



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

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

Thursday, February 26, 2026, 10:00 a.m.

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

Preliminary Agenda Items

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

Note: Public comments on Agenda Items and Items Not on the Agenda will be limited to 2 (two) minutes. Letters of support/opposition must be received by WCB by close of business on Wednesday, February 11, 2026, to be listed in the Final Agenda. Letters of support/opposition received after February 11, 2026, will be provided to the Board to inform decision-making.

This preliminary agenda is subject to change, pending authorization to obligate Proposition 4 (California Climate Bond) funds. WCB's final agenda, to be posted on February 13, 2026, will identify which of the following items will be heard on Consent or be Presented to the Board.

Item Number

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

7. Recovery of Funds

8. Imperial Wildlife Area Wetlands Restoration, Phase III **\$0**
Imperial County

To consider changing the scope of a grant to California Waterfowl Association for a cooperative project with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to enhance wetland and upland habitat for the benefit of migratory birds at CDFW's Imperial Wildlife Area. Unexpected cost savings during the construction phase have left enough funding to implement restoration on an additional 245 acres of wetland and 45 acres of upland habitat previously outside of the project scope. This presents a cost-effective opportunity to restore additional important migratory bird habitat at the Wildlife Area located 2.5 miles west of the town of Niland in Imperial County.

9. Rancho Jamul Ecological Reserve, Expansion 7 (Brown) **\$230,000**
San Diego County

To consider the acquisition of 10± acres of land by CDFW for the protection of Quino checkerspot butterfly as an expansion to CDFW's Rancho Jamul Ecological Reserve located in Jamul, in San Diego County.

10. Rancho Jamul Land Exchange **\$0**
San Diego County

To consider the exchange of 1± acres owned by CDFW for 4± acres owned by Jamul Indian Village of California, a federally recognized sovereign tribe, to serve as an expansion of CDFW's Hollenbeck Canyon Wildlife Area, located near the community of Jamul in San Diego County.

11. San Diego Cactus Scrub Restoration **\$737,856**
San Diego County

To consider the allocation for a grant to the Earth Discovery Institute for a cooperative project with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Coastkeepers, and the California Climate Action Corps to restore 56 cactus patches across 139 acres for the coastal cactus wren, located on USFWS' San Diego National Wildlife Refuge four miles southeast of Lemon Grove in San Diego County.

12. Southern California Pollinator Conservation **\$601,577**
San Diego County

To consider the allocation for a grant to the Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County for a cooperative project with CDFW, San Deigo County, and SanDAG to develop translocation plans and obtain necessary permits for the Quino checkerspot butterfly, Harbison's dun skipper, Laguna mountain skipper, and the Hermes copper butterfly, and develop habitat restoration plans and complete all necessary environmental compliance for restoration for the Quino checkerspot butterfly and Harbison's dun skipper, located on multiple publicly-owned sites throughout Southern California that will be determined through the planning process.

13. Sycuan Peak Ecological Reserve, Expansion 10 **\$280,000**
San Diego County

To consider the acquisition of 85± acres of land by CDFW for the protection of threatened and endangered species, to preserve biological communities supporting sensitive species,

and to enhance wildlife linkages and provide future wildlife-oriented, public-use opportunities, as an expansion of CDFW's Sycuan Peak Ecological Reserve, located near the community of Jamul in San Diego County.

14. I-15 Rainbow Canyon Wildlife Crossing Planning \$3,988,000
Riverside County

To consider the allocation for a grant to the Temecula-Anza-Elsinore-Murrieta Resource Conservation District for a cooperative project with The Nature Conservancy to develop shovel ready plans and designs needed to construct a vegetated overpass across Interstate 15 that will benefit the mountain lion subpopulation in the Santa Ana Mountains, approximately 1.5 miles south of the city of Temecula in Riverside County.

15. SR 62 Wildlife Crossings Planning \$5,498,000
Riverside, San Bernardino Counties

To consider the allocation for a grant to the Mojave Desert Land Trust for a cooperative project with the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy and the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission to develop shovel ready plans and designs for two proposed wildlife crossings over State Route 62 at the Morongo Grade and Yucca Grade that will reconnect wildlife habitat in the San Bernardino and Little San Bernardino mountains including the Sand to Snow National Monument, Joshua Tree National Park, and the San Geronio and Bighorn Wilderness Areas near the town of Yucca Valley in San Bernardino and Riverside counties.

16. Spanish Ranch \$900,000
San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara Counties

To consider the allocation for a grant to California Rangeland Trust for a cooperative project with U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service and Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation to acquire a 5,652± acre conservation easement for the protection of a mosaic of habitats supporting tule elk, California condor, San Joaquin kit fox, and giant kangaroo rat, located in San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties.

17. River West Fresno Core Project \$5,550,000
Fresno County

To consider the allocation for a grant to the City of Fresno for a cooperative project with San Joaquin River Conservancy (SJRC) to construct 2.4 miles of multiuse trail, a new river access point, parking, and other public access amenities located on publicly-owned SJRC's River West property within the city of Fresno in Fresno County.

18. Santa Cruz Long-toed Salamander Corridor \$1,962,000
Santa Cruz County

To consider the allocation for grant to the Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County for a cooperative project with the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County to restore breeding habitat that will improve habitat connectivity and facilitate genetic exchange between Santa Cruz long-toed salamander metapopulations that were separated by the construction of Highway 1, 1.5 miles west of the city of Watsonville in Santa Cruz County.

19. Watsonville Slough Trails and Gateway \$4,880,000
Santa Cruz County

To consider the allocation for a grant to the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County for a cooperative project with the California State Coastal Conservancy and the California Natural Resources Agency to construct public access amenities and restore wetland and

grassland habitats at the Watsonville Slough Farm just west of Watsonville in Santa Cruz County.

20. La Grange Salmonid Habitat Restoration, Phase 2a **\$3,654,000**
Stanislaus County

To consider the allocation for a grant to the Yosemite River Alliance for a cooperative project with Stanislaus County to construct new spawning and rearing habitat to benefit Chinook salmon and steelhead in the Tuolumne River on private and publicly-owned property near La Grange in Stanislaus County.

21. Curry Canyon Ranch **\$645,000**
Contra Costa County

To consider the acceptance of a USFWS (Habitat Conservation Plan/Recovery Land) Land Acquisition grant and the approval to subgrant these federal funds to the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy, and to consider a Wildlife Conservation Board grant to East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy, to acquire 160± acres in fee and a conservation easement over 155± acres totaling 315± acres of land for the protection of oak woodland and grassland that support listed species, including the San Joaquin kit fox, California red-legged frog, foothill yellow-legged frog, and California tiger salamander, within the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan, and provide future wildlife-oriented, public-use opportunities located near the city of Clayton in Contra Costa County.

22. Roddy Ranch Golf Course Restoration Augmentation **\$1,527,950**
Contra Costa County

To consider the allocation for an augmentation to a grant to the East Bay Regional Parks District for a cooperative project with the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy and California State Parks to convert 84 acres of former golf course to functional grassland and wetland habitat, located on the East Bay Regional Parks District's former Roddy Ranch Golf Course one mile south of Antioch in Contra Costa County.

23. Lagunitas Creek Aquatic Habitat Enhancement, Phase 2a **\$1,109,000**
Marin County

To consider the allocation for a grant to Marin Municipal Water District for a cooperative project with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) to construct two instream habitat restoration sites in Lagunitas Creek to support recovery of salmonids in Lagunitas Creek near Samuel P. Taylor State Park in Marin County.

24. Trout Creek Meadow Restoration **\$710,000**
El Dorado County

To consider the allocation for a grant to the Lake Tahoe Community College for a cooperative project with the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board for meadow restoration and cultural burning on 25 acres within the city of South Lake Tahoe in El Dorado County.

25. Woodlake and River Bend Grassland Restoration **\$770,500**
Sacramento County

To consider the allocation for a grant to Sacramento County Department of Regional Parks for a project to restore 30 acres of native grassland and forb habitat at two sites located on County-owned property in the American River Parkway approximately 2 miles northeast of downtown Sacramento in Sacramento County.

26. Putah-Cache Watershed Arundo Eradication, Phase 2 **\$1,800,000**
Solano and Yolo Counties

To consider the allocation for a grant to the Yolo County Resource Conservation District for a cooperative project with the Yolo County Housing Authority, UC Davis, Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, Solano County, and Putah Creek Council to remove over 9 acres of Arundo and other noxious invasive plants from lower Putah Creek and plant 10 acres of native riparian and pollinator habitat on publicly-owned land along Putah Creek, approximately two miles east of Winters in Yolo and Solano counties.

27. Laguna de Santa Rosa Floodplain Restoration Planning **\$1,033,000**
Sonoma County

To consider the allocation for a grant to the Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation for a cooperative project with the State Water Resources Control Board to complete habitat restoration planning and design on 175 acres, located on privately-owned land approximately 5 miles west of the city of Santa Rosa in Sonoma County.

28. Mark West Creek and Wetland Restoration **\$1,505,000**
Sonoma County

To consider the allocation for a grant to Sonoma County Regional Parks for a cooperative project with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and Sonoma County Regional Parks Foundation to enhance stream flow, improve access to fish habitat upstream, and implement restoration that benefits salmonid habitat, located on privately-owned land 3 miles northeast of the city of Santa Rosa, in Sonoma county.

29. Pepperwood Preserve Habitat Resilience **\$1,755,000**
Sonoma County

To consider the allocation for a grant to the Pepperwood Foundation for a cooperative project with Conservation Corps North Bay for grassland and oak woodland restoration on 893 acres located about 12 miles east of the city of Santa Rosa in Sonoma County.

30. Colby Mountain Recreation Trails **\$2,670,000**
Butte and Tehama Counties

To consider the allocation for a grant to Butte County Resource Conservation District for a cooperative project with Chico Velo to complete construction of a 36-mile trail network with trailhead amenities located in Lassen National Forest, 38 miles northeast of Chico in Butte and Tehama counties.

31. Habitat Incentive Programs for Waterbirds **\$10,003,000**
Butte, Colusa, Contra Costa, Fresno, Glenn, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, Placer, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Solano, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Tulare, Yolo, Yuba Counties

To consider the allocation for a grant to CDFW for a project to fund three established habitat incentive programs including Bird Returns, Bid4Birds and the California Winter Rice Habitat Incentive Program, to provide habitat for migratory waterbirds within 19 California counties.

32. Feather River Headwaters Aspen Restoration **\$1,335,000**
Plumas County

To consider the allocation for a grant to the Plumas Audubon Society for a cooperative project with the U.S. Forest Service to restore aspen and meadow habitat on 209 acres in

the headwaters of the Feather River, approximately 6.6 miles southeast of the community of Janesville in Plumas County.

33. Lower Battle Creek Side Channel and Floodplain Restoration Tehama County	\$1,847,000
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To consider the allocation for a grant to Chico State Enterprises for a project to construct a side channel, expand floodplain habitat, and create year-round juvenile salmonid habitat, located on the CDFW Battle Creek Wildlife Area, 8 miles east of Cottonwood in Tehama County.

34. The Kopta Slough Multi-Benefit Project Tehama County	\$5,369,000
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To consider the allocation for a grant to DWR for a project to remove 5,200 linear feet of rock revetment along the Sacramento River's right bank at the Kopta Slough Property and restore natural fluvial and floodplain processes and restore the 176-acre agricultural portion of the Kopta Slough Property to establish native floodplain habitat on publicly-owned property 8 miles east of Corning in Tehama County.

35. Honey Lake WA Sanctuary Enhancement Phase I Lassen County	\$2,200,000
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To consider the allocation for grant to Ducks Unlimited, Inc., for a cooperative project with CDFW and USFWS, to complete wetland enhancements at CDFW's Honey Lake Wildlife Area, 21 miles east of Susanville in Lassen County.

36. Cannibal Island Restoration Project	\$4,000,000
Humboldt County	

To consider the allocation for a grant to California Trout, Inc., for a cooperative project with CDFW and the California State Coastal Conservancy, to restore 500 acres of tidal wetland habitat on CDFW's Cannibal Island Unit of the Eel River Wildlife Area, located 3 miles west of Loleta in Humboldt County.

37. Transforming the Beaver Valley Headwaters Preserve	\$2,926,000
Siskiyou County	

To consider the allocation of a grant to California Trout for a project to restore approximately 7 miles of coho salmon habitat on the 6,000-acre Beaver Valley Headwaters Preserve on the East Fork Scott River on private property 2 miles east of Callahan in Siskiyou County.

38. Monarch Overwintering and Breeding Habitat Restoration Statewide	\$3,085,229
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To consider the allocation for a grant to the Xerces Society for a cooperative project with CDFW, California State Parks, and Department of Defense to restore 75 acres of monarch butterfly overwintering habitat and 12.5 acres of monarch butterfly migratory and breeding habitat, located on publicly-owned land statewide.

39. Public Forum for Items not on the Agenda

Adjourn

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Persons with disabilities needing reasonable accommodation to participate in public meetings or other CDFW activities are invited to contact the Department's EEO Officer at (916) 902-9097 or 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 EE Officer immediately.