



Gavin Newsom, Governor
NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD
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Final Meeting Agenda

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

November 20, 2025, 10:00 a.m.

MiraCosta College San Elijo Campus
3333 Manchester Avenue
Building 1100 – Student Services and Administration
Conference Room 1131
Cardiff, CA 92007

and University of California, Santa Cruz
Ocean Health Building, Room 201, COH Library
115 McAllister Way
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

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.*

Please click the link below to join the webinar.

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+1 855 758-1310 US Toll-Free
Webinar ID: 812 6534 7608

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 and participate in a tour of San Elijo Lagoon upon adjournment.

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Attachments

Attachment A – Map of November 2025 Projects

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Attachment C – WCB Strategic Plan Targets

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Persons with disabilities needing reasonable accommodation to participate in public meetings or other CDFW activities are invited to contact the Department's EEO 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

The following funding status depicts total Capital Outlay and Local Assistance appropriations by fund source and fund number:

GENERAL FUND (0001)	\$7,548,931.00
November 2025 Board Meeting Allocation:	(255,803.00)
Total Project Development:	(0.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	\$7,293,128.00
HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (0262)	\$52,616,102.68
November 2025 Board Meeting Allocation:	(6,436,000.00)
Total Project Development:	(12,465,733.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	\$33,714,369.68
GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION FUND (3228)	\$107,899,089.00
November 2025 Board Meeting Allocation:	(82,150,202.00)
Total Project Development:	(21,846,216.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	\$3,902,671.00
CALIFORNIA CLEAN WATER, CLEAN AIR, SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS AND COASTAL PROTECTION BOND FUND (Proposition 40) (6029)	\$0.00
November 2025 Board Meeting Allocation:	(0.00)
Total Project Development:	(0.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	\$0.00
WATER SECURITY, CLEAN DRINKING WATER, COASTAL AND BEACH PROTECTION FUND OF 2002 (Proposition 50) (6031)	\$5,092,000.00
November 2025 Board Meeting Allocation:	(1,540,000.00)
Total Project Development:	(0.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	\$3,552,000.00

SAFE DRINKING WATER, WATER QUALITY AND SUPPLY, FLOOD CONTROL, RIVER AND COASTAL PROTECTION FUND OF 2006 (Proposition 84) (6051)	\$3,981,507.35
November 2025 Board Meeting Allocation:	(470,257.00)
Total Project Development:	(0.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	\$3,511,250.35
WATER QUALITY, SUPPLY, AND INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT FUND (Proposition 1) (6083)	\$32,774,011.85
November 2025 Board Meeting Allocation:	(800,000.00)
Total Project Development:	(1,600,000.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	\$30,374,011.85
THE CALIFORNIA DROUGHT, WATER, PARKS, CLIMATE, COASTAL PROTECTION, AND OUTDOOR ACCESS FOR ALL ACT OF 2018 (Proposition 68) (6088)	\$40,780,536.77
November 2025 Board Meeting Allocation:	(1,733,276.00)
Total Project Development:	(790,500.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	\$38,256,760.77
TOTAL – ALL FUNDS	\$251,118,178.65
Grand Total – November 2025 Board Meeting Allocation:	(93,385,538.00)
Grand Total - Project Development:	(36,702,449.00)
Grand Total Projected Unallocated Balance:	\$121,030,191.65

Consent Items

Items 6-13 are part of the Consent Calendar

6. Recovery of Funds, Thursday, November 20, 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	\$85,425.95
Habitat Conservation Fund	\$412,392.13
Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund	\$0.00
California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Fund	\$221,230.03
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006	\$0.00
The California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018	\$1,449,105.80
Total Recoveries for All Funds	\$2,168,153.91

Table 2 - General Fund

Project Name	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Bently Junction Ranch	\$4,220,000.00	\$4,211,050.00	\$8,950.00
Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area Expansion #17 (Soper) FEE	\$45,000.00	\$41,584.00	\$3,416.00
East Contra Costa County HCP/NCCP (Freschi)	\$20,000.00	\$5,859.00	\$14,141.00
Faith Valley Meadow Restoration Augmentation	\$67,000.00	\$62,300.05	\$4,699.95
Fremont Valley Ecological Reserve, Expansion 1	\$25,000.00	\$19,683.00	\$5,317.00
Jacoby Creek Forest, Expansion 5	\$30,000.00	\$11,144.00	\$18,856.00
Lake Earl Wildlife Area (Evans)	\$41,727.00	\$31,717.00	\$10,010.00
Lake Elsinore Aquatic Ecosystem Planning	\$750,000.00	\$750,000.00	\$0.00
Mourier West (30x30)	\$20,000.00	\$13,671.00	\$6,329.00
Tularcitos Creek	\$20,000.00	\$6,293.00	\$13,707.00
Total Recoveries to General Fund			\$85,425.95

Table 3 - Habitat Conservation Fund

Project Name	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area Expansion #17 (Soper) FEE	\$1,587,000.00	\$1,587,000.00	\$0.00
East Contra Costa County HCP/NCCP (Freschi)	\$320,000.00	\$320,000.00	\$0.00
Fremont Valley Ecological Reserve, Expansion 1	\$79,500.00	\$79,500.00	\$0.00
Grizzly Island Wildlife Area Pond 12 and Field 13 Enhancement	\$1,580,000.00	\$1,522,974.76	\$57,025.24
Imperial Wildlife Area Wetland Restoration, Units W11, W12 & Y15	\$2,400,000.00	\$2,384,807.72	\$15,192.28
Montezuma Slough Fish Screen Planning	\$367,000.00	\$240,917.75	\$126,082.25
Tricolored Blackbird Wetland Habitat Enhancement	\$719,000.00	\$719,000.00	\$0.00
Tricolored Blackbird Wetland Habitat Enhancement Augmentation	\$640,000.00	\$474,792.19	\$165,207.81
Tularcitos Creek	\$6,550,000.00	\$6,550,000.00	\$0.00
Willow Creek Wildlife Area Meadow Enhancement	\$216,000.00	\$167,115.45	\$48,884.55
Total Recoveries to Habitat Conservation Fund			\$412,392.13

Table 4- Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund

Project Name	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Lake Earl Wildlife Area (Evans)	\$214,000.00	\$214,000.00	\$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
CAL FIRE Grizzly Creek Forest Conservation Easement	\$50,000.00	\$21,762.00	\$28,238.00
Snake Marsh Restoration Project	\$665,000.00	\$472,007.97	\$192,992.03
Total Recoveries to California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Fund			\$221,230.03

Table 6- Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006

Project Name	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Jacoby Creek Forest, Expansion 5	\$690,000.00	\$690,000.00	\$0.00
Total Recoveries to Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006			\$0.00

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 Forest Restoration	\$970,000.00	\$915,745.94	\$54,254.06
Big Creek Reserve Facilities and Infrastructure Improvement	\$512,788.00	\$512,788.00	\$0.00
Chachaany Hamuk Trailhead Improvement	\$398,720.00	\$398,337.87	\$382.13
Faith Valley Meadow Restoration	\$351,240.00	\$351,206.17	\$33.83
Gray Lodge WA Fields 21 & 22 Wetland Enhancement	\$614,000.00	\$612,785.11	\$1,214.89
James Reserve Infrastructure Improvements	\$206,147.00	\$168,705.36	\$37,441.64
June Mountain Forest Restoration	\$441,000.00	\$433,596.82	\$7,403.18
King Fire Forest Restoration	\$756,648.00	\$734,127.74	\$22,520.26
LA River Habitat Enhancement and Stormwater Capture Project	\$350,000.00	\$350,000.00	\$0.00
Pickel Meadow Restoration Planning	\$162,000.00	\$161,538.58	\$461.42
Rainbow Canyon Wildlife Crossing Planning	\$1,331,000.00	\$234,020.81	\$1,096,979.19
Sardine Meadow Restoration	\$2,086,000.00	\$2,017,565.21	\$68,434.79
Stone Lagoon Wildlife Connectivity Planning	\$230,000.00	\$139,700.79	\$90,299.21
Thompson Meadow Restoration	\$504,002.00	\$504,001.99	\$0.01
Where Are We on the Parkway	\$270,875.00	\$201,193.91	\$69,681.09
Yosemite Area Forest Restoration, Phase 2	\$4,239,244.00	\$4,239,243.90	\$0.10
Total Recoveries to The California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018			\$1,449,105.80

7. Putah Creek Fish Passage at County Road 106A

**Restoration
– Planning**

WCB Grant: \$1,210,000

Fund Source(s): Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, Budget Act of 2024, Streamflow Programs (SB 108, Sec. 107(1)(3))

Grantee: Solano County Water Agency

Landowner: City of Davis

Location: 3 miles east of Davis

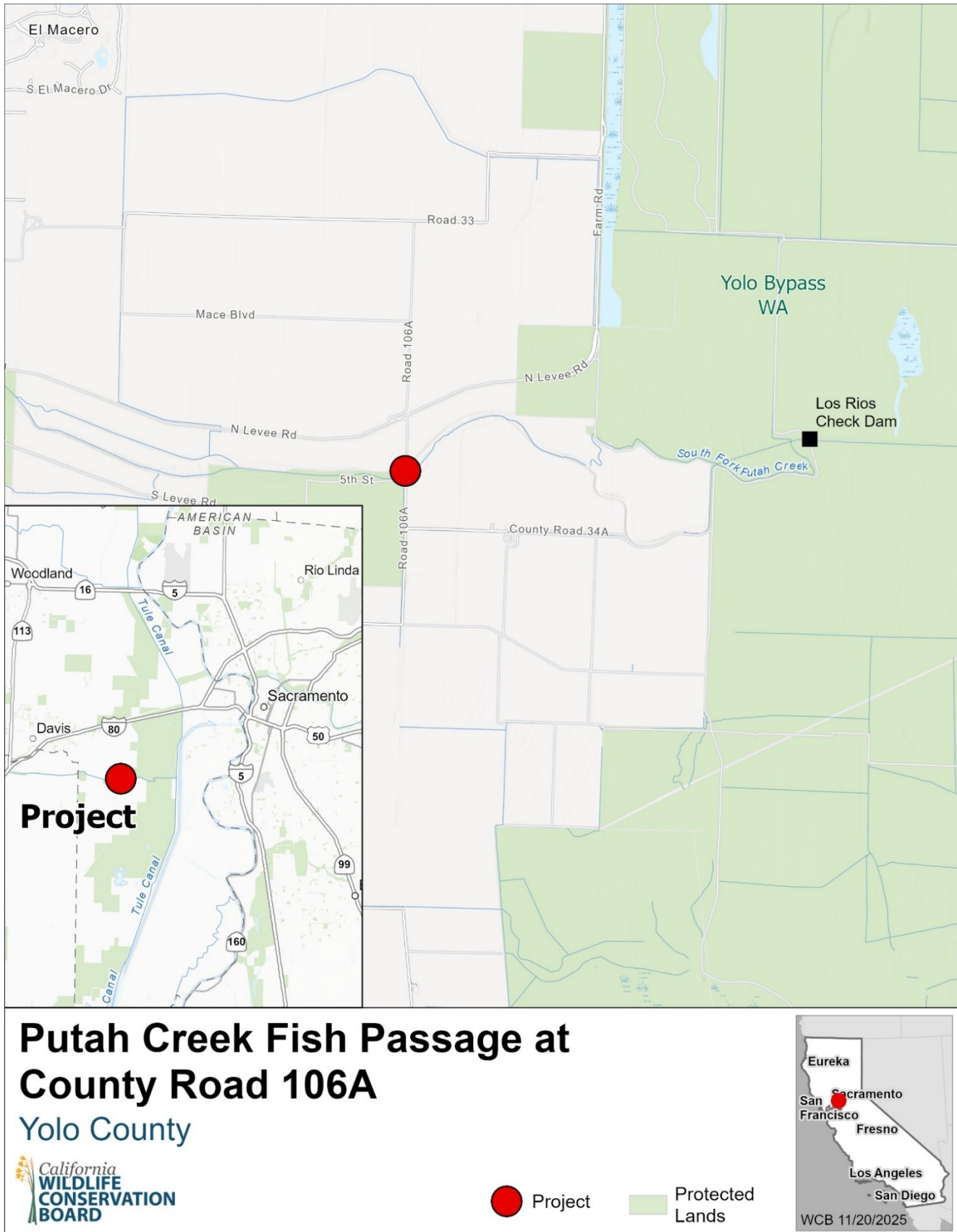
County: Yolo

Project Highlights

- Improves habitat and migratory passage for fall-run Chinook salmon and Pacific lamprey, a state and federal Species of Concern.
- Contiguous with a planning project already underway at the Los Rios Check Dam.

Priority Metrics

- Benefits Justice Communities: No
- Tribal Partnerships: No
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 6, Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship
- WCB Strategic Plan Target: B2.2



Project Description

Up to 1,700 fall-run Chinook salmon arrive each year to spawn in Putah Creek, near the city of Winters. Numbers could be significantly higher with improved fish passage at two locations downstream: Los Rios Check Dam (LRCD) and the seasonal earthen impoundment at County Road 106A. A fish passage planning project is currently underway at the LRCD and this project would plan for the removal/redesign of the seasonal earthen impoundment at the crossing of Putah Creek at County Road 106A (Project). Together, these projects will pave the way to extend the fish migration season and restore passage of fall-run Chinook salmon and Pacific lamprey.

The 106A crossing is documented in the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) Fish Passage Assessment Database as a temporal barrier. The crossing is put in place each spring to access farm fields on the other side of the creek through the summer. In late fall it is removed or allowed to breach naturally by high flows, to allow passage for the height of the fall-run migration. However, as the timing of breaching is dependent on the amount of rain and stream flow, the crossing partially blocks in-migrating adult salmon in the fall and out-migrating juveniles in the spring.

The goal of the Project is to plan for the elimination of all barriers to fish passage at Road 106A, while preserving the road crossing and check dam functions of the site. It will also plan to narrow the low flow channel east of Mace Blvd for improved flow velocity and more shade over the water. A coordinated planning effort will explore diverse solutions and select the most appropriate design for a permanent crossing that maintains fish passage year-round. The Project meets Objective 1 of the California Salmon Strategy: "Remove barriers and modernize infrastructure for salmon migration".

Long-Term Management

Not applicable to this Project

Project Funding

The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Project Management	\$100,000	---	\$100,000
Technical Advisory Committee	\$50,000	---	\$50,000
Surveys	\$225,000	---	\$225,000
Project Design	\$635,000	---	\$635,000
CEQA and Permits	\$90,000	---	\$90,000

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Salmon Monitoring	---	\$900,000	\$900,000
Indirect Costs	\$110,000	---	\$110,000
Total	\$1,210,000	\$900,000	\$2,110,000

Non-WCB funders include:

- Solano County Water Agency - \$900,000

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Kelly Stachowicz, Interim City Manager, City of Davis
- John J. Anderson, President, Los Rios Farms

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.

State Government

- Senate: Senator Christopher Cabaldon, District 3
- Assembly: Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-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.

8. American River Salmonid Rearing Habitat Planning

**Restoration
– Planning**

WCB Grant: \$333,000

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

Grantee: City of Sacramento (Water Forum)

Landowner: Sacramento County Department of Regional Parks

Location: Approximately 2 miles north of downtown Sacramento

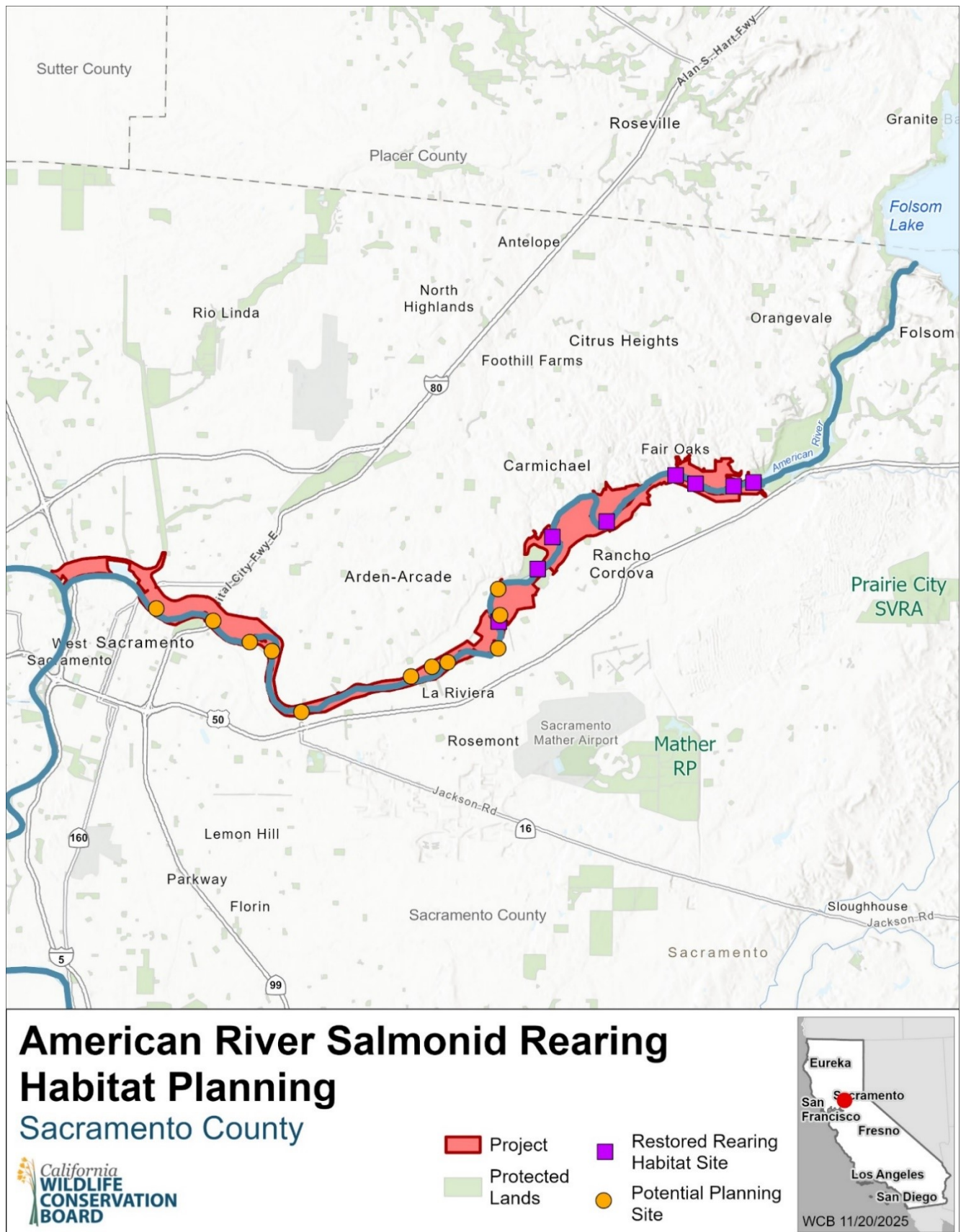
County: Sacramento

Project Highlights

- Prioritization and advancement of ten juvenile salmonid rearing habitat sites to shovel-ready status.
- Habitats to be planned for restoration: 30 acres of off-channel refugia and shaded riverine aquatic habitat.
- Reconnecting the American River to its floodplain and restoring ecosystem functions.
- Key species: fall-run Chinook salmon, California Central Valley (CCV) steelhead, and Pacific lamprey.
- Regional or Species Plan: American River Parkway Natural Resources Management Plan (Sacramento County 2022), CCV Steelhead Recovery Plan (NMFS 2014).

Priority Metrics

- Benefits Justice Communities: Yes, portions of the project area are within a disadvantaged community according to the DWR DAC Mapping Tool and in the top 25th percentile on CalEnviroScreen. Restoration projects will promote groundwater recharge, reduce heat effects and wildfire risk, and improve the quality of water within the Parkway.
- Tribal Partnerships: No
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 6, Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship; Pathway 8, Align investments to Maximize Conservation Benefits
- WCB Strategic Plan Targets: B2.2, C2.3



Project Description

On the lower American River (LAR), human modifications to support flood management, gravel mining, hydropower, and water supply needs have resulted in an altered hydrology for the river. The resulting channel incision and coarsening of bed material have lowered streambed elevations, altered depths and velocities, and reduced the magnitude and frequency of floodplain inundation important for juvenile salmonid rearing. The American River Salmonid Rearing Habitat Planning (Project) will advance the study, conceptual design, CEQA compliance, and a programmatic permitting strategy for up to ten juvenile salmonid rearing habitat sites, comprising approximately 30 acres of created or enhanced habitat for native fall-run Chinook salmon and steelhead trout, thereby restoring ecosystem and climate benefits to the American River Parkway.

The Project will develop shovel-ready projects by:

- Utilizing the Ecological Floodplain Inundation Potential (EcoFIP) toolkit which includes a robust multi-parameters analysis using current LAR-specific data.
- Identifying 15-20 potential salmonid rearing habitat enhancement sites.
- Hosting three workshops with landowners to select up to ten priority sites based on site constraints, ecological uplift, and cost.
- Developing up to 65% designs for the ten selected sites.
- Completing baseline studies, cultural assessments, stakeholder engagement, and tribal coordination.
- Completing CEQA review and developing a permitting strategy using the state's Cutting the Green Tape initiative.

Long-Term Management

Not applicable to this Project

Project Funding

The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Project Management	---	\$155,000	\$155,000
EcoFIP and Reporting	\$206,991	---	\$206,991
Landowner Coordination	\$22,565	---	\$22,565
Field Studies, Outreach, and Designs	---	\$845,000	\$845,000
Environmental Review and Permitting Strategy	\$103,444	---	\$103,444
Total	\$333,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,333,000

Non-WCB funders include:

- City of Sacramento, Water Forum - \$155,000
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation - \$845,000

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Liz Bellas, Director, Sacramento County Department of Regional Parks

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, a Notice of Exemption (NOE) will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

State Government

- Senate: Senator Angelique Ashby, District 8; Senator Roger Niello, District 6
- Assembly: Assemblymember Maggy Krell, District 6; Assemblymember Josh Hoover, District 7

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. Indian Joe Springs Ecological Reserve, Expansion 1

**Acquisition
CDFW Fee**

Purchase Price: \$36,000

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

Location: 30 miles northeast of the city of Ridgecrest

County: Inyo

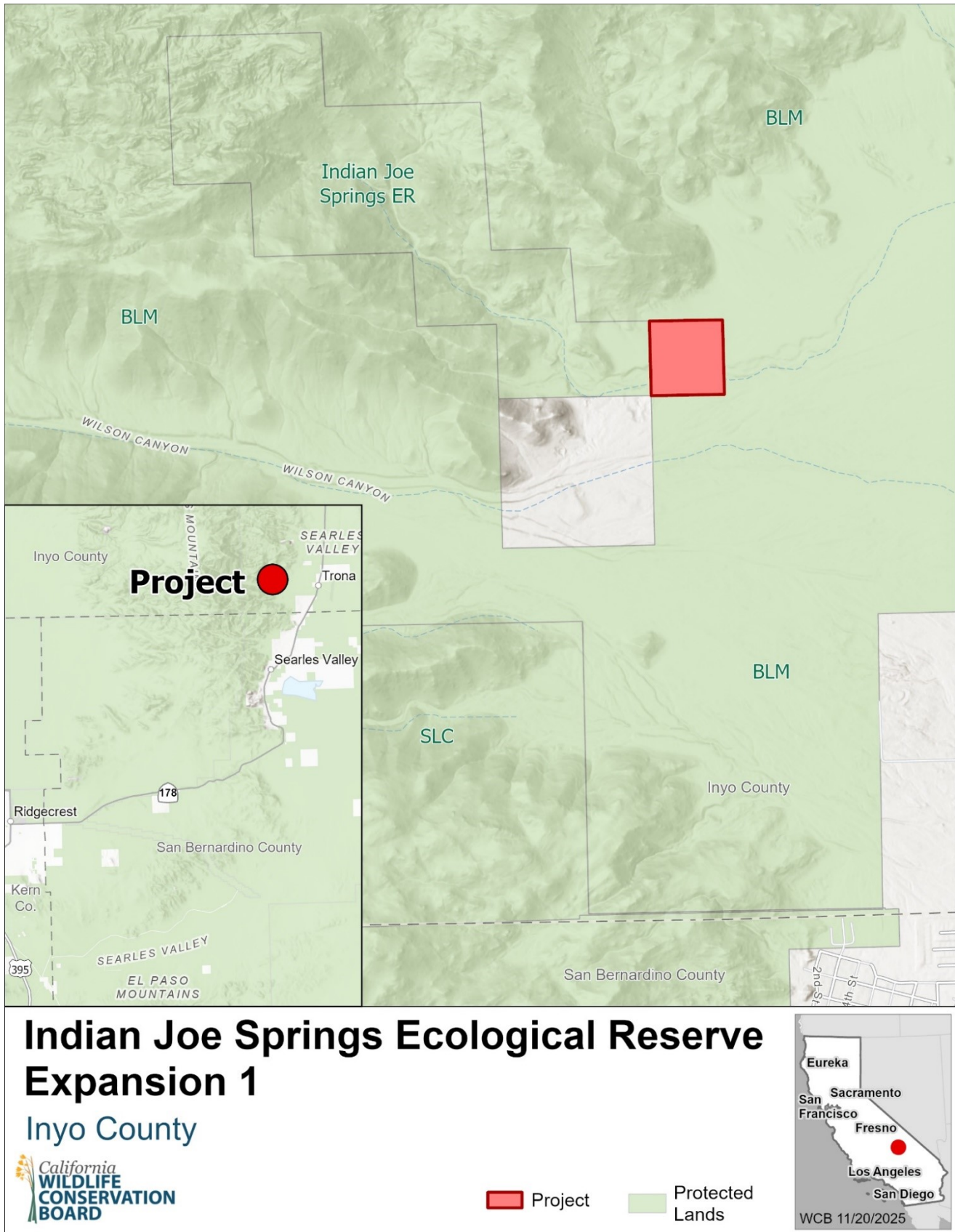
Acres: 40± (Property)

Property Highlights

- Addition to CDFW's Indian Joe Springs Ecological Reserve. The existing 520-acre Ecological Reserve has rare Mojave Desert water sources and critical habitat.
- Provides connectivity with a network of contiguous publicly conserved lands, expanding protected corridors for wildlife movement.
- Habitats represented: desert scrub, desert wash
- Key species: Inyo California towhee, desert tortoise, Mohave ground squirrel
- Regional or Species Plan: CDFW Indian Joe Springs Ecological Reserve Land Management Plan

Priority Metrics

- Benefits Justice Communities: Yes, the project is located within a Severely Disadvantaged Community and will provide opportunities for outdoor recreation
- Tribal Partnerships: No
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 2, Execute Strategic Acquisitions
- WCB Strategic Plan Targets: B1.1, B2.1, C1.1, C2.2, P1.1, P2.1
- Public Access: Yes, Indian Joe Springs Ecological Reserve is open to the public, including for upland game bird hunting



Long-Term Management

The Property will be owned and managed by CDFW as part of the Indian Joe Springs Ecological Reserve.

Project Funding

The Department of General Services (DGS) approved fair market value is \$36,000. The proposed funding breakdown is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$36,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$36,000

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, Transfer 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 Marie Alvarado-Gil, District 4
- Assembly: Assemblymember David J. Tangipa, District 8

Staff Recommendation

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

10. Joshua Tree Ethnobotanical Study

**Restoration
– Study**

WCB Grant: \$255,803

Fund Source(s): General Fund, Budget Act of 2023, Fish & Wildlife Resources –

Western Joshua Trees Conservation Provision (AB102, Sec. 84(5))

Grantee: Native American Land Conservancy

Landowner: Public and Private

Location: Range-wide study within species range

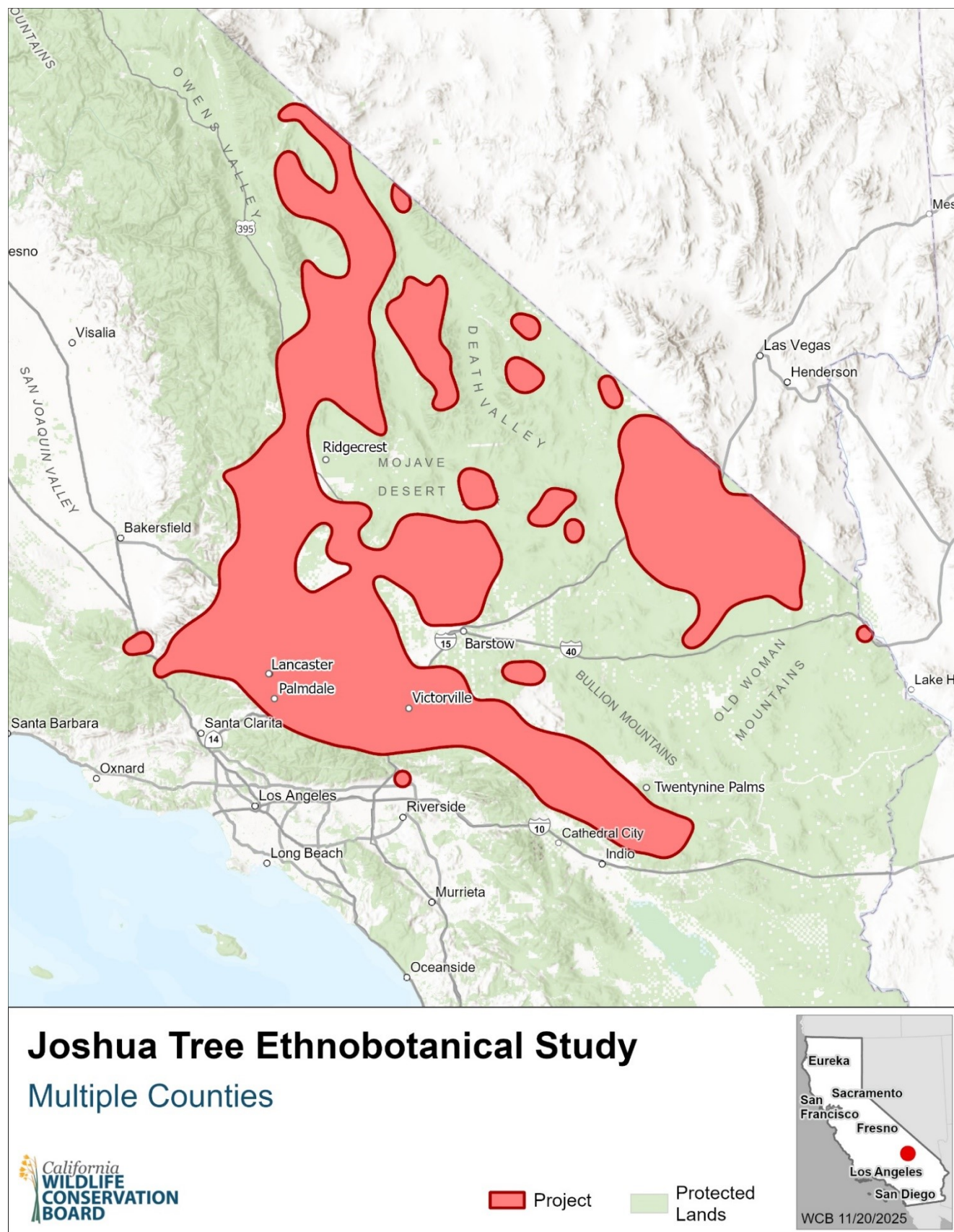
Counties: Inyo, Kern, Los Angeles, Mono, Riverside, and San Bernardino

Project Highlights

- Ethnobotanical Study is a recommendation in the Western Joshua Tree Conservation Plan (WJTCP) (Action R&I 1.14) written by CDFW
- Tribes that participated in tribal consultation for the WJTCP requested this study
- Key species: western Joshua tree

Priority Metrics

- Benefits Justice Communities: No
- Tribal Partnerships: Yes, project will convene a group of interested tribes (ten total) to share Traditional Ecological Knowledge of the Joshua tree
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 6, Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship and Pathway 7, Strengthen Coordination Among Governments
- WCB Strategic Plan Target: B2.1



Project Description

The Joshua Tree Ethnobotanical Study (Project) resulted from a recommendation contained within the WJTCP. During development of the WJTCP, several Tribes stated a desire for a study to document cultural and Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) associated with the western Joshua tree (WJT) and compile information on Native Californians' relationships with the species throughout its vast range. The Project will help inform on-going implementation of the WJTCP and conservation efforts broadly. The principal investigators will engage with compensated tribal members and Native American Project Advisors to compile information from literature and archival sources to produce a final document that includes tribally informed WJT management recommendations to be provided to CDFW.

The Project will provide the following:

- Research regarding how people of multiple indigenous cultures and regions use western Joshua tree for different purposes, such as food, medicine, shelter, dyes, fibers, oils, resins, soaps, waxes, and ceremonial purposes. This study will ultimately provide a final report to CDFW documenting traditional uses of WJT and management recommendations for WJT conservation.
- An anthropologist will be leading the study by employing Rapid Ethnographic Assessment Procedures, a widely used methodology that streamlines the ethnographic research process.

Long-Term Management

Not applicable to this Project

Project Funding

The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Project Management	\$31,000	---	\$31,000
Tribal Outreach	\$20,000	\$5,000	\$25,000
Project Team Creation	\$15,000	\$5,000	\$20,000
Conduct Literature Review	\$30,000	---	\$30,000
Conduct Interviews with Traditional Practitioners	\$47,678	---	\$47,678
Conduct Curation Facility Visitations and Related Documentation	\$30,000	---	\$30,000

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Draft and Finalize Joshua Tree Ethnobotanical Report	\$50,000	---	\$50,000
Indirect Costs	\$32,125	---	\$32,125
Total	\$255,803	\$10,000	\$265,803

Non-WCB funders include:

- Native American Land Conservancy - \$10,000

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Starla Madrigal, Chairwoman, California Indian Basketweavers' Association
- Daniel Leivas, Chemehuevi Tribal Chairman, Chemehuevi Indian Tribe
- Robert Robinson, Tribal Chairman, Kern Valley Indian Community
- Thomas Swab, Tribal Chairman, Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Reservation

Opposition:

- None received

CEQA

The Project is proposed as exempt from CEQA pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15306, Class 6, Information Collection, consisting of basic data collection and research which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource and Section 15262, Feasibility and Planning Studies, as it involves only feasibility and planning studies for possible future actions. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

State Government

- Senate: Senator Shannon Grove, District 12
Senator Marie Alvarado-Gil, District 04
Senator Steven Padilla, District 18
Senator Susan Rubio, District 22
Senator Rosilicie Ochoa, District 19
Senator Sasha Renee Perez, District 25
- Assembly: Assemblymember Greg Wallis, District 47
Assemblymember James C. Ramos, District 45
Assemblymember John Harabedian, District 41
Assemblymember Juan Carrillo, District 39
Assemblymember Jeff Gonzalez, District 36
Assemblymember Tom Lackey, District 34
Assemblymember David Tangipa, District 08

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. Spanish Ranch

**Acquisition
Conservation Easement**

WCB Grant: \$900,000

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

Grantee: California Rangeland Trust

Location: 28 miles west of the city of Santa Maria

Counties: Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo

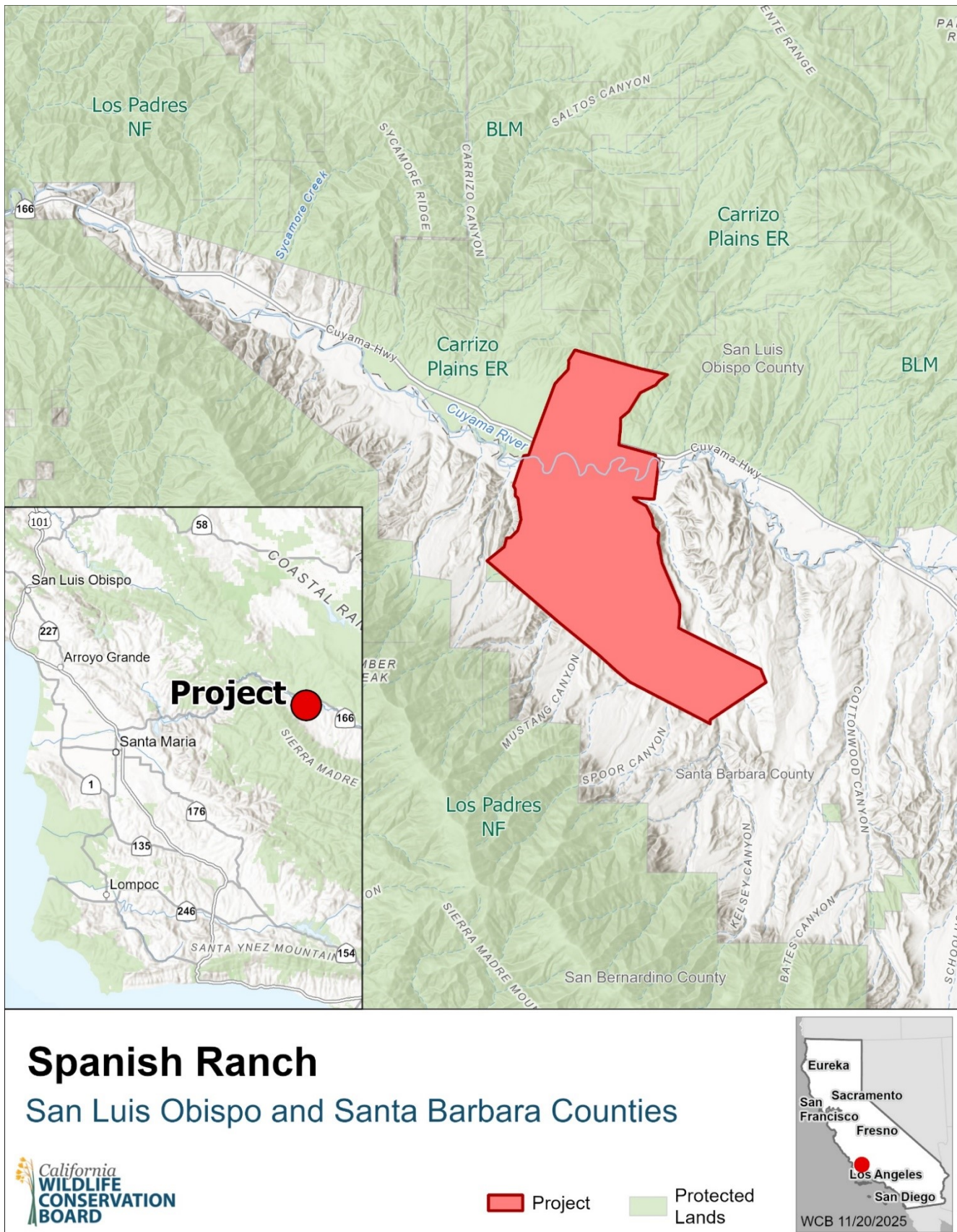
Acres: 5,652± (Property)

Property Highlights

- Habitats represented: oak woodland, riparian woodland, riparian scrub, chaparral-coastal sage scrub, non-native grassland, and saltbush scrub.
- Key species: California red-legged frog, California condor, giant kangaroo rat, and San Joaquin kit fox.
- Protects three creeks and the Cayuma River, which flow across the ranch from Sierra Madre to the south.
- Property is contiguous with CDFW's Chimineas Ranch Unit of the Carrizo Plains Ecological Reserve, Bureau of Land Management's Carrizo Plain National Monument, and the Caliente Range to the north and east.
- Bordered by working cattle ranches to the east, south and west, and the Los Padres National Forest and Sierra Madre are one mile to the south.

Priority Metrics

- Benefits Justice Communities: Yes. A portion of the Property is located in a disadvantaged community. Protection of the Property will help protect water quality and supply, contribute to air quality, and decrease wildfire risk.
- Tribal Partnerships: No
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 3, Increase Voluntary Conservation Easements
- WCB Strategic Plan Targets: B1.1, B2.1, C1.2
- Public Access: No



Conservation Easement Restriction Highlights

- Protects agricultural resources and wildlife habitat by preventing subdivision, residential development, and conversion to more intensive land uses in rural Cuyama Valley.
- Allows for a 465-acre agricultural envelope, which will enable the planting of row crops and irrigated pasture.
- Preserves rangelands, which is of regional significance due to its size, intact ecological systems, and connectivity to adjacent conservation lands and public open space.

Long-Term Management

California Rangeland Trust will require the Property owners to donate funds from the sale of the conservation easement for a stewardship endowment and easement defense fund to cover the cost of annual monitoring and to defend the easement.

Project Funding

The DGS approved fair market value of the conservation easement is \$3,040,000. The proposed funding breakdown is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$900,000
Natural Resources Conservation Service	\$1,520,000
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation	\$100,000
Private Foundation Grants and Donations	\$520,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$3,040,000

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 Gregg Hart, District 37

Staff Recommendation

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

**12. Los Angeles River Habitat Enhancement,
Augmentation**

**Restoration
– Implementation**

WCB Grant: \$1,500,000

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

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy (TNC)

Landowner: California Department of Parks and Recreation

Location: Los Angeles

County: Los Angeles

Project Highlights

- Augmentation of an existing grant
- Located on the California State Park's "Bowtie Parcel" along the Los Angeles River
- Part of the 100-Acre Partnership to revitalize 100 acres of the former Taylor Yard railyard
- Habitats restored: 3 acres of wetland habitat through daylighting a storm drain
- Key species: Least Bell's vireo, least bittern, western toad, Pacific chorus frog
- Regional or Species Plan: Sonoran Joint Venture Strategic Plan
- Project will include ADA-compliant educational signage in both English and Spanish

Priority Metrics

- Benefits Justice Communities: Yes, adjacent to SDAC and within the 87.5 CalEnviroScreen percentile. The project will improve water quality, reduce urban heat, reduce flood risk and improve access to open space for community members.
- Tribal Partnerships: Yes, members of the Tongva and Kizh Nation will consult on the project.
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 6, Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship.
- WCB Strategic Plan Targets: B1.3, P2.1



Project Description

The Los Angeles River Habitat Enhancement Augmentation (Project) is located within the Glendale Narrows stretch of the Los Angeles River, on the California State Parks “Bowtie” Parcel, in the city of Los Angeles within Los Angeles County. The Bowtie Parcel was previously part of Taylor Yard, a Southern Pacific Railroad service railway station and classification yard. Southern Pacific closed the facilities in the late 1980s, and State Parks purchased the site in 2003 with the intention of turning the site into a public park. The Bowtie Parcel primarily remains as a post-industrial landscape, partially covered with concrete, contaminated soil, and a mixture of native and invasive vegetation and wildlife. The Project will implement wetland enhancement and public access activities by:

- Daylighting two storm drains that run underneath the Bowtie Parcel
- Diverting storm water into a newly constructed wetland basin
- Revegetating site with native wetland and riparian plants
- Performing community engagement/outreach throughout project construction
- Installing interpretive and educational elements in multiple languages throughout the Project area
- Installing a walking path for public use

The Project was originally approved for funding in November 2023, but unexpected and changing conditions led to increases in the project budget, necessitating an augmentation request. The following issues led to an increased project budget:

- Unexpected permitting and site conditions required updates to the project design, primarily to relocate city water and electrical utilities within the Project area. These changes lead to designing a more complex irrigation system than originally scoped, increasing both design and material costs.
- Right of Entry, USACE 408 Permit updates, and two CEQA addendums were required to capture project design changes and unexpected conditions within the Project area. These changes required additional subcontractor costs to obtain compliance and permitting approvals.
- Contaminated soil remediation and unanticipated soil conditions within the wetland area caused higher than expected construction costs. The requirement to remove contaminated soil within the Project area increased from the top 1 foot to the top 2 feet, to align with regulatory requirements. Soils within the wetland area were too sandy to support stable slopes, requiring additional clay soil to be added to the wetland base.

Long-Term Management

The California Department of Parks and Recreation 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, Grantee does not manage and maintain the project improvements, the Grant Agreement requires that it refund to the

State of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the Project life.

Project Funding

The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB	Augmentation	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Project Management	\$492,000	---	\$1,128,209	\$1,620,209
Construction	\$4,169,000	\$1,194,600	\$6,139,231	\$11,502,831
Indirect Costs	\$699,000	\$305,400	---	\$1,004,400
Contingency	\$536,000	---	---	\$536,000
Total	\$5,896,000	\$1,500,000	\$7,267,440	\$14,663,440

Non-WCB funders include:

- California Natural Resources Agency - \$1,250,227
- California Department of Toxic Substances Control - \$1,261,063
- Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy - \$150,000
- Department of Water Resources - \$1,180,000
- Water Foundation/LA County Flood Control District - \$250,000
- Rose Foundation (Private) - \$138,298
- S.L. Gimbel Foundation (Private) - \$2,186,000
- Disney (Private) - \$279,995
- TNC - \$571,857

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Congressman Adam B. Schiff, Member of Congress, United States House of Representatives
- Senator Maria Elena Durazo, California State Senate
- Hilda L. Solis, Supervisor, First District, Board of Supervisors, County of Los Angeles
- Candace Dickens-Russell, Chief Executive Officer, Friends of the LA River
- Brian Baldauf, Deputy Executive Officer, Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority on behalf of the 100 Acre Partnership
- Raul Macias, President, Anahauk Youth Sports Association
- Evelyn Serrano, Director, Audubon Center at Debs Park
- Susan Bell Yank, Executive Director, Clockshop
- Kathleen Johnson, Executive Director, LA River State Park Partners

- Juliet Sims, Associate Program Director, Prevention Institute

Opposition:

- None received

CEQA

As lead agency, the California Department of Parks and Recreation prepared a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA. Staff considered the MND and have prepared proposed, written findings documenting WCB's compliance with CEQA. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate Notice of Determination (NOD) will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

State Government

- Senate: Senator Maria Elena Durazo, District 26
- Assembly: Assemblymember Jessica Caloza, District 52

Staff Recommendation

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

13. Pellon Murrieta Acquisition (Section 6)

**Acquisition
Fee**

WCB Grant: \$610,750

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

Grantee: The Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority

USFWS Section 6 Subgrant: \$1,134,250

Location: Murrieta

County: Riverside

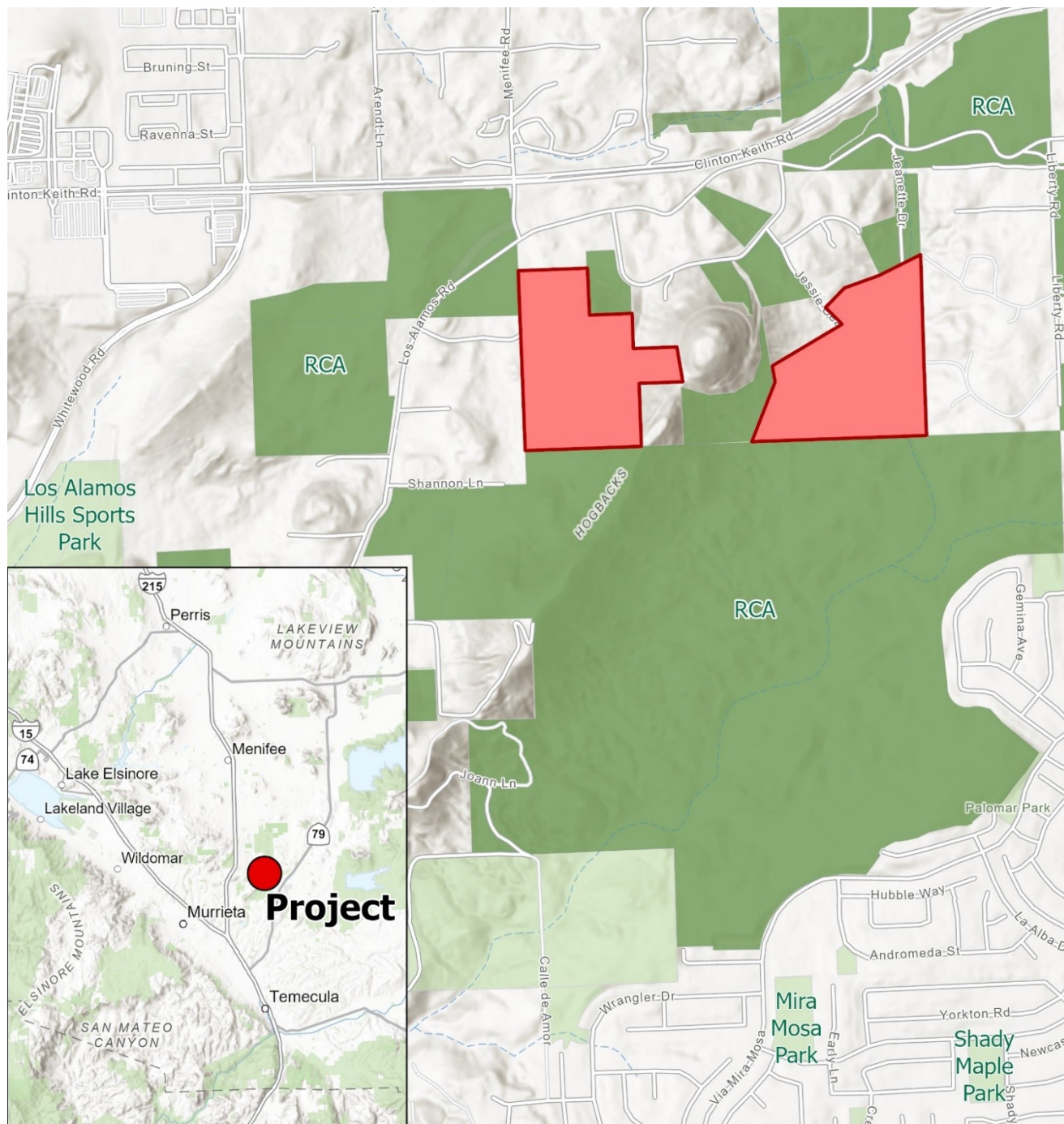
Acres: 91± (Property)

Property Highlights

- Protects a portion of Warm Springs Creek
- Regional or Species Plan: Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP/NCCP)
- Key species: Quino checkerspot butterfly

Priority Metrics

- Benefits Justice Communities: No
- Tribal Partnerships: No
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 2, Execute Strategic Acquisitions
- WCB Strategic Plan Targets: B1.1, B2.1, B2.3, C2.2, P1.3
- Public Access: Yes, the Property will be available to the public for passive recreation, such as hiking, biking, bird watching, and botany



Pellon Murrieta Acquisition (Section 6)

Riverside County



Project



Protected
Lands



Western Riverside County
Regional Conservation
Authority (RCA)



Long-Term Management

Lands dedicated into the MSHCP/NCCP, including the proposed project, are managed in perpetuity through a nonwasting set of endowments identified in the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan's Implementing Agreement. These lands are managed for the benefit of the 146 covered species and include pertinent long-term adaptive management measures.

Project Funding

The DGS approved fair market value is \$1,745,000. The proposed funding breakdown is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$610,750
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service	\$1,134,250
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$1,745,000

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 Kelly Seyarto, District 32
- Assembly: Assemblymember Kate A. Sanchez, District 71

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

14. Marble Peaks

Acquisition Conservation Easement

WCB Grant: \$800,000

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

Grantee: TNC

Location: 7 miles south of the city of Etna

County: Siskiyou

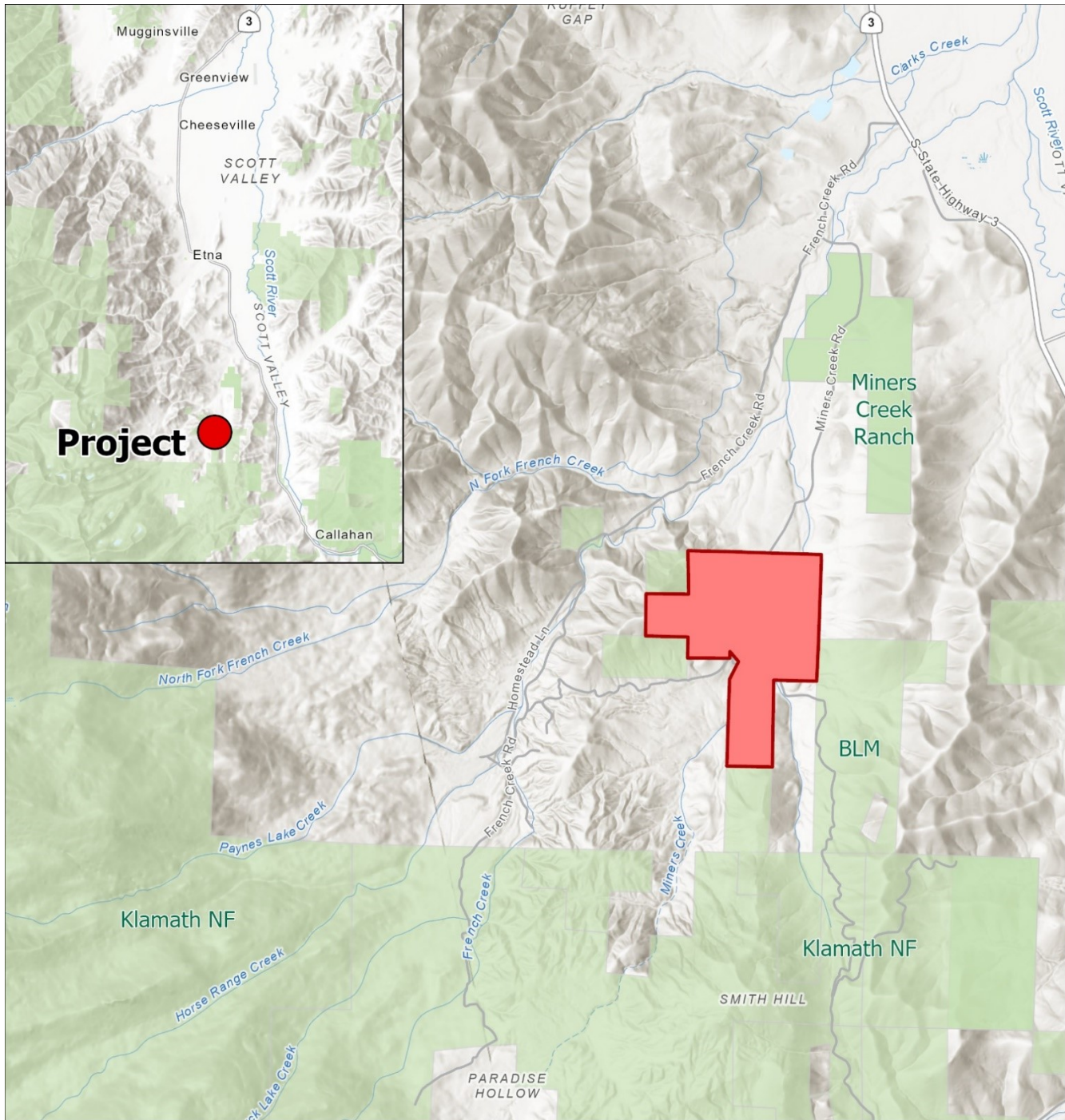
Acres: 455± (Property)

Property Highlights

- Protection of critical coho salmon habitat along one mile of Miners Creek, which eventually drains into the Scott River and then to the Klamath River.
- Potential for instream flow dedication of 1.34 cubic feet per second of water to enhance rearing and spawning habitat for coho salmon in the Scott River watershed, ranked as one of the highest priority coho streams by the National Marine Fisheries Service in northern California.
- Key species: elk, wolf, mink, muskrat, otter, pine martin, and Pacific fisher.

Priority Metrics

- Benefits Justice Communities: Yes, this project will bolster water security in downstream disadvantaged communities.
- Tribal Partnerships: Yes. TNC is working with Quartz Valley Indian Reservation on planning and design for future restoration work.
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 2, Execute Strategic Acquisitions; Pathway 3, Increase Voluntary Conservation Easements; Pathway 9, Advance and Promote Complementary Conservation Measures
- WCB Strategic Plan Targets: B1.1, B2.1, B2.2, C2.1, C2.2, C2.3
- Public Access: No



Marble Peaks

Siskiyou County



 Project

 Protected
Lands



Long-Term Management

Following TNC's acquisition of fee title, TNC will record a conservation easement over the Property and sell the underlying fee title to a conservation buyer. At the time of the sale of underlying fee title, TNC will sever and retain the surface water rights and pursue a Water Code section 1707 instream flow petition to ensure the water is protected instream for the benefit of fish. TNC will also reserve a right to restore riparian and floodplain habitat on the Property through the conservation easement and intends to partner with the Scott River Watershed Council.

Project Funding

The DGS approved fair market value is \$2,600,000. The proposed funding breakdown is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$800,000*
TNC	\$1,800,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$2,600,000

*TNC anticipates the value of the conservation easement at the time of sale of the underlying fee will be equal to, or greater, than the grant award of \$800,000. If the conservation easement is valued at less than \$800,000, the grant agreement requires that TNC repay the difference between the value of the conservation easement and the grant award so WCB's conservation investment is made whole. The value of the conservation easement will be established by a fair market value appraisal which will be reviewed and approved by DGS per the terms of the grant agreement.

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Betsy Stapleton, Project Development and Permitting Specialist, French Creek Project Manager, Scott River Watershed Council
- Damon H. Goodman, Klamath-Mt. Shasta-Lassen Regional Director, California Trout
- Jake Shannon, Senior Environmental Scientist, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Sarah Schaefer, Environmental Director, Quartz Valley Indian Reservation
- Shari Anderson, Fish Biologist, NOAA Fisheries
- Russel "Buster" Attebery, Chairman, Karuk Tribe

Opposition:

- Nancy Ogren, Chair, Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors

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 Heather Hadwick, District 1

Staff Recommendation

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

15. Loyalton Ranch

**Acquisition
Fee**

WCB Grant: \$5,500,000

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

Code Section 2786(a)

Grantee: Wášiw-šiw Land Trust

Location: Between the city of Loyalton and Hallelujah Junction

Counties: Sierra and Lassen

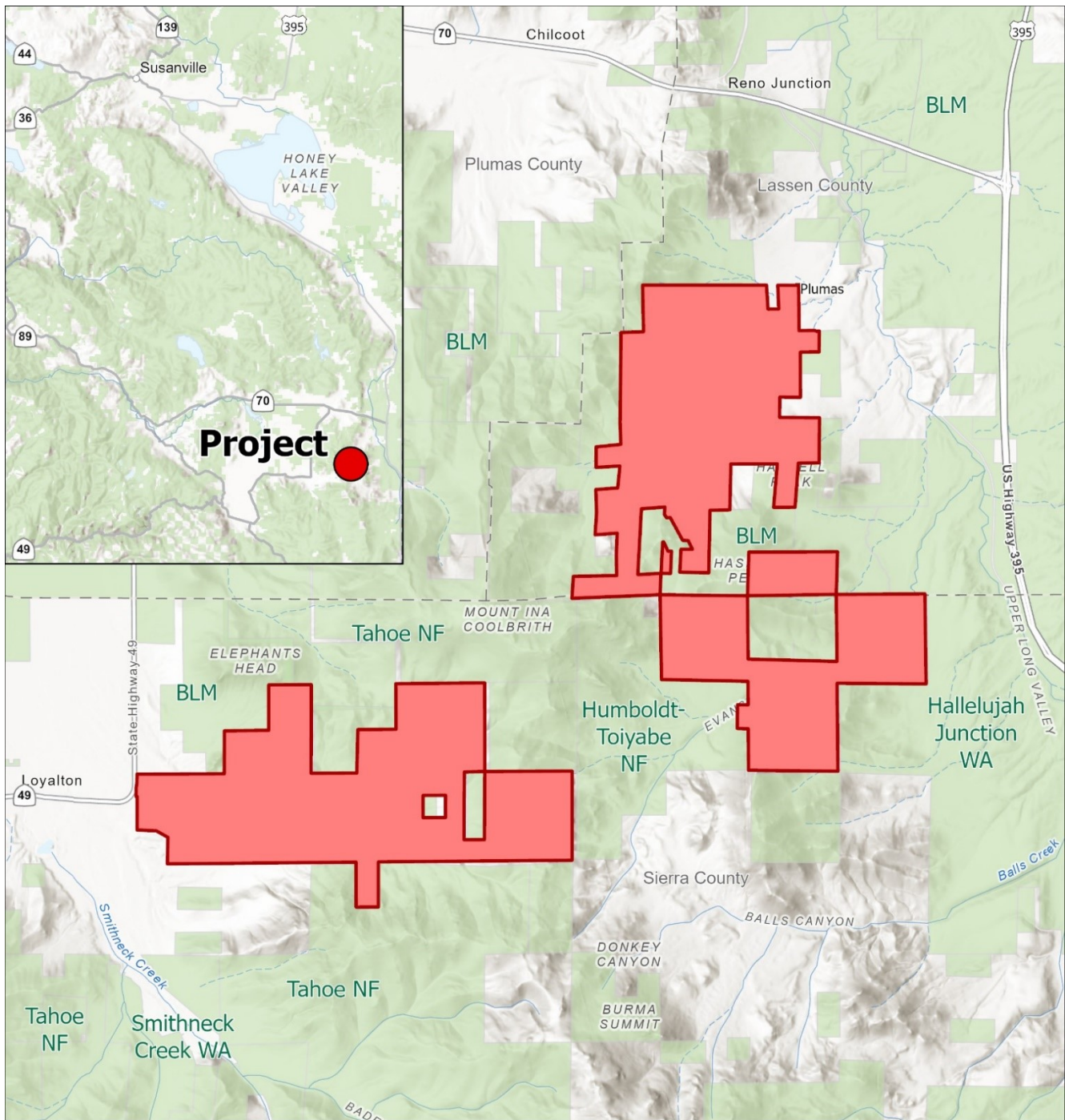
Acres: 10,273± (Property)

Property Highlights

- Located within the homeland of the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California, which extended from south of Lake Tahoe to Honey Lake. The acquisition of Loyalton Ranch is an exceptional opportunity to return a landscape to the indigenous people who inhabited it for millennia. The Wášiw-šiw Land Trust has been formed by the Washoe Tribe to hold title to the Property. Washoe language place names and archaeological sites are evidence of ancestral use of the Property.
- Spans the Bald Mountains at the convergence of the Sierra Nevada Mountains and Great Basin with an elevational gradient of over 2,500 feet from the Sierra Valley floor near Loyalton to mountain peaks.
- Habitats represented: sagebrush-bitterbrush, mixed-conifer forest, aspen, montane meadow, and riparian.
- Key species: mule deer, pronghorn, elk, mountain lion, gray fox, western red bat, American badger, golden eagle, greater sandhill crane, short-eared owl, long-eared owl, olive-sided flycatcher, bank swallow, yellow warbler, western bumble bee, single-leaf pinyon pine, and Anderson's clover.
- Located within the Loyalton-Truckee deer herd range and migration corridor, connecting to the Tahoe and Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forests, Bureau of Land Management lands, and Hallelujah Junction and Smithneck Wildlife Areas.
- Permits restoration of grasslands, pinyon pine, and riparian areas damaged by cattle grazing and the 2020 Loyalton Fire.

Priority Metrics

- Benefits Justice Communities: Yes, returns ancestral lands to the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California
- Tribal Partnerships: Yes, Grantee is a newly formed land trust of the Washoe Tribe
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 2, Execute Strategic Acquisitions, Pathway 7 Strengthen Coordination Among Governments - Prioritize and Invest in Tribal Conservation
- WCB Strategic Plan Targets: B1.1, B3.1, C1.2, C2.2, P3.2, O1.3
- Public Access: No



Loyalton Ranch

Sierra and Lassen Counties



Project Protected Lands



Long-Term Management

The Wášiw-šiw Land Trust plans to increase the abundance of culturally important plants and wildlife, protect sacred sites, re-establish gathering places and ceremonies, cultivate and diffuse Washoe ecological knowledge, and nurture the well-being of Washoe youth through language, cultural, and lifeways programs. The Wášiw-šiw Land Trust will prepare a management plan to address permitted uses and locations for limited development such as a native plant nursery that can facilitate restoration on the Property and throughout the northern Sierra and Great Basin.

Project Funding

The DGS approved fair market value is \$6,000,000. The proposed funding breakdown is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$5,500,000
Private Funding	\$500,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$6,000,000

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 Heather Hadwick, District 1

Staff Recommendation

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

16. Kopta Slough Multi-Benefit Project

**Restoration
– Implementation**

WCB Grant: \$5,369,000

Fund Source(s): Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, Budget Act of 2024, Streamflow Programs (SB 108, Sec. 107(1)(3))

Grantee: Department of Water Resources (DWR)

Landowner: DWR

Location: ~8 miles east of Corning

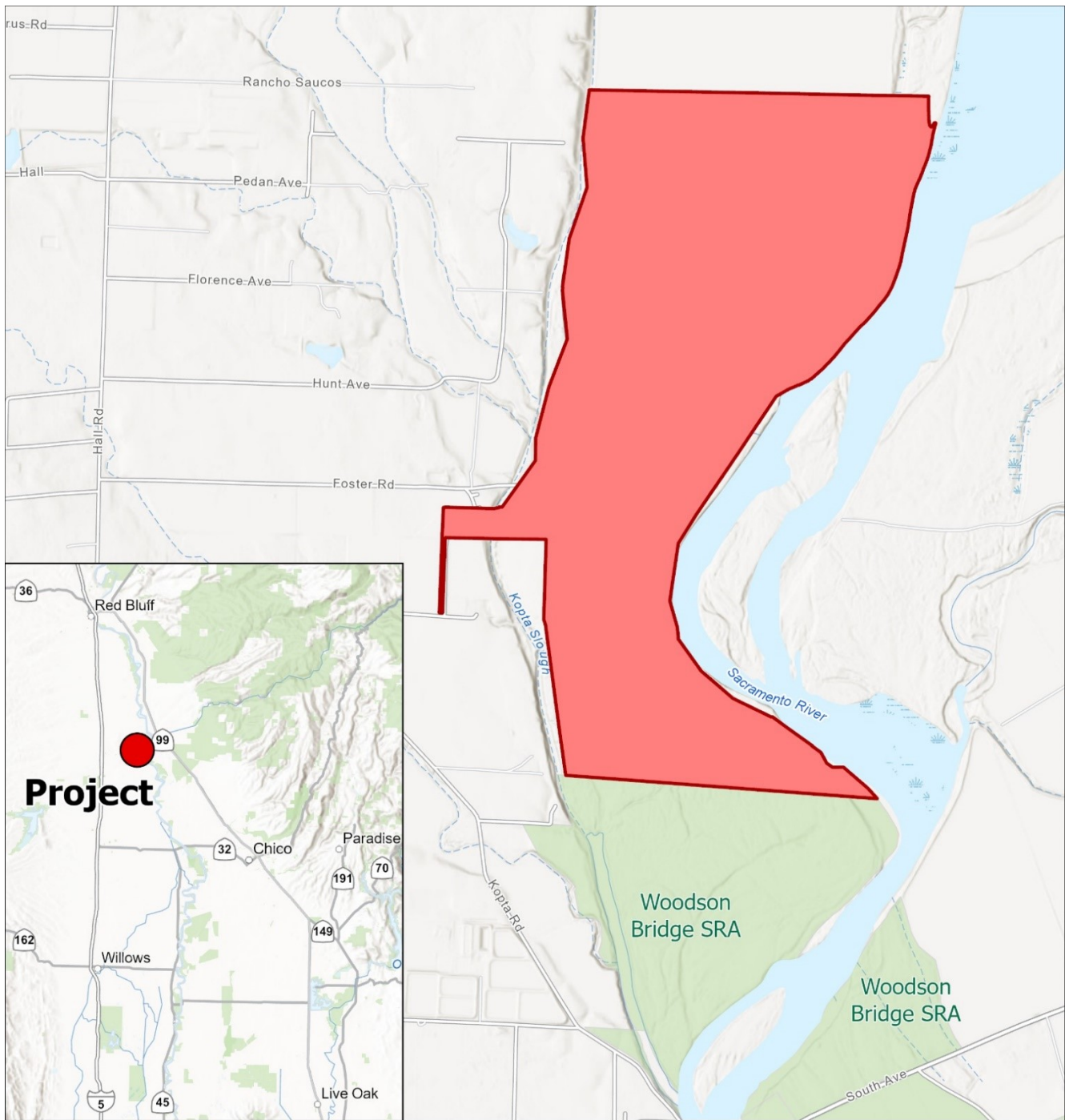
County: Tehama

Project Highlights

- Remove 5,200 feet of rock revetment from the bank of the Sacramento River
- Reconnect floodplain to river and restore hydrologic processes.
- Restore 176 acres of floodplain habitat with native trees, shrubs, and grasses
- Key species: Chinook salmon, steelhead

Priority Metrics

- Benefits Justice Communities: Yes, the project area overlaps with a SDAC. Disadvantaged communities adjacent to the project area will have increased access to outdoor recreation and educational opportunities associated with fish, wildlife, and natural areas
- Tribal Partnerships: No
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 6, Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship
- WCB Strategic Plan Target: B2.2



Kopta Slough Multi-Benefit Project

Tehama County



Project

Protected Lands



Project Description

The Sacramento River has experienced a loss of hydrologic and geomorphic function resulting from placement of rock revetment along several river sections. The Sacramento River previously meandered across the floodplain and provided habitat to juvenile salmonids. Rock revetment has been installed that prevents the river from meandering across the Kopta Slough property. Reconnecting the river to its historic floodplain is essential to the development of shaded riverine aquatic habitat and aquatic habitat diversity and complexity that will benefit many species including Chinook salmon and steelhead. This project advances Goal 2 of the California Salmon Strategy which is to “Restore and expand habitat for salmon spawning and rearing.” The project will implement restoration and management activities improving stream flow habitat and climate resiliency by:

- Full removal of rock armoring, vertically and horizontally, from ~5,200 linear feet of Sacramento Riverbank.
- Reconnect the Sacramento River to this portion of its historic floodplain and restore natural hydrologic processes to the floodplain area.
- Restore 46 acres of native grasslands.
- Restore 45 acres of valley oak woodland.
- Restore 85 acres of riparian woodland.

Long-Term Management

DWR 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, Grantee does not manage and maintain the project improvements, the Grant Agreement requires that it refund to the state of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the project life.

Project Funding

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Task 1. Design	\$1,978,000	\$729,733	\$2,707,733
Task 2. Pre- and Post-Project Monitoring	\$200,000	---	\$200,000
Task 3. Habitat Restoration	\$2,973,000	\$320,393	\$3,293,393
Task 4. Well Decommissioning	\$218,000	\$80,865	\$298,865
Total	\$5,369,000	\$1,130,991	\$6,499,991

Non-WCB funders include:

- DWR - \$909,891
- Tehama County Resource Conservation District - \$221,100

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- None received

Opposition:

- None received

CEQA

As lead agency, DWR prepared a MND for the project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA. Staff considered the MND and has prepared written findings documenting WCB's compliance with CEQA. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOD will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

State Government

- Senate: Senator Megan Dahle, District 1
- Assembly: Assemblymember James Gallagher, District 3

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.

17. Battle Creek Ranch Acquisition

**Acquisition
Fee**

WCB Grant: \$15,050,000

Fund Source(s): Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, Budget Act of 2024, Streamflow Programs (SB 108, Sec. 107(1)(3))

Grantee: River Partners

Location: 10 miles north of the city of Red Bluff

County: Tehama

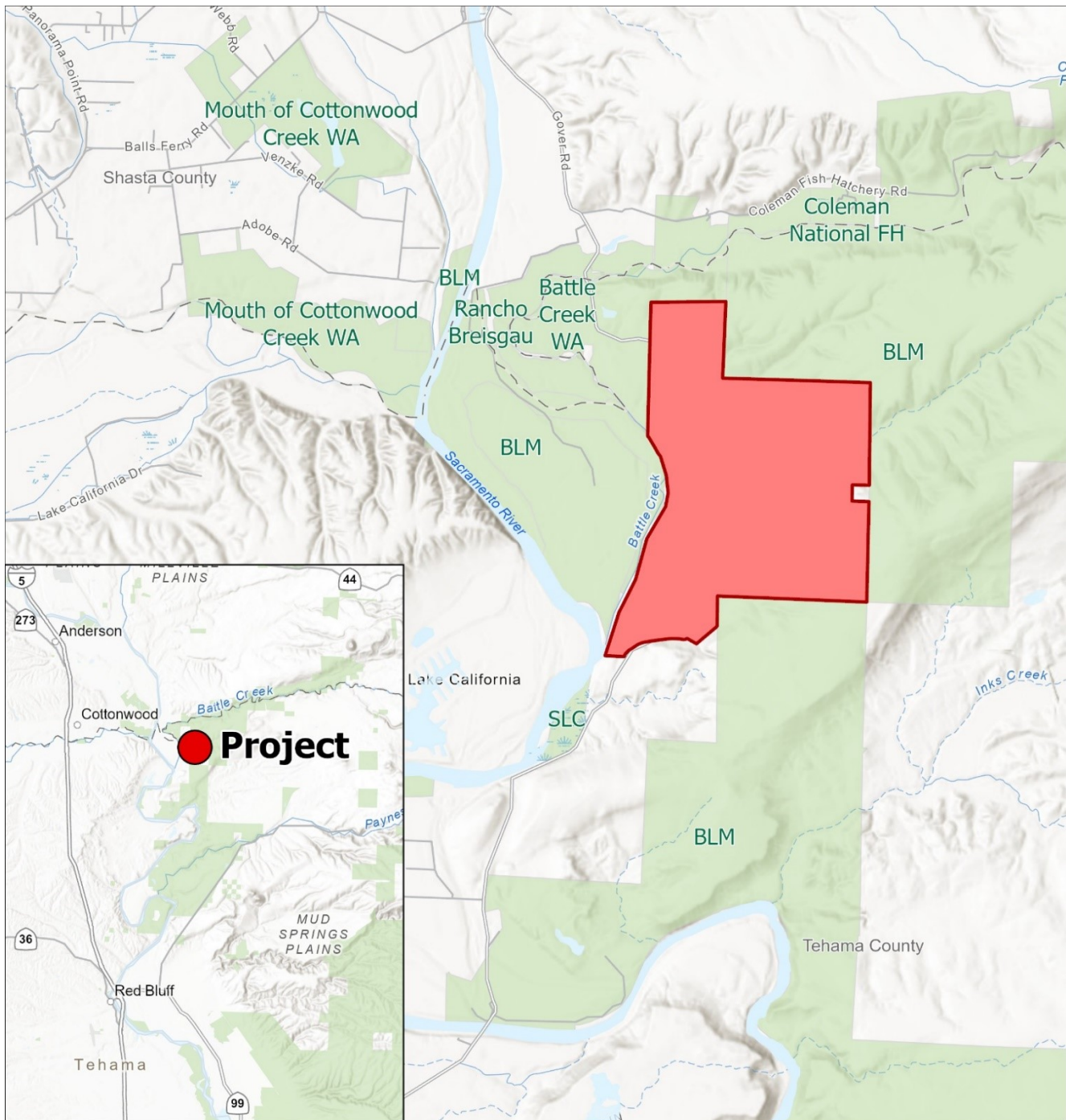
Acres: 1715± (Property)

Property Highlights

- Has the right to divert 20,000 acre-feet from Lower Battle Creek onto the Property through certain water rights, including a pre-1914 appropriative right, which will be retired following the acquisition, increasing instream flow in lower Battle Creek by 6% - 9% during the summer dry season.
- Retiring the water right will improve operations at the nearby Coleman National Fish Hatchery by ensuring a backup water supply for the hatchery.
- Through a grant to River Partners (see Agenda Item 8), River Partners will forebear use of the water rights pursuant to a forbearance agreement with DWR; will prepare a consumptive use analysis; and will submit a Water Code section 1707 petition to the State Water Resources Control Board to permanently dedicate roughly 12,000 acre-feet to instream purposes.
- Key species: Four runs of Chinook salmon, steelhead trout, green sturgeon, white sturgeon, Sacramento hitch, Sacramento blackfish, Sacramento pike minnow, and two species of native lamprey.

Priority Metrics

- Benefits Justice Communities: Yes, this property is located within a DAC.
- Tribal Partnerships: No
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 2, Execute Strategic Acquisitions
- WCB Strategic Plan Targets: B1.1, B2.2, C2.1
- Public Access: River Partners intends to transfer the Property to a public agency or similar conservation owner after the Water Code section 1707 instream flow dedication is complete. Depending on the transfer partner, public access will be permitted.



Battle Creek Ranch Acquisition

Tehama County



Project

Protected Lands



Long-Term Management

River Partners will serve as interim owners until it can transfer the Property to a long-term land manager. During the interim period, River Partners will engage with local tribes, land trusts, and state and federal agencies to identify a long-term owner who is able to manage the Property to maximize public benefits including cultural resource protection, public access and recreation, and fish and wildlife habitat. In the interim, River Partners will manage the Property consistent with grant requirements.

Project Funding

The DGS approved fair market value is \$15,200,000, and the landowner has agreed to sell at a reduced price of \$15,051,000. The proposed funding breakdown is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	\$15,050,000
River Partners	\$1,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$15,051,000

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- James Newcomb, Deputy Director, Department of Water Resources

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 Gallegher, 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.

18. Battle Creek Ranch Water Rights Retirement

**Restoration
– Implementation**

WCB Grant: \$584,000

Fund Source(s): Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, Budget Act of 2024, Streamflow Programs (SB 108, Sec. 107(1)(3))

Grantee: River Partners

Landowner: River Partners

Location: Approximately 10 miles east of Cottonwood

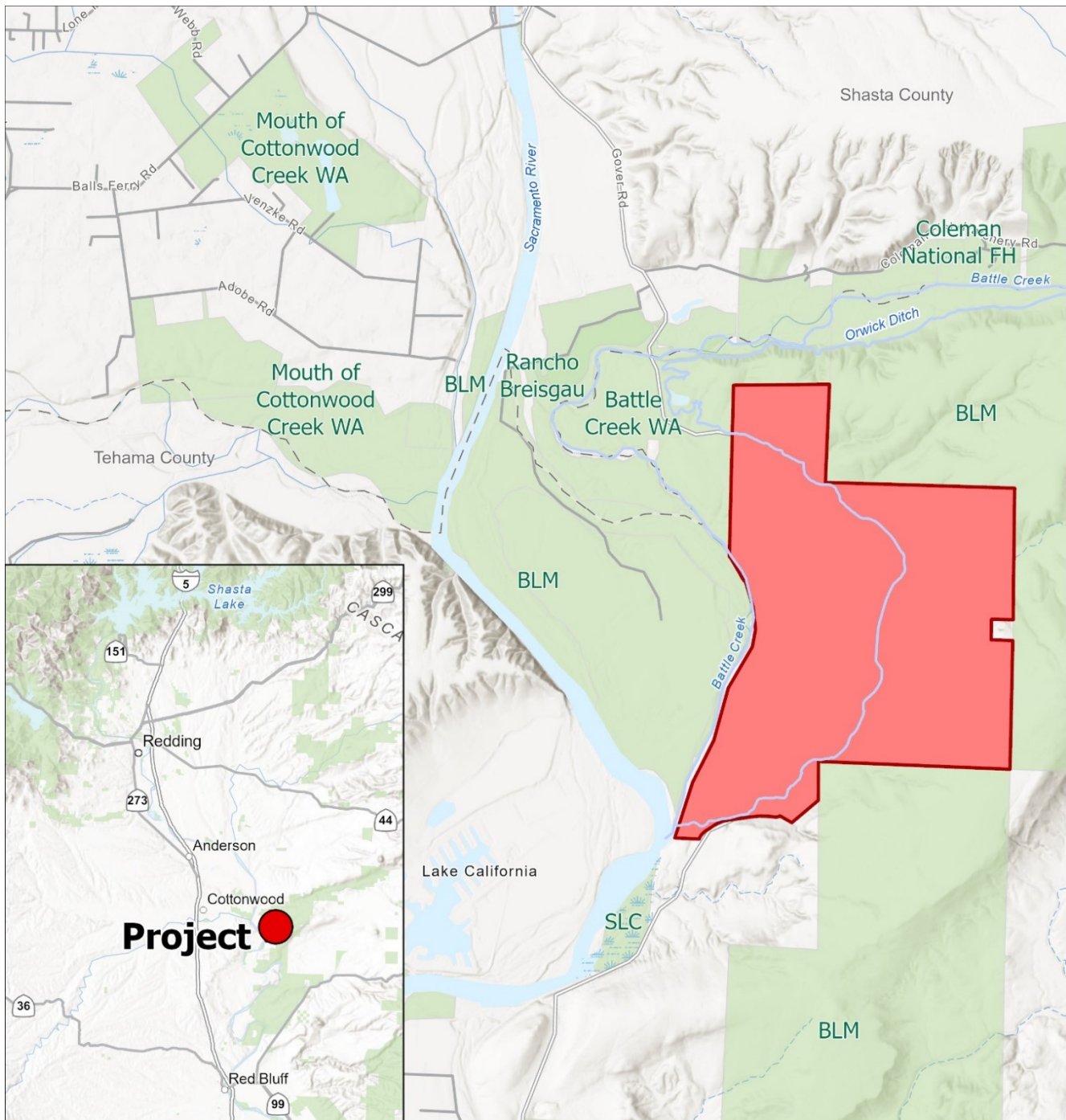
County: Tehama

Project Highlights

- Protect water for instream ecological benefits in Battle Creek
- Retire a 20,000 acre-foot pre-1914 appropriative water right
- Protect spawning and rearing habitat for Chinook salmon

Priority Metrics

- Benefits Justice Communities: Yes, this property is located within a DAC.
- Tribal Partnerships: No
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 6, Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship
- WCB Strategic Plan Target: B2.2



Battle Creek Ranch Water Rights Retirement

Tehama County



Project Protected Lands



Project Description

Low stream flow volume often results in reduced habitat and stream conditions that negatively impact spawning and rearing of migratory salmonids such as Chinook salmon. Through Orwick Ditch, the owner of the Battle Creek Ranch has the right to divert 20,000 acre-feet from Lower Battle Creek onto the Property through certain water rights, including a pre-1914 appropriative right. Orwick Ditch is one of two main diversions on Lower Battle Creek that jeopardize flows and negatively impacts four runs of Chinook salmon that rely on this stream for spawning and rearing habitat. Contingent on the successful acquisition of the Property by the Grantee, the Grantee will forbear use of Orwick Ditch by entering into a forbearance agreement with DWR to cease all diversions from Orwick Ditch (with certain limited exceptions as approved by WCB and DWR) which will result in an instream flow increase of at least 12,000 acre-feet of water. In addition, Grantee will prepare a petition to the State Water Resources Control Board to dedicate all consumptive use water to instream purposes. This project advances Goal 2 of the California Salmon Strategy which is to “Restore and expand habitat for salmon spawning and rearing.” The Project will implement stream flow enhancements and climate resiliency by:

- Preparing and submitting a Section 1707 water rights change petition
- Completing a Consumptive Use Analysis
- Retiring a 20,000 acre-foot pre-1914 appropriative water right
- Increasing stream flow that will benefit spawning and rearing Chinook salmon

Long-Term Management

River Partners 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, Grantee does not manage and maintain the project improvements, the Grant Agreement requires that it refund to the state of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the project life.

Project Funding

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Task 1. Project Management	\$152,000	---	\$152,000
Task 2. Water Rights Retirement	\$361,000	---	\$361,000

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Task 3. Indirect Costs	\$71,000	---	\$71,000
Total	\$584,000	---	\$584,000

Non-WCB funders include:

- None

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- None received

Opposition:

- None received

CEQA

The project is proposed as exempt from CEQA pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines, Sec 15304, Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land and Water, consisting of minor private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation. 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 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.

19. Robinson's Riffle Feather River Restoration

**Restoration
– Implementation**

WCB Grant: \$31,908,000

Fund Source(s): Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, Budget Act of 2024, Streamflow

Programs (SB 108, Sec. 107(1)(3))

Grantee: Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency

Landowner: DWR

Location: 3 miles southwest of Oroville

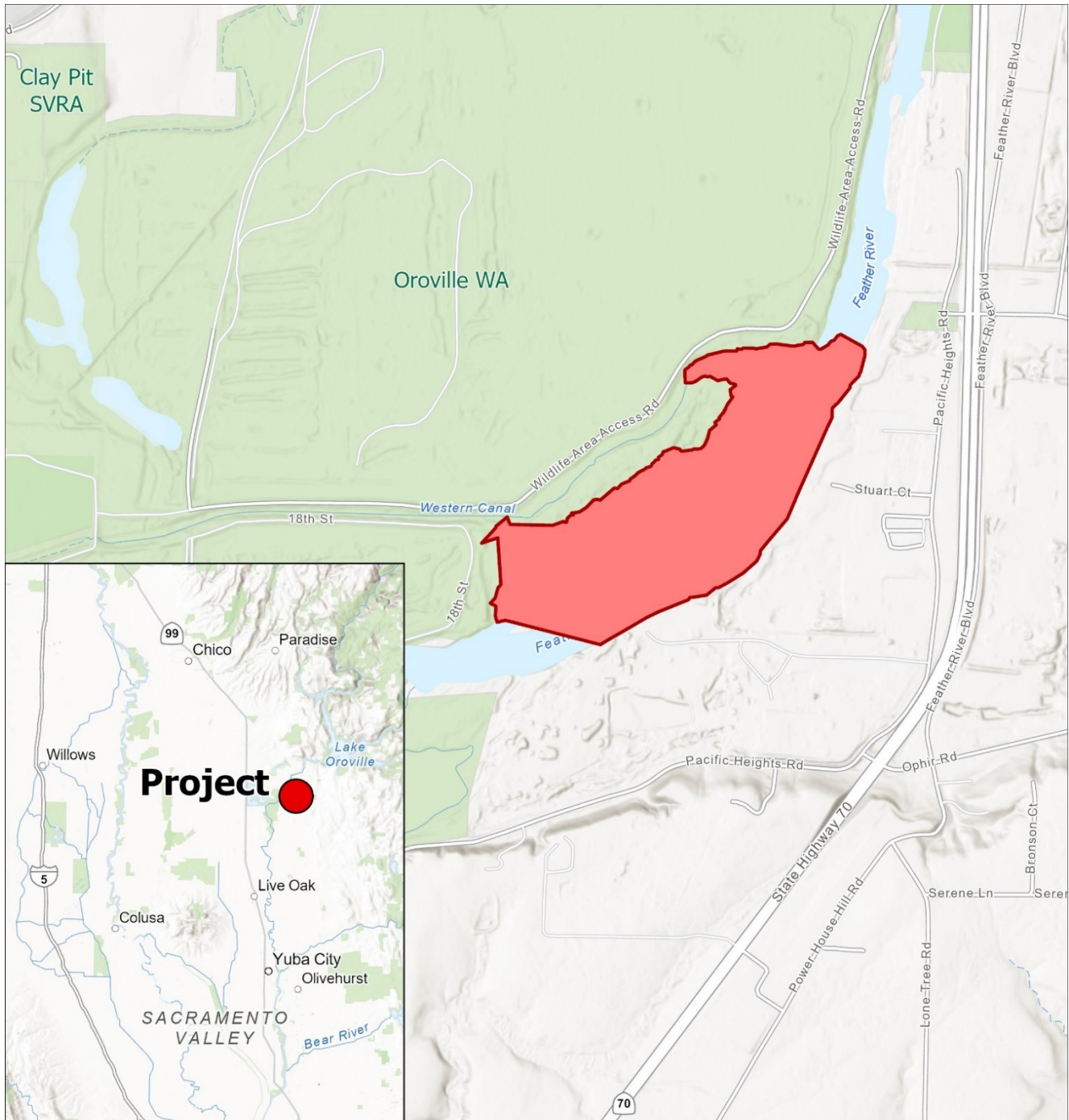
County: Butte

Project Highlights

- Reshape ~1 mile of the Feather River
- Reconnect the Feather River to ~51 acres of its historic floodplain
- Create spawning and rearing habitat for salmonids
- Key Species: Chinook salmon, steelhead

Priority Metrics

- Benefits Justice Communities: Yes. The entire 51 acres of the project area is within a DAC. The multi-benefit project will directly provide hydraulic, ecological, recreational, flood management, educational, and local economic benefits. Most notably, the project will increase short- and long-term economic activity in the DAC from capital construction, long-term maintenance activity, and local spending from visitors and fishermen.
- Tribal Partnerships: No
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 6, Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship
- WCB Strategic Plan Target: B2.2



Robinson's Riffle Feather River Restoration

Butte County



Project

Protected
Lands



Project Description

The Oroville Wildlife Area (OWA) was heavily mined for gold during dredging operations between 1898 and 1930, and then as a borrow source for the construction of Oroville Dam in the 1960s. In comparison to natural rivers, the Feather River channel is overly wide due to the lack of sediment replenishment. The average channel is wider and shallower than found during historic conditions and there are currently only two weak gravel bars located within the project area. Despite a mild bend in the river, the low flow channel is mostly straight and lacks any gradient or variability in width and depth at typical flows. The lack of gravel bars and complexity is likely a result of little sediment supply due to the legacy of mining impacts. Increasing gravel bars and channel complexity will create habitat benefits for many species including Chinook salmon. This project advances Goal 2 of the California Salmon Strategy which is to “Restore and expand habitat for salmon spawning and rearing.” The project will enhance stream conditions and climate resiliency by:

- Reshaping ~1 mile of the Feather River to create 2 gravel bars, 2 pools, and 2 riffles
- Reconnecting the Feather River to ~51 acres of its historic floodplain
- Creating ~5 acres of spawning, and as much as 36 acres of rearing, habitat for salmon
- Restoring riverbank with native plants, boulders, and large woody debris
- Removing existing sheetpile weir
- Increasing flood protection to surrounding communities

Long-Term Management

The Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency adopted a Management Plan that guides management actions for the project, including management of the property. If at any time during the 25-year life of the project, Grantee does not manage and maintain the project improvements, the Grant Agreement requires that it refund to the state of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the project life.

Project Funding

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Task 1. Project Management	\$406,000	---	\$406,000
Task 2. Environmental Services and Monitoring	\$2,587,000	---	\$2,587,000

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Task 3. Engineering Services During Construction	\$1,289,000	---	\$1,289,000
Task 4. Construction Management	\$1,547,000	---	\$1,547,000
Task 5. Construction	\$25,776,000	---	\$25,776,000
Task 6. Post-Project Monitoring	\$312,000	---	\$312,000
Total	\$31,917,000	---	\$31,917,000

Non-WCB funders include:

- None

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Senator Megan Dahle, California State Senate, District 1

Opposition:

- None received

CEQA

The Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency, as lead agency, prepared an EIR for the project pursuant to the provisions of the CEQA. Staff considered the EIR and has prepared proposed, written findings documenting WCB's compliance with CEQA. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOD 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 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.

20. Meridian Farms Fish Screen

**Restoration
– Implementation**

WCB Grant: \$15,000,000

Fund Source(s): Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, Budget Act of 2024, Streamflow Programs (SB 108, Sec. 107(1)(3))

Grantee: Meridian Farms Water Company

Landowner: Meridian Farms Water Company

Location: Meridian

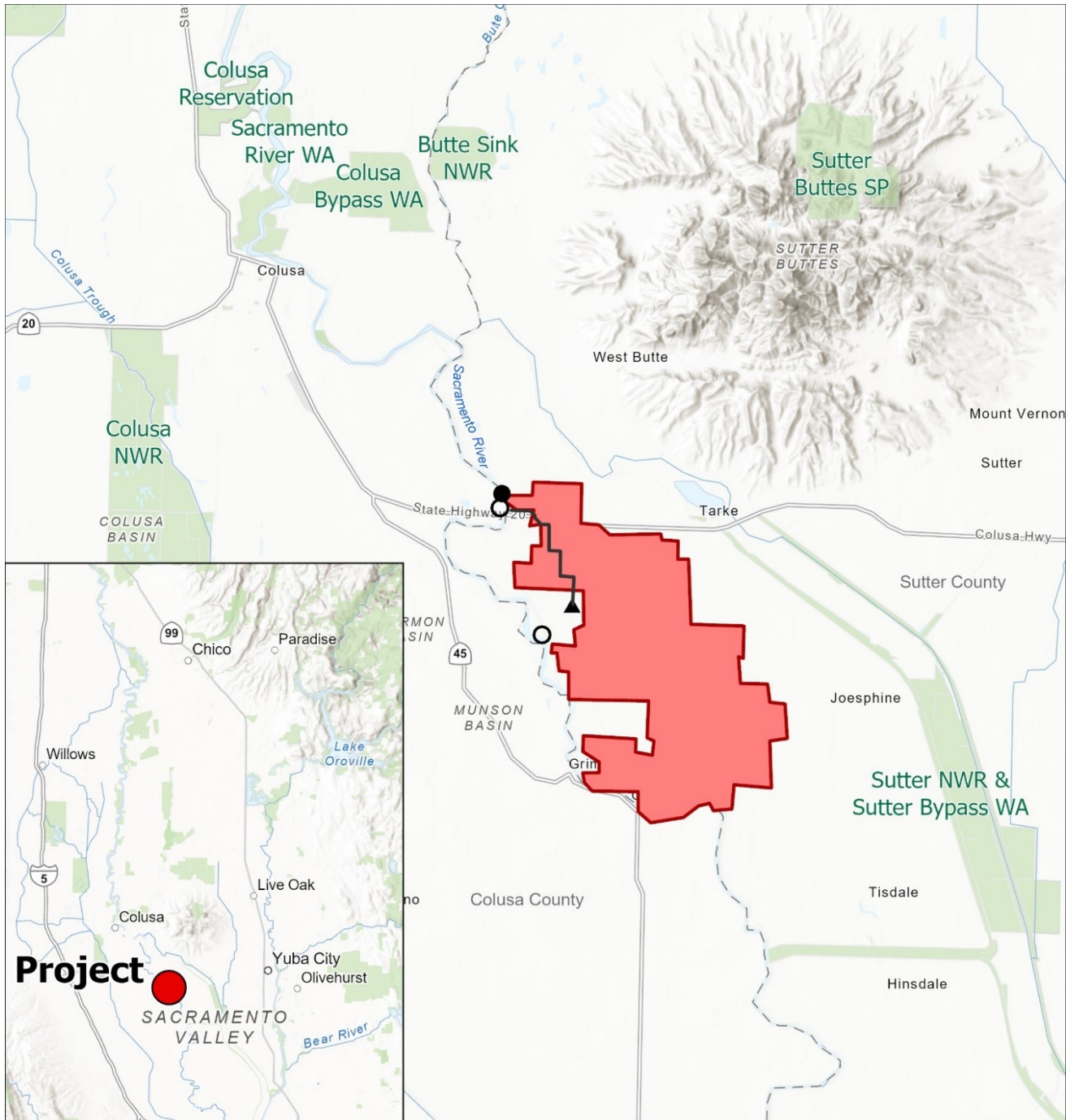
County: Sutter

Project Highlights

- The project will support at-risk native fish species within the Sacramento River.
- The project will consolidate two unscreened water diversions on the Sacramento River into one screened diversion.
- Key species: Central Valley spring-run Chinook salmon and Sacramento River winter-run Chinook salmon, California giant garter snake.
- The project will provide the equivalent of 6.75 acres of perennially inundated rearing habitat to support salmon recovery.

Priority Metrics

- Benefits Justice Communities: Yes, adjacent to SDAC. The project is expected to provide local job opportunities and enhanced fishing experiences on the Sacramento River.
- Tribal Partnerships: Yes, the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, a federally recognized tribe, will provide cultural monitoring during project construction.
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 6, Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship.
- WCB Strategic Plan Target: B2.1



Meridian Farms Fish Screen

Sutter County



- Project
- Protected Lands
- New Discharge Pipeline
- Existing Diversion
- New Diversion
- New Pumping Plant



Project Description

The Meridian Farms Fish Screen (Project) will consolidate the unscreened Meridian and Drexler Diversions on the Sacramento River into one new Meridian Diversion equipped with retractable drum fish screens. Studies conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, and CDFW determined that the unscreened diversions were contributing to the mortality of juvenile salmonids migrating downstream. These unscreened diversions have consistently been on CDFW's Priority Water Diversions for Screening lists and remain one of the larger unscreened diversions on the Sacramento River. The Project meets objective 1 in the California Salmon Strategy for a Hotter Drier Future, "Remove barriers and modernize infrastructure for salmon migration".

The Project will contribute to the recovery of at-risk salmonid species by:

- Updating 100% design plans, incorporating updated fish screen technology
- Amend necessary permits to align with updated fish screen designs
- Construct new Meridian Diversion with installed retractable drum fish screens
- Construct new pumping plant off Main Canal to provide water deliveries to Drexler System
- Enhance Main Canal to provide adequate capacity for water deliveries
- Decommission existing Meridian and Drexler Diversions

Long-Term Management

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

Project Funding

The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Project Management	\$1,520,000	\$3,310,000	\$4,830,000
Design & Permitting	---	\$2,400,000	\$2,400,000
Construction	\$13,480,000	\$25,735,000	\$39,215,000
Total	\$15,000,000	\$31,445,000	\$46,445,000

Non-WCB funders include:

- Meridian Farms Water Company - \$45,000

- California Natural Resources Agency - \$15,700,000
- United States Bureau of Reclamation - \$15,700,000

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- None received

Opposition:

- None received

CEQA

As lead agency, CDFW prepared a MND for the Project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA. Staff considered the MND and has prepared proposed written findings documenting WCB's compliance with CEQA. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOD will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

State Government

- Senate: Megan Dahle, District 01
- Assembly: Assemblymember James Gallagher, District 03

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.

21. Tule Canal Fish Passage Improvement

Restoration – Implementation

WCB Grant: \$6,230,113

Fund Source(s): Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, Budget Act of 2024, Streamflow Programs (SB 108, Sec. 107(1)(3))

Grantee: DWR

Landowner: Private Landowner

Location: 1 mile west of West Sacramento

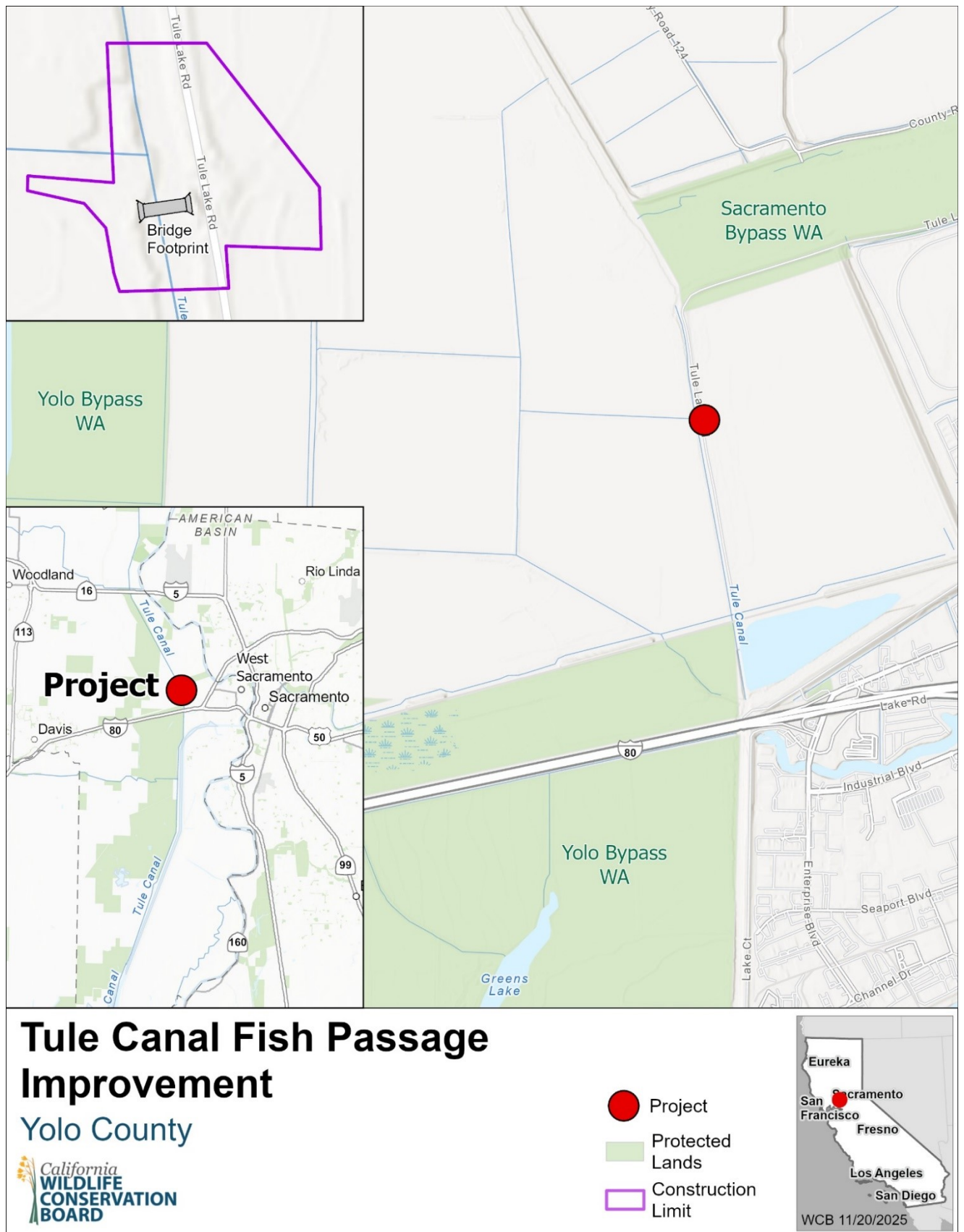
County: Yolo

Project Highlights

- Restore access to spawning habitat and migratory routes for salmonids through removal of a known fish passage barrier.
- Increase connectivity between the Yolo and Sacramento bypasses, and the Sacramento River for listed fish species.
- Key species: Chinook salmon, green sturgeon, white sturgeon, steelhead, and Pacific lamprey.

Priority Metrics

- Benefits Justice Communities: No
- Tribal Partnerships: No
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 6, Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship
- WCB Strategic Plan Target: B2.2



Project Description

The Tule Canal Fish Passage Improvement (Project) site is impacted by a culverted low-water earthen crossing that contributes to stranding and migratory delays for listed salmonids and sturgeon, preventing reliable access to the Sacramento River from the Yolo bypass. The Project will alleviate the dangers posed by this fish passage impediment by removing and replacing an existing earthen road crossing with a bridge to allow year-round fish passage through the canal. Removal of this barrier would open a pathway to spawning habitat for migrating fish in the upstream reaches of the Sacramento River, contributing to species recovery. The Project meets objective 1 in the California Salmon Strategy for a Hotter Drier Future, "Remove barriers and modernize infrastructure for salmon migration".

Long-Term Management

DWR has adopted a Management Plan that guides management actions for Tule Canal Fish Passage Improvement Project, including management of the Project. If at any time during long-term management period, 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 on the Project life.

Project Funding

The proposed funding breakdown for the Projects is as follows:

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Project Management, Design and Permitting	\$1,751,704	---	\$1,751,704
Bridge Component Construction	\$3,143,892	\$1,017,108	\$4,161,000
Monitoring	\$400,000	---	\$400,000
Indirect	\$934,517	\$685,412	\$1,619,929
Total	\$6,230,113	\$1,702,520	\$7,932,633

Non-WCB funders include:

- \$1,702,520 – U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- None received

Opposition:

- None received

CEQA

The Project is proposed as exempt from CEQA pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15304, Minor Alterations to Land, consisting of minor public alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation and Section 15333, Class 33, Small Habitat Restoration Projects, consisting of projects not to exceed five acres in size to ensure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of habitat for fish, plants or wildlife. 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 Cecelia M. Aguiar-Curry, District 4

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.

22. Pickel Meadow Restoration

Restoration – Implementation

WCB Grant: \$4,958,872

Fund Source(s): Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, Budget Act of 2024, Climate Change Resilience (SB 108, Sec. 107(1)(4)); Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resource Code Section 75055(a); and California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68), Public Resources Code Section 80132(f)

Grantee: American Rivers, Inc.

Landowners: CDFW and U.S. Forest Service (USFS)

Location: Approximately 22 miles northwest of Bridgeport within portions of CDFW's Pickel Meadow Wildlife Area and Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest

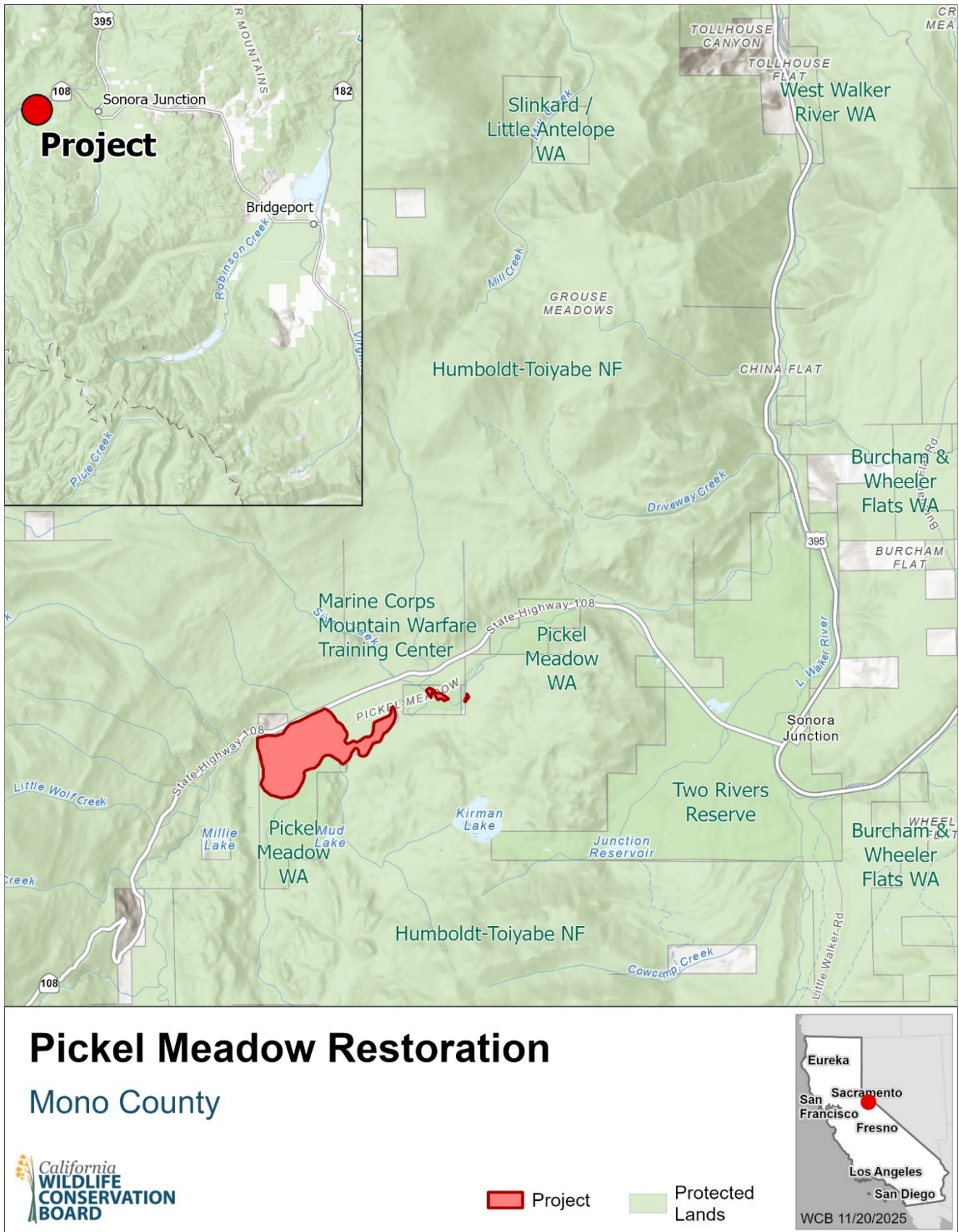
County: Mono

Project Highlights

- Enhances habitat quality and climate resilience of public lands within CDFW's Pickel Meadow Wildlife Area and the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest.
- Habitats restored: 250 acres of montane meadow habitat and 3.2 miles of the West Walker River.
- Key species: willow flycatcher, yellow warbler, and Lahontan cutthroat trout.
- Multi-benefit project: strengthened climate resilience, enhanced carbon sequestration, improved terrestrial and aquatic habitat conditions, increased groundwater recharge, improved water quality, increased wildfire resilience, improved access and recreation opportunities, and enhanced land stewardship capacity.

Priority Metrics

- Benefits Justice Communities: Yes, the project is located adjacent to a Severely Disadvantaged Community
- Tribal Partnerships: No
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 4, Enhance Conservation on Existing Public Lands and Coastal Waters and Pathway 6, Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship, respectively
- WCB Strategic Plan Targets: B2.1, C1.1, C2.1



Project Description

The Pickel Meadow Restoration (Project) is located in a glacially formed montane meadow along the West Walker River that is currently in a degraded state due to a variety of stressors that have disrupted natural hydrology, accelerated erosion, and reduced habitat quality. Principal among these was the construction of an artificial berm along the West Walker River following the 1997 floods. The artificial berm disconnected the West Walker River from its historical alluvial fan and concentrated flows, promoting incision and erosion downstream. A portion of the artificial berm now functions as a parking lot for recreational access. In addition, past and ongoing channel incision lowered the water table throughout the meadow, leading to drier conditions and loss of wetland function. Finally, the portion of the West Walker River channel flowing through the meadow is highly simplified and lacks deep pools, large wood, and riparian cover needed to support fish and other aquatic organisms. These factors have led to the loss of aquatic and riparian habitat features critical for species such as Lahontan cutthroat trout, willow flycatcher, and yellow warbler. As climate change increases the frequency of drought and extreme precipitation events, restoring natural hydrology is essential for improving resilience and buffering the landscape against future disturbances.

The Project will reconnect the incised West Walker River to its historic alluvial fan and floodplain restoring hydrologic function, improving terrestrial and aquatic habitat conditions, and enhancing ecosystem resilience across approximately 250 acres of montane meadow and floodplain habitat and 3.2 miles of the West Walker River. Additional benefits include enhanced carbon sequestration, reduced sediment inputs, improved water quality, increased wildfire resilience, and supporting sustainable recreation and grazing. This will be accomplished through implementation of a suite of integrated actions, including:

- Alluvial fan reconnection – the artificial berm will be removed and the area recontoured to direct flows toward the historical alluvial fan channels. Disturbed areas will be revegetated with location-appropriate native plant species.
- Aquatic habitat improvements – instream structures (e.g., large wood and boulder clusters) will be installed to increase hydraulic complexity, create local scour, promote sediment sorting, intercept woody debris, and improve habitat complexity.
- Spring protection and grazing improvements – wildlife-friendly fencing will be installed to exclude livestock from a spring located downstream of the Silver Creek confluence and an existing fence line will be realigned to exclude livestock from the alluvial fan reconnection areas.
- Diversion upgrades – an existing diversion, located on a side channel of the West Walker River, will be moved upstream and updated to enhance fish passage, ensure reliability, and allow CDFW to continue delivering water to a portion of the upper meadow that cannot be reconnected to the West Walker River due to its proximity to Highway 108.

- Public recreation access improvements – the existing parking lot will be relocated closer to Highway 108 and made ADA-compliant. An existing trail will be realigned to connect the relocated parking lot to the West Walker River.

The Project builds upon a number of prior investments, beginning with the purchase of approximately 991 acres for the Pickel Meadow Wildlife Area, approved by WCB in 1989; initial assessments and restoration planning activities funded by CDFW, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and the State Water Resources Control Board; and culminating with final restoration planning funded by WCB to bring the Project to its current shovel-ready status.

Long-Term Management

CDFW implements its Interim Management Plan for Pickel Meadow Wildlife Area and the USFS has adopted the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, which guide management actions within their respective portions of the Property. If at any time during the long-term management period, American Rivers, 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 Project life.

Project Funding

The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Project Management	\$216,348	\$20,463	\$236,811
Restoration	\$4,514,021	\$191,671	\$4,705,692
Monitoring	\$114,463	\$2,723	\$117,186
Outreach	\$19,516	---	\$19,516
Indirect Costs	\$94,524	---	\$94,524
Total	\$4,958,872	\$214,857	\$5,173,729

Non-WCB funders include:

- American Rivers, Inc. - \$20,463
- CDFW - \$24,394
- USFS, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest - \$20,000
- U.S. Marine Corps, Mountain Warfare Training Center - \$150,000

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Aaron C. Coogan, District Ranger, USFS, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
- Martin B. Husung, Environmental Director, Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center
- John Trammell, Eastern Sierra Nevada Regional Director, The Wildlands Conservancy
- Peter Stanton, Chief Executive Officer, Walker Basin Conservancy
- Nick Hinkell, Assistant Director, Bently Foundation
- Marrina Nation, Senior Project Manager, Sierra Headwaters, California Trout
- Michael Cameron, Northern Sierra Project Manager, Trout Unlimited
- Rodney Siegel, Executive Director, The Institute for Bird Populations
- Daniel Malmon, Senior Geomorphologist, Waterways Consulting, Inc.

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 11, 2024. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

State Government

- Senate: Senator Marie Alvarado-Gil, District 4
- Assembly: Assemblymember David J. Tangipa, District 8

Staff Recommendation

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

23. Western Goleta Slough Tidal Restoration Design

**Restoration
– Planning**

WCB Grant: \$1,540,000

Fund Source(s): The California Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 (Proposition 50), Water Code Section 79572(a)

Grantee: University of California, Santa Barbara

Landowner: CDFW and University of California, Santa Barbara

Location: City of Goleta

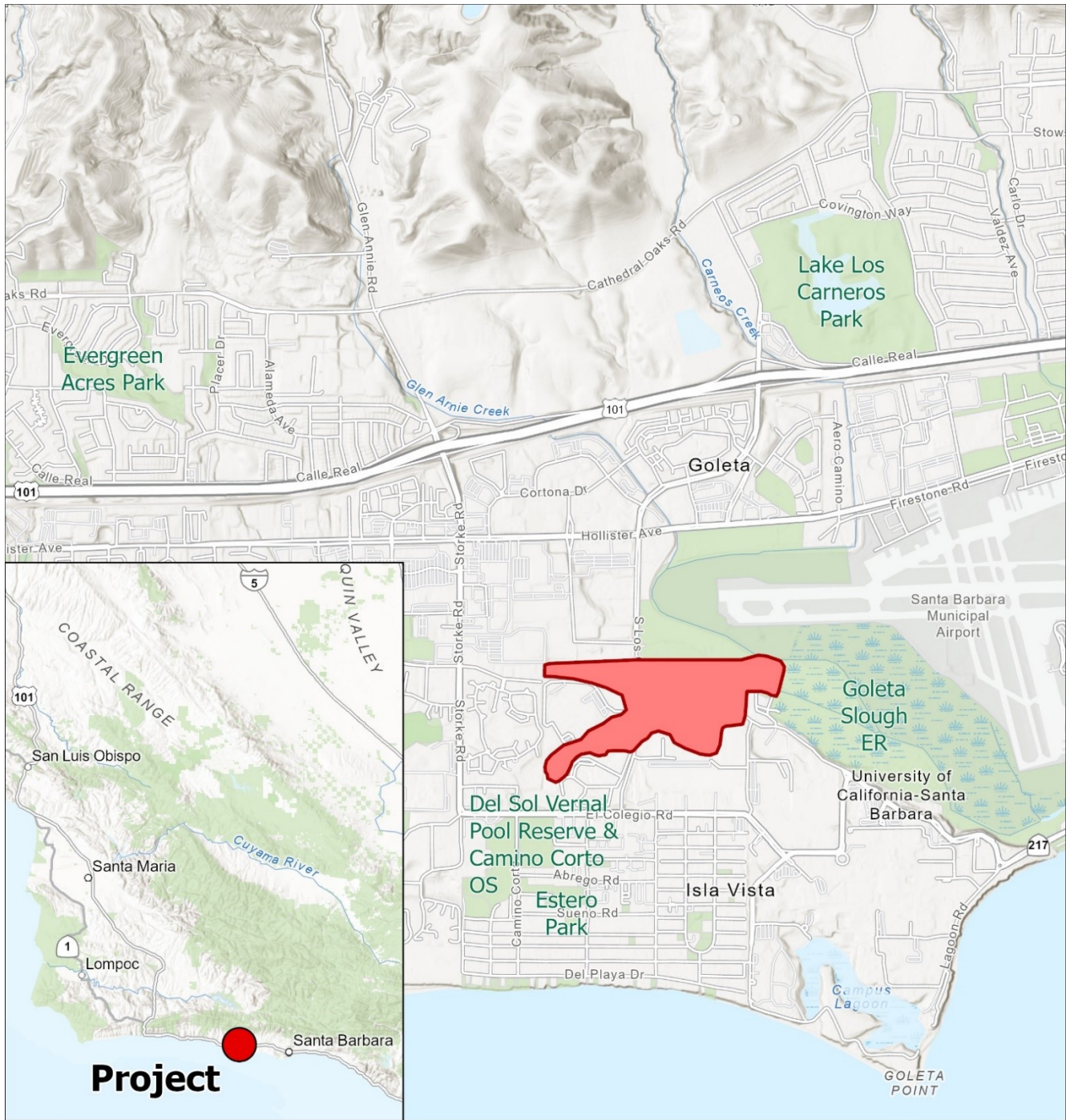
County: Santa Barbara

Project Highlights

- Located on the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) campus and within the CDFW Goleta Slough Ecological Reserve.
- The project site encompasses the historic extent of the western arm of Goleta Slough that has been isolated from tidal connection and wetland function since the 1920s.
- Plans will be developed to reconnect the tidal influence of up to 18 acres of estuarine wetlands and for the restoration of 62 acres of upland, emergent wetland, and tidal wetland habitats.
- Key species: Belding's savannah sparrow, tidewater goby, salt marsh bird's beak and Coulter's goldfields.

Priority Metrics

- Benefits Justice Communities: No
- Tribal Partnerships: No
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 6, Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship
- WCB Strategic Plan Targets: B2.1, B2.2



Western Goleta Slough Tidal Restoration Design

Santa Barbara County



Project

Protected Lands



WCB 11/20/2025

Project Description

The Western Goleta Slough Tidal Restoration Design (Project) site encompasses the historic extent of the western arm of Goleta Slough that has been isolated from tidal connection and wetland function since the 1920s when berms, drainage ditches, and a tide gate were installed to convert the salt marsh to upland grazing and development areas. These features have contributed to the degradation of the function of the wetlands, and their impacts have been further compounded by the increased fragmentation of the remnant wetlands by the development of roads and buildings since that time. The Project will develop shovel ready restoration plans and designs for restoring up to 18 acres of historically tidal wetlands from filled and non-tidal habitat, address the habitat degradation of the nearly 30 acres of fragmented wetland edges and upland habitat, and identify and protect functioning emergent wetlands and culturally significant uplands within the fragmented complex of protected habitats of the western Goleta Slough for a total project footprint of 62 acres. The Project will create the framework for the restoration of Goleta Slough by:

- Developing high quality hydrologic and hydraulic models to confidently assess the pros and cons of implementing a tidal restoration project and the best scale for the Project.
- Mapping of invasive plants and other degradation at the site to serve as a base for creating a restoration plan for the site.
- Conducting wildlife surveys to inform restoration actions and serve as a baseline for proposed improvements.
- Collaborating with key property owner stakeholders in the region (UCSB, CDFW, City of Santa Barbara Airport) to ensure any restoration is compatible with current land uses.
- Working with Chumash tribes present on the coast as the design components are developed to ensure that the Project respects the values and goals of the traditional land managers of the slough.
- Completing a comprehensive wetland and upland restoration plan that is permitted and designed to the 65% level with cost estimates that allow the project to move to implementation in a seamless manner.

Long-Term Management

Not applicable to this Project.

Project Funding

The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB	Totals
Project Management	\$232,707	\$232,707
Habitat Assessment	\$107,889	\$107,889

Project Task	WCB	Totals
Studies and Designs	\$931,115	\$931,115
Env. Review & Permitting	\$237,000	\$237,000
Indirect Costs	\$31,289	\$31,289
Total	\$1,540,000	\$1,540,000

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Senator Monique Limon, California State Senate, District 21
- Assemblymember Gregg Hart, California State Assembly, District 37
- Andrew Raaf, Environmental Manager, Santa Barbara County Flood Control District
- Chris Hastert, Director, City of Santa Barbara Airport
- Katherine Emery, Ph.D., Executive Director, Santa Barbara Audubon Society

Opposition:

- None received

CEQA

The Project is statutorily exempt from CEQA pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15262, Feasibility and Planning Studies, as it involves only feasibility and planning studies for possible future actions.

State Government

- Senate: Senator Monique Limon, District 21
- Assembly: Assemblymember Gregg Hart, District 37

Staff Recommendation

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

24. Chollas Creek at Federal Boulevard Riparian Restoration, Augmentation

**Restoration
– Implementation**

WCB Grant: \$1,600,000

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

Grantee: Groundwork San Diego - Chollas Creek

Landowner: Caltrans and the city of San Diego

Location: City of San Diego

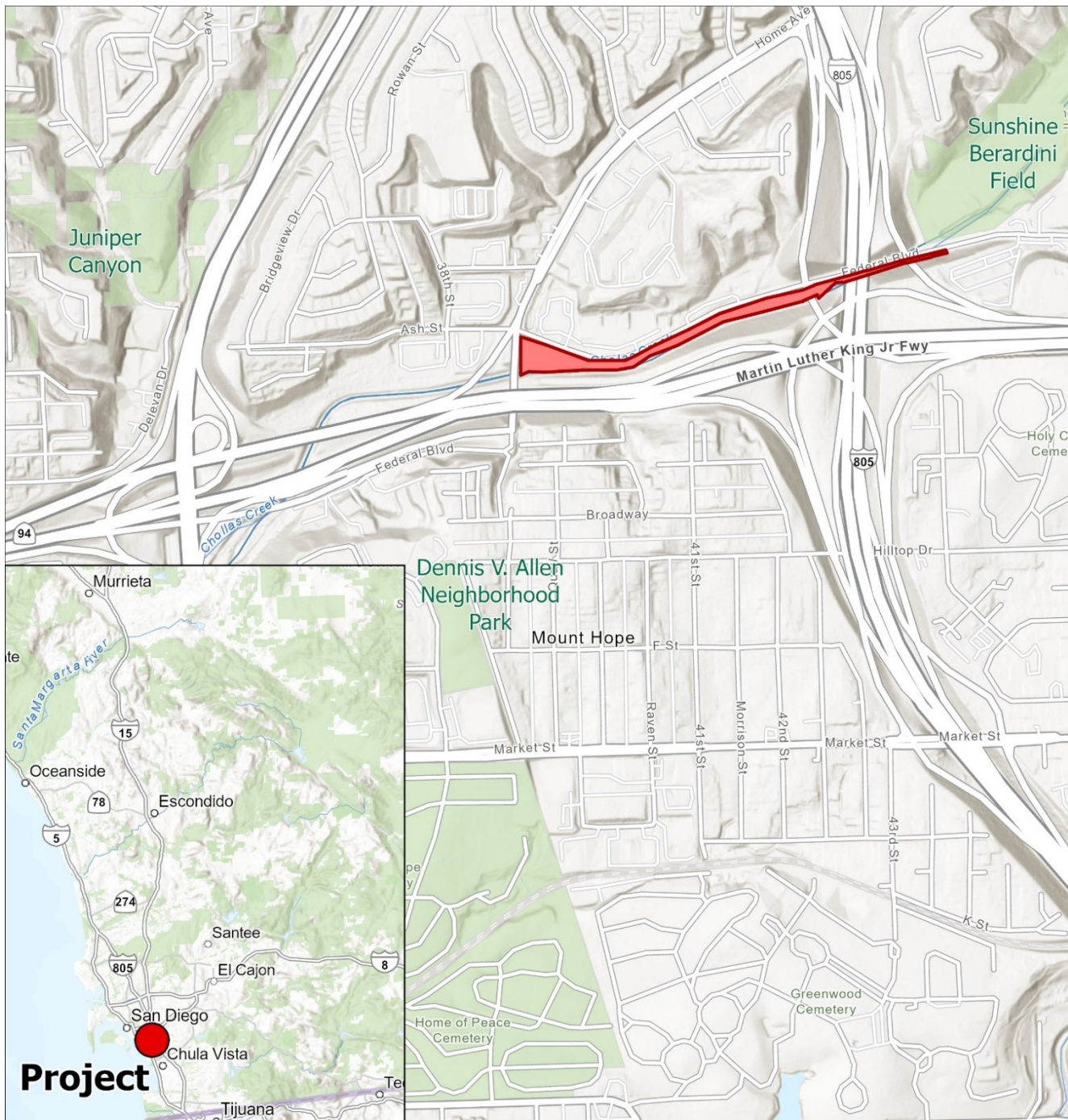
County: San Diego

Project Highlights

- Located in an urbanized community called City Heights in the city of San Diego.
- Historically a stream with a cobble bottom, Chollas Creek in City Heights is characterized by a concrete lined channel that excludes native riparian vegetation and exacerbates flooding issues.
- Habitats restored: 2,000 linear feet of riparian corridor varying from 65 to 90 feet in width totaling five acres of riparian habitat and 3,100 linear feet of native trees planted along the embankment.
- The project would implement the goals and objectives of the Chollas Creek Revitalization plan.
- Project will include ADA-compliant educational signage in both English and Spanish.

Priority Metrics

- Benefits Justice Communities: Yes, the project is located in an area ranked in the 86th percentile on Enviroscreen. It will restore a riparian corridor in an urban area that lacks greenspaces and is a necessary precursor to the development of a planned pedestrian trail that will link nearby DACs to local parks.
- Tribal Partnerships: No
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 6, Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship
- WCB Strategic Plan Targets: B2.2, P2.2



Chollas Creek At Federal Boulevard Riparian Restoration, Augmentation San Diego County



Project

Protected
Lands



Project Description

The Chollas Creek at Federal Boulevard Riparian Restoration, Augmentation (Project) will remove the concrete lining from a section of Chollas Creek near Federal Boulevard in the community of City Heights. The hardened stream channel, coupled with the resulting degradation of native riparian habitat, does not provide habitat that can function as a wildlife corridor to connect animals to the more naturalized areas of the creek located upstream and downstream. The concrete also does not allow water to infiltrate, and contributes to local stormwater quality issues, and does not withstand a 100-year flood event.

The Project was originally approved for funding in August 2021, but significant cost increases due to the COVID pandemic's impact on the global supply chain and other inflationary pressures have prevented work from starting. The Grantee has been able to secure an additional \$2.471 million from other project partners, but additional funding from the WCB is still necessary to ensure the Project can be successfully completed.

The Project will improve Chollas Creek by:

- Removing the concrete channel and reducing the slope of the creek's banks.
- Expanding the depth and width of the channel and installing a soft cobble-lined bottom that will improve flood control and water quality in the area.
- Planting the newly naturalized creek with native plant and tree species appropriate to the region in order to restore the habitat value of the riparian corridor.
- Installing a line of native trees that will provide shade to users of a planned trail that will connect the disadvantaged neighborhoods in the area to downtown San Diego and Sunshine Berardini Field Park, which is one of the few places providing open space and recreational amenities in the region.

Long-Term Management

The City of San Diego 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, Grantee does not manage and maintain the project improvements, the Grant Agreement requires that it refund to the State of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the Project life.

Project Funding

The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB Augmentation	Original WCB Grant	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Project Management	---	\$100,120	\$302,366	\$402,486
Environmental Review and Permitting	---	\$285,000	\$145,110	\$430,110

Project Task	WCB Augmentation	Original WCB Grant	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Design, Drawings and Specifications	---	\$475,000	\$638,660	\$1,113,660
Construction Management	---	\$384,360	\$90,000	\$474,360
Construction	\$1,600,000	\$1,485,520	\$5,253,472	\$8,338,992
Contingency	---	\$335,000	\$2,892	\$337,892
Total	\$1,600,000	\$3,065,000	\$6,432,500	\$11,097,500

Non-WCB funders include:

- California Natural Resources Agency - \$3,532,500
- DWR - \$2,900,000

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- None received

Opposition:

- None received

CEQA

The City of San Diego, as lead agency, prepared a MND for the Project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA. Staff considered the MND and has prepared proposed, written findings documenting WCB's compliance with CEQA. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOD will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

State Government

- Senate: Senator Steve Padilla, District 18
- Assembly: Assemblymember LaShae Sharp-Collins, District 79

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.

25. Proposition 4 Emergency Regulations

This proposed action item is to consider and adopt an emergency regulation package to implement Proposition 4, submit that package to the Office of Administrative Law for approval, and delegate authority to the Executive Director and staff to make necessary changes to the package for Office of Administrative Law approval.

Action Item Description

Proposition 4 was passed by voters in November 2024. Assembly Bill 149 (2025) added and amended provisions of Prop. 4. AB 149 added Public Resources Code section 90135(e)(1) which states “a regulation for the purpose of developing and adopting program guidelines and selection criteria needed to effectuate or implement the programs” under Prop. 4 may be adopted through the emergency regulation process with the Office of Administrative Law (OAL). To comply with AB 149, staff developed an emergency regulation package implementing Prop. 4 for approval by the Board.

The emergency regulation package will be posted online before the November 20, 2025, meeting. If approved by the Board, the package will then be transmitted to OAL which has ten working days (excluding weekends and holidays) to approve or disapprove the emergency regulations. The public may comment on the emergency regulation package by submitting comments to OAL.

WCB may be required to work with OAL to remedy any defects during OAL’s review or any required resubmission process. Because finalization of emergency regulations may require modifications to the package as proposed to the Board, staff is also requesting the Board delegate authority to the Executive Director and staff to make any required changes and/or resubmit the emergency regulation package to OAL until WCB receives approval for its emergency regulations by OAL.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that WCB approve this Action Item as proposed, delegate authority to the Executive Director and staff to revise the regulation package and/or resubmit it to OAL until WCB’s regulation package is approved by OAL, authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this Action Item, and authorize staff to proceed substantially as planned.

26. 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)

BOARD TOUR INFORMATION:

Upon Adjournment, the Board will conduct a site tour at:

San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve and Nature Center

2710 Manchester Ave.

Cardiff, CA 92007

Members of the public are welcome to join the tour but must provide their own transportation. Parking is recommended at:

San Elijo Park and Ride

2581 Via Poco

Cardiff, CA 92007

[San Elijo Park and Ride](#)

The tour is expected to last no more than two hours.

Adjourn

ATTACHMENT A – MAP OF November 20, 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 TARGETS

GOAL B. PROTECT AND RESTORE BIODIVERSITY

Biodiversity refers to the variety of life on earth from genes to species to ecosystems. Our natural world supports and sustains us, and the plants and animals that power our ecosystems rely on areas with minimal disturbance to survive and thrive. Biodiversity protection is at the core of WCB's mission.

B1. Build, protect, and restore large interconnected landscapes

B1.1 Each year invest in at least five habitat acquisition or restoration projects that help build connected landscapes for fish and wildlife.

B1.2 Each year, invest in at least three wildlife under-or over-crossing projects in locations deemed high priority by both transportation and fish and wildlife agencies.

B1.3 Each year, invest in at least five projects that restore or enhance at wetlands (coastal, valley, or mountain meadows) in support of migratory bird joint venture³ priorities.

B2. Protect and restore sensitive and/or rare habitats and help recover special status species

B2.1 Each year, invest in at least ten projects that benefit sensitive species and advance habitat and natural community goals embodied in SWAP, Habitat Conservation Plans, Natural Community Conservation Plans, Regional Conservation Investment Strategies, or other regional conservation plans.

B2.2 Each year, invest in at least ten projects that will enhance stream flow, riparian habitat, and/or floodplain habitat.

B2.3 Each year, invest in at least three projects that have a primary purpose of conserving or restoring native pollinator habitat.

B3. Return ancestral lands and habitat management to tribes to support biodiversity and ecosystem function

B3.1 By 2030, complete ten ancestral conservation land return transactions.

B3.2 By 2030, support at least four projects that include cultural conservation easements.

B3.3 By 2030, invest in at least five projects that will result in tribal co-management of protected lands.

B3.4 Each year, invest in at least five restoration projects that will incorporate tribal ecological knowledge in coordination with local tribes.

GOAL C. TAKE ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Functioning natural ecosystems are essential to maintain community health and well-being in a changing climate. Intact and restored terrestrial, freshwater, and coastal

systems remove and store carbon from the atmosphere, safeguard important resources such as clean water, and can help protect people and wildlife from the impacts of climate change like megafires, flooding, and extreme heat.

C1. Reduce and remove carbon pollution

C1.1 Each year invest in at least 15 projects that help meet California's Nature-Based Solutions Climate Targets to conserve or restore forests, wetlands, or deserts.

C1.2 Each year, support at least 15 projects that help meet California's Nature-Based Solutions Climate Targets to conserve or restore grasslands, rangelands, or oak woodlands.

C1.3 Invest in at least ten projects that include beneficial fire or other fuel reduction or climate resilience activities (invasive species removal, restoration forestry, native plant restoration) to reduce wildfire risk.

C2. Increase resilience to climate impacts for vulnerable ecosystems and communities

C2.1 Ensure that 75 percent of habitat improvement projects have a primary or secondary purpose of increasing resilience to climate change.

C2.2 Each year, support ten projects that are in areas identified as refugia for vulnerable plant or animal species or represent ecosystems highly resilient to climate change.

C2.3 Invest in ten projects that provide climate benefits for vulnerable people and ecological communities.

GOAL P. EXPAND PUBLIC ACCESS TO NATURE

Access to nature is critical to human health and well-being. People with access to the outdoors experience the health benefits of physical activity, social interaction, reduced stress and decreased exposure to noise, air pollution, and extreme heat. In California and across the country, outdoor access and its many benefits are not equitably distributed or equally welcoming to all communities. California is committed to an Outdoors for All, and WCB supports this initiative by funding wildlife-oriented recreation and related nature-focused education throughout the state.

P1. Promote diverse outdoor experience

P1.1 Each year invest in at least three projects that provide or enhance fishing or hunting access.

P1.2 By 2030, support at least five private land acquisition or restoration projects that include **SHARE** Program Participation.

P1.3 Each year, invest in at least five projects that have a primary purpose of non-consumptive wildlife recreation, such as bird watching or hiking.

P2. Protect and restore natural areas for communities that lack access to nature

P2.1 By 2030, invest in at least ten projects that protect or restore areas that provide public access for disadvantaged or severely disadvantaged communities.

P2.2 By 2030, support at least five projects that deliver direct ecological benefits, beyond public access, to disadvantaged or severely disadvantaged communities.

P3. Support accessible and representative education, outreach, and engagement

P3.1 For all projects with a primary purpose of public access, provide educational and interpretive signs that are culturally relevant and available in multiple languages.

P3.2 Each year, for projects with a primary purpose of public access, support at least three that are tribally led and include tribal storytelling or other cultural interpretive information.

GOAL O. IMPROVE ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

Partners are the cornerstone of WCB's success. WCB is proud of its reputation for collaborative problem solving to deliver creative and effective projects throughout the state. Since 2019, WCB has worked with over 40 new organizations and will continue to build our network to offer grant opportunities. WCB sponsors and participates in numerous public workshops, conferences, and other convenings. At the same time, WCB ensures transparency through recorded, hybrid Board meetings and regularly posted information on our website.

O1. Create new partnerships and expand engagement

O1.1 Each year, attend or conduct at least two meetings that result in outreach, workshops, and materials to increase visibility of the WCB programs with at least one in a disadvantaged community.

O1.2 Each year, sponsor at least five conferences or workshops throughout the state and distribute outreach materials about WCB programs.

O1.3 Each year, develop five new partnerships to support nature and wildlife connections consistent with WCB programs.

O1.4 Each year, track and share progress toward meeting statewide conservation strategies (30x30, NBS climate targets, etc.) and strategic plan goals.

O1.5 By 2027, update the WCB 75-year assessment—for WCB’s 80th anniversary—to highlight program accomplishments, including the acreage of habitat type preserved and restored, partnership metrics, and more.

O2. Ensure program and project success through ongoing monitoring and learning

O2.1 Continue implementation of WCB’s compliance monitoring program, with staff monitoring approximately 100 randomly selected projects per year.

O2.2 Implement a pilot effort to evaluate the feasibility and utility of incorporating remote monitoring, reliant upon free, readily available imagery, into WCB’s compliance monitoring program as a means of increasing the number of projects evaluated on an annual basis, assessing impacts of significant events (e.g., wildfire, flood), and exploring topics of interest.

O2.3 By 2028, develop an improved approach to coordinated compliance monitoring and sharing of outcomes with partner agencies (e.g., Coastal Conservancy, and CDFW).

O3. Improve grantmaking processes (Cut Green Tape)

O3.1 Develop and share an online project portal that integrates and streamlines paperwork and invoicing from pre-application through project close.

O3.2 Develop and offer a grantee feedback survey to solicit ideas on how to improve processes.

O3.3 By 2030, using results from the grantee feedback survey (D3.2), identify and implement five process improvements to simplify grantmaking.

O3.4 Develop and offer grant writing workshops and/or online videos to increase understanding of and access to WCB grants.