buellton in Santa Barbara County.

**9. Fremont Valley Ecological Reserve, Expansion 1 Kern County \$79,500**

To consider the acquisition of 80± acres of land by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) for the protection of unaltered Mojave and Sonoran desert creosote scrub habitat and wildlife supported by that habitat, as an expansion of the Fremont Valley Ecological Reserve, located near California City in Kern County.

**10. Stenner Creek Watershed Enhancement San Luis Obispo County \$864,000**

To consider the allocation for a grant to Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District for a cooperative project with the Department of Conservation and Cal Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, to enhance habitat for listed salmonids by upgrading undersized and poorly designed stream crossings and preventing access to riparian areas by cattle, located on Cal Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo owned land, two miles northeast of San Luis Obispo in San Luis Obispo County.

- 11. Joshua Creek Canyon Ecological Reserve, Expansion 3** **\$54,488**  
**(Garrapata Ridge)**  
**Monterey County**  
To consider the acquisition of 80± acres of land by CDFW for a cooperative project with the Big Sur Land Trust for the protection and preservation of maritime chaparral with small areas of American southwest riparian forest and oak woodland, and to provide future wildlife-oriented, public use opportunities located 11 miles southeast of Carmel-By-The-Sea in Monterey County.
- 12. Watsonville Slough Ecological Reserve, Expansion 6** **\$2,330,000**  
**Santa Cruz County**  
To consider the allocation for a grant to The Land Trust of Santa Cruz County to acquire 111± acres of land for the protection of wildlife habitat, for compatible public or private uses, and the protection of sensitive biological resources including to support the recovery of the state-listed and federally endangered Santa Cruz long-toed salamander, located near the city of Watsonville in Santa Cruz County.
- 13. Los Banos Wildlife Area, Expansion 10 (Soares)** **\$3,7000,000**  
**Merced County**  
To consider the acquisition of 168± acres of land by CDFW for the protection of cismontane alkali marsh, a sensitive habitat that supports tricolored blackbird, giant gartersnake, Swainson's hawk, and western spadefoot, and to provide future wildlife-oriented, public-use opportunities, as an expansion to CDFW's Los Banos Wildlife Area located in Los Banos in the San Joaquin River watershed in Merced County.
- 14. East Contra Costa County HCP/NCCP (Freschi)** **\$320,000**  
**Contra Costa County**  
To consider the allocation for a grant to the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy, for a cooperative project with the East Bay Regional Park District to acquire 140± acres of land for the protection and preservation of existing regional wildlife linkages, including grassland, oak woodland, and creek habitat areas within the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan, located near the city of Brentwood in Contra Costa County.
- 15. Tomato Stand Fish Passage Implementation** **\$787,000**  
**Contra Costa County**  
To consider the allocation for a grant to the East Bay Municipal Utility District for a project to replace a perched and undersized culvert with a channel-spanning bridge to improve fish passage, located on East Bay Municipal Utility District's Pinole Valley watershed two miles east of Pinole in Contra Costa County.
- 16. Sonoma Monarch and Pollinator Restoration** **\$240,755**  
**Napa County**  
To consider the allocation for a grant to Rainforest Rising for a cooperative project with Sonoma State University, Harris Foundation, Smith Holloway Patton Foundation, and private landowners to develop seed enhancement technologies

for native pollinator plants and restore half an acre of pollinator habitat, located on five sites on Sonoma State University's Kenneth Stocking Native Plant Garden and privately-owned land within Santa Rosa, Rohnert Park, and Sebastopol in Sonoma County.

**17. South Fork Lost River Enhancement \$957,000**  
**Mendocino County**

To consider the allocation for a grant to Sanctuary Forest for a project to improve streamflow and instream habitat by installing instream structures and wood loading designed to raise the streambed, reconnect inset floodplains, and increase habitat complexity to significantly increase drought resilience and provide sufficient streamflow for salmonid rearing in dry years in the Lost River watershed, located on privately-owned land approximately 23 miles southwest of Garberville in Mendocino County.

**18. Jacoby Creek Forest, Expansion 5 \$690,000**  
**Humboldt County**

To consider the allocation for a grant to Jacoby Creek Land Trust for a cooperative project with the City of Arcata and Cal Poly Humboldt to acquire 80± acres of land for the protection of working forests, salmonids and terrestrial wildlife and provide future wildlife-oriented, public-use opportunities, located in the Jacoby Creek watershed in Humboldt County.

**19. Scott Bar Mill Creek Fish Passage Improvement (Change of Scope)**  
**Siskiyou County**

To consider changing the scope of a grant to California Trout for a project that will remove a concrete weir and ford crossing that act as a barrier to fish passage and replace them with a full span bridge and a regraded channel that will allow coho salmon and other anadromous fish species to access three miles of rearing and spawning habitat. Unexpected savings during the construction phase have left enough funding to cover the planning necessary to remove the next upstream fish passage barrier presenting a cost-effective opportunity to leverage the Board's previous investment in providing anadromous fish passage to spawning grounds in Mill Creek, 25 miles west of Yreka, in Siskiyou County.

**20. Lake Earl Wildlife Area Enhancement \$907,000**  
**Del Norte County**

To consider the allocation for a grant to Smith River Alliance for a cooperative project with CDFW to enhance lands within CDFW's Lake Earl Wildlife Area, located seven miles north of Crescent City in Del Norte County.

**Presentation Items**

**21. Bombay Beach Wetland Enhancement \$5,231,066**  
**Imperial County**

To consider the allocation for a grant to the California Department of Water Resources for a cooperative project with the Imperial Irrigation District and the

United States Bureau of Reclamation to stabilize, protect, and enhance 122 acres of existing wetland habitat area for birds and desert pupfish, expand 442 acres of wetland habitat on the adjacent playa where possible, and expand the natural recruitment of vegetation to provide upland habitat and promote dust control as an ancillary benefit, located on publicly-owned land 1.5 miles east of the Community of Bombay Beach in Imperial County.

- 22. Prescott Preserve Ecological Restoration** **\$3,480,000**  
**Riverside County**  
To consider the allocation for a grant to the Saving Oswit Canyon, DBA Oswit Land Trust, to restore 28 acres of diverse desert valley floor habitat including 15 acres of desert dry wash woodland, 11 acres of Sonoran creosote bush scrub, and 2 acres of perimeter buffer habitat as Phase I within a 120-acre former golf course known as Prescott Preserve, located in Palm Springs, Riverside County.
- 23. CAL FIRE Travis Ranch Conservation Easement** **\$2,979,990**  
**Trinity County**  
To consider the acquisition of a conservation easement by CAL FIRE under the California Forest Legacy Program Act of 2007 and the allocation of a grant to CAL FIRE to assist with the acquisition to protect 12,029± acres of land with significant forest, natural ecological, and open space conservation values located near the community of Kettenpom in Trinity County.
- 24. Rancho Canada Larga** **\$14,750,000**  
**Ventura County**  
To consider the allocation for a grant to the Trust for Public Land to purchase a portion of 6,475± acres of land including coastal sage scrub, grasslands, coast live oak woodland, mixed chaparral, valley foothill riparian, and valley oak woodland habitat that support special status species including California red-legged frog and Southern California steelhead and provide future wildlife-oriented, public-use opportunities, located near the city of Ventura in Ventura County.
- 25. Tularcitos Creek** **\$6,550,000**  
**Monterey County**  
To consider the allocation for a grant to the Esselen Tribe of Monterey County to acquire 1,720± acres of land for the protection of oak woodland, vernal pools, and riparian habitat that support threatened and endangered species, including South Central Coast steelhead, California red-legged frog, yellow-legged frog, and California tiger salamander. The property will also provide access to sacred cultural and archeological sites of the Esselen and provide future wildlife-oriented, public-use opportunities, located eight miles east of Carmel Valley in Monterey County.
- 26. Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area DWR Big Notch Easement** **\$0**  
**Yolo County**  
To consider the grant of a perpetual right-of-way and easement over 14,100± acres of land to the California Department of Water Resources for the purposes of

seasonal floodplain fisheries rearing habitat and fish passage, located near the city of Davis in Yolo County.

**27. Napa River Ecology Center** **\$1,614,000**  
**Napa County**

To consider the allocation for a grant to American Canyon Community and Parks Foundation for a cooperative project with the City of American Canyon, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and private donors, to convert a three-acre industrial lot into a public-facing ecology center focused on the Napa River watershed and its wildlife, located on city-owned land within the city of American Canyon in Napa County.

**28. Monte Rio Redwoods** **\$8,000,000**  
**Sonoma County**

To consider the allocation for a grant to Sonoma County Regional Parks to acquire in fee, 1517± acres of land that allows for the protection of forestlands as an expansion of the adjacent Monte Rio Redwoods Regional Park and Open Space Preserve, located near the community of Monte Rio in Sonoma County.

**29. Salmon and Packer Creek Aspen Restoration** **\$1,705,000**  
**Sierra County**

To consider the allocation of a grant to the South Yuba Citizens League for a cooperative project with the U.S. Forest Service to restore 205 acres of forest habitat on public land within the Tahoe National Forest located five miles north of Sierra City in Sierra County.

**30. Butte County Meadowfoam (Eshoo)** **\$2,124,200**  
**Butte County**

To consider the acceptance of a USFWS Recovery Land Acquisition grant and the approval to subgrant these federal funds to California Open Lands and for a WCB grant to assist in its acquisition of 20± acres for the protection of rare habitat for Butte County meadowfoam, a federal and state endangered plant species, located in the city of Chico in Butte County.

**31. Vanauken Creek Habitat Enhancement** **\$1,479,000**  
**Humboldt County**

To consider the allocation for a grant to Sanctuary Forest for a cooperative project with Lost Coast Forestlands to enhance fish habitat by improving pool habitat, channel structure, and complexity by implementing the placement of instream structures in Vanauken Creek and to implement strategic grading at several locations to reconnect floodplains and reverse channel incision. Additionally, the project will include forest thinning in the riparian area, located on privately-owned land approximately 16 miles west of Garberville in Humboldt County.

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

**Adjourn**

### PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Persons with disabilities needing reasonable accommodation to participate in public meetings or other CDFW activities are invited to contact the Department's EEO Officer at (916) 653-9089 or [EEO@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:EEO@wildlife.ca.gov). Accommodation requests for facility and/or meeting accessibility and Requests for American Sign Language Interpreters should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event. Requests for Real-Time Captioners should be submitted at least four weeks prior to the event. These timeframes are to help ensure that the requested accommodation is met. If a request for an accommodation has been submitted but is no longer needed, please contact the EEO Officer immediately.