



Gavin Newsom, Governor
NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD
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Sacramento, California 94244-2090 <https://wcb.ca.gov>
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Final Meeting Agenda

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

May 22, 2025, 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. Please note: *WCB offers a video link but cannot guarantee remote access. Please attend in person if you believe your participation is essential.*

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Conference code: 506989

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

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

Wildlife Conservation Board Meeting, May 22, 2025

Final Meeting Agenda.....	i
1. Roll Call.....	4
2. Approval of Agenda.....	5
3. Executive Director's Report	5
4. Board Member Updates and Reports	5
5. Funding Status - Informational.....	5

Consent Items

6. Recovery of Funds, Thursday, May 22, 2025	7
7. Remediation of Tongva Land for Traditional Ecological Knowledge	10
8. Purisima Hills Junak Conservation Easement	13
9. Fremont Valley Ecological Reserve, Expansion 1.....	16
10. Stenner Creek Watershed Enhancement	18
11. Joshua Creek Canyon Ecological Reserve, Expansion 3	21
12. Watsonville Slough Ecological Reserve, Expansion 6	23
13. Los Banos Wildlife Area, Expansion 10 (Soares).....	25
14. East Contra Costa County HCP/NCCP (Freschi)	27
15. Tomato Stand Fish Passage Implementation	30
16. Sonoma Monarch and Pollinator Restoration	33
17. South Fork Lost River Enhancement.....	36
18. Jacoby Creek Forest, Expansion 5.....	39
19. Scott Bar Mill Creek Fish Passage Improvement.....	41
20. Lake Earl Wildlife Area Enhancement	44

Presentation Items

21. Bombay Beach Wetland Enhancement	47
22. Prescott Preserve Ecological Restoration.....	51
23. Travis Ranch Conservation Easement	59
24. Rancho Cañada Larga	62
25. Tularcitos Creek	65
26. Yolo Bypass WA (Big Notch Easement).....	68
27. Napa River Ecology Center	72
28. Monte Rio Redwoods	76
29. Salmon and Packer Creeks Aspen Restoration	79
30. Butte County Meadowfoam (Eshoo).....	82
31. Vanauken Creek Habitat Enhancement.....	84

32. Public Forum for Items not on the Agenda.....87

Adjourn87

Attachments

- Attachment A – Map of May 2025 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

Charlton H. Bonham, Chair
Director, Department of Fish and Wildlife
Damon Nagami, Vice Chair, Public Member
Karyn Gear, Public Member
Fran Pavley, Public Member
Michele Perrault, Member
Legislative Director, Department of Finance
Tina Thomas, Public Member
Erika Zavaleta Member
President, Fish and Game Commission

Joint Legislative Advisory Committee

Senator Catherine Blakespear
Senator John Laird
Senator Henry Stern
Assemblymember Steve Bennett
Assemblymember Diane Papan
Assemblymember Rick Zbur

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)	\$41,283,948.70
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May 2025 Board Meeting Allocation:	(27,688,209.00)
Total Project Development:	(10,000,000.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	\$3,595,739.70

HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (0262)	\$60,522,898.37
---	------------------------

May 2025 Board Meeting Allocation:	(11,583,947.00)
Total Project Development:	(28,645,883.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	\$20,293,068.37

GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION FUND (3228)	\$114,862,807.69
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May 2025 Board Meeting Allocation:	(6,248,002.00)
Total Project Development:	(3,727,116.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	\$104,887,689.69

WATER SECURITY, CLEAN DRINKING WATER, COASTAL AND BEACH PROTECTION FUND OF 2002 (Proposition 50) (6031)	\$14,775,449.43
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May 2025 Board Meeting Allocation:	(5,231,066.00)
Total Project Development:	(0.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	\$9,544,383.43

SAFE DRINKING WATER, WATER QUALITY AND SUPPLY, FLOOD CONTROL, RIVER AND COASTAL PROTECTION FUND OF 2006 (Proposition 84) (6051)	\$5,897,414.15
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May 2025 Board Meeting Allocation:	(2,049,743.00)
Total Project Development:	(0.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	\$3,847,671.15

WATER QUALITY, SUPPLY, AND INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT FUND (Proposition 1) (6083)	\$35,750,631.22
--	------------------------

May 2025 Board Meeting Allocation:	(3,444,392.00)
Total Project Development:	(6,589,000.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	\$25,717,239.22

Wildlife Conservation Board Meeting, May 22, 2025

**THE CALIFORNIA DROUGHT, WATER, PARKS, CLIMATE,
COASTAL PROTECTION, AND OUTDOOR ACCESS FOR
ALL ACT OF 2018 (Proposition 68) (6088)**

May 2025 Board Meeting Allocation:	\$49,252,952.87
Total Project Development:	(3,319,000.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	(2,392,884.00)
	\$43,541,068.87

TOTAL – ALL FUNDS

Grand Total – May 2025 Board Meeting Allocation:	\$322,346,102.43
Grand Total - Project Development:	(59,564,359.00)
Grand Total Projected Unallocated Balance:	(51,354,883.00)
	\$211,426,860.43

Consent Items

Items 6-20 are part of the Consent Calendar

6. Recovery of Funds, Thursday, May 22, 2025

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	\$85,248.75
Habitat Conservation Fund	\$0.00
Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund	\$0.00
California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Fund	\$0.00
Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Fund of 2014	\$448,026.73
The California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018	\$473,415.63
Total Recoveries for All Funds	\$1,006,691.11

Table 2 - General Fund

Project Name	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Central Valley Monarch Butterfly Habitat Enhancement	\$803,330.00	\$803,330.00	\$0.00
Elkhorn Slough Ecological Reserve, Expansion 19	\$30,000.00	\$29,027.75	\$972.25
Ginochio Schwendel	\$748,000.00	\$735,161.00	\$12,839.00
Hoover Ranch	\$25,000.00	\$5,044.00	\$19,956.00
Palo Verde Ecological Reserve, Expansion 5	\$10,062,000.00	\$10,061,138.25	\$861.75
Pico Blanco (Esselen)	\$20,000.00	\$7,760.00	\$12,240.00
Richmond Ranch	\$4,020,000.00	\$4,000,000.00	\$20,000.00
Sierra Valley Conservation Area, Expansion 9 (Grashuis Phase II)	\$20,000.00	\$15,655.25	\$4,344.75
Skyline North	\$20,000.00	\$7,812.00	\$12,188.00
Toro Creek Phase II	\$3,520,000.00	\$3,518,153.00	\$1,847.00
Total Recoveries to General Fund			\$85,248.75

Table 3 - Habitat Conservation Fund

Project Name	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Sierra Valley Conservation Area, Expansion 9 (Grashuis Phase II)	\$1,200,000.00	\$1,200,000.00	\$0.00
Skyline North	\$1,936,558.00	\$1,936,558.00	\$0.00
Total Recoveries to Habitat Conservation Fund			\$0.00

Table 4- Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund

Project Name	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Hoover Ranch	\$5,090,000.00	\$5,090,000.00	\$0.00
Pico Blanco (Esselen)	\$1,400,000.00	\$1,400,000.00	\$0.00
Total Recoveries Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund			\$0.00

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

Project Name	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Tepona Point Public Access Improvements	\$370,000.00	\$370,000.00	\$0.00
Tepona Point Public Access Improvements - Augmentation	\$135,744.00	\$135,744.00	\$0.00
Total Recoveries to California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Fund			\$0.00

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

Project Name	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Integrated Water Strategies for Flow Enhancement in the Ventura River Watershed	\$299,185.00	\$299,185.00	\$0.00
Mad River Enhancement	\$693,408.00	\$345,205.69	\$348,202.31
San Joaquin River Parkway, Ball Ranch Habitat Restoration Planning and CEQA	\$375,690.00	\$310,428.18	\$65,261.82
Upper Long Bar Restoration Planning	\$865,456.00	\$830,893.40	\$34,562.60
Total Recoveries to Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Fund of 2014			\$448,026.73

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

Project Name	Allocated	Expended	Balance
American River Ranch Animal Management and Education Program Planning	\$142,545.00	\$142,545.00	\$0.00
American River Ranch Animal Management and Education Program Planning, Augmentation	\$13,730.00	\$13,730.00	\$0.00
Central Valley Monarch Butterfly Habitat Enhancement	\$406,670.00	\$357,506.33	\$49,163.67
Elkhorn Slough Ecological Reserve, Expansion 19	\$702,968.72	\$655,700.00	\$47,268.72
Great Valley and Modoc Plateau Vernal Pool Conservation Planning	\$140,000.00	\$140,000.00	\$0.00
Grizzly Island Wildlife Area Pump Station 7	\$752,000.00	\$418,601.08	\$333,398.92
Leek Springs Meadow Assessment and Restoration Planning	\$125,000.00	\$105,782.92	\$19,217.08

Wildlife Conservation Board Meeting, May 22, 2025

Project Name	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Santa Rosa Creek Fish Passage Improvements Planning	\$274,000.00	\$274,000.00	\$0.00
Tepona Point Public Access Improvements - Augmentation	\$164,256.00	\$139,888.76	\$24,367.24
Upper Hess Creek Habitat Enhancement	\$133,000.00	\$133,000.00	\$0.00
<i>Total Recoveries to The California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018</i>			<i>\$473,415.63</i>

7. Remediation of Tongva Land for Traditional Ecological Knowledge (Change of Scope)

WCB Grant: \$0

Fund Source: n/a

Grantee: Tongva Taraxat Paxaavxa Conservancy

Landowner: Tongva Taraxat Paxaavxa Conservancy

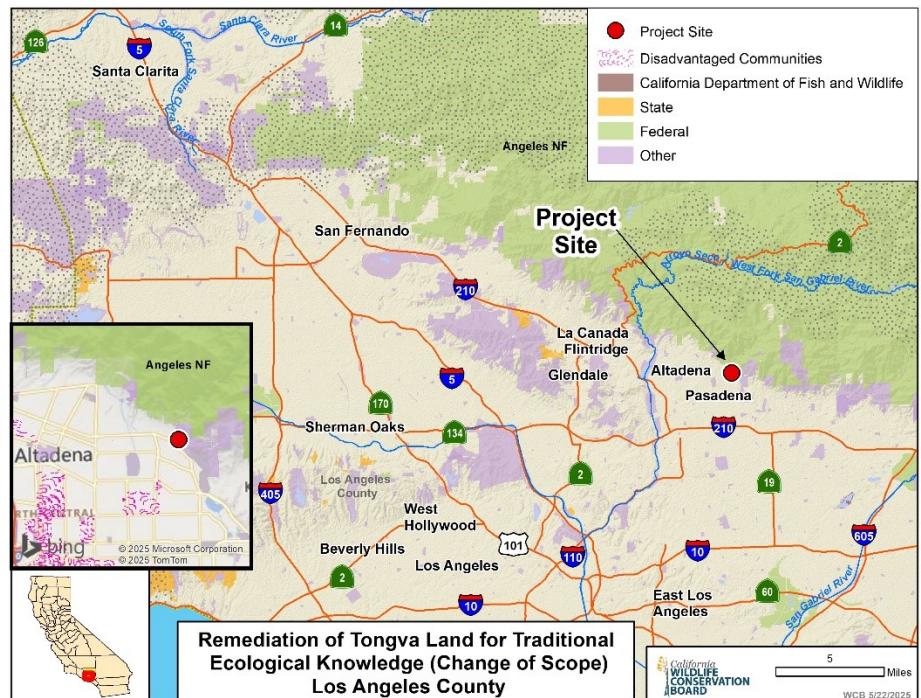
Location: Altadena

County: Los Angeles

Restoration Implementation

Project Highlights

- The project site is the first community-owned gathering space for the Tongva people to revitalize culture, language, and traditional land stewardship since the Spanish mission system was imposed on the tribe in 1771.
- Habitat restored: 1 acre of coastal sage scrub.
- The project is implementing indigenous-based scientific methods to restore native plants that will be used for Tongva cultural use.



Priority Metrics

- Benefits a Justice Community: Yes
- Tribal Partnerships: Yes, the Grantee is the Tongva Taraxat Paxaavxa Conservancy
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 6, Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship
- WCB Strategic Plan Goal B and Objectives 1.6, 4.1

Project Description

The Remediation of Tongva Land for Traditional Ecological Knowledge (Project) was approved by the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) in August 2023 and is in the process of restoring the native habitat of the only land owned by the Tongva people in their homeland. The Project site overlooks the Eaton Canyon Natural Area in the community of Altadena in Los Angeles County and is known to the Tongva as either Huhuunga or Huunar ne'ke'inga (the place of the bear).

After commencing work in the Fall of 2023, most of the non-native trees were removed by the end of 2024. This was fortunate, because in January of 2025 the Eaton Fire swept through the area causing massive destruction to the communities that bordered Eaton Canyon. The removal of 187 non-native trees and clearing an understory dominated by popular drought-tolerant

decorative species dramatically reduced the amount of potential fuel on site, and Huhuunga managed to escape most of the devastation that impacted many of its neighbors.

There was still damage incurred in the fire, however, and an on-site building and much of the initial restoration work was lost. This change in conditions has necessitated reworking the original restoration plan. The original project scope did not allow for planning work, so the Change of Scope will create a planning Task in the budget that will allow the Grantee to create new restoration designs that reflect the altered project site.

Long-Term Management

The Tongva Taraxat Paxaavxa Conservancy has adopted a Management Plan that guides management actions for the Project, including management of the property. If at any time during the long-term management period of the Project, the Tongva Taraxat Paxaavxa Conservancy does not manage and maintain the project improvements, the Grant Agreement requires that it refund to the State of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the long-term management period.

Project Funding

This is only a change of scope. The original proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	Original WCB Budget	New WCB Budget	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Project Management	\$26,731	\$26,731	\$92,000	\$118,731
Invasive Species Removal	\$639,644	\$263,305	---	\$639,644
Restoration	\$8,120	\$304,459	---	\$8,120
Indirect Costs	\$33,711	\$33,711	---	\$33,711
Planning	---	\$80,000	---	
Contingency	\$70,794	\$70,794	---	\$70,794
TOTAL	\$779,000	\$779,000	\$92,000	\$871,000

Non-WCB funders include:

- Tongva Taraxat Paxaavxa Conservancy - \$50,000
- Anonymous Donor - \$42,000

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- None received

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

State Government

- Senate: Senator Sasha Renée Pérez, District 25
- Assembly: Assemblymember John Harabedian, District 41

Staff Recommendation

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

8. Purisima Hills Junak Conservation Easement

WCB Grant: \$721,360

Fund Source: Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code

Section 2786(b/c)

Grantee: Land Trust for Santa Barbara County

USFWS Section 6 Subgrant: \$698,640

Location: 3.5 miles east of Lompoc

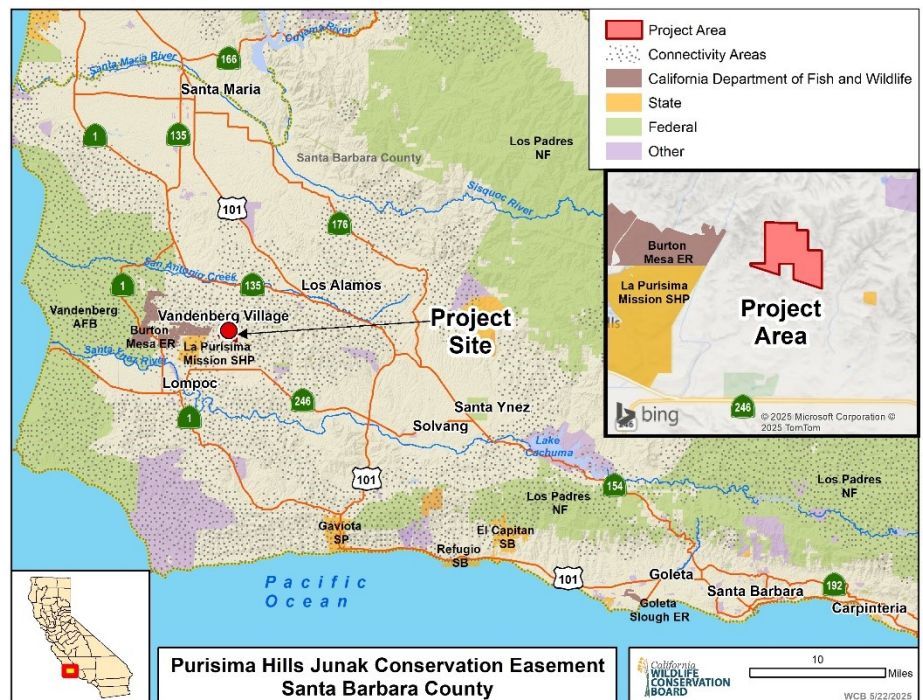
County: Santa Barabara

Acres: 556± (Property)

Acquisition Conservation Easement

Property Highlights

- Habitats represented:
185 acres of annual grassland, 80 acres of coastal oak woodland, 285 acres of coastal scrub, 5 acres of pasture, and four ephemeral ponds that support numerous special status wildlife and plants on the Property.
- Key species: California tiger salamander, California red-legged frog, tri-colored blackbird, western yellow-billed cuckoo, El Segundo blue butterfly.
- Property is proximal to numerous conserved properties including La Purisima Mission State Park, the Burton Mesa State Ecological Reserve, the La Purisima Conservation bank, the Yellow Foxtrot Easement, the Anderson Purisima Easement, and the Rancho San Lorenzo Conservation Easement which provides connectivity that facilitates movement of species and ecological processes within the Purisima Hills area and Central Coast.
- Regional or Species Plan: California Tiger Salamander Final Recovery Plan (Service 2016).
- Sixteen known and potential California tiger salamander breeding ponds exist within the maximum known dispersal distance around the Property for this species (1.24 miles).



Priority Metrics

- Benefits 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: No

Conservation Easement Restriction Highlights

- The purpose of the conservation easement will be to protect certain conservation values including California tiger salamander habitat, other wildlife and native habitat, and the scenic open space and agricultural character of the Property.
- The conservation easement will prohibit any subdivision of the Property.
- Continued grazing will be permitted on the Property; however, no intensified agriculture will be allowed.

Long-Term Management

The Land Trust for Santa Barbara County has developed a comprehensive management plan with recommended best management practices. The primary management goal of the Property is the protection, maintenance, and potential enhancement of existing habitat suitable for, and essential to, the survival of the Santa Barbara Distinct Population Segment of California Tiger Salamander.

Project Funding

The Department of General Services (DGS) approved fair market value is \$1,420,000. The proposed funding breakdown is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$721,360
USFWS	\$698,640
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$1,420,000

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 Monique Limón, District 21
- Assembly: Assemblymember Greg 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.

9. Fremont Valley Ecological Reserve, Expansion 1

**Acquisition
CDFW Fee**

WCB Grant: \$79,500

Fund Source: Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code

Section 2786(b/c)

Location: Approximately 14 miles northeast of California City

County: Kern

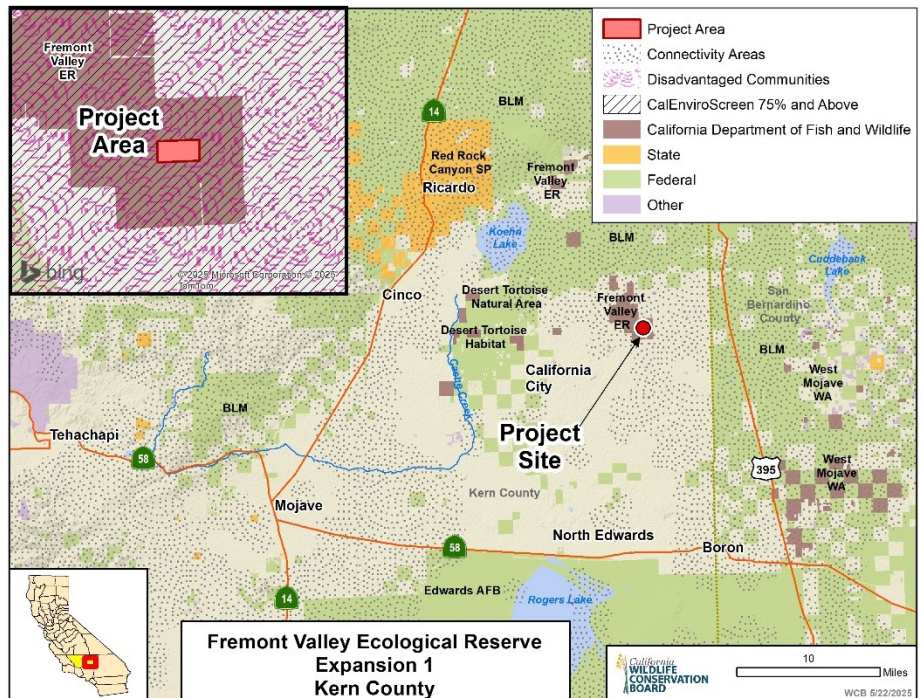
Acres: 80± (Property)

Property Highlights

- Unaltered Mojave and Sonoran Desert creosote scrub habitat
- Inholding within the Fremont Valley Ecological Reserve
- Key species: desert tortoise, Mohave ground squirrel, burrowing owl, and American badger

Priority Metrics

- Benefits 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. Wildlife viewing, hiking



Long-Term Management

CDFW will manage this Property as part of its Fremont Valley Ecological Reserve.

Limited grazing will be implemented to enhance habitat quality and reduce fire risk.

Project Funding

The DGS approved fair market value is \$79,500. The proposed funding breakdown is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$79,500
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$79,500

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 Shannon Grove, District 12
- Assembly: 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.

10. Stenner Creek Watershed Enhancement

Restoration Implementation

WCB Grant: \$864,000

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

Grantee: Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District

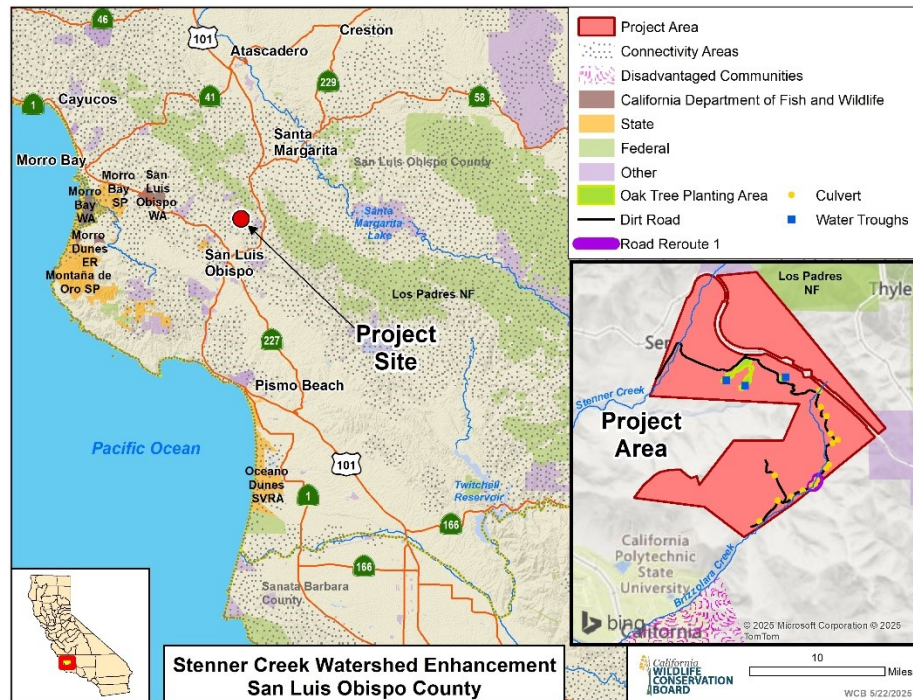
Landowner: California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo

Location: 2 miles northeast of San Luis Obispo

County: San Luis Obispo

Project Highlights

- Upgrades 16 undersized culverts to prevent erosion
- Prevents 4,000 cubic yards of sediment from entering Stenner Creek in the next 10 years
- Restores and protects 8 acres of oak woodland and riparian habitat
- Installs 4,900 feet of wildlife-friendly fencing
- Community outreach to encourage site stewardship
- Key species: South Central Coast steelhead, Pacific lamprey, and California red-legged frog



Priority Metrics

- Benefits a Justice Community: No
- Tribal Partnerships: Yes
- 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 Stenner Creek Watershed Enhancement (Project) resides on an expansive grassland and oak woodland site uphill of Stenner Creek. In recent years, the area has contributed significant sediment loads into Stenner Creek via numerous undersized and poorly designed culverted stream crossings dotting a 1.6-mile section of ranch road that runs through the site. These aging structures have washed out during intense rain events, releasing large pulses of sediment and debris into the salmonid-bearing creek in the valley below. This results in poor water quality and habitat for the listed

South Central Coast steelhead and Pacific lamprey. Additionally, the site suffers from decades of cattle presence on the property, which has led to additional sediment and waste inputs and trampling of sensitive riparian and oak woodland habitat. Existing cattle fencing also prevents wildlife from accessing upland habitats on the property.

To address these issues, the project proponent will:

- Upgrade 16 culverts by increasing culvert size, removing debris, grading to prevent water pooling and flashes, and increasing drainage efficiency.
- Remove 2 culverts to create continuous floodplain habitat.
- Install cattle exclusion fencing in riparian areas and provide alternative shade trees and stock water pond for cattle.
- Remediate 8 acres of oak woodland habitat and plant 64 oak saplings.
- Host workshops for stakeholders and community members and release an educational video on best management practices for land and road management to preserve riparian habitat.
- Install 2 “respectful recreation” signs to encourage stewardship of the land by recreationists and provide information on project activities and their necessity.

The Salinan Tribe of Monterey and San Luis Obispo counties and the yak tityu tityu yak tilhini Northern Chumash tribe provided input on known cultural resources in the project area during the planning phase of the Project. Although no known resources were identified, previously unknown cultural resources are often found along riparian corridors. Cultural monitors from both tribes intend to conduct cultural monitoring during implementation of the Project to protect these resources.

Long-Term Management

As landowner, the California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo 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 long-term management period, Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District does not ensure that landowner manages and maintains the project improvements, the Grant Agreement requires that Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District refund to the State of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left in the long-term management period.

Project Funding

The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Project Management and Reporting	\$53,155	\$10,000	\$63,155

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Implementation	\$561,402	\$79,658	\$641,060
Education and Outreach	\$45,811	\$960	\$46,771
Maintenance and Monitoring	\$91,049	\$11,482	\$102,531
Indirect	\$112,583	---	\$112,583
Total	\$864,000	\$102,100	\$966,100

Non-WCB funders include:

- California Department of Conservation - \$72,518
- Cal Poly Corporation - \$20,600
- Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District - \$8,982

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- John Laird, State Senator, 17th District, California State Senate
- Bruce Gibson, Supervisor, District 2, County of San Luis Obispo
- Dru Zachmeyer, Assistant Vice President, Strategic Business Services, California Polytechnic State University
- Robert A. Hill, Sustainability & Natural Resources Official, City of San Luis Obispo

Opposition:

- None received

CEQA

The Project is proposed as exempt from CEQA pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines, Title 14, Chapter 3 Section 15301, Class 1, Existing Facilities, 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: 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.

11. Joshua Creek Canyon Ecological Reserve, Expansion 3 (Garrapata Ridge)

Acquisition Fee

WCB Grant: \$54,488

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

Grantee: The Big Sur Land Trust

Location: 11.7 miles southeast of Carmel-by-the-Sea

County: Monterey

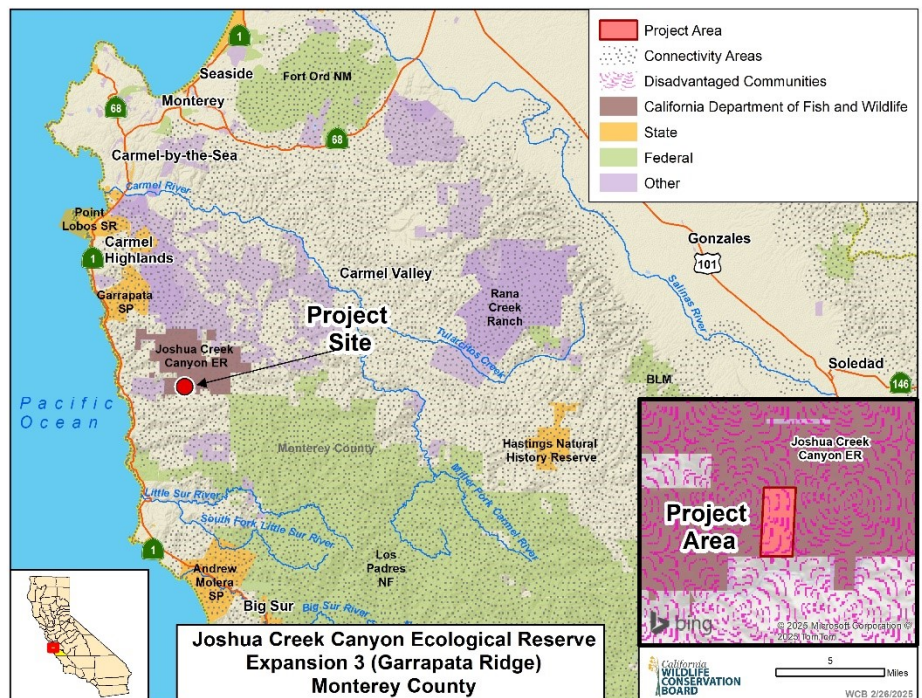
Acres: 80± (Property)

Property Highlights

- Habitats represented: maritime chaparral with small areas of American southwest riparian forest and oak woodland and contains a year-round spring in the southwest corner of the Property.
- Key species: deer, mountain lion, and bobcat with the potential to provide habitat for Smith's blue butterfly, California red-legged frog, California tiger salamander, foothill yellow-legged frog, tricolored blackbird, steelhead, monarch butterfly, and special status plant species Seaside bird's beak and Yadon's rein orchid.
- Regional or Species Plan: Garrapata Creek Watershed Assessment and Restoration Plan prepared by Garrapata Creek Watershed Council for CDFW in 2006.
- CDFW's Areas of Conservation Emphasis (ACE) database shows the Property is ranked a 5 in climate resilience, 5 in native aquatic species richness, 5 in aquatic biodiversity, and has a climate vulnerable species counting between 20 and 23, indicating that the Property has high value as a climate buffer for plant and wildlife species.

Priority Metrics

- Benefits 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

Long-Term Management

Once acquired by CDFW the Property will be managed long-term as part of Joshua Creek Ecological Reserve and will be incorporated into the reserve's existing management regime. Once transferred to CDFW, CDFW will monitor this expansion as part of the larger Reserve.

Project Funding

The DGS approved fair market value is \$200,000, and the landowner has agreed to sell at a reduced price of \$54,488. The proposed funding breakdown is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$54,488
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$54,488

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- None received

Opposition:

- None received

CEQA

The project has been reviewed for compliance with CEQA requirements and is exempt under CEQA Section 21080.28 as an acquisition of land by a public agency for the preservation of existing natural conditions, including plant and 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.

12. Watsonville Slough Ecological Reserve, Expansion 6

Acquisition Fee

WCB Grant: \$2,330,000

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

Grantee: The Land Trust of Santa Cruz County

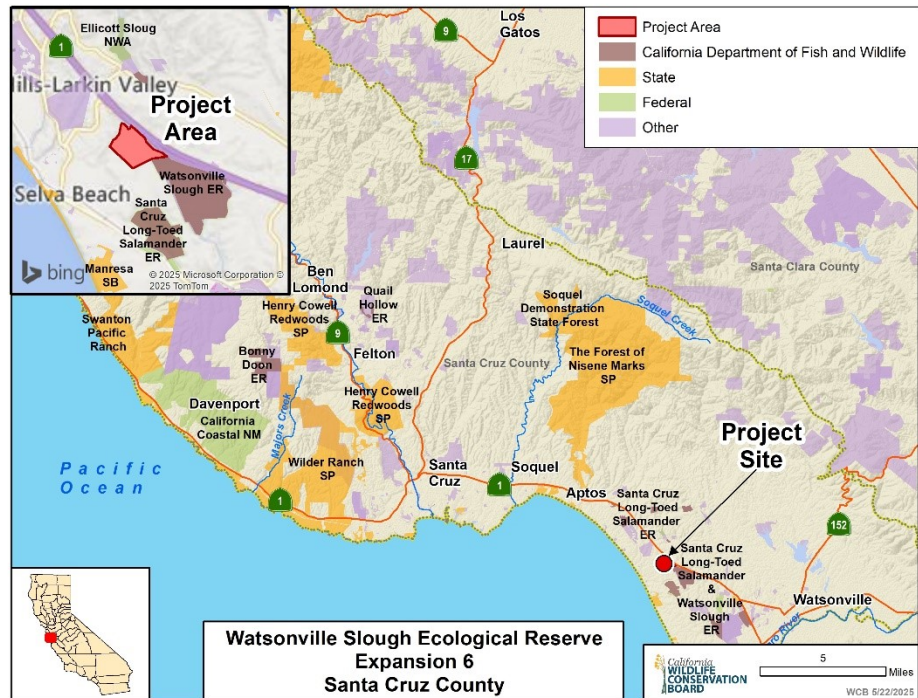
Location: 3 miles southeast of the city of Watsonville, off La Selva Drive

County: Santa Cruz

Acres: 111± (Property)

Property Highlights

- Habitats represented: San Andreas oak woodlands (93 acres) with dense understory, large woody debris, and a healthy layer of surface litter mulch. Riparian habitat (4.5 acres), and 1/3 mile of an unnamed ephemeral stream.
- Key species: Santa Cruz long-toed salamander (SCLTS)
- Regional or Species Plan: SCLTS Recovery Plan (USFWS 1999); Watsonville Wetlands Conceptual Area Protection Plan (CAPP), which identifies SCLTS as a focus species.
- Project is located within dispersal distance (~1 mile) of four breeding populations of the SCLTS within the Ellicott-Buena Vista metapopulation, one of which is the largest SCLTS breeding population in Larkin Valley.



Priority Metrics

- Benefits 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: No

Long-Term Management

Once acquired by CDFW the Property will be managed long term as part of Watsonville Slough Ecological Reserve and will be incorporated into the reserve's existing

management regime. Once transferred to CDFW, CDFW will monitor this expansion as part of the larger Reserve.

Project Funding

The DGS approved fair market value is \$2,560,000, and the landowner has agreed to sell at a reduced price of \$2,330,000. The proposed funding breakdown is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$2,330,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$2,330,000

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Stephen Henry, Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Lisa Lurie, Executive Director, Resource Conservation District, Santa Cruz County

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.

The no cost transfer of the Property from LTSC to CDFW is also 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.

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.

13. Los Banos Wildlife Area, Expansion 10 (Soares)

Acquisition Fee

Fund Source: General Fund, Budget Act of 2022, Fish & Wildlife Resources –

Climate Change Impacts on Wildlife Provision (SB154)

County: Merced

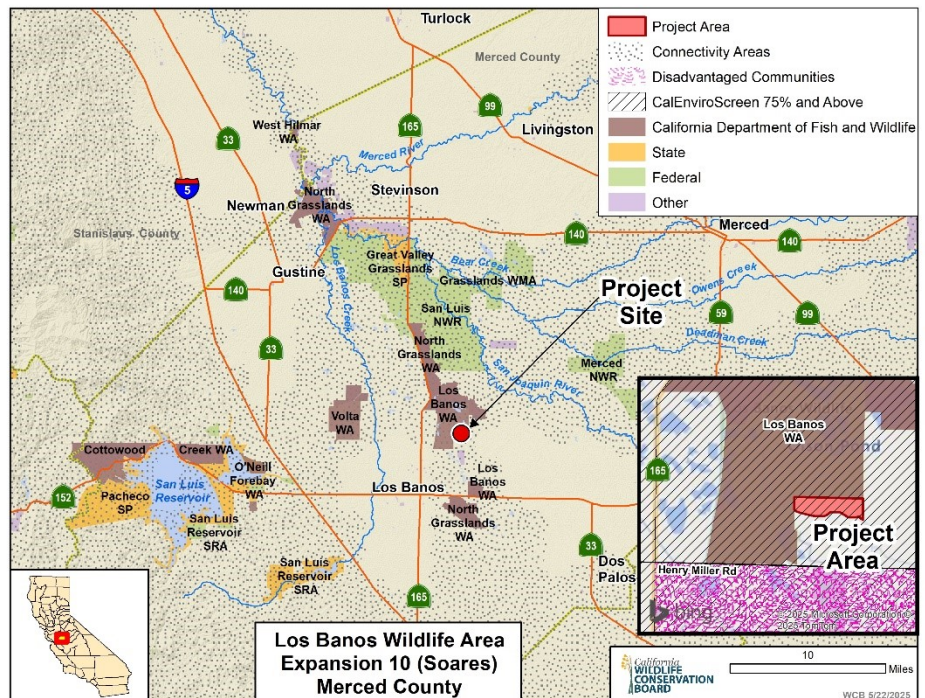
Purchase Price: \$3,700,000

Location: 3 miles northeast of the city of Los Banos

Acres: 168± (Property)

Property Highlights

- This Property will be added to the Los Banos Wildlife Area (LBWA) for restoration from farmland to upland or managed wetland. Surface water is available for restoration via deliveries by the San Luis Canal Company to the Property.
- The Property will provide an additional 168± acres for public recreation in a disadvantaged community.
- Sensitive species include tricolored blackbird, giant gartersnake, Swainson's hawk, and western spadefoot toad .
- The Property also supports cismontane alkali marsh, a sensitive habitat recognized by the CNDDDB.



Priority Metrics

- Benefits a Justice Community: Yes
- Tribal Partnerships: No
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 2, Execute Strategic Acquisitions; Pathway 4, Enhance Conservation of Existing Public Lands
- WCB Strategic Plan Goals A and C and Objectives 1.2, 1.3
- Public Access: Yes: LBWA is open to the public.

Key Management Objectives and Needs

The Property will be owned and managed by CDFW as part of the LBWA, with the potential to restore the existing farmland to upland or freshwater wetland habitat.

Project Funding

The DGS approved fair market value is \$3,700,000. The proposed funding breakdown is as follows:

WCB	\$3,700,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$3,700,000

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: Anna Caballero, District 14
- Assembly: Esmeralda Soria, District 27

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommend 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. East Contra Costa County HCP/NCCP (Freschi)

Acquisition Fee

WCB Grant: \$320,000

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

Grantee: East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy (ECCCCHC)

Successor Grantee: East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD)

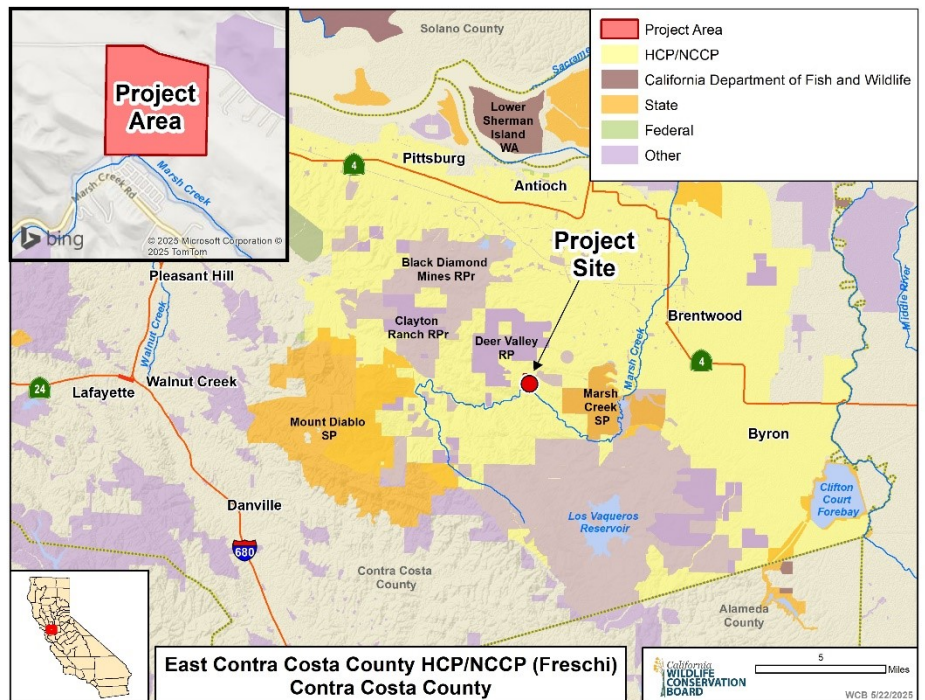
Location: Approximately 2 miles southwest of Brentwood

County: Contra Costa

Acres: 140± (Property)

Property Highlights

- Habitats represented: grassland, oak woodland, oak savanna, riparian, pond, and creek.
- Includes approximately 132 acres of grassland, 2 acres of oak woodland, 4 acres oak savanna, 1 acre riparian habitat, 1 acre of pond, and 234 feet of creek.
- Addition to the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan and Natural Community Conservation Planning (ECCC HCP/NCCP) Preserve System and will protect land located in one of the critical San Joaquin kit fox corridors identified in the ECCC HCP/NCCP.
- Similar habitats in the area support California red-legged frog, California tiger salamander, western burrowing owl, and several ECCC HCP/NCCP covered plants, including big tarplant and Brewer's dwarf flax.
- Adjacent and connected to a network of protected lands.



Priority Metrics

- Benefits 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, 2.2, 2.4, 3.4

- Public Access: Yes. The project would allow for public access that is carefully managed for habitat and species protection. A management plan, with a recreation component, will be developed prior to allowing public access.

Long-Term Management

EBRPD will manage the Property after it is acquired. Funding of future management activities for this Property will be provided by ECCCHC and EBRPD, in part through development fees from the ECCC HCP/NCCP's covered activities and through lease revenue from prior joint acquisitions within the ECCC HCP/NCCP plan area. It is anticipated that the Property will offer future opportunities for passive recreational uses, an allowed use under the ECCC HCP/NCCP. The habitat will be maintained in conjunction with other properties conserved by EBRPD for the ECCC HCP/NCCP.

Project Funding

The DGS approved fair market value is \$1,890,000, and the landowner has agreed to sell at a reduced price of \$1,820,000. The proposed funding breakdown is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$ 320,000
CDFW 30x30	\$1,500,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$1,820,000

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 Tim Grayson, District 9
- Assembly: Anamarie Avila Farias, 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.

15. Tomato Stand Fish Passage Implementation

Restoration Implementation

WCB Grant: \$787,000

Fund Sources: Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Fund of 2014 (Proposition 1), Water Code Section 79733; General Fund, Budget Act of 2022, Water Supply for Environmental Flows, Stream Flow Enhancement Program Provision (SB154)

Grantee: East Bay Municipal Utility District

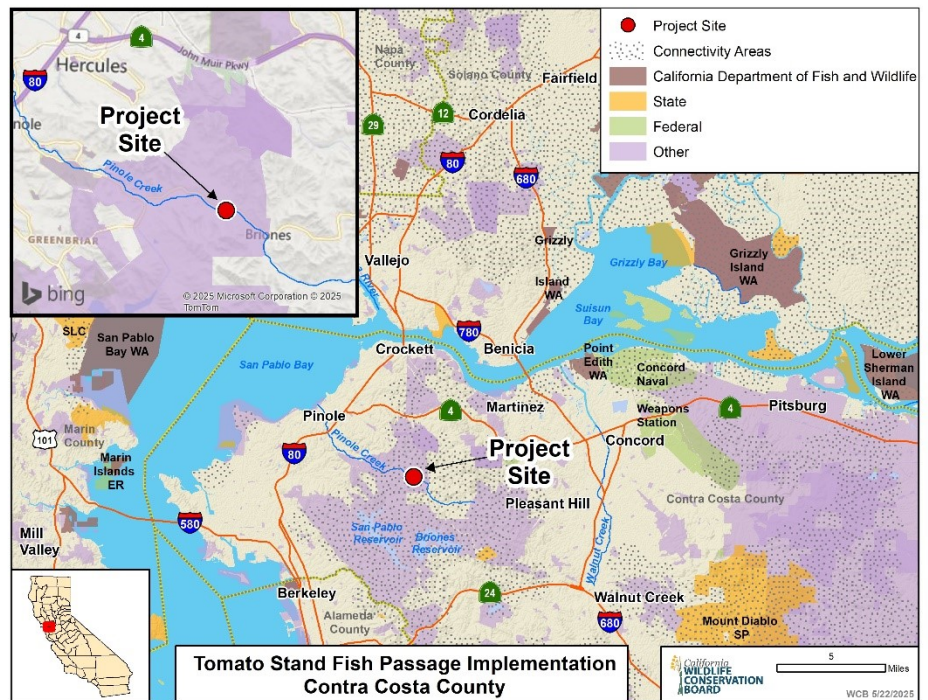
Landowner: East Bay Municipal Utility District

Location: 2 miles east of Pinole

County: Contra Costa

Project Highlights

- Located in the protected Pinole Creek Watershed.
- Pinole Creek has the only documented self-sustaining anadromous steelhead population in Contra Costa County.
- Key species: Central California Coast steelhead.
- Regional and Species Plans: NOAA Coastal Multispecies Recovery Plan, EBMUD's Watershed Master Plan and East Bay Low Effect Habitat Conservation Plan.
- Project will foster collaboration with community organizations and encourage participation in future restoration actions in the watershed.



Priority Metrics

- Benefits a Justice Community: No
- Tribal Partnerships: No
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 6, Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship
- WCB Strategic Plan Goal B and Objectives 1.2, 2.1, 2.4

Project Description

The Tomato Stand Culvert is the last remaining man-made barrier to fish passage within Pinole Creek which restricts access to the last 1.4 miles of spawning and rearing habitat upstream. The existing culvert is perched and undersized, which impedes fish passage due to the lack of depth at low flows and excessive leap height and velocities at higher flows. The Tomato Stand Fish Passage Implementation (Project) will address the remaining barrier to fish passage by:

- Collecting and translocating fish and installing a cofferdam to dewater the work area.
- Excavating the site and removing concrete debris and the existing culvert.
- Installing designed channel features and the associated rock slope protection for the bridge abutments.
- Installing the bridge abutments and pilings and placing the prefabricated 50-foot channel spanning bridge.
- Revegetating the site with native riparian trees and other native vegetation.

Long-Term Management

The East Bay Municipal Utilities District has adopted a Management Plan that guides management actions for the Project, including management of the Pinole Valley watershed. If at any time during the 25-year long-term management period, the East Bay Municipal Utilities District does not manage and maintain the project improvements, the Grant Agreement requires that it refund to the State of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the long-term management period.

Project Funding

The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Project Management	---	\$112,000	\$112,000
Bridge Procurement	\$105,000	---	\$105,000
Project Construction	\$682,000	\$120,000	\$802,000
Total	\$787,000	\$232,000	\$1,019,000

Non-WCB funders include:

- East Bay Municipal Utility District - \$232,000

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Christopher Lim, Executive Director, Contra Costa Resource Conservation District
- Ann Moriarty, Board of Directors, Friends of Pinole Creek Watershed

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

State Government

- Senate: Senator Tim Grayson, District 9
- Assembly: Assemblymember Anamarie Ávila Farías, 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.

16. Sonoma Monarch and Pollinator Restoration

WCB Grant: \$240,755

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

Grantee: Rainforest Rising

Landowner: Sonoma State University and private landowners

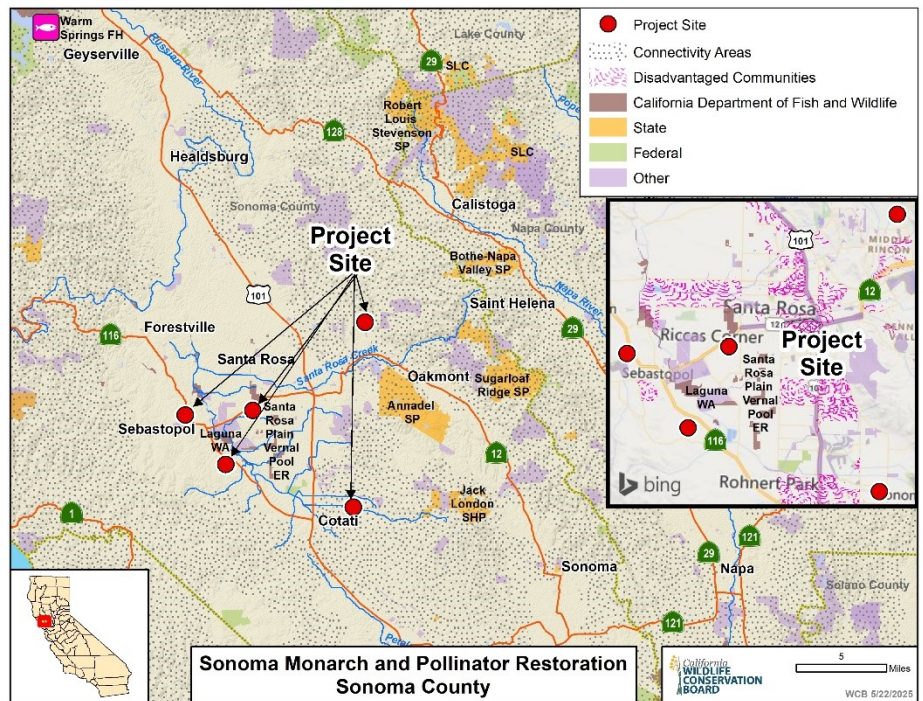
Location: Rohnert Park, Sebastopol, Santa Rosa

County: Sonoma

Restoration Implementation

Project Highlights

- Located on five sites within the western monarch butterfly's early breeding zone
- Project will establish seed enhancement technologies that will improve the germination and establishment of native pollinator plants
- Establishes a migration corridor for the monarch butterfly and other pollinator species
- Key species: monarch butterfly, Crotch's bumble bee



Priority Metrics

- Benefits 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, 4.2

Project Description

The Sonoma Monarch and Pollinator Restoration (Project) aims to address barriers to pollinator habitat restoration such as limited seed availability, low seed viability, and high seed cost. The Project will address these bottlenecks by developing techniques that increase seedling survivorship and overall restoration success. Utilizing these techniques, the Project will establish monarch and pollinator habitat on five degraded sites throughout Sonoma County. The establishment of this habitat will not only

improve habitat connectivity for pollinators, but it will increase the soil's carbon sequestration, therefore contributing to climate resilience.

The Project will accomplish this by:

- Establishing and implementing seed enhancement technologies (SET), including seed priming, inoculation of site native beneficial microorganisms, and pre-germinating seed. These SETs will be developed for and implemented on eight species of milkweed, native nectar species, and native grasses. These techniques increase, accelerate, and synchronize germination, and increase seed survival rates by improving nutrient uptake, water absorption, and resilience against pathogens and predation.
- Rehabilitating the soil with native microbes and fungi to enhance soil health and structure, water retention, nutrient cycling, and resistance to invasive species.
- Restoring five different sites, totaling half an acre of native pollinator habitat, utilizing the established SETs.
- Monitoring and maintaining the site using the Monarch Joint Venture's Integrated Monarch Monitoring Program and continuing invasive species control.

Long-Term Management

The Rainforest Rising has adopted a Management Plan that guides management actions for the Project, including management of the five sites. If at any time during the 10-year long-term management period, Rainforest Rising 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 long-term management period.

Project Funding

The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Project Management	\$12,760	---	\$12,760
Seed Enhancements	\$93,240	\$13,600	\$106,840
Site Design and Preparation	\$37,815	\$12,900	\$50,715
Restoration	\$47,440	\$10,000	\$57,440
Monitoring and Maintenance	\$49,500	\$17,500	\$67,000
Total	\$240,755	\$54,000	\$294,755

Non-WCB funders include:

- Rainforest Rising (Grantee) - \$10,000
- Harris Foundation - \$4,000
- Smith Holloway Patton Foundation - \$40,000

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Cali Pearce, Preserves Manager, Center for Environmental Inquiry, Sonoma State University
- Elise Gornish, PhD, Cooperative Extension Specialist, University of Arizona
- David Brannon, President, National Ocean Applications Research Center
- Cindy Lindh, Director of the First Congregational Church Earth Care Team of Sonoma
- Mia Monroe, Member of the Public

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, as minor alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees, including new gardening or landscaping. 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
- Senate: Senator Christopher Cabaldon, District 3
- Assembly: Assemblymember Chris Rogers, 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.

17. South Fork Lost River Enhancement

Restoration Implementation

WCB Grant: \$957,000

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

Grantee: Sanctuary Forest

Landowner: Sanctuary Forest

Location: Approximately 23 miles southwest of Garberville

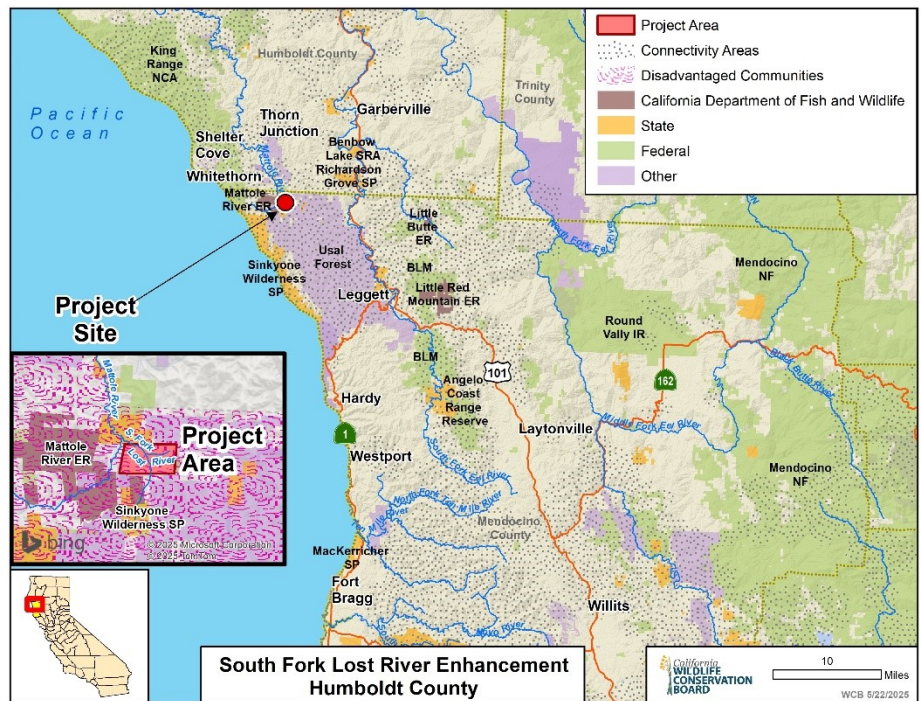
County: Mendocino

Project Highlights

- Located in a key salmon-bearing tributary of the Mattole River
- Stream enhancements over 2,000 linear feet will include 65 different features
- Key species: Coho salmon, steelhead

Priority Metrics

- Benefits a Justice Community: Yes
- Tribal Partnerships: Yes. The Wailaki Tribe White Lily Clan consulted on the planning phase and is exploring how to be involved in implementation
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 6, Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship
- WCB Strategic Plan Goal B and Objective 2.3



Project Description

The South Fork Lost River Enhancement (Project) will address poor rearing habitat, channel incision, lack of high flow refugia, and low summer stream flows in the South Fork of the Lost River. The Project will restore hydrologic function, improve fish habitat complexity, and create more resilient conditions for coho salmon and steelhead throughout the South Fork Lost River system. These actions, in combination with the other stream flow enhancement actions on South Fork Lost River, will provide instream flow to enhance coho salmon and steelhead survival during the dry season.

The Project will implement:

- Log weirs to improve pool habitat, reduce channel incision, and increase groundwater storage
- Large woody structures to improve pool habitat, reduce channel incision, and increase groundwater storage
- Subsurface clay barriers to slow groundwater loss and enhance water retention in the floodplain
- Channel grading to reconnect the stream to its floodplain, provide high flow refugia, and extend soil saturation later into the dry season
- Log and boulder weirs to improve fish passage at jams that represent partial barriers to fish passage
- Brush check dams on the Class 2 tributary to the South Fork Lost River within the Project area to reverse channel incision, increase groundwater storage, and enhance cold-water inputs to the mainstem

Long-Term Management

The County of Humboldt Planning and Building Department 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 long-term management period, 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 long-term management period.

Project Funding

The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Task 1. Project Management and Administration	\$13,000	---	\$13,000
Task 2. Planning and Permitting	\$31,000	---	\$31,000
Task 3. Implementation	\$678,000	\$21,200	\$699,200
Task 4. Monitoring and Adaptive Management	\$110,000	\$2,500	\$112,500
Task 5. Indirect	\$125,000	---	\$125,000
Total	\$957,000	\$23,700	\$980,700

Non-WCB funders include:

- Applicant - \$23,700

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Dorothy Hoaglin, Chairperson, Wailaki Tribe, White Lily Clan
- Jake Shannon, Senior Environmental Scientist, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Richard Sykes, Executive Director, Mattole Salmon Group
- Sarah Vroom, Executive Director, Mattole Restoration Council
- Timothy Metz, President, Restoration Forestry

Opposition:

- None received

CEQA

The County of Humboldt Planning and Building Department, as lead agency, prepared a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA. Staff considered the MND and has prepared proposed, written findings documenting WCB's compliance with CEQA. Subject to approval of this proposal by the WCB, the appropriate Notice of Determination (NOD) will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

State Government

- Senate: Senator Mike McGuire, District 2
- Assembly: Assemblymember Chris Rogers, District 2

Staff Recommendation

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

18. Jacoby Creek Forest, Expansion 5

Acquisition Fee

WCB Grant: \$690,000

Fund Source: Proposition 84, Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006, Public Resource Code Section 75055(a)

Grantee: Jacoby Creek Land Trust

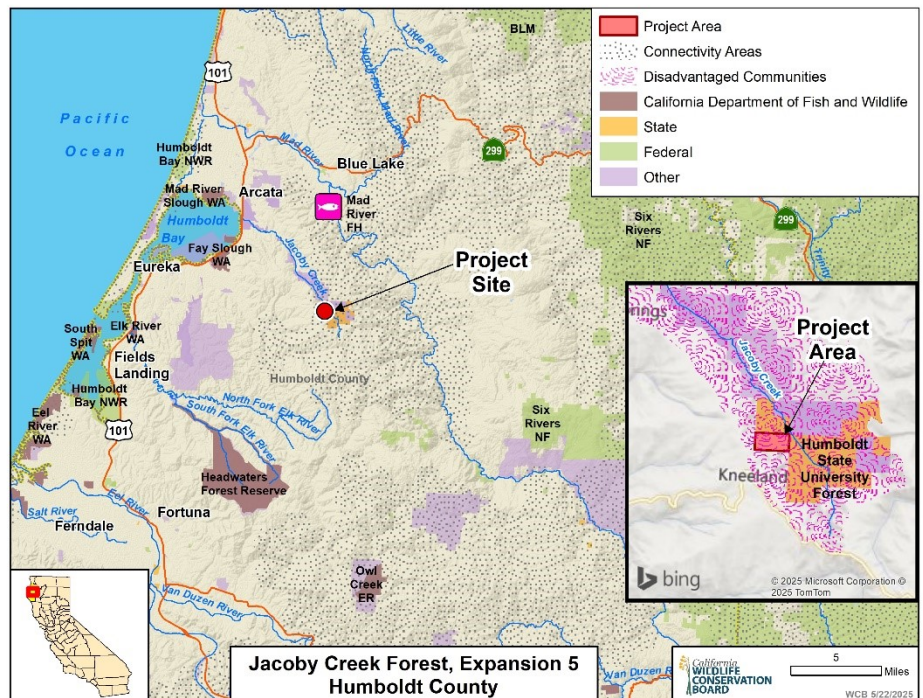
Location: 7 miles northeast of Eureka

County: Humboldt County

Acres: 80± (Property)

Property Highlights

- Habitats represented: North Coastal coniferous forest, redwood forest, Douglas-fir hardwood mixed evergreen forest
- Key species: northern spotted owl, osprey, rainbow trout, red-legged frog, foothill yellow-legged frog, Pacific giant salamander
- Project is located within a known northern spotted owl Activity Center
- Project is adjacent to the Cal Poly Humboldt Forest and builds upon the City of Arcata's Jacoby Creek Forest



Priority Metrics

- Benefits a Justice Community: Yes
- Tribal Partnerships: No
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 2, Execute Strategic Acquisitions; and Pathway 4, Enhance Conservation of Existing Public Lands and Coastal Waters
- WCB Strategic Plan Goal A and Objectives 1.3, 2.1, 3.1
- Public Access: Yes, hiking trails will be constructed following the acquisition

Long-Term Management

Jacoby Creek Land Trust will manage this property consistently with the uneven tree age management of the City of Arcata and Jacoby Creek Community Forest Management Plan and Non-Industrial Timber Management Plan, which covers nearby land owned by City of Arcata and Cal Poly Humboldt. Management will be

implemented under these existing conservation strategies focused on salmonids and other terrestrial and aquatic wildlife.

Project Funding

The DGS approved fair market value is \$695,000, and the landowner has agreed to sell at a reduced price of \$690,000. The proposed funding breakdown is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$690,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$690,000

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: Senate President pro Tempore Mike McGuire, District 2
- Assembly: Chris Rogers, District 2

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommend 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. Scott Bar Mill Creek Fish Passage Improvement (Change of Scope)

WCB Grant: \$0

Fund Source: n/a

Grantee: California Trout, Inc.

Landowner: Private Landowners

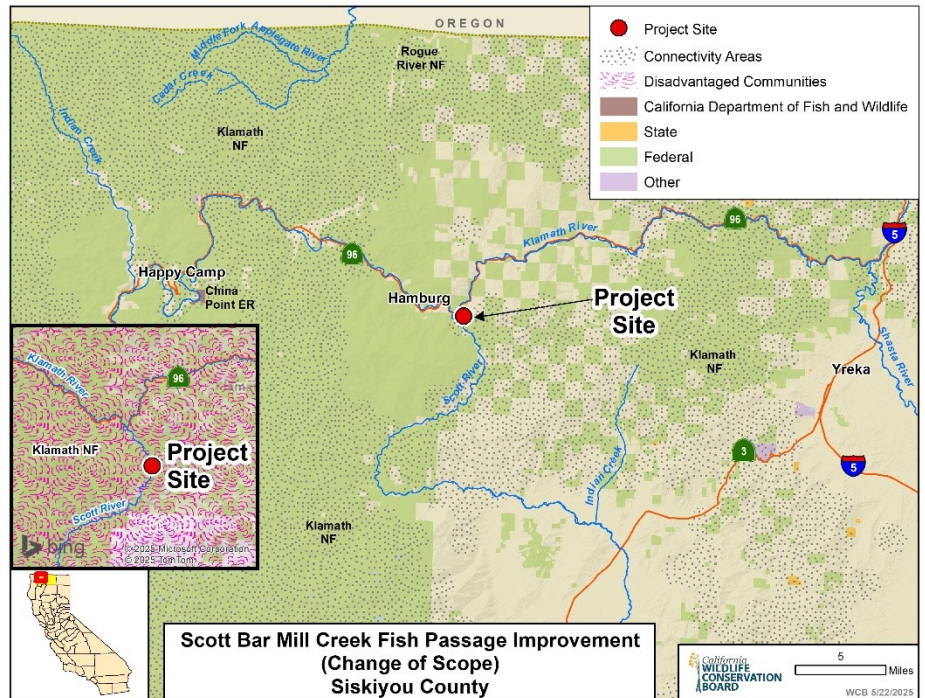
Location: Community of Scott Bar

County: Siskiyou County

Restoration Implementation

Project Highlights

- The Project is located within the Scott Bar Mill Creek watershed, which enters the Scott River 3.3 miles from the confluence with the Klamath River.
- The National Marine Fisheries Service identified the Scott River watershed as sustaining a core population of threatened coho salmon.
- Mill Creek contains year-round cold-water and is one of the few options for coho spawning and thermal refugia in the lower Scott River.



Priority Metrics

- Benefits a Justice Community: Yes
- Tribal Partnerships: No
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 6, Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship
- WCB Strategic Plan Goal B and Objectives 1.2, 2.1

Project Description

The Scott Bar Mill Creek Fish Passage Improvement (Project), approved by the Board in May 2022, is restoring anadromy to Mill Creek, a perennial tributary of the Scott River in the Klamath watershed near the town of Scott Bar. Mill Creek was historically anadromous habitat for coho salmon, steelhead, and other fishes. The creek has been completely inaccessible to anadromous fish due to a man-made weir and ford crossing within the first 200 feet of its confluence with the Scott River. Combined, the 3-foot

cascade at the weir and channel-spanning ford crossing fully restrict more than three miles of coho salmon habitat identified through intrinsic potential modeling.

The Project is improving fish passage to Mill Creek by removing the ford crossing and replacing it with a free-span bridge and realigning the lower portion of Mill Creek to facilitate fish passage. The bulk of the work was completed in the Fall of 2024. 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. The original project scope did not allow for planning work, so the Change of Scope will create a planning Task in the budget that will allow the Grantee to continue the process of opening access to Mill Creek for anadromous fish.

Long-Term Management

California Trout, Inc. 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 long-term management period, California Trout, Inc. does not manage and maintain the project improvements, the Grant Agreement requires that it refund to the state of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the long-term management period.

Project Funding

This is only a change of scope. The original proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	Original WCB Budget	New WCB Budget	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Project management	\$95,421	\$223,671	\$18,550	\$242,221
Permitting	\$34,567	\$79,567	\$12,300	\$91,867
Construction management	\$52,500	\$52,500	\$30,000	\$82,500
Construction	\$601,152	\$267,402	\$765,610	\$1,033,012
Revegetation	\$60,360	\$60,360	\$58,400	\$118,760
Planning	---	\$133,000	---	\$133,000
Indirect Costs	---	\$27,500	---	\$27,500
Total	\$844,000	\$844,000	\$884,860	\$1,728,860

Non-WCB funders include:

- CDFW - \$884,860

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. Subject to authorization by WCB, an NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

State Government

- Senate: Senator Megan Dahle, District 1
- Assembly: Assemblymember Heather Hadwick, District 1

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that WCB approve this change of scope 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. Lake Earl Wildlife Area Enhancement

WCB Grant: \$907,000

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

Grantee: Smith River Alliance

Landowner: CDFW

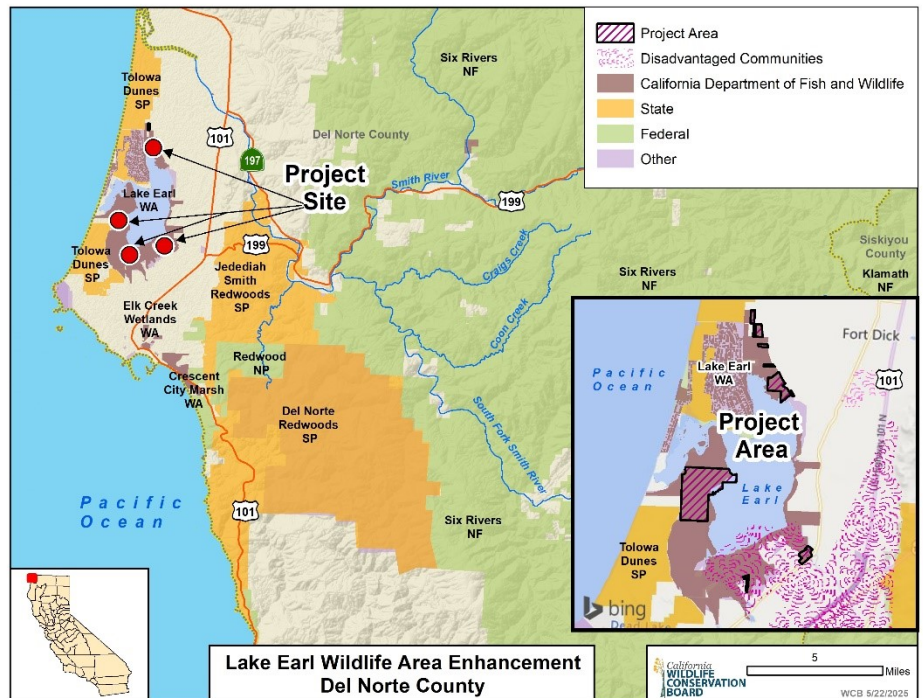
Location: 7 miles north of Crescent City

County: Del Norte

Restoration Implementation

Project Highlights

- Located at the CDFW Lake Earl Wildlife Area (LEWA)
- LEWA is the largest coastal lagoon on the Pacific Coast south of Alaska
- LEWA is within an Audubon Important Bird Area
- Key species: western snowy plover, sand dune phacelia, Oregon silverspot butterfly
- Public access opportunities at LEWA include wildlife viewing, kayaking, boating, hiking, fishing, and waterfowl hunting



Priority Metrics

- Benefits a Justice Community: No
- Tribal Partnerships: Yes
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 6, Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship
- WCB Strategic Plan Goal B and Objective 1.3

Project Description

The Lake Earl Wildlife Area Enhancement (Project) will complete permitting and deconstruction of twenty-three structures located on ten different parcels within LEWA. These parcels have been acquired from willing sellers over the past 40 years, and in most cases, the remaining structures have become a public nuisance and are considered blight by the local community. The structures contain hazardous materials

such as lead paint and asbestos and many are associated with abandoned septic tanks, groundwater wells, and fencing. Public access is currently restricted on these parcels due to the hazards of these structures. The Project team will work with CDFW, alongside the Tolowa Dee-ni Nation and Elk Valley Rancheria to enhance parcels of the LEWA by:

- Removing twenty-three structures on ten parcels within LEWA
 - Completing wetland delineation on four parcels
 - Completing botanical and cultural resources reports
 - Completing asbestos inspections on all structures
 - Submitting County Demolition, Local Coastal Development, and Coastal Commission Coastal Development Permits
 - Building a deconstruction plan and bid package
- Restoring disturbance areas previously occupied by structures:
 - Prepare and implement a revegetation plan using native plants
 - Remove fencing from the Project area

After restoring these parcels, CDFW can implement activities to enhance public access, habitat restoration, and tribal interpretation while preserving the ecological integrity of the coastal environment. Future public access improvements may include: California Coastal Trail expansion, kayak and canoe launches, interpretive signage, and accessible trails/picnic areas for LEWA visitors. The Tolowa Dee-ni Nation is interested in some of the parcels for future work including developing native plant gathering areas, cultural demonstration sites, and tribal youth stewardship programs. Enhancement of the Project parcels will provide higher quality and quantity of both upland and wetland habitat for migratory shorebirds and waterfowl as well as a host of rare and endemic species, while sequestering carbon and providing greater habitat connectivity for terrestrial species. The Project will also enhance resiliency to sea level rise, by creating habitats in transitional zones, that are likely to experience a range of impacts from sea level rise.

Long-Term Management

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 long-term management period 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 long-term management period.

Project Funding

The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Project Management	\$92,000	---	\$92,000
Construction	\$696,000	---	\$696,000
Indirect Costs	\$119,000	---	\$119,000
Total	\$907,000	---	\$907,000

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Mike McGuire, Senator, President Pro Tempore, District 2
- Joey Borges, District 4 Supervisor, County of Del Norte
- Rachel McCain, Director, Natural Resources Department, Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation

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, as minor alterations in land, water, and vegetation on existing officially designated wildlife management areas which result in improvement of habitat for fish and wildlife resources. 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 Chris Rogers, 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.

Presentation Items

21. Bombay Beach Wetland Enhancement

WCB Grant: \$5,231,066

Fund Source: The California Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 (Proposition 50), Water Code Section 79565

Grantee: California Department of Water Resources

Landowner: Imperial Irrigation District and United States Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) are the fee owners of the Property, with BOR managing the lands on behalf of the United States

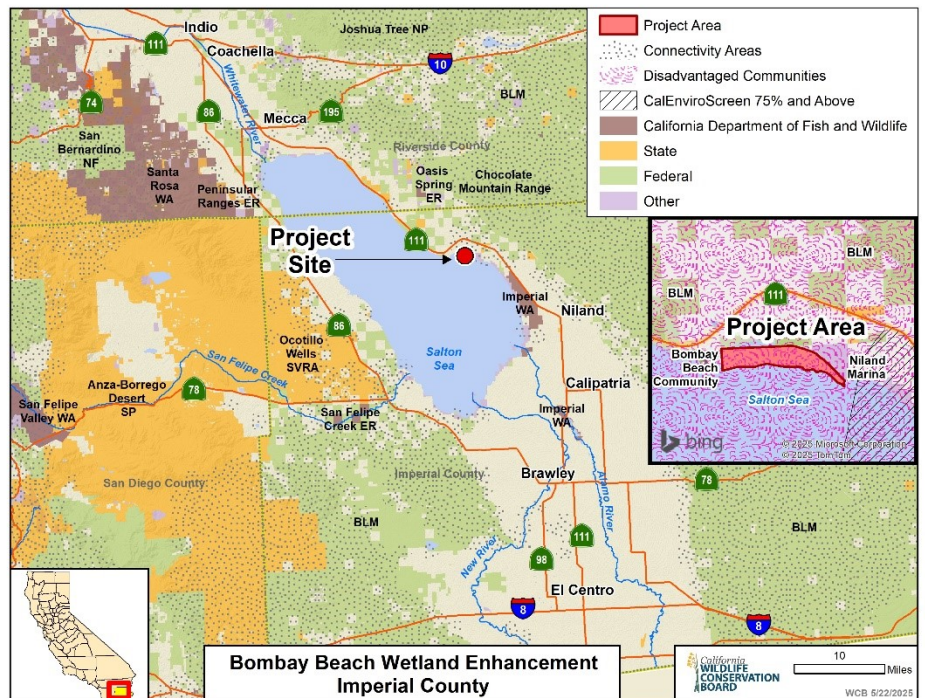
Location: Located 1.5 miles east of the Community of Bombay Beach

County: Imperial County

Restoration Implementation

Project Highlights

- Protect and enhance 564 acres of wetland habitat
- Important stop-over for millions of migratory birds moving along the Pacific Flyway
- Incidental benefit of providing dust control
- Key species: Endangered Yuma Ridgway's rail and desert pupfish
- Regional Plan: Salton Sea Management Program



Priority Metrics

- Benefits a Justice Community: Yes
- Tribal Partnerships: Yes, the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians are engaged in this project.
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 4, Enhance conservation of Existing Public Lands and Coastal Waters; Pathway 6, Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship; Pathway 7, Strengthen Coordination Among Governments
- WCB Strategic Plan Goal B and Objectives 1.3, 1.4, 2.3, 2.5

Project Description

The Salton Sea is an important stopover for millions of migratory birds along the Pacific Flyway. Due to water transfers from agricultural uses to urban uses, water salinity has

increased, causing changes in the food web and reducing the quality and availability of habitat for native species. The receding shoreline of the Salton Sea has created hydrologic variability that is decreasing the persistence of expansive wetlands and open water habitat and is degrading habitat conditions in the remaining wetlands. These degraded conditions have allowed for invasive species such as tamarisk (*Tamarix* spp.) to become established.

The Department of Water Resources (DWR), as one of the three agencies in the Salton Sea Management Program, Audubon California, and other partners have identified the need to develop projects that provide near-term habitat benefits while balancing the goals of both habitat creation and providing a water supply to support dust control around the Salton Sea. In accordance with these identified needs, the purpose of the Bombay Beach Wetland Enhancement (Project) is to stabilize, protect and enhance existing wetland habitat areas for birds and desert pupfish, expand wetland habitat on the adjacent exposed lakebed where possible, and expand vegetation to provide upland habitat and promote dust control as an incidental benefit.

The Project will include the following:

- Enhancement, stabilization, restoration, and maintenance of 564 acres of wetland habitat by stabilizing beach berms that help distribute water on the playa;
- Construction of flow structures to direct and control water through the wetland; and
- Construction of micro-catchments and bunds to distribute runoff.

Long-Term Management

Long-term management of the Project will be transferred to the Salton Sea Conservancy under the California Natural Resources Agency's Salton Sea Management Program with some maintenance being done by DWR and monitoring completed by CDFW. The Management Plan will be prepared as part of this grant. If at any time during the 25-year long-term management period of the Project, DWR 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 in the long-term management period.

Project Funding

The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Project Management	---	\$250,000	\$250,000
Environmental Compliance	---	\$480,000	\$480,000

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Construction Management	---	\$750,000	\$750,000
Project Construction	\$5,231,066	\$11,000,000	\$16,231,066
Site Commissioning and Monitoring	---	\$100,000	\$100,000
Outreach and Engagement	---	\$25,000	\$25,000
Total	\$5,231,066	\$12,605,000	\$17,836,066

Non-WCB funders include:

- California Department of Water Resources - \$12,605,000

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Mario Llanos, Deputy Assistant Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency
- Tina Shields, Water Department Manager, Imperial Irrigation District
- Yvonne Franco, District Manager, Coachella Valley Resource Conservation District
- Rebecca T. Zaragoza, Regional Policy Manager, Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability
- Andrea Jones, Interim Executive Director, Audubon California
- Erin Woolley, Policy Advocate, Sierra Club California
- Lauren Elachi, Senior Design Principal, Kounkuey Design Initiative
- Alianza Coachella Valley
- Juan M. De Lara, Risk Manager, Federated Insurance

Opposition:

- None received

CEQA

The Project is statutorily exempt from CEQA pursuant to the Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects (SERP), Public Resources Code section 21080.56, as a project that meets all of the following conditions: (1) the Project is exclusively to conserve, restore, protect, or enhance, and assist in the recovery of California native fish and wildlife, and the habitat upon which they depend; or is exclusively to restore or provide habitat for California native fish and wildlife; (2) the Project may have public benefits incidental to the Project's fundamental purpose; (3) the Project will result in long-term net benefits to climate resiliency, biodiversity, and sensitive species recovery; and includes procedures and ongoing management for the protection of the environment;

and (4) Project construction activities are solely related to habitat restoration. CDFW issued a SERP concurrence for this Project on December 20, 2022. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

State Government

- Senate: Senator Steve Padilla, District 18
- Assembly: Assemblymember Jeff Gonzalez, District 36

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.

22. Prescott Preserve Ecological Restoration

WCB Grant: \$3,480,000

Fund Source: Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, Budget Act of 2024, Climate Change

Resilience SB 108, Sec. 107 (1)(4)

Grantee: Oswit Land Trust

Landowner: Oswit Land Trust and The Prescott Foundation

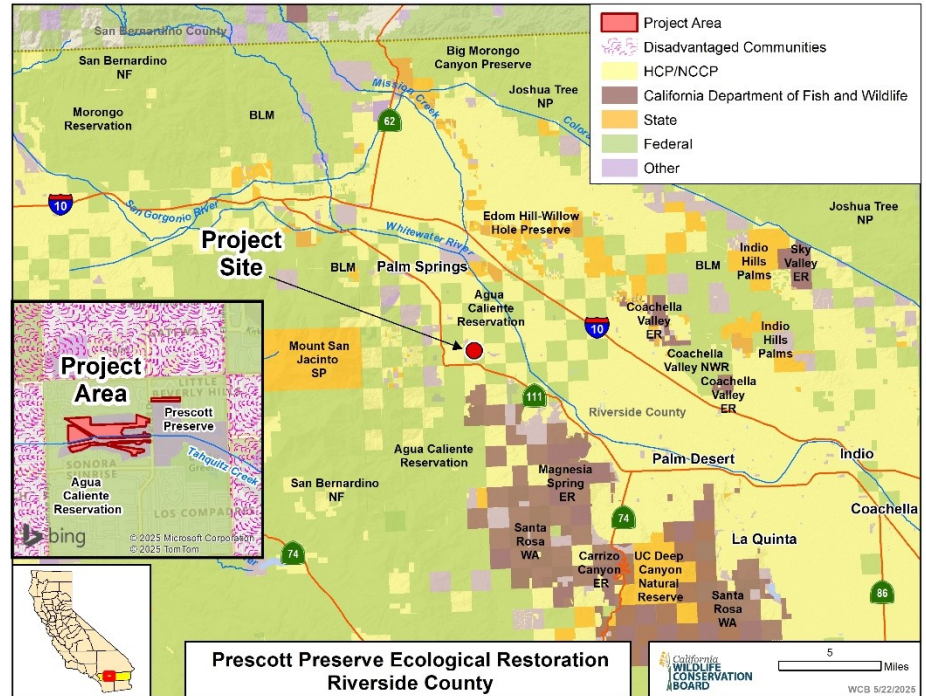
Location: Preserve is located within the city of Palm Springs

County: Riverside County

Restoration Implementation

Project Highlights

- Provides essential wildlife connectivity between the San Jacinto Mountains and the Coachella Valley
- Habitats to be restored: 14.65 acres desert dry wash, 11.22 acres of creosote scrub, and 2.27 acres native buffer habitat
- Project will create habitat for 19 special-status species including the federally endangered Casey's June beetle
- USFWS Casey's June Beetle Recovery Outline (2013), State Wildlife Action Plan
- Project will include ADA-compliant walking pathways



Priority Metrics

- Benefits a Justice Community: Yes
- Tribal Partnerships: Yes, the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians will help Oswit Land Trust develop language for the signs that will be part of the preserve
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 6, Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship
- WCB Strategic Plan Goal B and Objectives 2.4, 3.4

Project Description

The Coachella Valley has been highly disturbed with development, including an abundant number of golf courses. Many of the streams have been placed in channels, and this channelization has dramatically changed the natural geomorphic processes and associated biological habitats on the valley floor, diminishing wildlife connectivity

and habitat for desert plants and wildlife. The Prescott Preserve Ecological Restoration (Project) is the planned restoration of approximately 75 acres of a defunct 120-acre golf course within the city of Palm Springs, divided into three phases. Phase 1 of the Project will restore 28.14 acres of native valley floor desert habitats including 14.65 acres of desert dry wash, 11.22 acres of creosote scrub, and 2.27 acres of buffer habitat with the other two phases planned to restore the remaining 46.86 acres in the future.

The Project will increase habitat for native species and provide for climate resiliency by:

- Removing Bermuda grass and other invasive plant species
- Revegetating 28.14 acres using native container stock and seed to benefit approximately 19 special status species
- Decommissioning 24,000 linear feet of golf cart pathways in the center of habitat to divert public access to the perimeter of the property
- Herbicide: Yes, the following chemicals and application methods will be used:
 - Glyphosate with a crop oil concentrate adjuvant – broadcasted over Bermuda grass
 - Fusilade II – strategically administered when targeting invasive grasses among native broadleaf species
 - 2,4D – strategically administered to target broadleaf weeds
 - Polaris or Garlon 4 – cut stump method on Tamarisk

Long-Term Management

The Oswit Land Trust will prepare a long-term management plan as part of the grant. If at any time during the 25-year life of the long-term management period, 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 in the long-term management period.

Project Funding

The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Project Management	\$646,963	---	\$646,963
Preconstruction Surveys & Baseline Monitoring	\$287,500	---	\$287,500
Procurement & Site Preparation	\$315,408	---	\$315,408

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Site Development	\$1,456,507	---	\$1,456,507
Maintenance & Performance Monitoring	\$539,322	\$216,000	\$755,322
Indirect Costs	\$234,300	---	\$234,300
Total	\$3,480,000	\$216,000	\$3,696,000

Non-WCB funders include:

- Oswit Land Trust - \$216,000

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Greg Wallis, State Assemblymember, District 47
- Scott Sobiech, Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Jeffrey Bernstein, City Council Member, City of Palm Springs
- Naomi Soto, Mayor ProTem, City of Palm Springs
- Elizabeth King, Executive Director, Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy
- Maria A. Lum, Land Acquisition Coordinator, Rivers & Land Conservancy
- Ron Berger, President, The Desert Tortoise Conservancy
- Joan Taylor, Chair, San Geronio Chapter of the Sierra Club
- Tamar Draper, Vice-Chair, Santa Margarita Group of the Sierra Club
- Dr. James Danoff-Burg, Vice President of Conservation, The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens
- Richard Dachman, President; and Scott Connelly, VP, Outings, Great Outdoors, Palm Springs
- 236 Community Members

Opposition:

- Dennis and Karen Kloid, Community Members
- Bill White, Community Member

CEQA

The Project is statutorily exempt from CEQA pursuant to the Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects (SERP), Public Resources Code section 21080.56, as a project that meets all of the following conditions: (1) the Project is exclusively to conserve, restore, protect, or enhance, and assist in the recovery of California native fish and wildlife, and the habitat upon which they depend; or is exclusively to restore or provide habitat for California native fish and wildlife; (2) the Project may have public benefits incidental to the Project's fundamental purpose; (3) the Project will result in long-term net benefits to climate resiliency, biodiversity, and sensitive species recovery; and

includes procedures and ongoing management for the protection of the environment; and (4) Project construction activities are solely related to habitat restoration. CDFW issued a SERP concurrence covering this Project on November 8, 2023. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

State Government

- Senate: Senator Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh, District 19
- Assembly: Assemblymember Greg Wallis, District 47

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.

Herbicide use questionnaire

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

The Prescott Preserve project site consists of a former golf course that consists of nonnative turf grasses, native and ornamental trees, disturbed wash and desert wash habitat associated with Tahquitz Creek, Baristo Flood Control Channel, and one unnamed drainage channel. Typical golf course vegetation includes nonnative grassland primarily composed of Bermuda grass (*Cynodon dactylon*). Ornamental trees are predominant and occur throughout, including Mexican fan palm (*Washingtonia robusta*), California fan palm (*Washingtonia filifera*), eucalyptus, and blue palo verde (*Parkinsonia florida*). The desert wash typically consists of blue palo verde (*Parkinsonia florida*), little-leaf paloverde (*Parkinsonia microphylla*), desert ironwood (*Olneya tesota*), smoketree (*Psoralea arguta*), mesquite (*Prosopis* sp.), and tamarisk (*Tamarix* sp.). Subcanopy plants include desert broom (*Baccharis sarothroides*), arrowweed (*Pluchea sericea*), and desert willow (*Chilopsis linearis*). Ground cover plants include saltbush (*Atriplex* sp.), bursage (*Ambrosia deltoidea*), goldenbush (*Isocoma* sp.), and a variety of forbs and grasses. Several canopy, subcanopy, and ground cover plants were observed throughout the desert wash, such as blue palo verde, mesquite, desert willow, arrowweed, and nonnative grasses. Nonnative species comprise over 90 percent of the vegetative cover with the Bermuda grass being a pervasive monoculture throughout, being a former golf course.

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

There is no one-size fits all solution to effectively treat invasive and noxious weeds. Treatment of weeds will likely require a variety of methods depending on the species, specific context, effectiveness, quantity, and cost. In general, the project aims to only use herbicide when manual or mechanical methods are not feasible or effective. However, the nonnative Bermuda grass is a rhizomatous grass and mechanical/manual removal is not an effective removal method since the grass will resprout from a fragment of rhizome that is left in the soil. A systemic herbicide is the most effective method for killing the entire nonnative grasses throughout the entire plant.

Similarly, the invasive nonnative species, tamarisk can be cut and dug up but will have a tendency to resprout from the remaining root in the soil. Tamarisk is known

to have a deep vigorous root system and removing the entire root system is difficult to achieve without adversely affecting the surrounding native vegetation. A systemic herbicide is also the most effective method for killing the entire tamarisk plant, including the roots.

Several herbicides may be used depending upon the situation to minimize herbicide use, maximize the effectiveness of the application, and to minimize impact on non-target species.

Glyphosate is the most effective herbicide at killing these two species. However, non-glyphosate alternatives exist but are known to be less effective. An aquatic safe formulation, like Roundup Custom, with no toxic adjuvants will be used for the broadscale treatment of bermuda grass. A safe crop oil concentrate adjuvant like AgriDex or Competitor will be added. Fusilade II will be used in applications where strategic targeting of grass amongst native broadleaf species requires a grass selective herbicide treatments. At locations that require a broadleaf selective herbicide treatment to avoid treatment of native grasses, 2,4D will be used to target broadleaf weeds and selectively avoid grasses. Only herbicides approved by the US EPA for aquatic use can be applied in and adjacent to aquatic environments. If surfactants must be used in and near aquatic environments, they must be aquatic safe such as Agri-Dex, Competitor, and Hasten EA. Nonionic surfactants will not be used.

Tamarisk will be cut and stump treated with a mixture of an imazapyr product like Polaris with Garlon 4. The mix will be sprayed on both the cambium of the cut stump and the base of the stump.

One of the project goals is to minimize herbicide use. Herbicide concentrations for foliar and wick applications will be consistent with the manufacturer's label. Herbicide is only effective when the plants are actively growing and can be systemically metabolized. Because of the extreme desert temperatures and dry conditions, weed removal will be confined to three months of the year.

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

Alternatives were discussed above. However, there may be a necessary application if other methods are determined to be ineffective. When glyphosates are used, only aquatic safe with safer crop oil concentrates will be used.

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

tank mixes selected as the preferred approach.

Glyphosate safe for aquatic applications will only be used adjacent to open water and water courses. These aquatic safe applications will be formulated without the surfactants that break the water tension.

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

This project will use safer crop oil concentrates when adjuvants are used. Non-ionic adjuvants will be avoided for their higher toxicity for non-target species.

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

In addition to the “no herbicide” approach to the Bermuda grass discussed above, other non- chemical treatments will be used such as timed weed whipping and manual removal. These non- chemical methods are not always effective at removing the root to prevent resprout than using a systemic herbicide.

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

Herbicide use will be limited to the targeted invasive species. The lowest effective concentrations will be used. Timing of applications will avoid critical windows. Nonionic surfactants (containing polyphenol ethoxylates) will be avoided adjacent to water courses.

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

The project calls for the complete site eradication of these weeds and there is a lack of effective biological controls for the target species as well as efficacy, timing, and permitting constraints. For example, tamarisk must be chemically treated to prevent resprouting and the extent of the Bermuda grass is too great to effectively remove solely by non-chemical methods within the time constraints of the project. As mentioned in the description on vegetation cover and composition, nonnative species comprise 90% with Bermuda grass being dominant.

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

If Bermuda grass could only be achieved by non-chemical means, the removal would have to rely on mechanical removal of the thatch and the removal of up to 9 inches of soil to adequately remove the rhizomes. This cost is for removal only and does not include disposal of the soil and the import of clean topsoil. The disposal of soil that is infested with Bermuda grass rhizomes is difficult to estimate since there is not many good options that would want that soil. This cost also exclude any necessary grading permits and environmental requirements that mechanical removal would require. Mechanical removal across the entire project site would be highly disruptive to the nearby neighborhoods and would require dust control and extensive erosion control that is also not in the estimate.

ADD Remove Bermuda – Mechanical Means Only

+/- \$1,700,000

ADD to Remove 9 Inches of Topsoil

+/- \$9,000,000

- Lowers grade 9 inches
- Excludes import soil

Annual management costs are estimated at \$83,200 for hand removal of regrowth.

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

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

NA

23. Travis Ranch Conservation Easement

WCB Grant: \$2,979,990

Fund Sources: Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75055(a), and the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, Budget Act of 2017, Chapter 249, Statutes of 2017

Grantee: CAL FIRE

Location: Approximately 10 miles south of the community of Ruth

County: Trinity

Acres: 12,029± (Property)

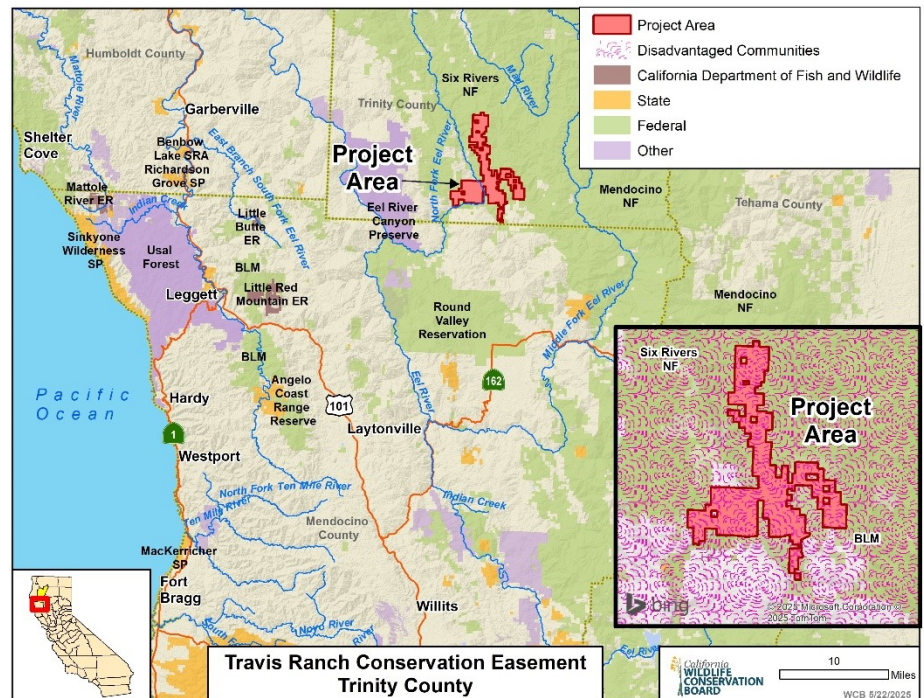
Acquisition Conservation Easement

Property Highlights

- Largely surrounded by public lands, including the Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel and North Fork Wilderness areas and other U.S. Forest Service Lands and Bureau of Land Management holdings.
- Intersected by the Wild and Scenic North Fork Eel River.
- Includes over 30 miles of class I and II streams and associated productive riparian habitats. Project will prevent degradation of the watershed.
- Habitats represented: Douglas fir, Douglas fir-ponderosa pine, and mixed conifer-hardwood forests; riparian forests; true oak stands; grasslands; and streams.
- Key species: northern spotted owl, bald eagle, peregrine falcon, fisher, coastal tailed frog, foothill yellow-legged frog, Chinook salmon, steelhead trout, western pond turtle, northern goshawk, long-eared owl, burrowing owl, and American badger.
- Adjoins over 20 miles of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service designated spotted owl Critical Habitat.

Priority Metrics

- Benefits a Justice Community: No
- Tribal Partnerships: No
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 2, Execute Strategic Acquisitions



- WCB Strategic Plan Goal A.1, A.4 and Objectives 1.2, 1.3
- Public Access: No

Conservation Easement Restriction Highlights

- Prohibits subdivision of the Property.
- Prohibits Grantor from placing structures within Forest Reserves and Riparian Corridors without prior written approval from CAL FIRE.
- Prohibits the establishment of any commercial or industrial facility or use that is inconsistent with the purpose or impairs conservation.
- Prohibits or restricts any use or activity that causes significant, verifiable erosion, or that contributes to the significant, verifiable pollution of any watercourse so as to prevent significant negative impacts to the health of salmonid populations.
- Prohibits development of water resources on the Property for commercial use.
- Prohibits the active conversion of true oak woodland either to grasslands, conifer forests, or any nonnative species or agricultural crop.
- Establishes five different areas on the Property as of the Effective Date— Timberlands, Grasslands, Riparian Corridors, Forest Reserves and Designated Improvement Areas, each with distinct uses and restrictions.
- Ensures that grazing on the Property shall be conducted in accordance with a Grazing Management Plan setting forth Grantor's long-term plan for grazing management on the Property consistent with the terms and conditions of the Conservation Easement.
- Requires the establishment of a forest management plan to be reviewed and approved by CAL FIRE.

Long-Term Management

CAL FIRE will enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Northcoast Regional Land Trust for the purpose of monitoring the Property for compliance with the terms of the Conservation Easement. The Conservation Easement allows access by CAL FIRE or their agents annually and once every three years by WCB and USFS for monitoring purposes.

Project Funding

The DGS approved fair market value is \$5,830,000. The proposed funding breakdown is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$2,979,990
Federal Forest Legacy Grant	\$2,850,000
Northcoast Regional Land Trust	\$10
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$5,830,000

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 Chris Rogers, 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.

24. Rancho Cañada Larga

Acquisition Fee

WCB Grant: \$14,750,000

Fund Sources: Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c), General Fund, Budget Act of 2023, Fish & Wildlife Resources - Climate Change Impacts on Wildlife (AB102, Sec. 84(1)), General Fund, Budget Act of 2022, Nature Based Solutions, (AB179, Sec. 83(3)(a)), General Fund, Budget Act of 2023, Nature Based Solutions, (AB102, Sec. 85(3)(a)), and General Fund, Budget Act of 2022, Fish & Wildlife Resources - Climate Change Impacts on Wildlife Provision (SB154)

Grantee: The Trust for Public Land (TPL)

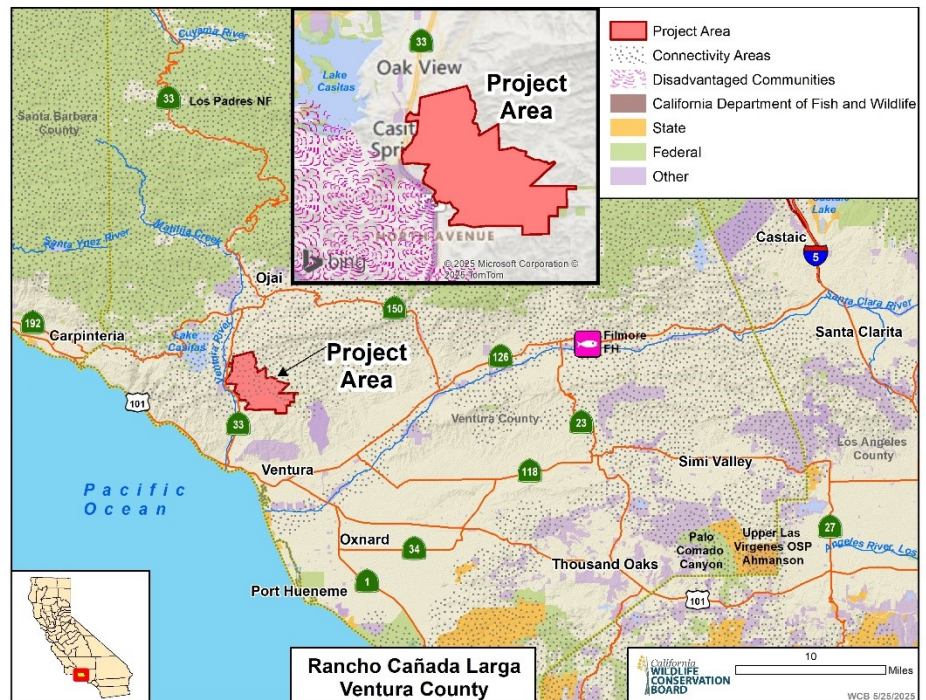
Location: 2.5 miles north of Ventura

County: Ventura

Acres: 6,475± (Property)

Property Highlights

- Topography characterized by primarily moderately to steeply sloping hills, mountains, and ravines with a low-lying valley along Cañada Larga Road in the southern half of the Property. Elevations range from approximately 1,460 feet above mean sea level (MSL) in the southeastern portion of the Property to 240 feet above MSL in the southwestern portion of the Property, along Cañada Larga Road.
- Habitats represented: Coastal sage scrub, grasslands, and healthy coast live oak woodlands dominate the landscape, with smaller areas of mixed chaparral, steep slopes, valley foothill riparian, and valley oak woodland habitat.
- Likely supports at least 20 special status wildlife species and 8 rare plant species.
- Includes designated critical habitat for California red-legged frog and southern California steelhead.
- Yearlong range of the California condor and ranked as high for condor predicted habitat.
- Includes 826± acres of the South Coast Missing Linkage's Sierra Madre-Castaic Linkage, which provides connections between the Ventura River



corridor, Santa Clara River corridor, and Los Padres National Forest, as well as between the Los Padres and Angeles National Forests.

- Contains approximately 4.25 miles of Cañada Larga Creek, a seasonal stream that is one of five major tributaries to the Ventura River, as well as numerous other creeks and drainages.
- Large enough to represent landscape-scale ecosystem protection by itself. It has 6,475± acres of interconnected, unfragmented natural habitat within which wildlife can move to find food, shelter, and mates, and to adjust if needed to climate change stressors.

Priority Metrics

- Benefits a Justice Community: Yes
- Tribal Partnerships: TPL is actively consulting with the Barbareño-Ventureño Band of Mission Indians (BVBMI) about the proposed acquisition. TPL may convey a Deed of Indigenous Cultural Conservation and Access Easement to BVBMI at close of escrow.
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 2, Execute Strategic Acquisitions
- WCB Strategic Plan Goal A and Objectives 1.2, 1.3, 2.1, 2.4.
- Public Access: Yes. The existing Sulphur Mountain Road Trail and trailhead will continue to be available to the public. Improvements to facilitate additional compatible public access will be implemented over time, as funding allows, and in compliance with the land protection, restoration, and management plan for the Property.
- The project will provide public access for severely disadvantaged residents in Ventura's Westside Community located approximately 3.7 miles south of the Property.

Long-Term Management

Stewardship of the Property will require a landscape-scale planning process wherein CDFW, NRCS, and academic partners will prioritize the conservation values of the land and clarify the preferred and appropriate land uses and restrictions. It is anticipated that the planning process will produce a comprehensive land protection, restoration, and management plan.

Project Funding

The DGS approved fair market value is \$27,650,000. The proposed funding breakdown is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB (will fund a 4,890± acre portion of the Property)	\$14,750,000
Holdfast Collective	\$6,500,000
Private Donations	\$6,400,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$27,650,000

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 Monique Limon, District 21
- Assembly: Assemblymember Steve Bennett, District 38

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. Tularcitos Creek

WCB Grant: \$6,550,000

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

Grantee: Esselen Tribe of Monterey County

Location: 7.5 miles east of Carmel Valley

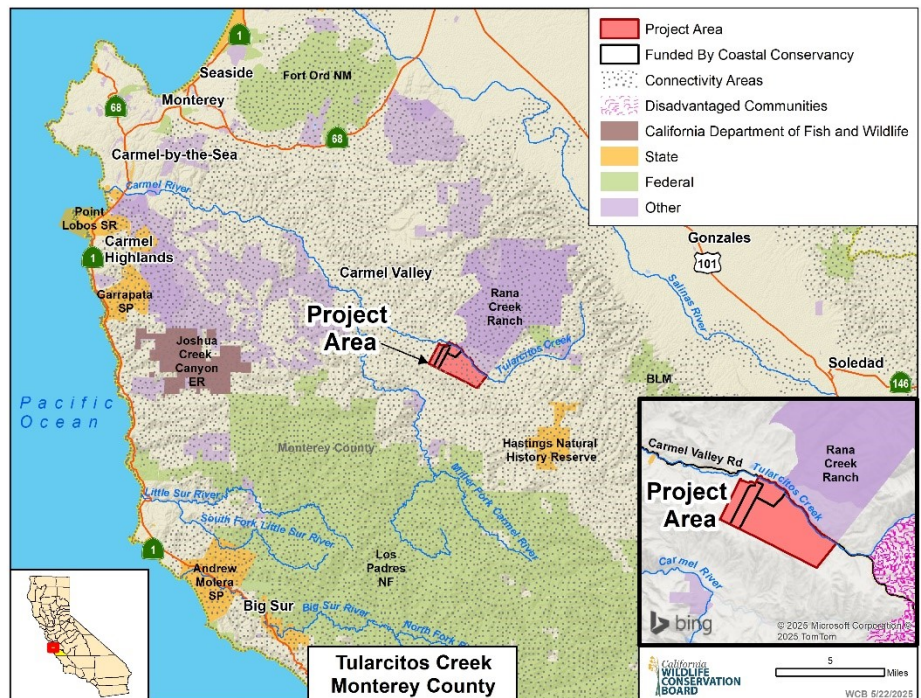
County: Monterey County

Acres: 1,720± (Property)

**Acquisition
Fee**

Property Highlights

- 1,720-acre Ancestral land return will contribute to the adjacent 14,142-acre Rana Creek Preserve, totaling 16,140 contiguous acres of tribal land stewarded by the Esselen Tribe of Monterey County.
- Habitats represented: oak woodland savanna, chapparal, wetlands, vernal pools, wet meadows, native grasslands and riparian habitats.
- Key species: California red-legged frog California tiger salamander, foothill yellow-legged frog, California condor, monarch butterfly, bald eagle, and burrowing owl.
- Tribe intends to research the feasibility of re-introducing North American beaver, Tule elk, and steelhead to the land.
- The Property provides habitat connectivity and a wildlife corridor via the Sierra de Salinas to the north and the Santa Lucia Range to the south as well as the adjacent 12,142-acre Rana Creek Preserve. Approximately 5 miles southwest of the Property is the 1.75-million-acre Los Padres National Forest which extends from the city of Monterey north to Ventura County further south.



Priority Metrics

- Benefits a Justice Community: Yes
- Tribal Partnerships: Yes, the Esselen Tribe of Monterey County is the grantee.
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 2, Execute Strategic Acquisitions
- WCB Strategic Plan Goal A and Objectives 1.2, 1.3, 2.1,3.1

- Public Access: Yes, public education programs, guided tours, and seasonal gathering activities will occur on the Property.

Long-Term Management

The Esselen Tribe of Monterey County will own and manage the Property. The Esselen's management goals include the prioritization of community wellness, restoration and enhancement of biodiversity and climate resilience, including riparian corridor restoration, restoration of Esselen Tribal food sovereignty, restoration of ancient "ancestor" oak trees, a return of cultural fire, sharing of Esselen cultural traditions, and protection of cultural and ecological resources of the land.

Project Funding

The DGS approved fair market value is \$10,300,000, and the landowner has agreed to sell at a reduced price of \$8,550,000. The proposed funding breakdown is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$6,550,000
State Coastal Conservancy	\$2,000,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$8,550,000

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Senator, John Laird, District 17
- Assemblymember, Dawn Addis, District 13
- Frazier Haney, Executive Director, The Wildlands Conservancy

Opposition:

- None received

CEQA

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

State Government

- Senate: Senator John Laird, District 17
- Assembly: Assemblymember Dawn Addis, District 13

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. Yolo Bypass WA (Big Notch Easement)

Transaction

Grantor: CDFW

Grantee: California Department of Water Resources (DWR)

Project: Grant of a flowage easement (Easement) for the purposes of seasonal floodplain fisheries rearing habitat and fish passage

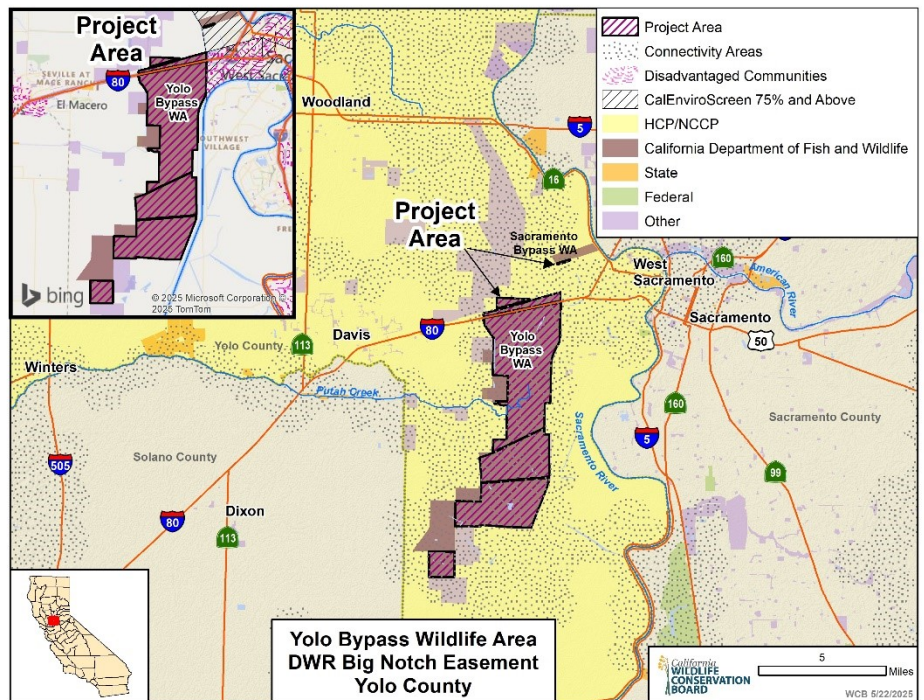
Location: Approximately 4 miles east of Davis

County: Yolo

Acres: 14,100± (Property)

Project Highlights

- DWR's Yolo Bypass Salmonid Habitat Restoration & Fish Passage project (Project), commonly referred to as the Big Notch project, is a 30,000-acre floodplain habitat restoration and fish passage project in the Yolo Bypass.
- Improves hydraulic connection between the Sacramento River and the Yolo Bypass by allowing increased flow from the Sacramento River to enter the Yolo Bypass through a gated notch on the east side of the Fremont Weir.
- Will reduce migratory delays and loss of fish at Fremont Weir and other structures in the Yolo Bypass. Specifically, the Project will improve connectivity within the Yolo Bypass for passage of salmonids and Green Sturgeon, as well as improve connectivity between the Sacramento River and the Yolo Bypass to provide safe and timely passage.
- The Project's fish passage structure will allow fish that are trapped in the stilling basin on the west side of Fremont Weir to move back into the Sacramento River after an overtopping event.
- The Project requires an easement acquisition over portions of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area (YBWA) for additional flooding to develop and support salmonid habitat and fish passage. Due to the increase in floodplain inundations, the Property will be flooded for additional days. Also, the Property may be flooded to a higher elevation (higher level) during the flood season (between November and June).



Property Highlights

- Project impacts 14,100± acres of CDFW's YBWA which is 16,770± total acres.
- YBWA was acquired for the preservation of historic wetlands, wintering habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, threatened and endangered species, and other wetland associated species.

Priority Metrics

- Benefits 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, Property currently allows for public access; however, once Project operations begin, public access may be limited based on flooding

Easement/Project Highlights

- Grants DWR the right to flow water and materials, and by said flow erode, and place or deposit earth, debris, sediment, or other material.
- Grants DWR the right for the flowage of water over and upon the Property resulting from flows of up to approximately 6,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) from November 1 to March 15 annually through the gates at Fremont Weir.
- Grants DWR, contingent upon prior environmental review as contemplated by Public Resources Code section 21080.28(b), the right for flowage of water over and upon the Property for flows above 6,000 cfs up to 12,000 cfs through the gates at Fremont Weir as identified in DWR's Notice of Exemption dated March 7, 2022 (SCH #2013032004). Prior to exercising this right, DWR shall provide notice of such environmental review to CDFW's Regional Manager and CDFW will provide written acknowledgement that such environmental review is complete.
- The Easement was appraised at \$6,536,000 and CDFW is being compensated for the Easement through provisions within a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between CDFW and DWR, which is not fully executed. Compensation for the Easement, as more fully explained below, comes in the form of physical improvement projects pursuant to the MOA. An Interagency Agreement (IAA) between CDFW and DWR, which is also not fully executed, separately provides payment for new CDFW positions at YBWA as compensation for anticipated increases in CDFW workload and expected annual losses in hunting and grazing lease revenue. WCB's execution of the Easement is contingent upon CDFW and DWR executing both the IAA and MOA.
- DWR's implementation of physical improvement projects at YBWA will be capped at a total of \$9,130,000.
- Pursuant to the IAA, DWR will fund 2.6 Person Years for CDFW positions at YBWA (1 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Supervisor 2, 1 Fish and Wildlife Technician, and 1 Fish

and Wildlife Scientific Aid) which acts as compensation for the increased CDFW YBWA workload and the lost YBWA hunting and grazing permit revenue.

- The value of the physical improvement projects and the Person Years exceeds the appraised fair market value of the easement.
- The IAA also includes provisions for adaptive management of flows as well as reopener provisions if compensation provided by DWR falls short of appraised impacts from actual flows.

Long-Term Management

CDFW's current management objectives for the Property are to create, maintain, and enhance wetlands, agricultural lands, riparian area, grasslands, uplands, and aquatic ecosystems to sustain habitats for native plants and animals and to provide other desired ecosystem services on the Property. Further objectives for the Property are to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive non-native species that have few benefits to wildlife, or that impact special status plants, and to provide opportunities for wildlife-related, low impact public recreational activities such as: fishing, hunting, hiking, walking, vehicle touring for wildlife observation, nature study, interpretation, and environmental education.

DGS Approved Appraised Value

The DGS approved fair market value of the Easement is \$6,536,000, and CDFW has agreed to grant the Easement for \$0 in exchange for DWR funding physical improvement projects at the YBWA (MOA) and DWR funding several additional CDFW staff positions at the YBWA (IAA).

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, Transfer of an Interest in Land by a Public Agency, as a transfer of an interest in land by a public agency for restoration of natural conditions, 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 Christopher Cabaldon, District 3
- Assembly: Assemblymember Cecilia M. Aguilar-Curry, District 4

Staff Recommendation

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

27. Napa River Ecology Center

WCB Grant: \$1,614,000

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

Grantee: American Canyon Community and Parks Foundation (ACCPF)

Landowner: City of American Canyon

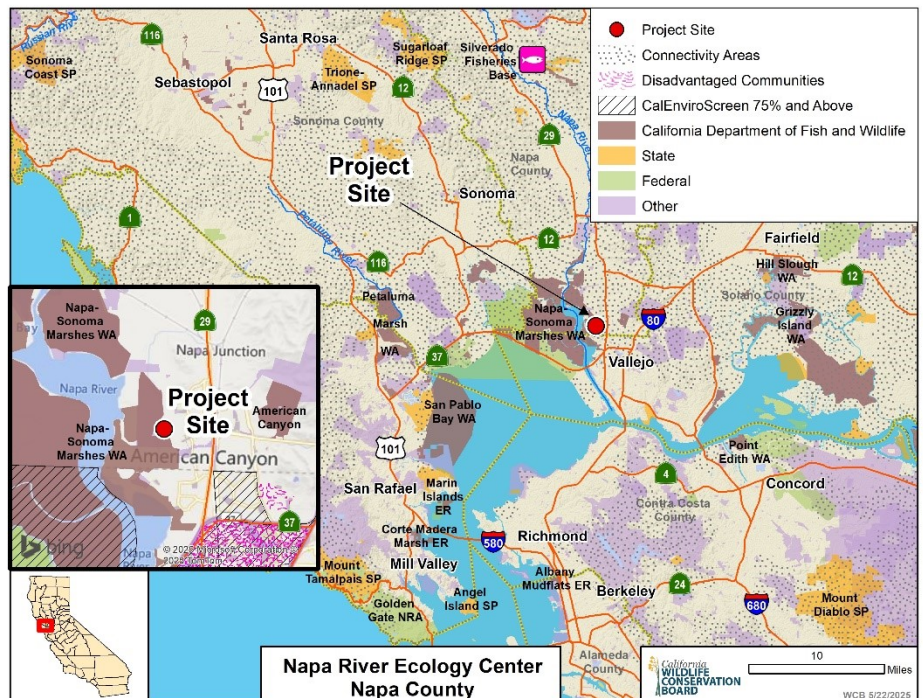
Location: American Canyon

County: Napa

Infrastructure Implementation

Project Highlights

- Located at the edge of the Napa River Wetlands, and walking distance from three local schools.
- Estimated to quadruple ACCPF's capacity for their watershed health and wildlife education programs.
- Project includes targeted outreach to Justice Communities in neighboring Solano County.
- Facilities will be ADA-compliant and will include educational signage in both English and Spanish.



Priority Metrics

- Benefits a Justice Community: Yes
- Tribal Partnerships: Yes, Suscol Intertribal Council, a tribal non-profit organization, is a Project partner contributing to educational materials
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 6, Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship
- WCB Strategic Plan Goal C and Objective 3.4

Project Description

The Napa River Ecology Center (Project) will repurpose a three-acre industrial lot and existing 5,000 square-foot, two-story building into a public-facing ecology center focused on the Napa River watershed and its wildlife. The Project site, which is directly

adjacent to the Napa River Wetlands, formerly served as a Public Works maintenance and equipment yard for the City of American Canyon. The City relocated their operations and approved a 50-year, \$1 lease agreement to ACCPF. The Project complements the City's approved Wetlands Restoration Plan and fills a gap in permanent education centers focused on wildlife in Napa County. ACCPF manages several ongoing wildlife and wetlands education programs, including:

- Watershed Explorers: provides 350+ fourth graders each year with hands-on learning experiences.
- Outdoor Connection Mobile Classroom: brings hands-on demonstrations and habitat education into classrooms.
- Discovery Days: community trailside education events about owls, raptors, mammals, aquatic life of the watershed.
- Teen WILD: provides 30 teens each year with mentoring opportunities, conservation experiences, and real-life work experiences.

These community- and school-based programs connect over 3,000 residents each year with local wildlife and promote understanding of the diverse habitats and species that live there. Currently ACCPF receives two to four additional inquiries per month from educators throughout the North Bay but is unable to meet the need due to lack of facilities. The Project is likely to quadruple program capacity, serving a projected 12,000 students and families each year in years 1-3 of opening, and 20,000 students and families each year in years 3-5 of opening.

The overall vision is a flexible community space that incorporates nature-based recreational opportunities including teaching gardens, an observation deck to study wildlife, a nature-based playground, and walking paths with interpretive signage along the wetlands. It is also envisioned that the Ecology Center property can be used as a gathering space for Earth Day and other nature-focused community events.

Specifically, WCB funding will support the wildlife protection and education components of the Project including:

- Elevated wildlife observation deck with elevator to provide ADA student accessibility
 - Indoor and outdoor education areas
 - Interpretive and educational signage
- Also included in WCB budget:
- A portion of overall costs associated with construction documents and final permits
 - Preparation of signage and exhibit plans, and Solano County Community Engagement Plan to ensure the Project's success at reaching nearby Justice Communities

Long-Term Management

ACCPF has adopted a Management Plan that guides management actions for the Project and is in accordance with the approved lease agreement between ACCPF and

City of American Canyon. If at any time during the 25-year life of the long-term management period, ACCPF 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 in the long-term management period.

Project Funding

The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Project Management	\$162,738	---	\$162,738
Pre-Construction	\$305,000	\$384,500	\$689,500
Construction	\$935,728	\$7,501,500	\$8,437,228
Indirect Costs	\$210,534	---	\$210,534
Total	\$1,614,000	\$7,886,000	\$9,500,000

Non-WCB funders include:

- ACCPF - \$670,000
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development - \$3,300,000
- City of American Canyon Flood Control - \$1,000,000
- The Gasser Foundation - \$300,000
- Private foundations and community fundraising campaigns - \$2,616,000

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Mike Thompson, U.S. Congress, District 4
- Bill Dodd, State Senator, District 3
- Belia Ramos, Napa County Supervisor, District 5
- Jason Holley, City Manager, City of American Canyon
- Laurette Rogers, STRAW Founder and Ambassador, Point Blue Conservation Science
- Nicholas Cheranich, Chair, Sierra Club Napa Group
- Francie Winnen, President, Friends of the Napa River

Opposition:

- None received

CEQA

The Project is proposed as exempt from CEQA pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15301, Class 1, Existing Facilities; Section 15303, Class 3, New

Construction; and Section 15304, Minor Alterations to Land. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

State Government

- Senate: Senator Christopher Cabaldon, District 3
- Assembly: Assemblymember Cecilia M. Aguilar-Curry, District 4

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. Monte Rio Redwoods

WCB Grant: \$8,000,000

Fund Source: Fish & Wildlife Resources - Climate Change Impacts on Wildlife Provision (SB154)

Grantee: Save the Redwoods League

Successor Grantee: Sonoma County Regional Parks

Location: Community of Monte Rio

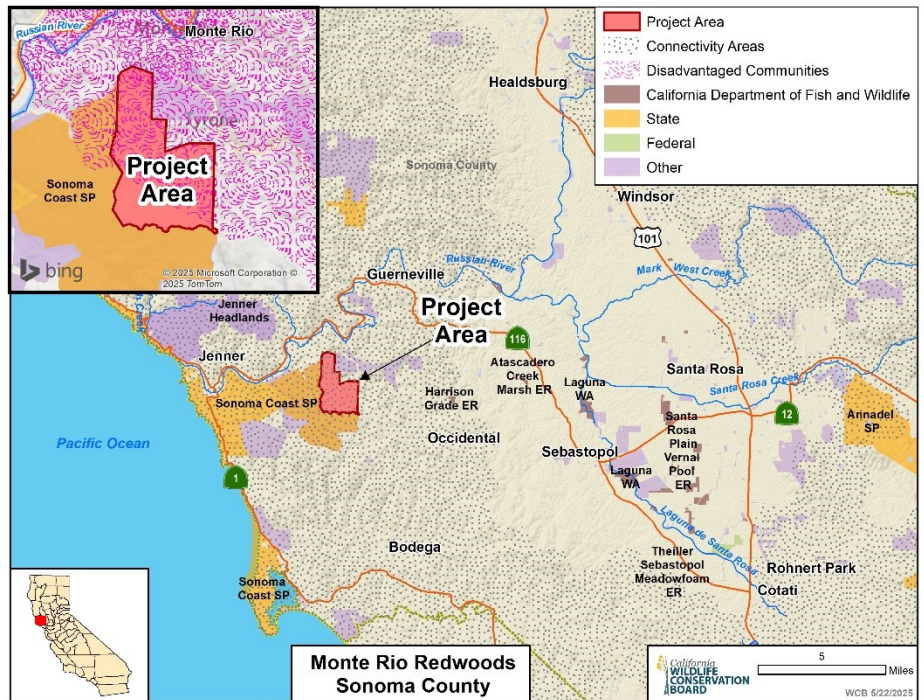
County: Sonoma

Acres: 1,517± (Property)

**Acquisition
Fee**

Property Highlights

- Protects and restores biodiversity, including important redwood habitats strategically located adjacent to state and locally protected lands.
- Enhances habitat connectivity within an important wildlife corridor by creating a contiguous protected area of 22,000 acres.
- Protects water quality in the headwaters of 3.6 miles of creeks that are tributaries to the Russian River and important coho salmon and steelhead trout spawning habitat.
- Enhances climate resilience and expands public access to nature for communities including the severely disadvantaged community of Monte Rio.



Priority Metrics

- Benefits a Justice Community: Yes
- Tribal Partnerships: No
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 2, Execute Strategic Acquisitions
- WCB Strategic Plan Goal A, C and Objectives 1.2, 1.3, 3.1
- Public Access: Yes, Property will have a mix of pedestrian-only, multi-use, and bike-only trails to support community needs and interests.

Long-Term Management

Sonoma County Regional Parks will be responsible for funding and implementing on-going management and monitoring, in coordination with the adjacent Monte Rio Redwoods Park and Preserve. Save the Redwoods League will acquire the Property and then transfer it to Sonoma County Regional Parks. After taking title, Sonoma County Regional Parks will grant a conservation easement over the Property to the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District as a condition of the District's funding.

Project Funding

The DGS approved fair market value is \$24,000,000. The proposed funding breakdown is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$8,000,000
Sonoma County Agriculture Preservation and Open Space District	\$8,000,000
Sonoma Land Trust	\$2,000,000
Save the Redwoods League	\$2,000,000
Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation	\$4,000,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$24,000,000

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Jared Huffman, Member of Congress, 2nd District, Congress of the United States
- Mike McGuire, Senator, California State Senate
- Chris Rogers, Assemblymember, 2nd District, Assembly California Legislature

Opposition:

- None received

CEQA

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

State Government

- Senate: Senator Mike McGuire, District 2
- Assembly: Assemblymember Chris Rogers, 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.

29. Salmon and Packer Creeks Aspen Restoration

Restoration Implementation

WCB Grant: \$1,705,000

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

Grantee: South Yuba River Citizens League

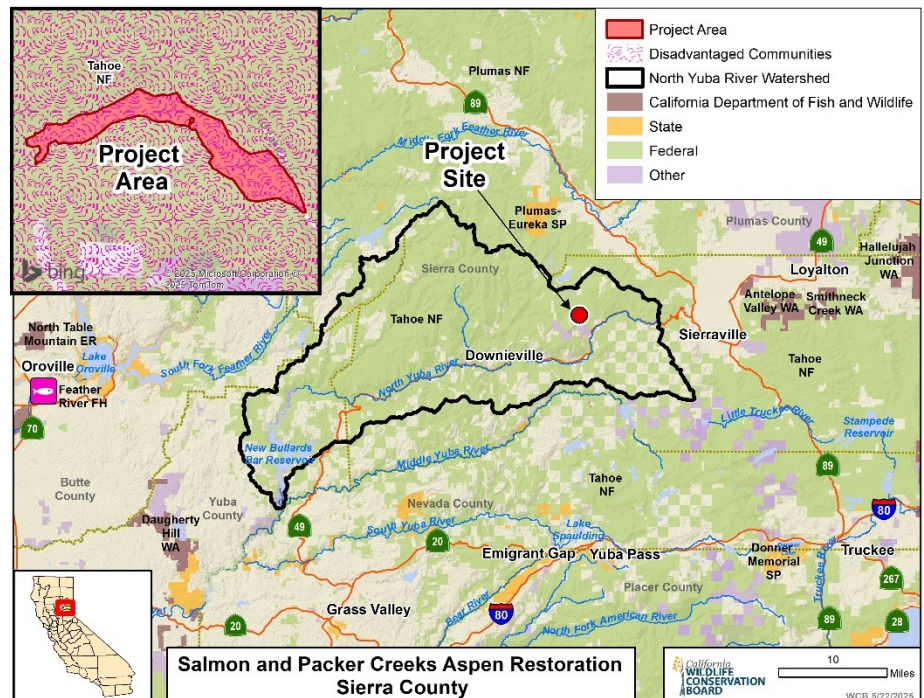
Landowner: U.S. Forest Service, Tahoe National Forest

Location: Five miles north of Sierra City

County: Sierra

Project Highlights

- 205 acres of restoration along Salmon and Packer creeks
- Located on public land with substantial public recreation
- Project will benefit two habitat types that are biodiversity hotspots in decline (aspen and meadow)
- Project site offers high elevation habitat as potential climate refugia
- Key species: Willow Flycatcher, California Spotted Owl, and Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog
- Contributes to 275,000-acre North Yuba Landscape Resilience Project



Priority Metrics

- Benefits a Justice Community: Yes
- Tribal Partnerships: Yes
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 1, Accelerate Regionally Led Conservation; and 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 project is located within a heavily recreated region of the Tahoe National Forest with no recorded fire history, resulting in densely stocked forests at high risk of habitat loss to wildfire. Conifers have encroached into aspen stands on the meadow fringe and within the riparian corridor of Salmon and Packer creeks due to lack of disturbance.

The project will implement forest management activities to increase forest health, wildfire resilience, climate resilience, and biodiversity by:

- Removing conifers in 116 acres of fragmented aspen stands.
- Increase wet meadow edge habitat by installing 15 beaver dam analogs (BDAs) in an incised channel.
- Increase forest health by thinning 74 acres of overstocked conifer forest.
- Biomass generated from thinning activities will be piled onsite for future burning to the extent the site can safely accommodate it, without creating an overabundance of piles in the area. Once the site has reached burn pile capacity, excess biomass will be hauled offsite to the nearest biomass facility.
- Prescribed burn preparation by clearing accumulated woody debris from the base of select trees to enable future low intensity burning.
- Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California will participate by providing tribal monitors during implementation and may partner with the grantee for implementation using tribal hand crews for a portion of the project.

Long-Term Management

The Tahoe National Forest has adopted a Management Plan that guides management actions for the project, including management of the property. If at any time during long-term management period of the project, South Yuba River Citizens League does not manage and maintain the project improvements, the Grant Agreement requires that it refund to the State of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the long-term management period.

Project Funding

The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Project Management	\$60,705	\$15,000	\$75,705
Outreach	\$24,067	---	\$24,067
Implementation	\$1,281,311	\$289,701	\$1,571,012
Monitoring	\$116,647	\$26,000	\$142,647
Indirect	\$222,270	\$33,299	\$255,569
Total	\$1,705,000	\$364,000	\$2,069,000

Non-WCB funders include:

- U.S. Forest Service, Tahoe National Forest - \$364,000

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Paul Roen, Chair, Sierra County Board of Supervisors
- Thomas Parrack, Yuba River District Ranger, Tahoe National Forest
- California Aspen Working Group
 - Lacey Hankin, PhD, Assistant Regional Ecologist, U.S. Forest Service
 - Helen Loffland, Meadow Species Specialist, The Institute for Bird Populations
 - Benjamin Blonder, University of California Berkeley

Opposition:

- None received

CEQA

The project is statutorily exempt from CEQA pursuant to the Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects (SERP), Public Resources Code section 21080.56, as a project that meets all of the following conditions: (1) the Project is exclusively to conserve, restore, protect, or enhance, and assist in the recovery of California native fish and wildlife, and the habitat upon which they depend; or is exclusively to restore or provide habitat for California native fish and wildlife; (2) the Project may have public benefits incidental to the Project's fundamental purpose; (3) the Project will result in long-term net benefits to climate resiliency, biodiversity, and sensitive species recovery; and includes procedures and ongoing management for the protection of the environment; and (4) Project construction activities are solely related to habitat restoration. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

State Government

- Senate: Senator Megan Dahle, District 01
- Assembly: Assemblymember Heather Hadwick, District 01

Staff Recommendation

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

30. Butte County Meadowfoam (Eshoo)

Acquisition Fee

WCB Grant: \$2,124,200

Fund Source: Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code

Section 2786(b/c)

Grantee: California Open Lands (COL)

USFWS Section 6 Subgrant: \$6,045,800

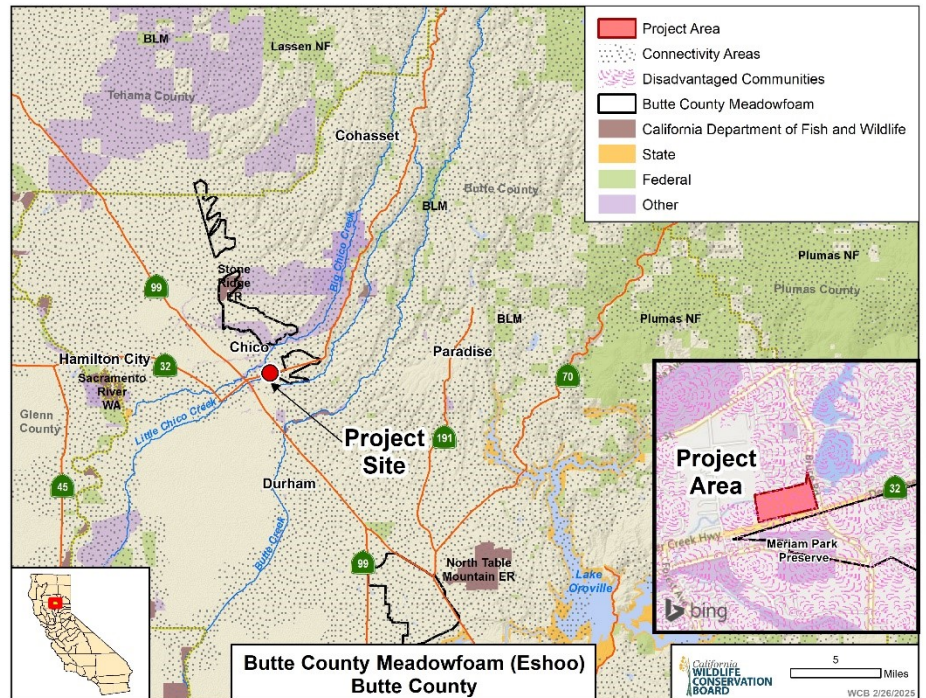
Location: City of Chico

County: Butte

Acres: 20± (Property)

Property Highlights

- Protects rare habitat and promotes the recovery of Butte County meadowfoam (BCM), a federal and state listed endangered plant only found within a narrow 25-mile strip along the eastern flank of the Sacramento Valley in Butte County.
- Habitats represented: riparian and vernal pool.
- Key species: Butte County meadowfoam, vernal pool fairy shrimp, and vernal pool tadpole shrimp.
- Regional or Species Plan: USFWS Vernal Pool Ecosystems of California and Southern Oregon Recovery Plan (2005).



Priority Metrics

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

Long-Term Management

COL developed a long-term management plan in consultation with CDFW and USFWS. The plan includes regular monitoring of the BCM population, and annual reports will be issued to CDFW and USFWS. COL's management objectives will foster

recovery of the BCM population through approaches informed by Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge (ITEK). COL utilizes a highly skilled, primarily Native American workforce who are trained in both ITEK and conventional scientific approaches for restoration and maintenance activities.

Project Funding

The DGS approved fair market value is \$8,170,000. The proposed funding breakdown is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$2,124,200
USFWS	\$6,045,800
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$8,170,000

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 Megan Dahle, District 1
- 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.

31. Vanauken Creek Habitat Enhancement

Restoration Implementation

WCB Grant: \$1,479,000

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

Grantee: Sanctuary Forest

Landowner: Private Landowner

Location: Approximately 16 miles west of Garberville

County: Humboldt

Project Highlights

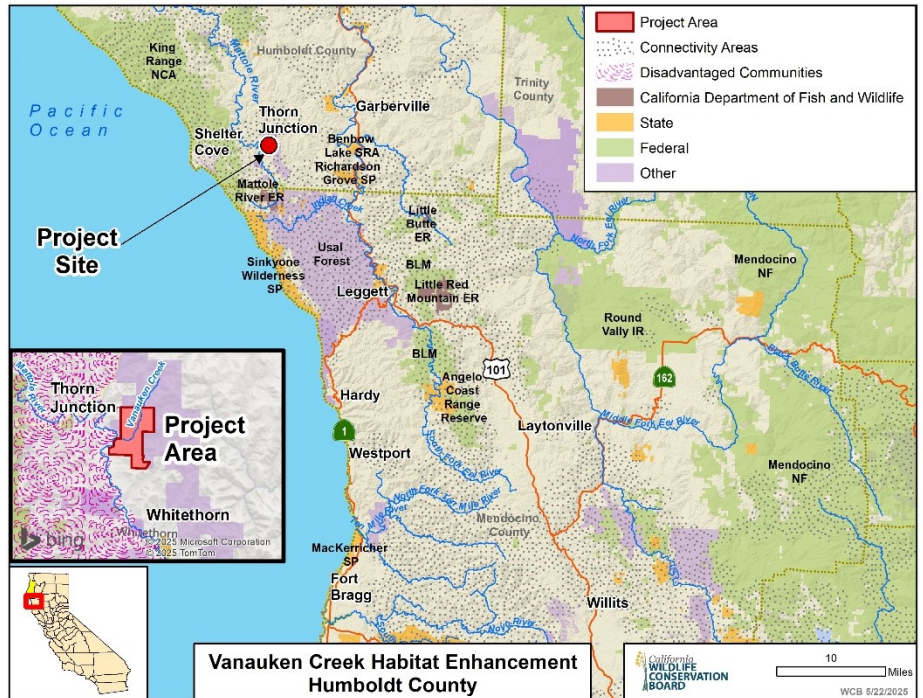
- Located in a key salmon-bearing tributary of the Mattole River.
- Habitat to be restored: 40 acres of forest thinning and 4,400 feet of stream enhanced.
- Stream enhancements will include 60 different features.
- Key species: Coho salmon, steelhead.

Priority Metrics

- Benefits a Justice Community: Yes
- Tribal Partnerships: Yes, the Wailaki Tribe White Lily Clan consulted on the planning phase and is exploring how to be involved in implementation
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 6, Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship
- WCB Strategic Plan Goal B and Objectives 2.3

Project Description

The Vanauken Creek Habitat Enhancement (Project) addresses key factors limiting the recovery of coho salmon and steelhead in the Mattole River watershed including poor summer rearing habitat, insufficient winter refuge, and low summer stream flows. Historical land use practices, removal of large wood, and climate change have significantly degraded instream habitat conditions and diminished dry season flows. This Project will improve instream habitat conditions and forest health in the riparian corridor of Vanauken Creek, a critical salmon-bearing tributary in the headwaters of the Mattole River. Construction will include instream structures along with extensive wood



loading to reintroduce large wood into the stream, reconnect floodplains, and slow winter runoff. Thinning of young, overstocked forests in the surrounding area will accelerate a return to late seral conditions, improve primary productivity in the stream, lower the risk of catastrophic wildfire, and reduce evapotranspiration of the riparian forest.

The Project will implement:

- Log weirs to slow stream flow velocities and create stepped pools
- Clay barriers to slow runoff
- Large wood structures including rootwads to slow stream flow velocities and provide habitat complexity
- Thin young trees within 300 feet of the stream totaling approximately 40 acres to reduce fire risks and create mixed age stand structure

Long-Term Management

Sanctuary Forest has adopted a Management Plan that guides management actions for the Project, including management of the property. If at any time during the 20-year long-term management period, 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 long-term management period.

Project Funding

The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Task 1. Project Management and Administration	\$14,000	---	\$14,000
Task 2. Planning and Permitting	\$40,000	\$5,000	\$45,000
Task 3. Project Implementation	\$1,124,000	\$35,400	\$1,159,400
Task 4. Monitoring, Adaptive Management, and Outreach	\$108,000	\$2,500	\$110,500
Task 5. Indirect	\$193,000	---	\$193,000
Total	\$1,479,000	\$42,900	\$1,521,900

Non-WCB funders include:

- Landowner - \$35,400

- Applicant - \$2,500
- Private Foundation - \$5,000

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Dorothy Hoaglin, Chairperson, Wailaki Tribe, Band of White Lily Clan
- Jake Shannon, Senior Environmental Scientist, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Timothy Metz, President, Restoration Forestry, Inc.
- Richard Sykes, Executive Director, Mattole Salmon Group
- Sarah Vroom, Executive Director, Mattole Restoration Council

Opposition:

- None received

CEQA

The Project is statutorily exempt from CEQA pursuant to the Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects (SERP), Public Resources Code section 21080.56, as a project that meets all of the following conditions: (1) the Project is exclusively to conserve, restore, protect, or enhance, and assist in the recovery of California native fish and wildlife, and the habitat upon which they depend; or is exclusively to restore or provide habitat for California native fish and wildlife; (2) the Project may have public benefits incidental to the Project's fundamental purpose; (3) the Project will result in long-term net benefits to climate resiliency, biodiversity, and sensitive species recovery; and includes procedures and ongoing management for the protection of the environment; and (4) Project construction activities are solely related to habitat restoration. 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 Chris Rogers, District 2

Staff Recommendation

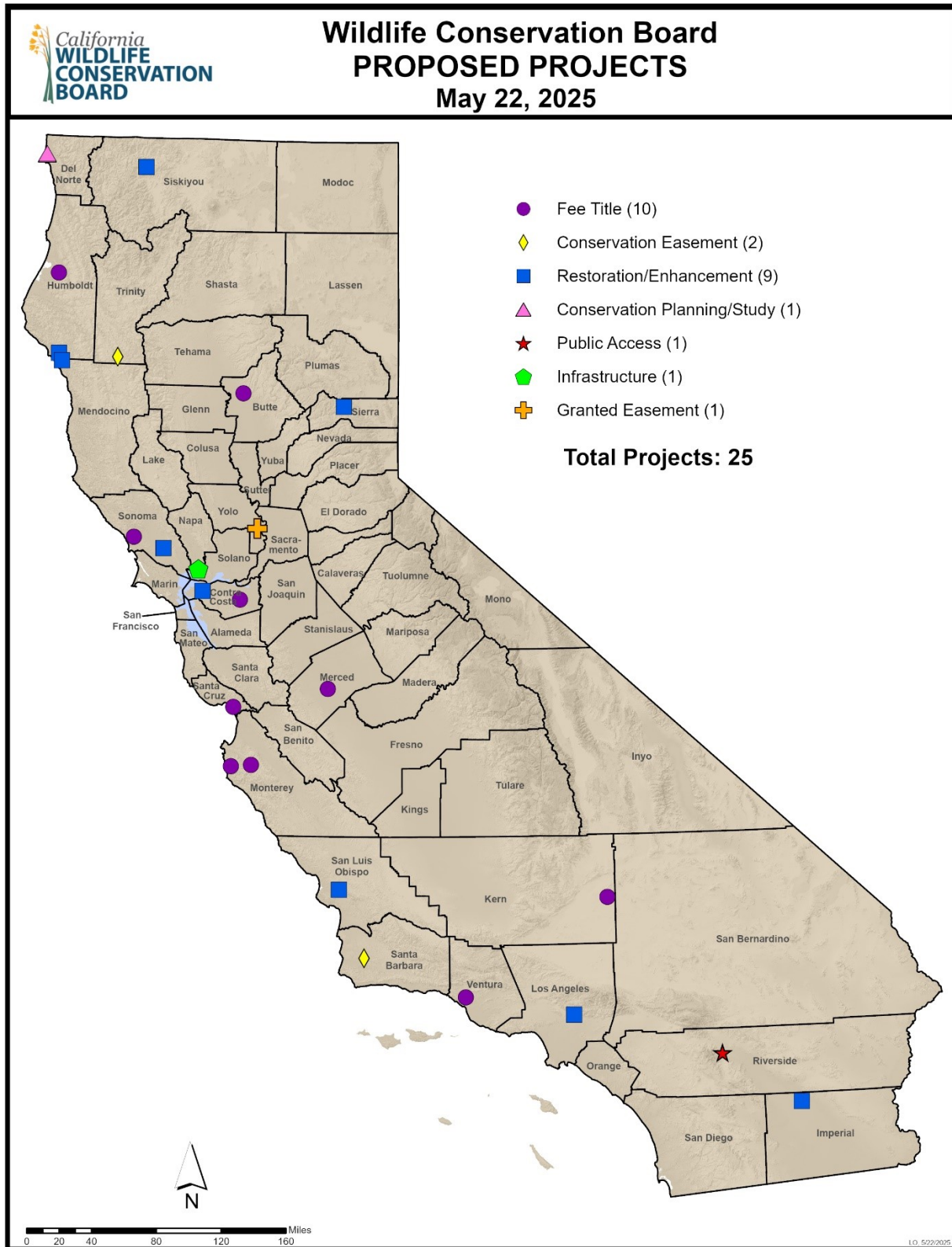
Staff recommends that WCB approve this Project as proposed, authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this Project, and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

32. 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)

Adjourn

ATTACHMENT A – MAP OF MAY 22, 2025, 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.