Gavin Newsom, Governor
NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, California 94244-2090https://wcb.ca.gov
(916) 445-8448

Final Meeting Agenda

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

May 28, 2026, 10:00 a.m.

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

The Board meeting will also be available via Zoom. A recording will be posted after the meeting. Please note: *WCB offers a video link but cannot guarantee remote access. Please attend in person if you believe your participation is essential.*

Please click the link below to join the webinar.

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1 855-758-1310 US Toll Free
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International numbers available: https://wildlife-ca-gov.zoom.us/u/kddhH9LNuG

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.

Attachments

Attachment A – Map of May 2026 Projects

Attachment B – WCB Acronyms

Attachment C – WCB Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives

PERSONS WITH DISABILITES

Persons with disabilities needing reasonable accommodation to participate in public meetings or other CDFW activities are invited to contact the Department's EEO Office at EEO@wildlife.ca.gov. Please make any such requests at the earliest possible time to help ensure that accommodations can be in place at the time of the meeting. If a request for an accommodation has been submitted but is no longer needed, please contact the EEO Officer immediately.

1. Roll Call

Wildlife Conservation Board Members
- Damon Nagami, Chair, Public Member
- Tina Thomas, Vice Chair, Public Member
- Karyn Gear, Public Member
- Valerie Termini, Member
  Director, Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Fran Pavley, Public Member
- Michele Perrault, Member
  Legislative Director, Department of Finance
- Eric Sklar, 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)	**$7,293,128.00**
May 2026 Board Meeting Allocation:	(0.00)
Total Project Development:	(0.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	**$7,293,128.00**
HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (0262)	**$51,096,850.61**
May 2026 Board Meeting Allocation:	(534,000.00)
Total Project Development:	(18,170,733.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	**$32,392,117.61**
GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION FUND (3228)	**$29,261,887.00**
May 2026 Board Meeting Allocation:	(29,261,887.00)
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)	**$3,552,000.00**
May 2026 Board Meeting Allocation:	(1,700,000.00)
Total Project Development:	(0.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	**$1,852,000.00**
SAFE DRINKING WATER, WATER QUALITY AND SUPPLY, FLOOD CONTROL, RIVER AND COASTAL PROTECTION FUND OF 2006 (Proposition 84) (6051)	**$3,537,130.35**
May 2026 Board Meeting Allocation:	(0.00)
Total Project Development:	(0.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	**$3,537,130.35**
WATER QUALITY, SUPPLY, AND INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT FUND (Proposition 1) (6083)	**$22,649,131.15**
May 2026 Board Meeting Allocation:	(4,721,541.00)
Total Project Development:	(0.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	**$17,927,590.15**

THE CALIFORNIA DROUGHT, WATER, PARKS, CLIMATE, COASTAL PROTECTION, AND OUTDOOR ACCESS FOR ALL ACT OF 2018 (Proposition 68) (6088)	**$26,182,564.39**
May 2026 Board Meeting Allocation:	(0.00)
Total Project Development:	(20,000.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	**$26,162,564.39**
SAFE DRINKING WATER, WILDFIRE PREVENTION, DROUGHT PREPAREDNESS, AND CLEAN AIR BOND ACT OF 2024 (Proposition 4) (6093)	**$303,341,430.00**
May 2026 Board Meeting Allocation:	(44,233,369.00)
Total Project Development:	(16,300,000.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	**$242,808,061.00**
TOTAL – ALL FUNDS	**$446,914,121.50**
Grand Total – May 2026 Board Meeting Allocation:	(80,450,797.00)
Grand Total - Project Development:	(36,435,733.00)
Grand Total Projected Unallocated Balance:	**$330,027,591.50**

Consent Items

Items 6-18 are part of the Consent Calendar.

6. Recovery of Funds, Thursday, May 28, 2026

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	$336,818.54
Habitat Conservation Fund	$90.96
Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund	$0.00
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006	$0.00
Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Fund of 2014	$4,155.79
The California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018	$574,603.99
Total Recoveries for All Funds	***$915,669.28***

Table 2 - General Fund

Project Name	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Battle Creek (Orwick Ranch)	$30,000.00	$7,595.00	$22,405.00
CAL FIRE Travis Ranch Conservation Easement	$45,000.00	$42,706.50	$2,293.50
Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area, Expansion 19 (Anderson)	$230,000.00	$228,445.00	$1,554.90
Kingfisher Flat Hatchery, Fire Recovery, Augmentation	$528,000.00	$528,000.00	$0.00
Log Meadow Restoration Augmentation	$209,800.00	$208,864.54	$935.46
Marble Peaks	$20,000.00	$14,430.50	$5,569.50
Pellon Murrieta Acquisition (Section 6)	$20,000.00	$7,812.00	$12,188.00
Rancho Canada Larga	$8,223,478.82	$8,214,979.82	$8,499.00
Reading Island Boat Ramp Planning	$636,000.00	$626,757.15	$9,242.85
State Route 91 B Canyon Wildlife Crossing, Planning	$1,811,000.00	$1,536,869.67	$274,130.33
Total Recoveries to General Fund			***$336,818.54***

Table 3 - Habitat Conservation Fund

Project Name	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Green Oaks Wetland and Riparian Restoration	$1,124,485.00	$1,124,394.04	$90.96
Rancho Canada Larga	$6,546,521.18	$6,546,521.18	$0.00
Total Recoveries to Habitat Conservation Fund			***$90.96***

Table 4- Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund

Project Name	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Battle Creek (Orwick Ranch)	$15,050,000.00	$15,050,000.00	$0.00
CAL FIRE Travis Ranch Conservation Easement	$1,620,247.00	$1,620,247.00	$0.00
Total Recoveries Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund			***$0.00***

Table 5 - Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006

Project Name	Allocated	Expended	Balance
CAL FIRE Travis Ranch Conservation Easement	$1,359,743.00	$1,359,743.00	$0.00
Total Recoveries to Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006			***$0.00***

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

Project Name	Allocated	Expended	Balance
French Meadow Watershed Restoration Project	$788,202.00	$787,756.50	$445.50
Green Gulch Farm Planning - Augmentation	$163,613.00	$161,202.56	$2,410.44
Green Gulch Farm Water Storage and Flow Enhancement Planning	$887,320.00	$886,020.15	$1,299.85
Marble Peaks	$800,000.00	$800,000.00	$0.00
North Fork Lost River Flow and Habitat Enhancement	$2,065,410.00	$2,065,410.00	$0.00
Total Recoveries to Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Fund of 2014			***$4,155.79***

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

Project Name	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Blue Oak Ranch Reserve Infrastructure Improvement	$233,000.00	$233,000.00	$0.00
Kingfisher Flat Hatchery, Fire Recovery	$494,915.00	$494,915.00	$0.00
Kings Beach Pier Replacement and Recreational Access Improvement Planning	$700,000.00	$147,483.81	$552,516.19
Log Meadow Restoration	$191,472.00	$191,471.77	$0.23
McKenzie and Mountain Meadows Creek Planning	$398,000.00	$395,955.85	$2,044.15
Palos Verdes Nature Preserve, Expansion 1	$4,830,000.00	$4,809,963.00	$20,037.00
Pellon Murrieta Acquisition (Section 6)	$610,750.00	$610,750.00	$0.00
Rim Fire Forest Restoration, Phase 2	$4,700,000.00	$4,700,000.00	$0.00
Yuba River Headwaters Aspen Restoration Planning	$260,000.00	$259,993.58	$6.42
Total Recoveries to The California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018			***$574,603.99***

7. Imperial Wildlife Area Wetland Restoration, Phase IV **Restoration – Implementation**

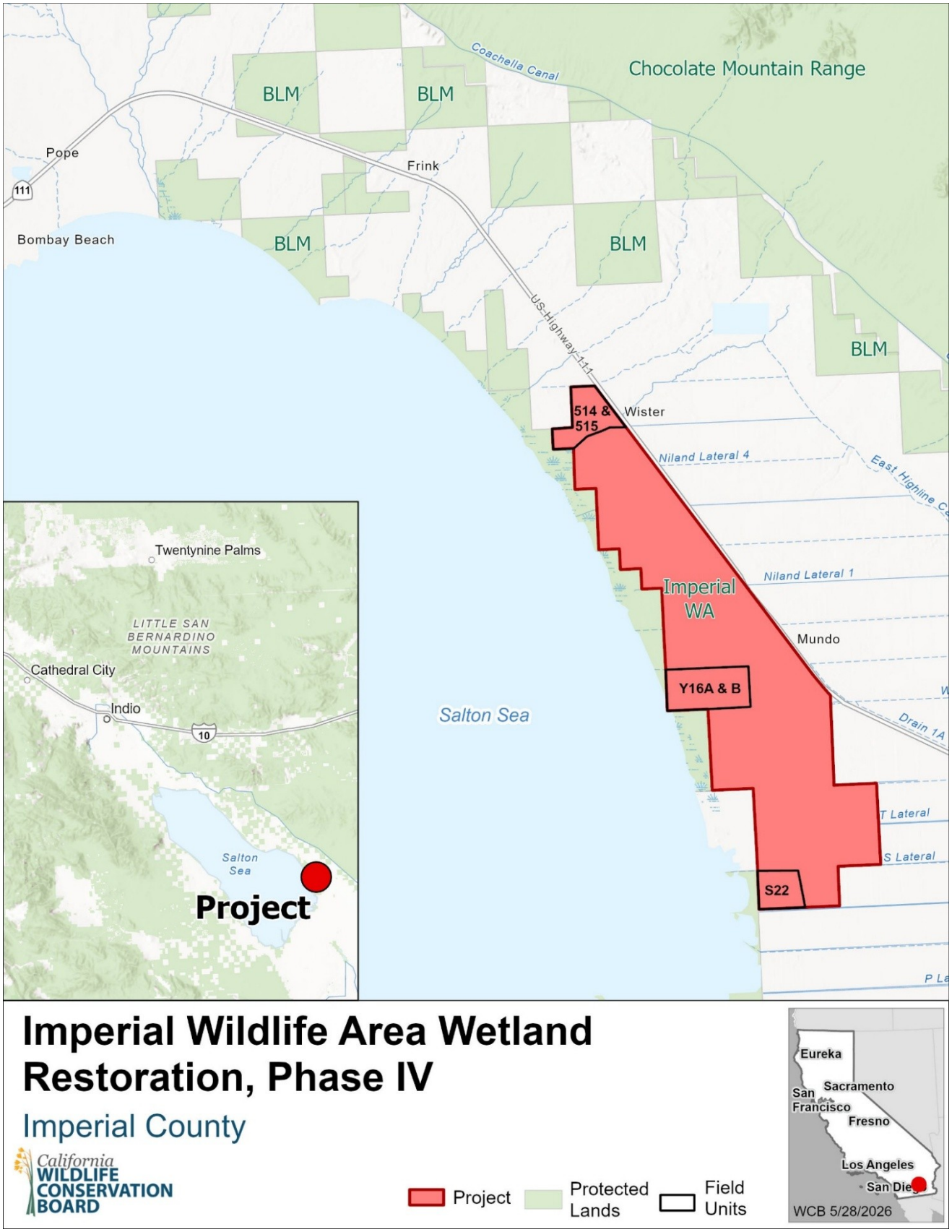
WCB Grant: $1,700,000
Fund Source(s): The California Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 (Proposition 50), Water Code Section 79568
Grantee: California Waterfowl Association
Landowner: California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
Location: 2.5 miles west of Niland
County: Imperial

Project Highlights

- Located in the Imperial Wildlife Area, on the shoreline of the Salton Sea
- Habitats restored: 125 acres of seasonal wetlands restored, and 425 acres of seasonal wetlands enhanced
- Key species: Bald eagle, California least tern, Yuma Ridgway's rail, western snowy plover, southwestern willow flycatcher, California black rail, and numerous other waterfowl and other wetland dependent species
- Regional or Species Plan: Sonoran Joint Venture Conservation Implementation Plan
- Project will increase habitat quality and quantity while increasing water delivery efficiency across the project area

Priority Metrics

- Benefits Justice Communities: Yes, project will provide more efficient water use of diverted Colorado River water. Project is in a SDAC (DWR Mapping Tool)
- Tribal Partnerships: No
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 6, Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship
- WCB Strategic Plan Target: B1.3


Coachella Canal
Chocolate Mountain Range
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111
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Niland Lateral 4
East Highline Ca
Imperial WA
Niland Lateral 1
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Y16A & B
Drain 1A
Salton Sea
T Lateral
S Lateral
S22
P La
Twentynine Palms
LITTLE SAN BERNARDINO MOUNTAINS
Cathedral City
Indio
10
Salton Sea
Project
Imperial Wildlife Area Wetland Restoration, Phase IV
Imperial County
California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD
Project
Protected Lands
Field Units
Eureka
Sacramento
San Francisco
Fresno
Los Angeles
San Diego
WCB 5/28/2026

Project Description

Habitat conditions within the Imperial Wildlife Area Wetland Restoration, Phase IV (Project) project area are extremely poor, and the wetland units have reduced management capabilities. Levees around the units are in various stages of failure and have extremely steep slopes, which prevent access by maintenance equipment. Open water delivery ditches that supply water to the units support significant amounts of non-native salt cedar and phragmites, which choke off water flow and spread invasive seeds.

This Project will create high value habitat for a variety of wetland and upland dependent species throughout the year. Increased water conservation through improved water delivery and efficient removal will enable less water to be used on a larger acreage. At the same time water quality and soil health will be improved, which will reduce residual salt loads within wetland units.

The Project will implement water delivery infrastructure and wetland enhancements by:

- Replacing open-ditch water delivery systems with PVC pipelines to improve water delivery efficiency and reduce water loss.
- Restoring 125 acres of seasonal wetland habitat within Unit 514 through levee improvements, grading, swale construction, and installation of new water control structures.
- Upgrading water delivery infrastructure across an additional 425 acres in Units 515, Y16 A & B, and S22.
- Removing invasive salt ceder within the Project area.

Long-Term Management

CDFW has adopted a Management Plan that guides management actions for the Project, including management of the Project area. If at any time during the 20-year life of the Project, California Waterfowl Association 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	$111,250	---	$111,250
Construction	$1,366,800	$100,000	$1,466,800
Indirect Charges	$221,950	---	$221,950
Total	$1,700,000	---	$1,800,000

Non-WCB funders include:

- CDFW - $100,000

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Jennifer N. Duberstein, Ph.D., Coordinator, Sonoran Joint Venture

Opposition:

- None received

CEQA

The Project is proposed as exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15302, Class 2, Replacement or Reconstruction, consisting of replacement or reconstruction of existing facilities located on the same site and having substantially the same purpose, Section 15303, New Construction or Conversion, consisting of construction and location of limited numbers of new structures or facilities, Section 15304, Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land, consisting of minor public alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate Notice of Exemption (NOE) will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

State Government

- Senate: Senator Steve Padilla, District 18
- Assembly: Assemblymember Lisa Calderon, District 56

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.

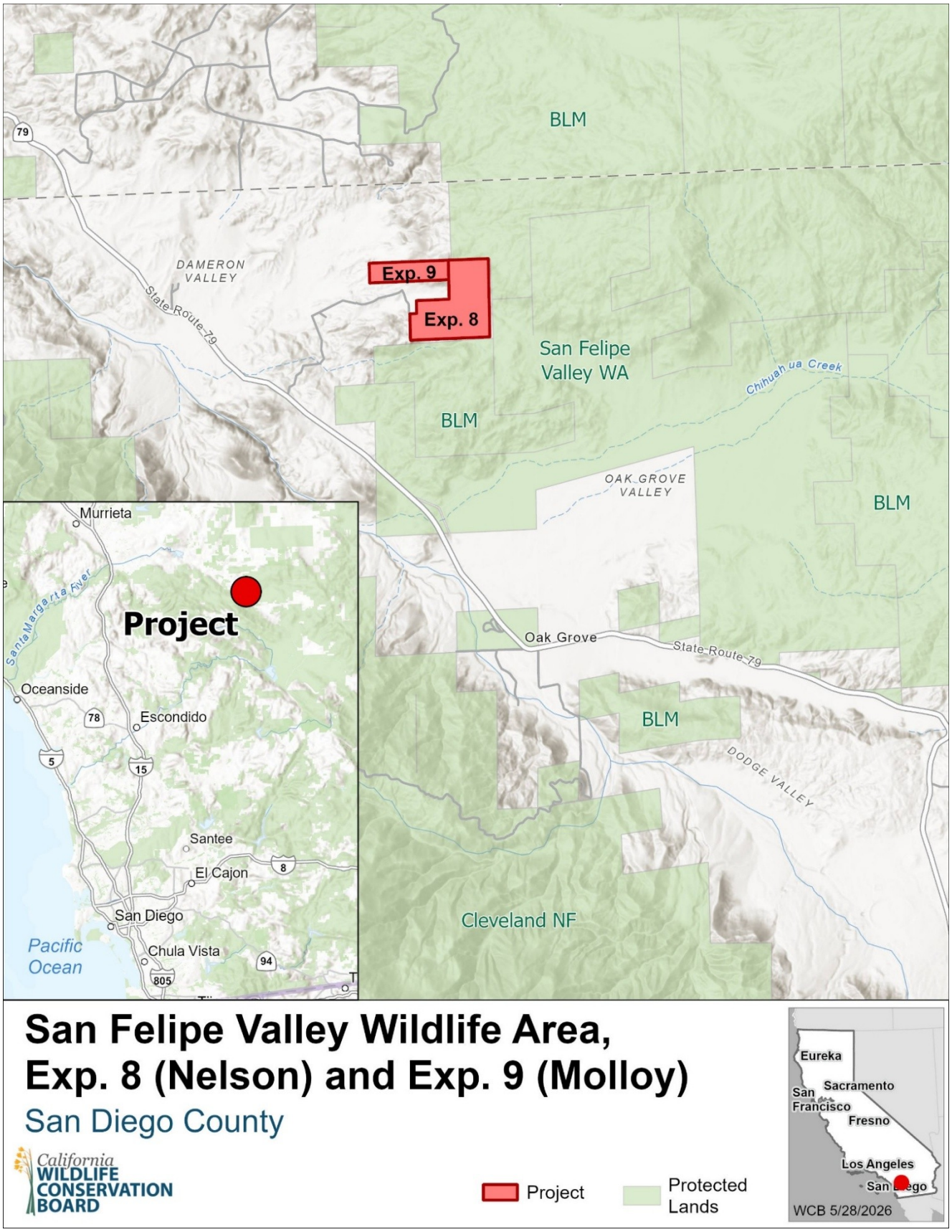
8. San Felipe Valley Wildlife Area, Expansion 8 (Nelson) **Acquisition**
Purchase Price: $360,000 **CDFW Fee**
Fund Source(s): Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c)
Location: 17 miles north of Warner Springs
County: San Diego
Acres: 114± (Property)

Property Highlights

- Addition to CDFW's San Felipe Valley Wildlife Area, Oak Grove Unit
- Habitats represented: Chapparal and coastal sage scrub
- Key species: coastal California gnat catcher, Stephens' kangaroo rat
- Regional or Species Plan: San Diego Multi Species Conservation Plan (MSCP)

Priority Metrics

- Benefits Justice Communities: No
- Tribal Partnerships: No
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 2, Execute Strategic Acquisitions
- WCB Strategic Plan Target: B1.1, B2.1
- Public Access: Yes, open to limited public access


BLM
79
DAMERON VALLEY
State Route 79
Exp. 9
Exp. 8
San Felipe Valley WA
Chihuahua Creek
BLM
OAK GROVE VALLEY
BLM
Murrieta
Santa Margarita River
Project
Oceanside
78
Escondido
5
15
Oak Grove
State Route 79
BLM
DODGE VALLEY
Santee
El Cajon
8
San Diego
Pacific Ocean
Chula Vista
94
805
Cleveland NF
San Felipe Valley Wildlife Area,
Exp. 8 (Nelson) and Exp. 9 (Molloy)
San Diego County
California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD
Project
Protected Lands
Eureka
Sacramento
San Francisco
Fresno
Los Angeles
San Diego
WCB 5/28/2026

Long-Term Management

The Property will be owned and managed by CDFW as part of the San Felipe Valley Wildlife Area.

Project Funding

The Department of General Services (DGS) approved fair market value is $360,000. The proposed funding breakdown is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	$360,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	$360,000

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- None received

Opposition:

- None received

CEQA

The project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to Public Resources Code 21080.28, Acquisition of an Interest in Land by a Public Agency, as an acquisition of an interest in land by a public agency for preservation of natural conditions existing at the time of transfer, including plant and animal habitats. Subject to Board approval of the project, staff will file the appropriate NOE with the State Clearinghouse and the county clerk.

State Government

- Senate: Senator Kelly Seyarto, District 32
- Assembly: Assemblymember Carl DeMaio, District 75

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.

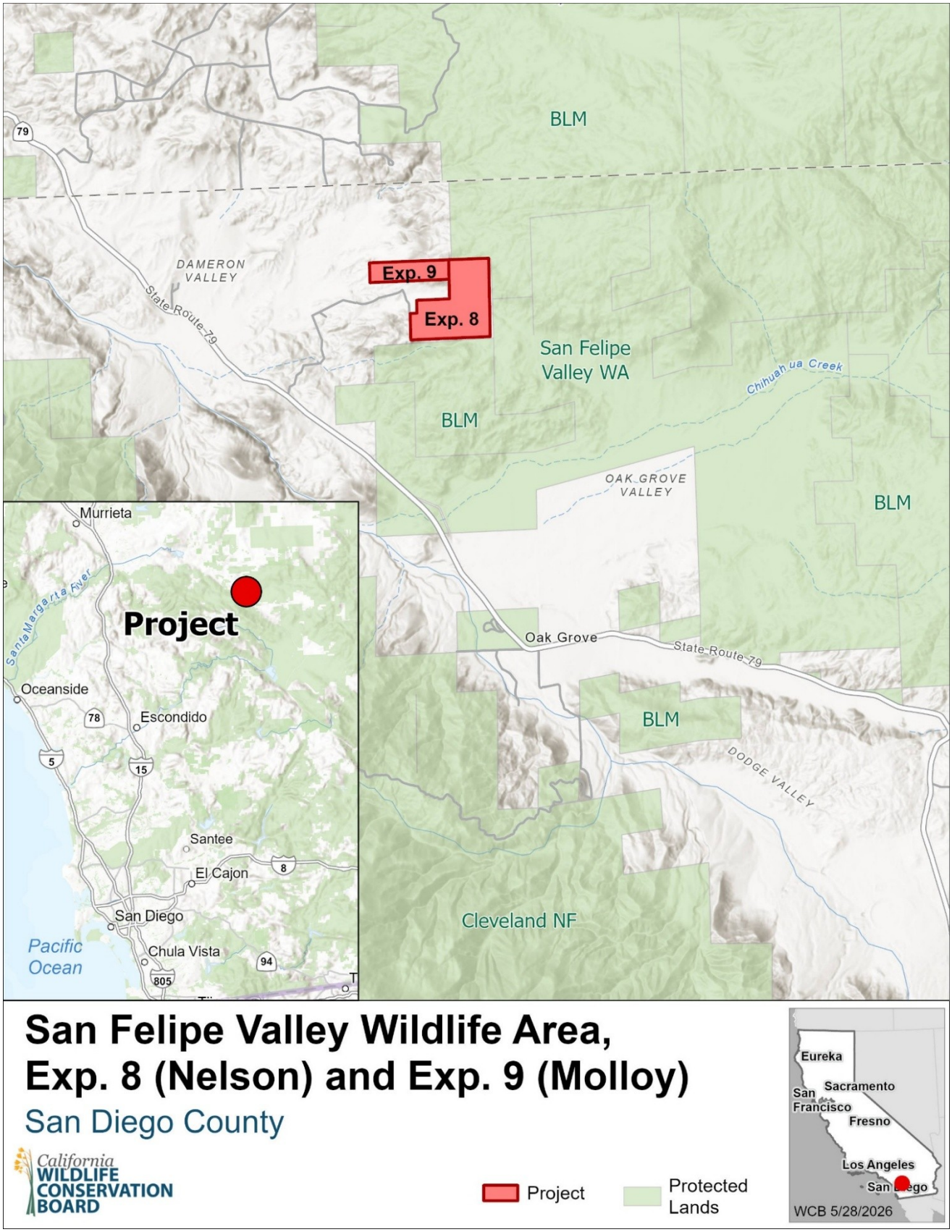
9. San Felipe Valley Wildlife Area, Expansion 9 (Molloy) **Acquisition**
Purchase Price: $174,000 **CDFW Fee**
Fund Source(s): Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c)
Location: 17 miles north of Warner Springs
County: San Diego
Acres: 38± (Property)

Property Highlights

- Addition to CDFW's San Felipe Valley Wildlife Area, Oak Grove Unit
- Habitats represented: Chapparal and coastal sage scrub
- Key species: coastal California gnat catcher, Stephens' kangaroo rat
- Regional or Species Plan: San Diego MSCP

Priority Metrics

- Benefits Justice Communities: No
- Tribal Partnerships: No
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 2, Execute Strategic Acquisitions
- WCB Strategic Plan Target: B1.1, B2.1
- Public Access: Yes, open to limited public access


BLM
79
DAMERON VALLEY
Exp. 9
Exp. 8
State Route 79
San Felipe Valley WA
Chihuah ua Creek
BLM
OAK GROVE VALLEY
BLM
Murrieta
Santa Margarita River
Project
Oceanside
78
Escondido
5
15
Oak Grove
State Route 79
BLM
DODGE VALLEY
Santee
El Cajon
8
San Diego
Pacific Ocean
Chula Vista
94
805
Cleveland NF
San Felipe Valley Wildlife Area,
Exp. 8 (Nelson) and Exp. 9 (Molloy)
San Diego County
California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD
Project
Protected Lands
Eureka
Sacramento
San Francisco
Fresno
Los Angeles
San Diego
WCB 5/28/2026

Long-Term Management

The Property will be owned and managed by CDFW as part of the San Felipe Valley Wildlife Area.

Project Funding

The DGS approved fair market value is $174,000. The proposed funding breakdown is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	$174,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	$174,000

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- None received

Opposition:

- None received

CEQA

The project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to Public Resources Code 21080.28, Acquisition of an Interest in Land by a Public Agency, as an acquisition of an interest in land by a public agency for preservation of natural conditions existing at the time of transfer, including plant and animal habitats. Subject to Board approval of the project, staff will file the appropriate NOE with the State Clearinghouse and the county clerk.

State Government

- Senate: Senator Kelly Seyarto, District 32
- Assembly: Assemblymember Carl DeMaio, District 75

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. Hidden Valley Wildlife Area Utility Easement **Grant of Utility Easement**

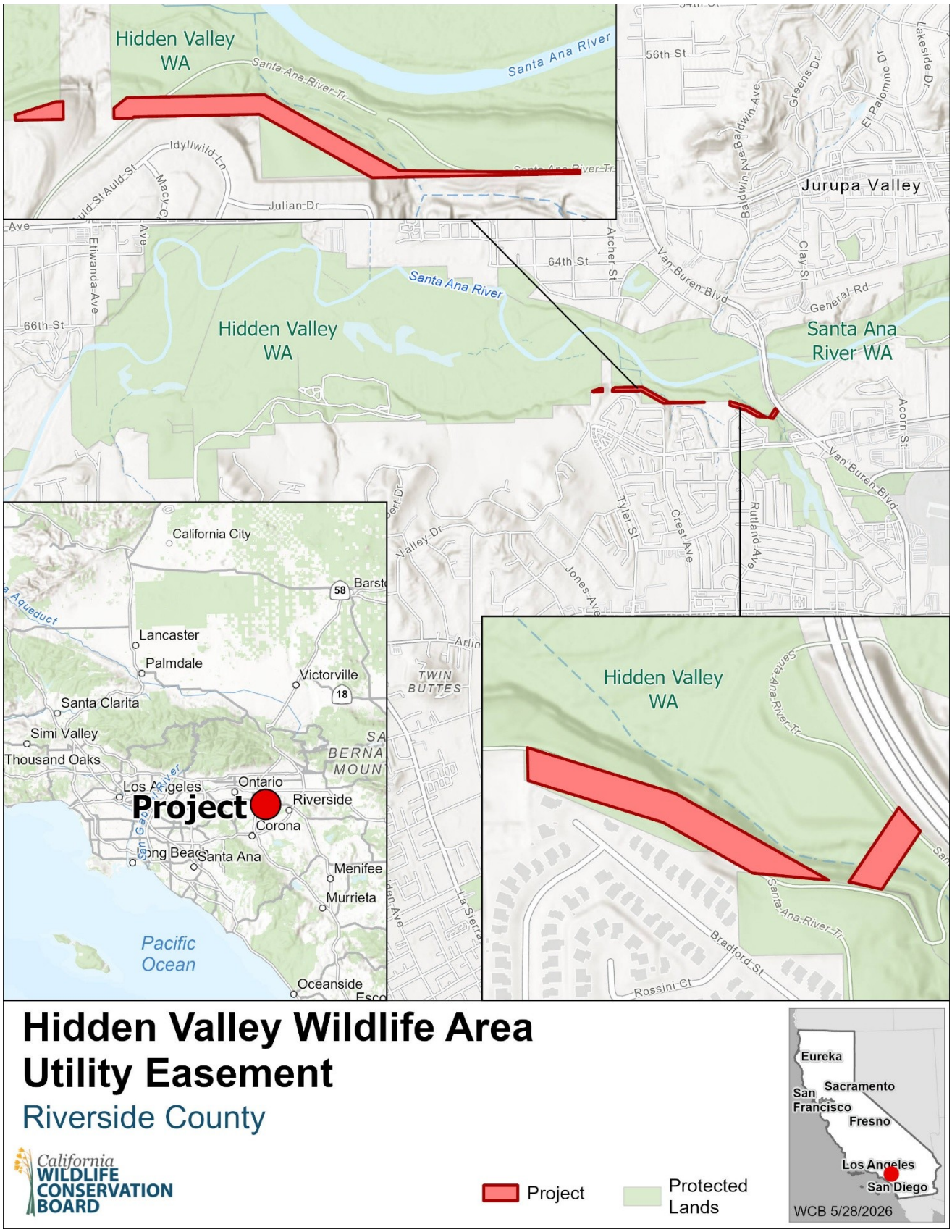
Sale Price: $60,500
Acquiring Entity: Southern California Edison Company
Location: City of Riverside
County: Riverside
Acres: 10± (Property)

Property Highlights

- Southern California Edison (SCE) acquisition of a utility easement (Easement) on CDFW's Hidden Valley Wildlife Area for the Riverside Transmission Reliability Project (RTRP).
- RTRP is jointly planned by SCE and the City of Riverside's Municipal Utility Department (RPU).
- Includes construction of a new 220kV transmission line extending approximately 10 miles from the existing Mira Loma 220kV transmission corridor in the City of Jurupa Valley to a new Substation in the City of Riverside.
- Will help maintain reliability for current and projected demand for electricity in the City of Riverside.
- Located outside of any designated critical habitat.
- Survey determined no rare plants, small mammals, and special status birds were found in Easement location.
- Required LWCF land exchange complete.

Priority Metrics

- Benefits Justice Communities: No
- Tribal Partnerships: No
- Public Access: No


Hidden Valley WA
Santa Ana River
Santa-Ana-River-Tr
Idyllwild-Ln
Julian-Dr
56th St
Jurupa Valley
Badwin-Ave
Greens-Dr
El-Palomino-Dr
Lakeside-Dr
64th St
Archer-St
Van-Buren-Blvd
Clay-St
General-Rd
66th St
Etiwanda-Ave
Hidden Valley WA
Santa Ana River WA
Acorn-St
Tyler-St
Crest-Ave
Rutland-Ave
Valley-Dr
Jones-Ave
TWIN BUTTES
California City
58
Lancaster
Palmdale
Victorville
18
Santa Clarita
Simi Valley
Thousand Oaks
Los Angeles
Ontario
Riverside
Project
Corona
Santa Ana
Menifee
Murrieta
Pacific Ocean
Oceanside
Hidden Valley WA
Santa-Ana-River-Tr
Bradford-St
Rossini-Ct
Hidden Valley Wildlife Area
Utility Easement
Riverside County
California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD
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WCB 5/28/2026

Long-Term Management

The City of Riverside Public Utilities Department provides electric service for customers in the city. Power is delivered to Riverside Public Utilities Department through the regional bulk transmission system owned by SCE and operated by the California Independent System Operator.

Hidden Valley Wildlife Area is managed under a Cooperative Agreement between CDFW and Riverside County. Riverside County manages the property and handles day-to-day operations. CDFW will coordinate with Riverside County as the operators and managers for the Property. They will in turn coordinate with the utilities on behalf of CDFW.

Project Funding

The DGS approved fair market value is $60,500. The proposed funding breakdown is as follows:

Acquiring Entity	Amount
Southern California Edison Company	$60,500
TOTAL Sale Price	$60,500

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 15305, Minor Alterations in Land Use Limitations, consisting of minor alterations in land use limitations in areas with an average slope of less than 20%, which do not result in changes in land use or density. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

State Government

- Senate: Senator Sabrina Cervantes, District 31
- Assembly: Assemblymember Leticia Castillo, District 58

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. Harmon Canyon Preserve Restoration **Restoration – Implementation**

WCB Grant: $1,225,000
Fund Source(s): Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 (Proposition 4 – Existing Programs), Public Resources Code Section 93010 (SB 105, Sec. 94)
Grantee: Ventura Land Trust
Landowner: Ventura Land Trust
Location: City of Ventura
County: Ventura

Project Highlights

- Located in Harmon Canyon Preserve (Preserve) which features 2,123 acres of coastal sage scrub (CSS), coast live oak woodland, and riparian scrub.
- Habitats restored: 45 acres of coastal sage scrub and eradication of invasive salt cedar from the upper Harmon Creek watershed.
- The Preserve contains over 16 miles of publicly accessible trails and hosts approximately 100,000 annual visitors.
- Surveys in the Preserve have identified almost 360 botanical taxa, including several the California Native Plant Society has rated as sensitive.
- Project will include ADA-compliant educational signage in both English and Spanish.
- Herbicide will be used as described in the project's Herbicide Use Questionnaire.

Priority Metrics

- Benefits Justice Communities: No
- Tribal Partnerships: No
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 4: Enhance Conservation of Existing Public Lands and Coastal Waters and Pathway 6, Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship
- WCB Strategic Plan Target: B2.1, C2.2


Rancho Cañada Larga
BLM
BLM
Harmon Canyon Preserve
Sexton Canyon Rd
Pepper Tree Canyon Rd
E Fork Hall Canyon Rd
SEXTON CANYON
LAKE CANYON
Lake Canyon
LONG CANYON
Elizabeth Rd
Sudden Barranca
Via Ondulando
N Victoria Ave
Via Baja
Foothill Rd
N Petit Ave
Cuyama River
Santa Barbara
101
Santa Paula
Project
126
Ventura
Pacific Ocean
Oxnard
Harmon Canyon Preserve Restoration
Ventura County
California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD
Project
Protected Lands
Eureka
Sacramento
San Francisco
Fresno
Los Angeles
San Diego
WCB 5/28/2026

Project Description

The Harmon Canyon Preserve Restoration (Project) site is a recently protected landscape-scale nature preserve neighboring the city of Ventura with a long history of extractive use, including row crop agriculture, cattle ranching, and utility development. Across the Preserve, many areas are exceptionally degraded by prior land uses and have type-converted into dense monotypic invasive plant thickets that threaten the biodiversity and function of the surrounding native ecology, endanger public safety by increasing the risk of ignition and rapid spread of wildfire adjacent to the city of Ventura, and degrade public awareness of native ecology and scenic values.

The Project will restore these areas and improve habitat in the Preserve by:

- Restoring CSS habitat in 45 acres of invasive dominated uplands in the Preserve, creating quality habitat for local wildlife.
- Eradicating salt cedar from the entire upper Harmon Creek tributary.
- Enhancing fire safety to the local ecosystem and residential neighbors by decreasing the fire fuel load from invasive plants, especially in very active public access corridors.
- Eliminating a source of invasive plant seeds and propagules that threaten infestation of surrounding shrublands and public access corridors.
- Enhancing resilience of the local ecosystem to the impacts from climate change by reducing resource competition and fire risk from invasive species.
- Expanding public awareness about the ecological importance of CSS, the urgency of supporting intact diverse ecosystems, the threat of invasive species, and the value of ecological restoration by using social media, the Grantee's docent program, and educational signage in the Preserve.

Long-Term Management

The Ventura Land Trust has adopted a Management Plan that guides management actions for the Project, including management of the property. If at any time during the 20-year 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
Project Management	$167,500	---	$167,500
Field Planning	$44,000	---	$44,000
Site Preparation	$193,000	$23,000	$216,000

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Salt Cedar Eradication	$109,000	---	$109,000
Restoration	$325,150	$7,500	$332,650
Monitoring and Maintenance	$275,000	$177,500	$452,500
Indirect Costs	$111,350	---	$111,350
Total	$1,225,000	$208,000	$1,433,000

Non-WCB funders include:
- Ventura Land Trust - $105,500
- Private Donors - $95,000
- SoCalGas - $7,500

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:
- Senator Monique Limón, California State Senate, District 21
- Supervisor Matt LaVere, County of Ventura Board of Supervisors, First District
- Dr. Jeannette Sanchez-Palacios, Mayor, City of Ventura
- Heidi Ortloff, Watershed Coordinator, Ventura River Watershed Council

Opposition:
- None received

CEQA

The Project is proposed as exempt from CEQA pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15304 Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

State Government

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

Staff Recommendation

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

Herbicide use questionnaire

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

The Beans to Biodiversity Harmon Canyon Preserve coastal sage scrub restoration project includes 45 acres across 12 sites, ranging in size from just under one acre to over 8 acres. These sites are dominated by high invasive plant cover and a variety of integrated pest management (IPM) practices will be required to effectively restore native biodiversity. Ventura Land Trust (VLT) has a team of full time staff that is highly trained to conduct this work utilizing manual, mechanical, chemical, and cultural methods across our over 3,800 acres of wildlands to manage invasive plants and support both native biodiversity and ecological function.

Native plants are present in all of the restoration sites but in very low abundance, generally less than 25% relative cover and sometimes much less. These sites span some elevational gradients and range in proximity to the ephemeral Harmon Creek corridor, so native species composition varies but common species include: purple sage (*Salvia leucophylla*), purple nightshade (*Solanum xantii*), coastal saltbush (*Atriplex lentiformis*), California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), and western ragweed (*Ambrosia psilostachya*). Several of these sites immediately neighbor state ranked coastal sage scrub endemic sensitive plant alliances including California brittlebush (*Encelia californica*), sawtooth goldenbush (*Hazardia squarrosa*), and giant wild rye (*Elymus condensatus*) alliances. No sensitive species have been documented in the restoration project sites, but several occur in surrounding areas including Plummer's baccharis (*Baccharis plummerae* subsp. *plummerae*), southern California black walnut (*Juglans californica* var. *californica*), south coast morning glory (*Calystegia piersonii*), cliff aster (*Malacothrix saxatilis* var *saxatilis)*, and slendar mariposa lily (*Calochortus clavatus* ssp. *gracilis*).

Invasive plant cover is extremely high in these project sites and accumulated biomass is exceptional, ranging from 60-90% absolute cover. Dominant species vary between sites but generally include black mustard (*Brassica nigra*), shortpod mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*), milk thistle (*Silybum marinum*), tocalote (*Centaurea melitensis*), crown daisy (*Glebionis coronaria*), and annual grasses (*Bromus* spp.). The project sites were selected based on extensive (>0.5 acre) areas of monotypic invasive cover. All of the sites have some native cover and will be extensively surveyed, flagged, and digitally mapped to document existing native species and communicate their locations with team members conducting invasive plant treatments to avoid non-target impacts. This is standard practice for VLT field staff—existing native species and passive recruitment is prioritized in all of our land management practices and our staff is highly trained to identify both native and invasive species at all growth stages to support this practice.

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

VLT will use a variety of methods to manage invasive plants in the project areas. For annual species like black mustard, grasses, and tocalote, well timed mechanical trimming is preferred—just before or during bolting. Hand pulling weeds around existing native vegetation is our common practice to avoid any impacts from

weed treatments. Herbicide work will be required due to the size and complexity of the project sites, the growth traits of some of the species, and the potential for unique conditions that require a shift in our traditional practices. For example, shortpod mustard is a very hardy perennial species that cannot be manually or mechanically managed at scale. Crown daisy, while annual, readily resprouts after trimming when soil moisture is high, as in a wet winter or rainy spring. Selective chemical use, when necessary, will be used surgically and only when absolutely necessary and when conditions are most favorable for its effectiveness.

Herbicide treatments will include both foliar spray methods for herbaceous invasives and cut and daub methods for woody weeds like tamarisk (*Tamarix* spp.), tree tobacco (*Nicotiana glauca*), castor bean (*Ricinus communis*), Peruvian peppertree (*Schinus molle*), and eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus* spp.). Foliar spray work will employ well maintained 4-gallon Dewalt backpack sprayers using 2% Aquamaster (glyphosate), 1% Quest (adjuvant water conditioner), 1% Agridex (crop oil surfactant), and indicating dye. For woody weeds, 4 oz Buckthorn Blaster sponge dauber applicators will be used for cut and daub treatments. The daub mix we use depends on the species we are treating but Aquamaster, Polaris (imazapyr), or Pathfinder (trichlopyr) may be used individually or in combination, typically using 80% active ingredient(s), 10% Agridex, and 10% water. The sponge dauber applicator is about 1 cm in diameter and only the cambium of the target stem is daubed.

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

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

  We use a variety of chemicals, catering to the specific species, growth stages, environmental conditions, and the ecological settings we are working in. While glyphosate is non-selective, it has no soil residuality and will only impact target species so long as the application is surgical. Our properties are large and we often are addressing multiple species in a single treatment, so it is important for us to use a chemical that is effective across a range of species. While we don't have perennial aquatic resources in Harmon Canyon Preserve, we do utilize an aquatically approved formula of glyphosate, Aquamaster, to maintain maximum safety to ecological resources across the year. We do occasionally use imazapyr, but the pre-emergent effects in most places in our nature preserve are undesirable in supporting both passive and active restoration and ecological function. Selective broadleaf chemicals, like chlorsulfuron, do not impact grass species, and invasive annual grass and some bunchgrasses like smiliograss (*Stipa miliacea*) and fountaingrass (*Pennisetum setaceum*) are common management targets, rendering it undesirable.

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

  We use Quest as an adjuvant, which does not contain nonylphenol.

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

Manual and mechanical work will also be utilized in each project site. As described above, both of these methods are preferred over chemicals during certain environmental conditions and with some species (especially annuals). Manual methods are typically used in direct proximity to existing natives for both established and actively recruiting plants. Mechanical methods like line trimming can be an effective way to kill annual plants when employed at the right growth stage, and to reduce biomass in larger plants to support less chemical use. VLT's common practice is to thoroughly survey all treatment areas and manually clear around large and small native vegetation to support their continued establishment and preclude mechanical or chemical treatment impacts. These surveys are time consuming and require specialized expertise—not something that can easily be contracted. The scale of this project will make detailed surveys difficult to conduct for every area to the extent required to eliminate impacts to recruiting native plants before line trimming. Mechanical methods are very coarse and can create a colossal amount of disturbance to newly recruiting native plants and to wildlife habitat. Line trimming may be required to be conducted more than once within one growing season to be effective, and that is more costly and impactful over a longer period of time than a single well timed herbicide treatment. Cultural treatments, like grazing with goats, may also be employed if specific conditions are met, including proper soil moisture, growth stage of target species to ensure they remain the foraging focus, and high numbers of recruiting natives aren't present to be indiscriminately targeted. Goat grazing can be a highly effective way to reduce notable biomass, but is another exceptionally coarse tool that can damage existing native plants and preclude passively recruiting native cohorts.

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

Ventura Land Trust is deeply committed to supporting biodiversity and ecological function on our nature preserves. Excessive chemical use does not align with that mission. We use herbicides like a scalpel to strictly treat target plants, and only when conditions are favorable for effective chemical treatment. All of our treatments are conducted by hand by seasoned and highly trained staff who undergo annual safety and calibration training. We use precision methods, including well maintained Dewalt spray backpacks with an adjustable emitter to modify droplet sizes that allow us to mitigate drift in breezy conditions. Our daubers are small and precise with 1 cm diameter applicator heads that allow us to strictly paint the cambium of the target vegetation without any leaking or overflow. We only spray in low or no wind conditions (0-5mph). Staff utilize a variety of methods to avoid overspray including bending target vegetation away from non-target plants, spraying at the right growth stage to avoid excessive chemical use and adjacent native species, and orienting the direction of our spray to avoid drift and over spray. We use aquatically approved herbicide to be excessively safe, but no perennial surface water is present on the property.

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

Invasive plant treatment in this project would not be possible without the use of chemicals. At 45 acres, the project is too large and the ecology too complex to only use manual and mechanical methods. Some of the work sites, including the largest one at 8 acres with the most monotypic invasive cover, requires walking in over 0.5 miles to access. Using low concentration herbicides in a smart way that allows the minimal application amount possible will allow full treatment across a spectrum of species, including perennials, for each funded treatment year which will maximize long term effectiveness. There are no known biocontrols for our target species, except for salt cedar. However, our distribution and density is too low for Diorhabda spp. to establish (ascertained from direct personal experience working with Dr. Tom Dudley on repeated introductions at Tejon Ranch).

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

We estimate the total cost for using only non-chemical management to achieve our project goals would be $3 million dollars and would take up to 8 years to perform. It would require considerably more trained staff, more time in the field conducting treatments, and a much longer timeframe to achieve similar results. Some species, like the very large tamarisk growing in very inaccessible drainages, would not be possible to kill without chemicals. Others, like shortpod mustard, that can flower any time of year, can't be killed manually without meticulously unearthing, and with seeds maintaining viability for 50 years in the seedbank, will be impossible to effectively manage at scale without the use of chemicals. Because we own this property and are committed to its long-term maintenance, we will continue to manage these project sites into the future but unless we can maintain funding for a substantially large team to conduct ongoing mechanical weed treatment across this large scale, we would not be able to keep invasive cover acceptably low without the strategic and minimal use of chemicals.

For California Department of Fish and Wildlife owned/managed properties only:
Have you worked with CDFW's Pest Control Advisor to develop an integrated past management plan that uses the safest and most effective herbicide formulation(s) and application method(s) for your project?

N/A

12. Windy Springs Meadow Restoration **Restoration – Implementation**

WCB Grant: $427,729
Fund Source(s): Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 (Proposition 4 – Existing Programs), Public Resources Code Section 93010 (SB 105, Sec. 94, Tulare/Kern/Kings)
Grantee: Foundation for the Kern Valley Indian Community
Landowner: Private Landowner
Location: 36 miles northwest of Ridgecrest
County: Tulare

Project Highlights

- Increased groundwater storage will improve the resilience of this ecosystem to climate change and fire
- Culturally significant plant species: piñon nuts and willows
- Project will provide hands-on educational opportunities for undergraduate and graduate researchers from UCLA, as well as Earth Skills classes

Priority Metrics

- Benefits Justice Communities: Yes, the project is located within a DAC per the climate bond mapping tool. The project will benefit the surrounding justice community by increasing fire resiliency.
- Tribal Partnerships: Yes, the Kern Valley Indian Community is the proposed grantee
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 6, Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship
- WCB Strategic Plan Target: B3.4, C1.1, C1.3, C2.3, P2.2


Inyo NF
BLM
Sequoia NF
Kennedy Meadow Rd
South Fork Kern River
BLM
Lone Pine
Owens Valley
Cartago
395
Coso
Project
Sierra Trl
Pinion Dr
Kennedy Meadow Rd
Up the Hill Rd
Sierra Meadows Rd
Kennedy Meadows
Windy Springs Meadow Restoration
Tulare County
California Wildlife Conservation Board
Project
Protected Lands
Eureka
Sacramento
San Francisco
Fresno
Los Angeles
San Diego
WCB 5/28/2026

Project Description

The Windy Springs Meadow Restoration (Project) site is heavily degraded due to ranching activities that occurred in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The extent of the wet meadow has been reduced due to road construction, clearing for pasture, hydrologic alteration of springs, channelization of outflows, construction of berms, and conifer and sagebrush encroachment.

The Project will be implemented on 3.1 acres of the meadow and will restore the natural hydrology of Windy Springs Meadow by:

- Removing infrastructure from the springs, meadow, and spring outflow channel, reconnecting surface water and groundwater sources with the meadow
- Installing beaver dam analogues and willow fascines to reduce channel incision which threatens meadow extent
- Installing a zuni bowl to stabilize an actively eroding headcut
- Invasive management will include mechanical removal when the berms in the meadow are removed and burying cheatgrass seed 4 to 6 inches deep
- Planting culturally significant, wildfire resistant, and climate resilient plants
- Implementing road improvements to decrease sediment mobilized from road drainages

Long-Term Management

The Private Landowner has adopted a Management Plan that guides management actions for the Project, including management of the property. Management of the property will be focused on conservation and providing access for tribal members. Grazing of livestock will not be permitted on the property, unless a short-term grazing intervention is indicated as a necessary and useful disturbance for ecological habitat management. If at any time during the 20-year life of the Project, Foundation for the Kern Valley Indian Community 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
Coordination and Project Management	$90,849	$26,803	$117,652
Implementation	$244,148	$300,000	$544,148
Monitoring and Adaptive Management	$79,465	---	$79,465

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Indirect Costs	$13,267	---	$13,267
Total	$427,729	$326,803	$754,532

Non-WCB funders include:
- Sierra Meadows Partnership - $300,000
- Wildscape Engineering - $2,803
- Private Landowner - $24,000

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:
- John Hodge, Field Manager (Acting), Bureau of Land Management Interior Regions 8 & 10
- H. Bradley Shaffer, Distinguished Professor, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology & Institute of the Environment and Sustainability and Director of the La Kretz Center for California Conservation Science, California Conservation Genomics Project, Stunt Ranch Reserve, University of California Los Angeles
- Larry Watson, Engineer, Tulare County Fire Department
- Joan Parker, President, Tulare Kings Audubon Board

Opposition:
- None received

CEQA

County of Tulare, as lead agency, determined that the Project is categorically exempt from the CEQA pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15333, Class 33, Small Habitat Restoration Projects as a small project that will restore habitat for plants and wildlife. Staff considered the lead agency's CEQA exemption and, 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
- Assembly: Assemblymember Stan Ellis, District 32

Staff Recommendation

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

13. Salinas River Arundo Eradication, Phase VI **Restoration – Implementation**

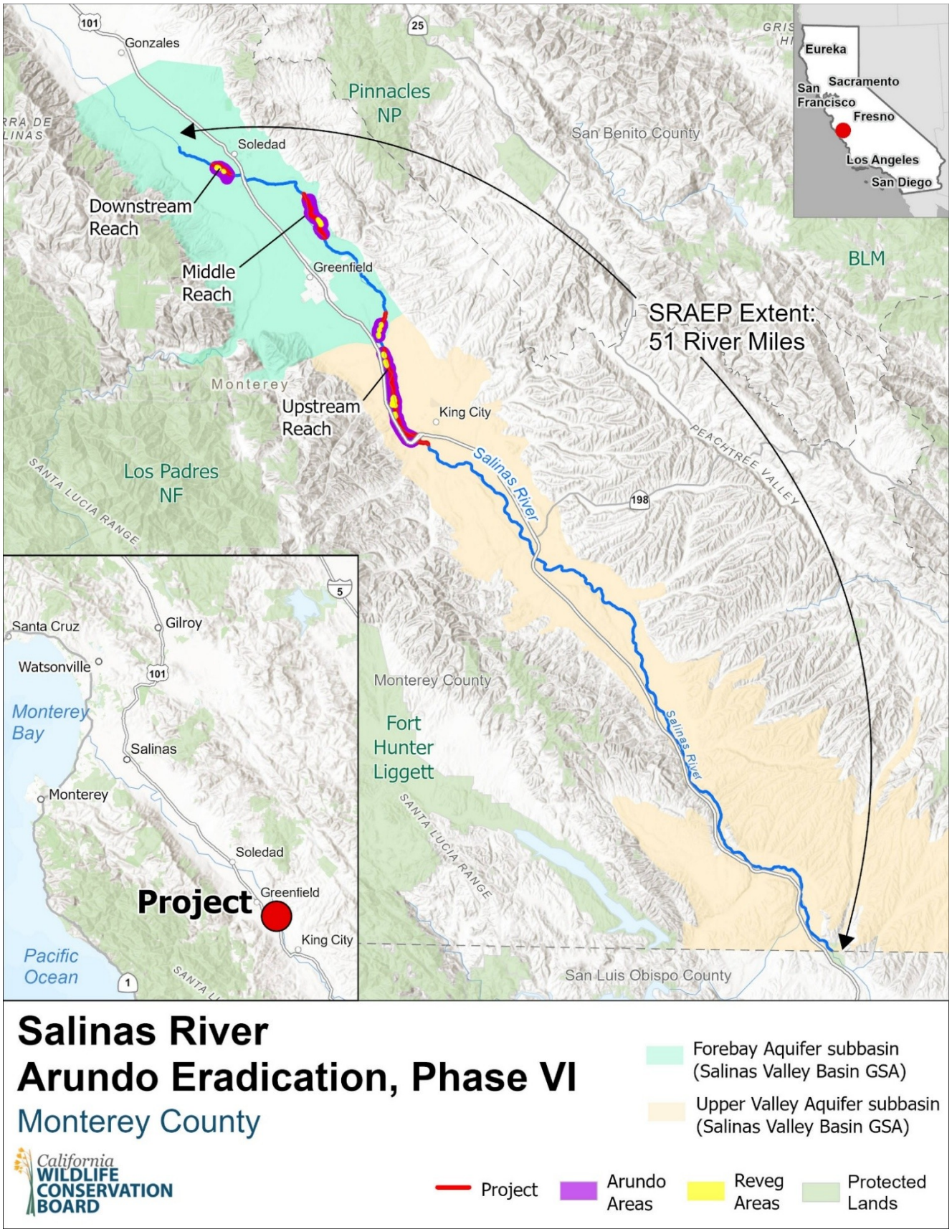
WCB Grant: $1,824,000
Fund Source(s): Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 (Proposition 4 – Existing Programs), Public Resources Code Section 93010 (SB 105, Sec. 94)
Grantee: Resource Conservation District of Monterey County
Landowner: numerous private landowners
Location: Two miles north of King City
County: Monterey and San Luis Obispo

Project Highlights

- Treating the remaining 42 acres of invasive non-native *Arundo donax* (arundo) within the upper 51-mile reach of the Salinas River Arundo Eradication Program (SRAEP)
- Supporting future SRAEP efficiencies by creating new weed maps and streamlining permitting through Cutting the Green Tape
- Supporting the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan, a critically overdrafted basin
- Restoring 21 acres of native habitat on agricultural lands
- Protecting previous public investments of $12 million in the SRAEP
- Herbicide will be used as described in the project's Herbicide Use Questionnaire

Priority Metrics

- Benefits Justice Communities: Yes, project area is within a DAC and vulnerable to climate threats of extreme heat, drought, and flooding according to the Climate Bond's (S)DAC and Vulnerable Communities platforms. The project will help reduce flood and fire risk and improve groundwater recharge.
- Tribal Partnerships: No
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 6, Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship
- WCB Strategic Plan Target: B2.2; C2.1, C2.3


Gonzales
Pinnacles NP
Soledad
San Benito County
Downstream Reach
Middle Reach
Greenfield
BLM
SRAEP Extent: 51 River Miles
Monterey
Upstream Reach
King City
Los Padres NF
SANTA LUCIA RANGE
Salinas River
PEACHTREE VALLEY
198
Eureka
Sacramento
San Francisco
Fresno
Los Angeles
San Diego
Santa Cruz
Gilroy
Watsonville
Monterey Bay
Salinas
Monterey
Project
Pacific Ocean
Monterey County
Fort Hunter Liggett
San Luis Obispo County
Salinas River
Arundo Eradication, Phase VI
Monterey County
California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD
Forebay Aquifer subbasin (Salinas Valley Basin GSA)
Upper Valley Aquifer subbasin (Salinas Valley Basin GSA)
Project
Arundo Areas
Reveg Areas
Protected Lands

Project Description

The Resource Conservation District of Monterey County (RCDMC) will implement Phase VI of the multi-benefit Salinas River Arundo Eradication Project (SRAEP) (Project). Since 2014, RCDMC has been leading the SRAEP program with broad stakeholder support and has initiated treatment on over 1,050 acres of invasive non-native arundo out of an approximately 1,500-acre infestation. Phase VI is an essential step toward the goal of complete eradication. This phase will target arundo stands in three reaches in Monterey County where landowners have previously not allowed treatment to occur but are now granting permission. These three reaches are between King City and Soledad and will complete treatment of arundo within the upper reach of SRAEP, allowing the RCDMC to focus future phases along the lower 40-mile reach of the Salinas River.

The Project will protect previous public investments, improve SRAEP efficiencies, enhance watershed health, and increase biodiversity and climate resiliency by:

- Controlling 42 acres of arundo with chemical treatments, preventing these large source populations from reinfesting previously treated areas downstream.
- Planting 4,000 native riparian plants on 21 acres of agricultural lands to increase biodiversity and protect bank stability.
- Reducing fire, drought, and flood risk in vulnerable communities.
- Protecting groundwater from uptake by arundo.
- Creating new maps of non-native invasive arundo, common reed, and salt cedar along the Salinas River to guide future work.
- Obtaining permits under Cutting the Green Tape to streamline permitting requirements and reduce annual permitting costs.

Long-Term Management

The RCDMC has adopted a Management Plan that guides management actions for the Project, including management of the treated properties. If at any time during the 20-year life of the Project, RCDMC 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	$44,322	$5,000	$49,322
Coordination and Outreach	$170,592	$24,000	$194,592

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Permitting and Compliance	$234,542	$49,200	$283,742
Arundo Control and Revegetation	$1,119,614	$181,348	$1,300,962
Monitoring	$23,123	---	$23,123
Mapping	$4,092	$28,399	$32,491
Indirect	$227,715	---	$227,715
Total	$1,824,000	$287,947	$2,111,947

Non-WCB funders include:

- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation - $4,000
- U.S. Department of Agriculture- $2,000
- CDFW - $10,985
- California Department of Food and Agriculture - $120,000
- Monterey County Agricultural Commissioner - $25,000
- Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency - $20,000
- Private Landowners - $105,962

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Senator John Laird, 17th District, California State Senate
- Congressman Jimmy Panetta, 19th District, United States House of Representatives
- Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren, 18th District, United States House of Representatives
- Assemblymember Robert Rivas, 29th District, Speaker of the Assembly, California State Assembly
- Assemblymember Dawn Addis, 13th District, California State Assembly
- Supervisor Chris M. Lopez, District 3, Monterey County Board of Supervisors
- Richard Ordonez, Assistant Agricultural Commissioner, Monterey County Agricultural Commissioner
- Ara Azhderian, General Manager, Monterey County Water Resources Agency
- Piret Harmon, General Manager, Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency
- Connor Jandreau, Director and Partnerships Coordinator, California Central Coast Joint Venture
- Abigail Hart, Project Director, Water Program, The Nature Conservancy
- Tim Frahm, California Central Coast Steelhead Project Manager, Trout Unlimited
- Brad Rice, General Manager, Salinas Land Company

- Richard Domingos, Landowner, Domingos Farms
- David Costa, Landowner, Costa Farms Inc.

Opposition:

- None received

CEQA

The RCDMC, as lead agency, prepared a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the project pursuant to the provisions of the CEQA. Staff considered the MND and 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 John Laird, District 17
- Assembly: Assemblymember Robert Rivas, District 29
- Assembly: Assemblymember Dawn Addis, District 30

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the 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.

Salinas River Arundo Eradication Project Phase VI Application Resource Conservation District of Monterey County

Herbicide Use Questionnaire

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

For this project (Salinas River Arundo Eradication Project Phase VI), the RCD of Monterey County will target Arundo donax (arundo), which exists in scattered dense stands (patches) interspersed with other vegetation, including native and nonnative trees, shrubs, forbs, and grasses. The percent cover of arundo in the specific patches we will be treating is typically 80- 95%. Zooming out, arundo covers 40-60% of the landscape in the overall project areas. Though not the target of this project, other species that may be subject to herbicide application if encountered in the project area are Tamarix spp. (salt cedar) and Nicotiana glauca (tree tobacco), and Phragmites australis (phragmites) which typically occur at low abundance (<1% cover).

Dominant native species in the general project area include Baccharis pilularis (coyote brush), Salix exigua (sandbar willow), Salix laevigata (red willow), Salix lasiolepis (arroyo willow), Populus fremontii (cottonwood), and Toxicodendron diversilobum (poison oak).

Dominant nonnative invasive plant species include Arundo donax (arundo), and a variety of annual grasses, e.g., Bromus diandrus (ripgut brome), Festuca myuros (rattail fescue), and annual forbs, e.g., Hirschfeldia incana (shortpod mustard), Melilotus spp. (sweet clover).

There is one rare plant that we have documented in nearby locations to the project sites: Eriogonum elegans (elegant buckwheat). We do not know if it is present in the specific project areas but will conduct surveys for it in accordance with our permit-required pre-activity surveys.

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

Tank mix concentrations will include the following formulations. Note that depending on conditions at the time of spraying (for example, drought stress), the mix may be adjusted depending on the best professional judgment of the Pest Control Advisor. All applications will follow label specifications.

Herbicide mix for initial treatment with backpack sprayers:

- Aquatic approved glyphosate (e.g., Roundup Custom, AquaMaster) – 3-5%
- Aquatic-approved imazapyr (e.g., Polaris) – 1.25% [if plants are drought stressed]
- MSO surfactant (e.g., Loveland Products) – 0.25%
- Spray indicator dye – 0.62%

Herbicide mix for re-treating arundo re-sprouts:

- Aquatic approved glyphosate (e.g., Roundup Custom, AquaMaster) – 1-3.75%
- Aquatic-approved imazapyr (e.g., Polaris) – 1.25%
- Surfactant (e.g., MSO-Loveland Products, Herbimax-Loveland Products) – 0.16-0.25%
- Spray indicator dye – 0.62%

Herbicide will be applied between June 1 and November 14 in accordance with program permits.

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

Only two herbicides are allowed by our program permits: imazapyr and glyphosate. Imazapyr has a higher risk of harming neighboring non-target vegetation than glyphosate. Glyphosate will be used for initial treatment (first year) because of the greater amount of chemical needed in this phase and the desire to protect neighboring plant communities from collateral damage. If plants are drought-stressed, imazapyr may be added to the tank mix to improve efficacy. During retreatment (second year and beyond), a mix of glyphosate and imazapyr will be used to maximize herbicide efficacy. The risk of non-target damage when spraying resprouts is low.

Glyphosate and imazapyr are the recommended chemicals for treating arundo according to weed control experts (e.g., UC Weed Research and Information Center). They are safer for the applicators and for wildlife than many alternatives. We have used these chemicals for the Salinas River Arundo Eradication Program since 2014 and have not only documented their effectiveness in controlling arundo, but the recovery of the plant communities in treated areas after use, including the survival and growth of native plants planted directly into glyphosate- treated arundo less than two months after treatment.

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

Of the two chemicals permitted to be used on this project (glyphosate and imazapyr), glyphosate is the safer of the two when it comes to non-target impacts to neighboring plants.

We have found that when applied appropriately, non-target impacts of glyphosate are minimal. We always use aquatic formulations of products to minimize impacts to fish and wildlife. The tank mixes provided above are what have been used successfully and safely under previous program phases.

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

Yes. All adjuvants will be aquatic-approved and will not contain alkylphenol ethoxylate.

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

Because this project will occur in areas where mechanically removing arundo (typically our first step) is forbidden by the landowners due to erosion and bank stability concerns, we are not able to use non-chemical control methods. We intend to spray the arundo stands in place without mechanical treatment to allow the dead biomass to provide stability while native plants are introduced.

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

In areas where native vegetation overlaps arundo, crews will cut back native vegetation (e.g., willow branches) to allow arundo to be treated without causing overspray onto native plants. In some cases, arundo may be pulled or bent down away from native vegetation with ropes to spray. If overspray occurs, crews will remove the affected branches to prevent herbicide translocation. We have used these techniques throughout the 11-year history of the SRAEP.

Our NPDES Aquatic Pesticide Application Plan and program permits have additional details on minimizing spills and unintentional herbicide contamination, such as parking vehicles and mixing chemicals on tarps in dedicated staging areas.

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

The only way to kill arundo without herbicides is to physically remove the entire plant and every last fragment of its rhizomes with large machinery. This would be far more destructive

to the ecosystem and far more costly than applying herbicide. Hand-pulling is not physically possible for a mortal human. Mowing and burning triggers regrowth. Biocontrol agents for arundo have been investigated but none are capable of achieving eradication, which is the goal of the project.

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

Non-chemical removal methods are not feasible for this project. Not only would we have to complete a new regulatory process, including starting over with CEQA compliance and developing a new set of permits (ground disturbance is not included in our current project description or permits), but more importantly, the landowners would not consent to this approach.

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

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

N/A

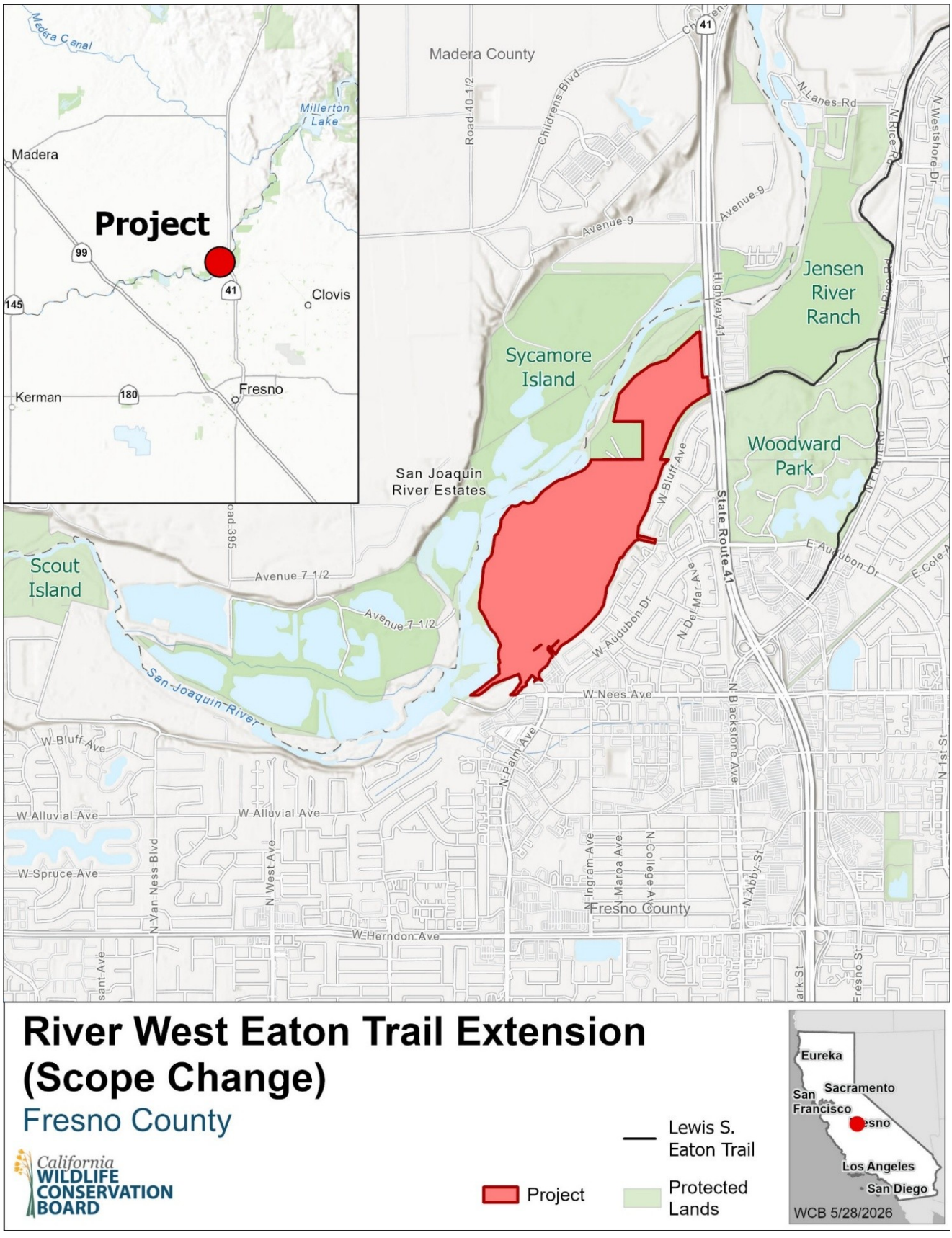
14. River West Fresno Eaton Trail Extension Planning **Restoration – Planning**
(Scope Change)
WCB Grant: $0
Fund Source(s): N/A
Grantee: City of Fresno
Landowner: San Joaquin River Conservancy (SJRC) and private landowners
Location: City of Fresno
County: Fresno

Project Highlights

- Change of scope for the planning phase of the River West Fresno Trail Extension Project
- Developing 100% engineering designs, a habitat restoration plan, and applying for permits for new river access points, parking, ~2.4 miles of trail, and other public access amenities
- Project supports increasing public access to the San Joaquin River Parkway

Priority Metrics

- Benefits Justice Communities: Yes, the project is adjacent to and serves the Pinedale Community, a DAC with a CalEnviroScreen 4.0 overall score of 96, and Madera County, which has a CalEnviroScreen 4.0 overall score of 93.
- Tribal Partnerships: No
- Pathways to 30x30: N/A
- WCB Strategic Plan Target: P1.3, P3.1


Madera Canal
Millerton Lake
Madera
Project
99
41
145
Clovis
Kerman
180
Fresno
Madera County
Road 40 1/2
Childrens Blvd
Avenue 9
Highway 41
Jensen River Ranch
Sycamore Island
Woodward Park
San Joaquin River Estates
W Bluff Ave
State Route 41
Scout Island
Avenue 7 1/2
San Joaquin River
W Audubon Dr
N Del Mar Ave
E Audubon Dr
W Nees Ave
N Blackstone Ave
N Palm Ave
W Alluvial Ave
W Spruce Ave
N Van Ness Blvd
N West Ave
Ingram Ave
Maroa Ave
N College Ave
N Abby St
Fresno County
W Herndon Ave
N Lanes Rd
N Rice Rd
N Westshore Dr
N 1st St
E Cole Ave
River West Eaton Trail Extension (Scope Change)
Fresno County
California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD
Lewis S. Eaton Trail
Project
Protected Lands
Eureka
Sacramento
San Francisco
Fresno
Los Angeles
San Diego
WCB 5/28/2026

Project Description

The San Joaquin River Parkway, River West Eaton Trail Extension Planning (Project) was approved by the Board in November 2021. The goal of the Project is to provide public access to River West and support SJRC's mission to create a contiguous Parkway. SJRC developed an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and Addendum 1 to the EIR for the Project in a previous phase. The EIR and Addendum 1 were approved by the SJRC Board in 2017 and 2020, and this Project phase will continue and complete Project planning to prepare for implementation. The Project will develop final engineering designs and apply for permitting to extend the existing Lewis S. Eaton Trail (Eaton Trail) and build three access points to the Project Site with parking and other public access amenities (e.g., bathrooms, interpretative signage, pet stations). The Eaton Trail extension is planned to be approximately 2.4 miles starting at the Perrin Avenue alignment near State Route (SR) 41 and ending at Spano Park. The new access points are planned to be at Perrin Avenue, West Riverview Drive, and North Palm Avenue.

The Project will support public access to the San Joaquin River Parkway by:

- Developing final (100%) Project design, specifications, estimates, and plans
- Developing a final Habitat Restoration and Revegetation Plan for post-construction work
- Completing environmental compliance and applying for permits required for the Project implementation phase

While designing the Project, Grantee and SJRC agreed to expand the Project footprint to include connecting Woodward Park to the Perrin Ave/SR 41 river access ("Woodward West") by extending the Lewis Eaton Trail. Grantee and SJRC (CEQA Lead Agency) developed Amendment 2 to the EIR to include this addition to the Project. The SJRC Board adopted Amendment 2 and filed the NOD in October 2025. Grantee requested to amend the grant agreement's scope of work to include Amendment 2 and clarify the work at Woodward West and to extend the agreement end date to March 15, 2030.

Long-Term Management

Not applicable to this Project

Project Funding

This is a no-cost scope change. Grantee is not requesting a budget amendment.

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- None received

Opposition:

- None received

CEQA

SJRC, as lead agency, prepared an EIR for the Project pursuant to the provisions of the CEQA. Staff considered the EIR and 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 Shannon Grove, District 12
- Assembly: Assemblymember Jim Patterson, District 8

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.

15. South Tahoe Basin Wildlife Crossings **Restoration – Planning**

WCB Grant: $4,900,000
Fund Source(s): Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 (Proposition 4- Habitat Connectivity), Public Resources Code Section 93030 (SB 105, Sec. 95)
Grantee: Wildlife Crossing Fund
Landowner: N/A
Location: South Lake Tahoe
County: El Dorado

Project Highlights

- Planning for retrofitting and upgrading culverts and bridges located in three distinct areas within the South Tahoe Basin: State Route 89, Pioneer Trail Road, and U.S. Highway 50.
- The Basin plays an important role by providing essential regional habitat connectivity for a wide range of species within the Sierra Nevada Range and throughout the neighboring northern Sierra Valley and eastern Carson Range in Nevada.
- Trail camera monitoring has recorded black bears, bobcats, coyotes, mule deer, and porcupines investigating culverts and bridges, finding the structures unsuitable for passage, and opting to travel across the road in front of on-coming vehicles.
- Culvert remediation will also improve aquatic species passage within the range of the federally threatened Lahontan cutthroat trout and the endangered Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog.
- Addresses three barriers on CDFW's Wildlife Movement Barriers Priories list: SR 89 and US 50 are both listed as a "Priority Barrier" and Pioneer Trail Road is listed as a "Barrier".

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: B1.1, B1.2, C2.2


Emerald Bay
Emerald Bay
Lake Tahoe
South Lake Tahoe
Camp Richardson
Spring Creek
Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit
MOUNT TALLAC
TAHOE MOUNTAIN
Fallen Leaf Lake
Cold Creek
LAKE VALLEY
Washoe Meadows SP
Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit
Trout Creek
SIERRA NEVADA MOUNTAINS
Donner
Truckee
Tahoe City
Lake Tahoe
Project
Echo Lake
South Fork American River
Kyburz
Nebelhorn
Eldorado NF
89
80
50
South Tahoe Basin Wildlife Crossings
El Dorado County
California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD
Project
Protected Lands
Eureka
Sacramento
San Francisco
Fresno
Los Angeles
San Diego
WCB 5/28/2026

Project Description

The South Tahoe Basin Wildlife Crossings (Project) will develop a number of alternatives to assess the best possible locations for wildlife crossing structures along two highways and a county road in El Dorado County and develop the plans, designs, environmental review and Caltrans documentation necessary to enhance wildlife connectivity and reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions within the network of roads and highways through important aquatic and terrestrial habitat in the South Tahoe Basin. Wildlife connectivity enhancement recommendations will include retrofitting large culverts into open span bridges, upgrading culverts to facilitate large mammal movement through them, and retrofitting bridges to create banks for wildlife passage.

The Project will create plans and designs for the remediation of wildlife crossing barriers by developing:

- Outreach to wildlife, land use, and transportation agencies, landowners and managers, Tribes, and conservation organizations in the region
- A feasibility study that will develop potential design alternatives and rough cost estimates for a range of options for enhancement efforts to improve connectivity
- Technical studies necessary to select a preferred alternative and to support design work
- CEQA and NEPA environmental review
- 65% designs for at least one wildlife crossing structure
- Caltrans documentation

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 and Coordination	$896,032	$100,000	$996,032
Feasibility Study	$427,747	---	$427,747
Caltrans Documentation	$1,368,000	---	$1,368,000
Technical Studies	$440,018	---	$440,018
Designs	$1,768,203	---	$1,768,203
Total	$4,900,000	$100,000	$5,000,000

Non-WCB funders include:

- Wildlife Crossing Fund - $100,000

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Brooke Laine, El Dorado County Supervisor, District 5
- Erick J. Walker, Forest Supervisor, U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service - Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit
- Rich Adams, Acting District Superintendent, California State Parks – Sierra District
- Erin Ernst, Natural Resources Division Director, California Tahoe Conservancy
- Beth Vollmer, Senior Environmental Specialist, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency

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 Marie Alvarado-Gil, District 4
- 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. Emerson Side Channel and Riparian Restoration Planning **Restoration – Planning**

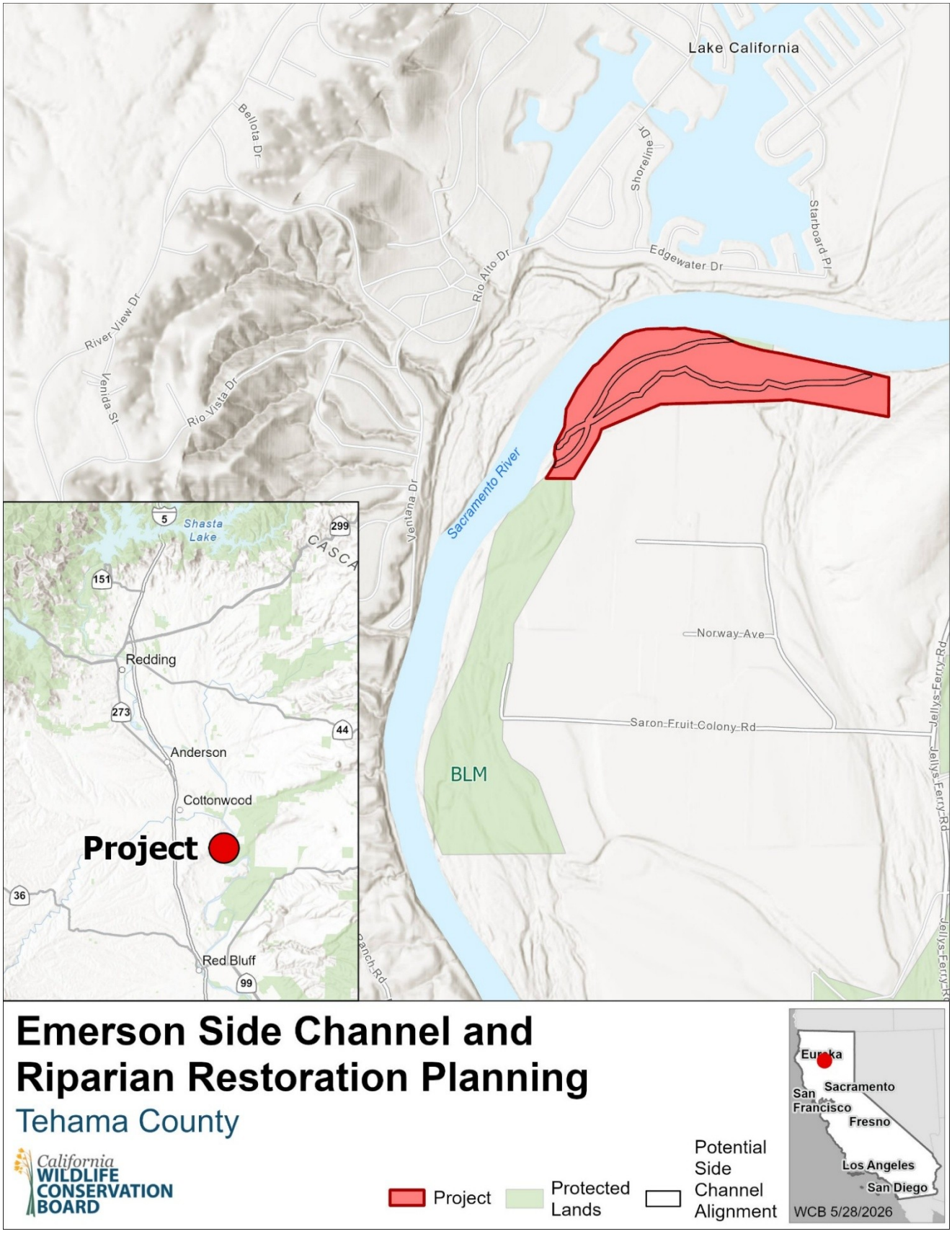
WCB Grant: $1,904,000
Fund Source(s): Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 (Proposition 4 – Stream Flow Enhancement Program), Public Resources Code Section 91040(a) (SB 105, Sec. 97)
Grantee: Resource Conservation District of Tehama County
Landowner: U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management
Location: 5 miles northwest of Cottonwood
County: Tehama

Project Highlights

- Complete planning and permitting for side channel and floodplain reconnection and riparian restoration along the Sacramento River, 1.5 miles downstream of the Battle Creek confluence.
- Upon implementation, restored habitat will provide year-round access for salmonids to high quality rearing and foraging habitat away from predators and extreme heat.
- Key species: Sacramento River winter-run Chinook salmon and California central valley steelhead.
- Species Plan: Recovery Plan for The Evolutionarily Significant Units of Sacramento River Winter-run Chinook Salmon and Central Valley Spring-run Chinook Salmon and the Distinct Population Segment of California Central Valley Steelhead.

Priority Metrics

- Benefits Justice Communities: No
- Tribal Partnerships: Yes, the Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians intends to contribute Traditional Ecological Knowledge to the project, review design plans, research native plants, develop the revegetation plan, and provide cultural and archaeological expertise
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 6, Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship
- WCB Strategic Plan Target: B2.2, C2.1


Lake California
Bellota Dr
Shoreline Dr
Starboard Pl
Edgewater Dr
Rio Alto Dr
River View Dr
Venida St
Rio Vista Dr
Ventana Dr
Sacramento River
Norway Ave
Saron Fruit Colony Rd
Jellys Ferry Rd
BLM
Shasta Lake
CASCA
5
299
151
Redding
273
44
Anderson
Cottonwood
Project
36
Red Bluff
99
Emerson Side Channel and Riparian Restoration Planning
Tehama County
California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD
Project
Protected Lands
Potential Side Channel Alignment
Eureka
Sacramento
San Francisco
Fresno
Los Angeles
San Diego
WCB 5/28/2026

Project Description

The Emerson Side Channel and Riparian Restoration Planning (Project) site has suffered environmental degradation as the result of continuous channel modifications, levee construction, and flow alterations to the Sacramento River over the last 150 years. Historically, this area hosted side channels and floodplain rearing habitat that was a critical resource for juvenile salmonids.

The Project will address the current lack of suitable salmonid habitat within the area by:

- Developing 90% designs, permit applications, and environmental compliance documents for:
  - Restoration of one or more historic side channels
  - Invasive plant removal
  - Native plantings
  - Creation of approximately 60.8 acres of seasonally inundated floodplain habitat
- Conducting pre-implementation monitoring to establish project baseline conditions
- Completing a Project Monitoring plan to guide evaluation of project implementation success

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	$78,113	$139,725	$217,838
Team Coordination and Meetings	$369,688	---	$369,688
Modeling, Engineering, and Design	$478,593	---	$478,593
Environmental Planning and Permitting	$383,723	---	$383,723
Monitoring	$274,290	$25,000	$299,290
Revegetation Plan	$85,883	$50,000	$135,883
Indirect	$233,710	---	$233,710
Total	$1,904,000	$214,725	$2,118,725

Non-WCB funders include:

- Resource Conservation District of Tehama County - $139,725

- California Open Lands - $50,000
- Trout Unlimited - $25,000

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Brandin Paya, Chairman, Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians, Federally Recognized Sovereign Tribe
- Tom Walker, Chair, Tehama County Board of Supervisors
- Alden R. Neel, Acting Field Manager, United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Redding Field Office

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 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.

17. Indian Creek Stream Flow Enhancement Planning **Restoration – Planning**

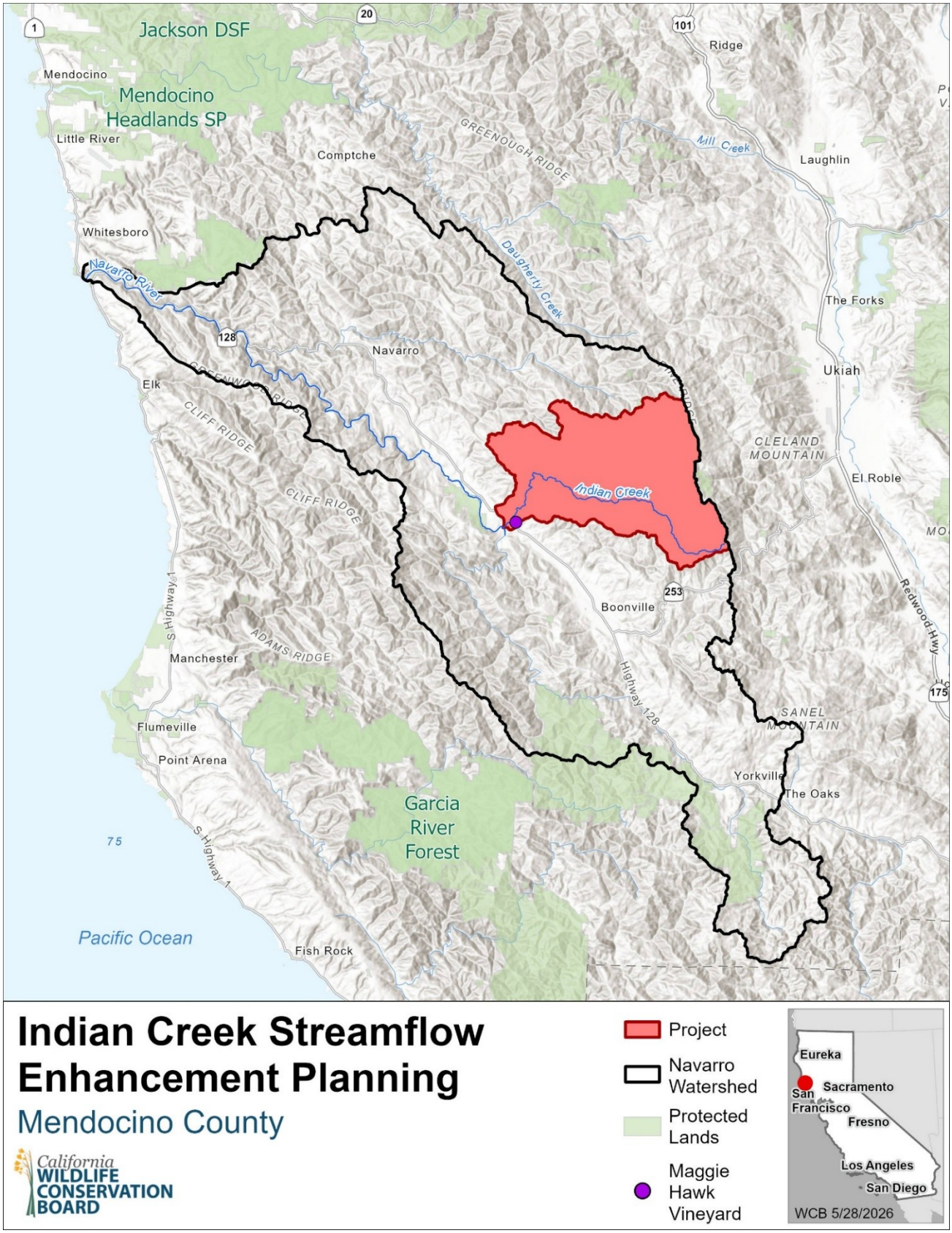
WCB Grant: $940,844
Fund Source(s): Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 (Proposition 4 – Stream Flow Enhancement Program), Public Resources Code Section 91040(a) (SB 105, Sec. 97)
Grantee: The Nature Conservancy
Landowner: Private Landowner
Location: 1 mile southeast of Philo
County: Mendocino

Project Highlights

- Project completes planning to increase stream flow and enhance riparian habitat in Indian Creek, a critical sub-watershed in the Navarro River watershed.
- Region is a high priority area for salmonid recovery within the North Coast Salmon Project Salmon Habitat Restoration Prioritization Initiative, coauthored by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and CDFW.
- Key species: Central California coast coho salmon, Northern California steelhead, California coast Chinook salmon.

Priority Metrics

- Benefits Justice Communities: Yes, within an SDAC, the project will enhance drought resilience, improve water security, and reduce vulnerability to drought for a SDAC.
- Tribal Partnerships: No
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 6, Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship
- WCB Strategic Plan Target: B2.2, C2.1


Jackson DSF
Mendocino
Mendocino Headlands SP
Little River
Comptche
Whitesboro
Navarro River
Navarro
Elk
Manchester
Flumeville
Point Arena
Garcia River Forest
Pacific Ocean
Fish Rock
Ridge
Laughlin
Mill Creek
GREENOUGH RIDGE
Daugherty Creek
The Forks
Ukiah
CLELAND MOUNTAIN
El Roble
Indian Creek
CLIFF RIDGE
ADAMS RIDGE
Boonville
Redwood Hwy
SANEL MOUNTAIN
Yorkville
The Oaks
Highway 128
S Highway 1
Indian Creek Streamflow Enhancement Planning
Mendocino County
California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD
Project
Navarro Watershed
Protected Lands
Maggie Hawk Vineyard
Eureka
Sacramento
San Francisco
Fresno
Los Angeles
San Diego
WCB 5/28/2026

Project Description

The Indian Creek Stream Flow Enhancement Planning (Project) site encompasses the entire Indian Creek sub-watershed and will complete planning to increase climate resiliency, restore salmonid rearing habitat, and enhance dry season baseflows in Indian Creek by:

- Completing a Collaborative Water Management Plan to guide future planning and restoration efforts in the watershed via analysis of water needs and a list of priority actions and projects for the area
- Developing 100% designs and permitting for 2 water storage ponds, a rainwater catchment system, native plantings, and a 1707 petition at the Maggy Hawk Vineyard, owned by Jackson Family Wines
- Developing one additional flow enhancement project to 65% designs
- Completing monitoring on Indian Creek to establish baseline data

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, Design, Permitting and Planning	$734,777	$170,000	$904,777
Monitoring	$49,130	$0	$49,130
Indirect	$156,937	$34,034	$190,971
Total	$940,844	$204,034	$1,144,878

Non-WCB funders include:

- Jackson Family Wines – $170,000
- The Nature Conservancy - $34,034

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Mike McGuire, Senator, California State Senate
- Jared Huffman, Member of Congress, House of Representatives, Congress of the United States
- Chris Rogers, Assemblymember, District 2, California State Legislature
- Valerie Quinto, Executive Officer, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

- Susanne Zechiel, Vice President, Environmental Regulatory Compliance, Jackson Family Wines

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

State Government

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

Staff Recommendation

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

18. Chagdud Gonpa Restoration Design **Restoration – Planning**

WCB Grant: $342,000
Fund Source(s): Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Fund of 2014 (Proposition 1 – Enhanced stream flows), Water Code Section 79733
Grantee: Hoopa Valley Tribal Fisheries
Landowner: Private Landowner
Location: Approximately 0.8 miles west of Junction City
County: Trinity

Project Highlights

- Addresses historic hydraulic mining impacts, historic trench mining impacts, and landslide debris disposal impacts
- Creates a shovel-ready project to restore hydraulic and ecological function to approximately 60 acres along the Trinity River
- Key species: Coho salmon, Chinook salmon, steelhead

Priority Metrics

- Benefits Justice Communities: Yes. This planning effort will initiate the restoration of degraded upland habitat and reconnection of an abandoned floodplain, which will increase wetted areas, enhance riparian function, and improve fire resilience across the site. Further, the project directly supports the Tribe's long-term fisheries restoration goals and strengthens the community's overall climate resilience.
- Tribal Partnerships: Yes, the applicant is a federally recognized tribe.
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 6, Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship
- WCB Strategic Plan Target: B1.1, B 2.2


BLM
Helena
299
IDAHO BAR
COOPERS BAR
Wintu Pass Rd
Chimariko Rd
RED HILL
Conner Creek
Senger Rd
Shasta-Trinity NF
State Highway 299
Upper Rd
Shasta-Trinity NF
BLM
Canyon Creek Rd
Junction City
Shasta-Trinity NF
Dutch Creek Rd
Mill Creek
Project
299
Weaverville
Trinity
Hayfork
3
36
Chagdud Gonpa Restoration Design
Trinity County
California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD
Project
Protected Lands
Eureka
Sacramento
San Francisco
Fresno
Los Angeles
San Diego
WCB 5/28/2026

Project Description

The Chagdud Gonpa property has sustained a series of land use impacts that have dramatically reduced the habitat value of this area. Hydraulic mining removed extensive amounts of material from the landscape, deep fissures were trenched through the property to accommodate mining activities, and approximately 550,000 cubic yards of material from a landslide were deposited on the property's bank of the Trinity River. These impacts have all combined to disconnect the Trinity River from its floodplain, changed the hydrology of the area, reduced the habitat value for salmonids and terrestrial species, and increased rates of erosion.

The project will create plans to address these impacts and improve ecosystem functions by:

- Completing an existing site investigation
- Developing 100% shovel-ready plans to stabilize erosion from hydraulic mining, fill in mining trenches, and reconnect the river to its historic floodplain
- Creating a plan for disposal of landslide materials
- Determining environmental compliance pathways and complete permit applications
- Designing a project that will benefit many species, including migratory salmonids

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, Coordination, and Meetings	$63,000	$5,000	$68,000
Existing Site Investigations	$46,000	$13,091	$59,091
Engineering and Geotechnical Analysis	$40,000	$5,000	$45,000
30% Design Drawings, Permitting, and Basis of Design Report	$82,000	$14,274	$96,274
60% Design Drawings and Permitting	$59,000	$16,183	$75,183

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
100% Design Drawings and Permitting	$33,000	$16,854	$49,854
Indirect Costs	$19,000	---	19,000
Total	$342,000	$70,402	$412,402

Non-WCB funders include:
- Applicant - $20,402
- Bella Vista Foundation - $50,000

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:
- Jennifer Meta, Field Manager, United States Bureau of Land Management
- Patrick Flynn, Environmental Compliance Specialist II, Trinity County Community Development Department
- John Swearingen, Treasurer, Chagdud Gonpa Foundation

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

State Government

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

Staff Recommendation

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

Presentation Items

19. Skyline North Phase II — Acquisition — Fee

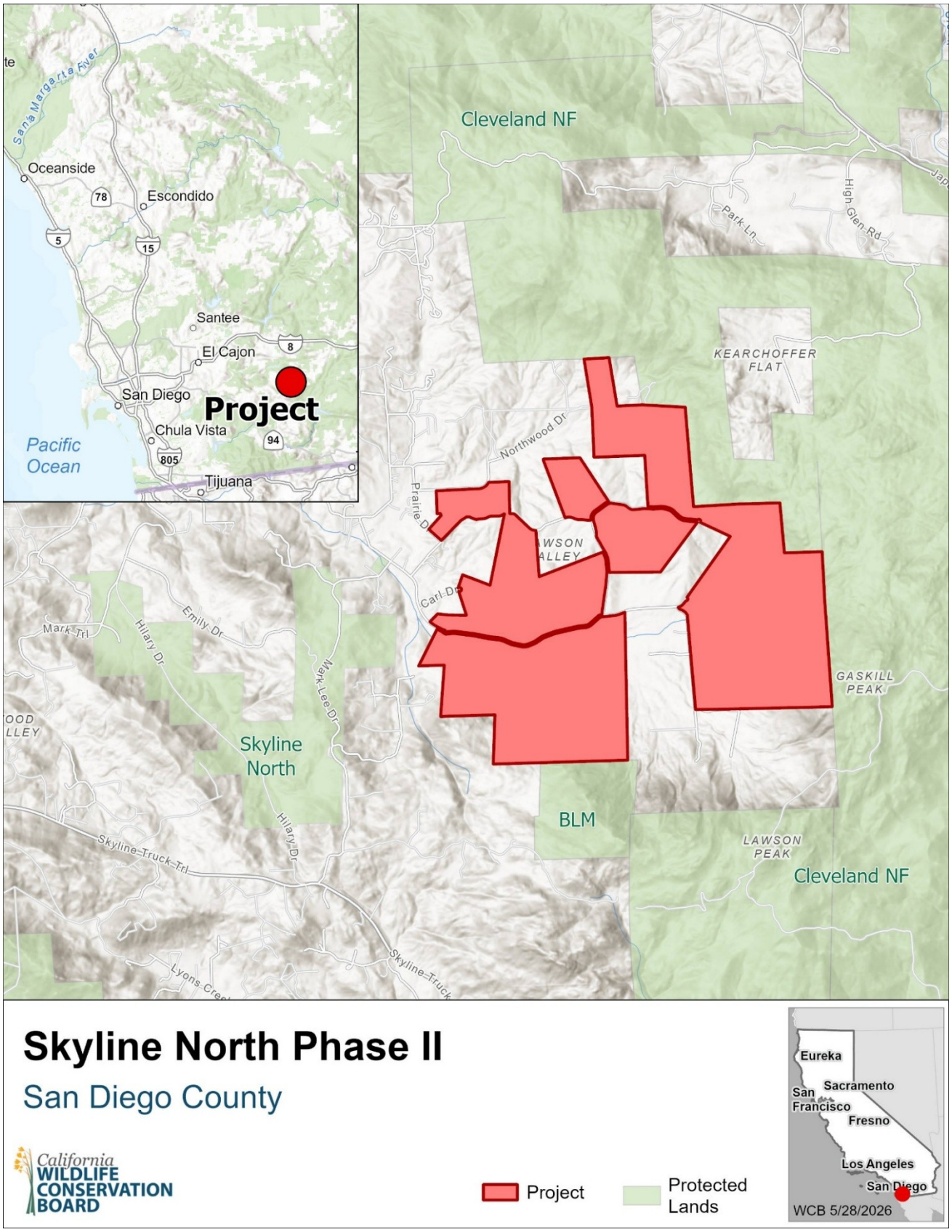
WCB Grant: $5,900,000
Fund Source(s): Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 (Proposition 4 – Existing Programs), Public Resources Code Section 93010 (SB 105, Sec. 94)
Grantee: Endangered Habitats Conservancy (EHC)
Location: 5 miles east of the unincorporated community of Jamul
County: San Diego
Acres: 1,226± (Property)

Property Highlights

- Strengthens wildlife and habitat connectivity with the Cleveland National Forest and other protected lands including Skyline North Phase I, acquired by EHC with WCB grant funds in 2025
- Habitats represented: chapparal, coastal sage scrub, oak riparian
- Key species: Hermes copper butterfly, western spadefoot
- Regional or Species Plan: County of San Diego MSCP – East County Plan
- Optimal restoration sites for California red-legged frog, southwestern pond turtle, Quino checkerspot butterfly, and Dehesa beargrass
- Housing and facilities for scientific research, restoration, education, and property management purposes

Priority Metrics

- Benefits Justice Communities: No
- Tribal Partnerships: No
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 2, Execute Strategic Acquisitions
- WCB Strategic Plan Target: B1.1, B2.1
- Public Access: No


Cleveland NF
Oceanside
Escondido
Santee
El Cajon
San Diego
Project
Chula Vista
Tijuana
Pacific Ocean
KEARCHOFFER FLAT
Northwood Dr
Prairie Dr
Carl Dr
Mark Trl
Hilary Dr
Emily Dr
Mark Lee Dr
GASKILL PEAK
Skyline North
BLM
LAWSON PEAK
Cleveland NF
Skyline Truck Trl
Skyline Truck
Park Ln
High Glen Rd
Skyline North Phase II
San Diego County
California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD
Project
Protected Lands
Eureka
Sacramento
San Francisco
Fresno
Los Angeles
San Diego
WCB 5/28/2026

Long-Term Management

EHC will own and manage the Property in perpetuity, adding to its current land holdings of over 8,000 acres. EHC will work with established partners, including the U.S. Geological Survey and San Diego Management and Monitoring Program, to restore key sites such as the pond and Hermes copper butterfly habitat. EHC will finalize and implement a comprehensive management plan for the entire Skyline complex with recommended best management practices.

Project Funding

The DGS approved fair market value is $5,900,000. The proposed funding breakdown is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	$5,900,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	$5,900,000

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Cody J. Martinez, Chairman, Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation
- Jonathan Snyder, Acting Field Supervisor, United States Fish and Wildlife Service
- Jason Hemmens, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation, County of San Diego

Opposition:

- James Always, Private Citizen

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 Steve Padilla, District 18 and Senator Brian W. Jones, District 40
- Assembly: Assemblymember Carl DeMaio, District 75

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.

20. Laguna Coast Wilderness Park Restoration **Restoration – Implementation**
Withdrawn from Consideration at this Time.

21. Increasing Pollinator Habitat in Fresno County **Restoration – Implementation**

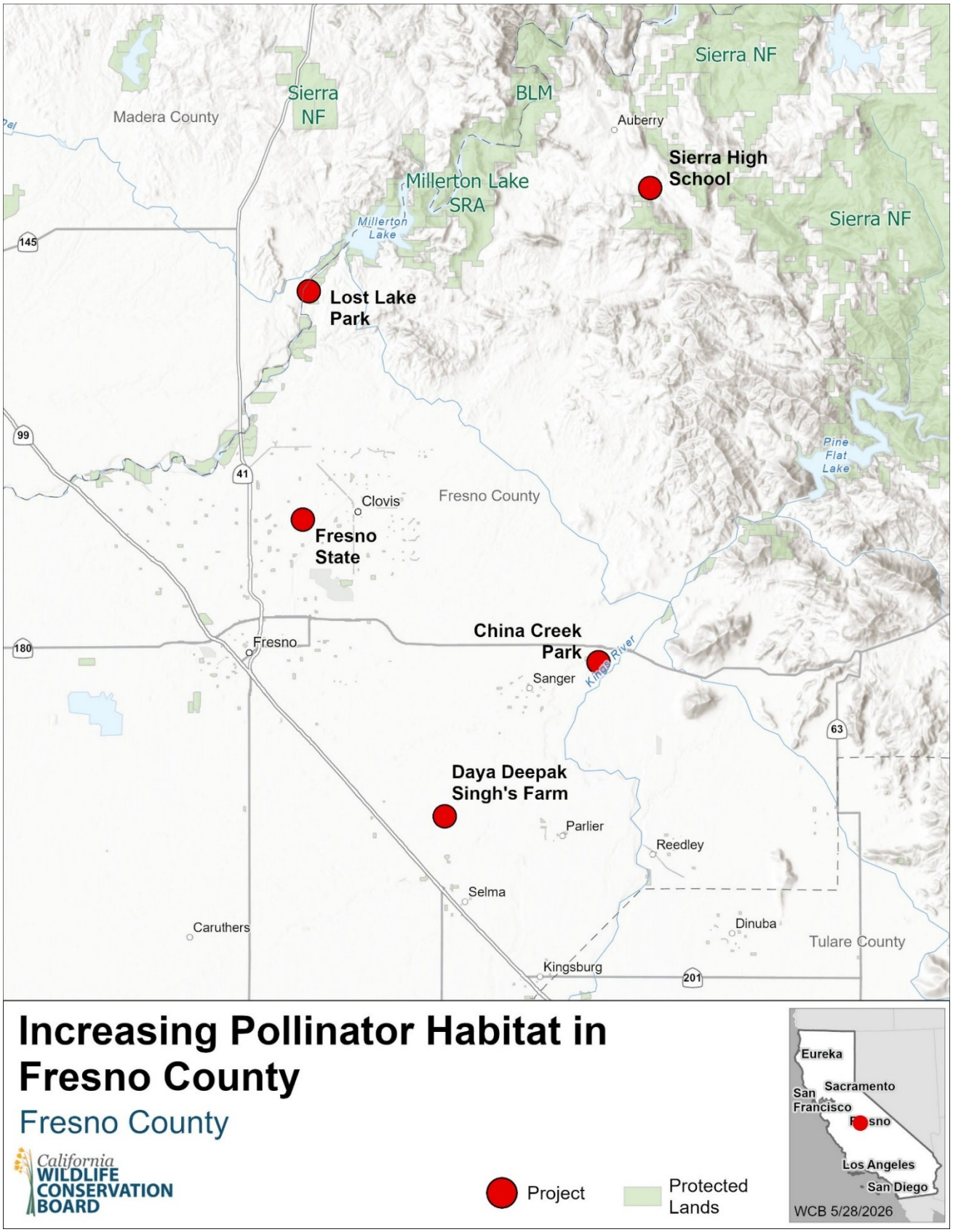
WCB Grant: $1,872,796
Fund Source(s): Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 (Proposition 4 – Existing Programs), Public Resources Code Section 93010 (SB 105, Sec. 94)
Grantee: Sierra Resource Conservation District
Landowner: Fresno County, Fresno State University, Sierra High School, Private Landowner
Location: Sanger, Friant, Fresno, Tollhouse, Fowler
County: Fresno

Project Highlights

- Will improve habitat connectivity for pollinators and other wildlife in Fresno County
- Habitats restored: 100 acres of pollinator and riparian habitat and 26,600 linear feet of pollinator and riparian hedgerows
- Regional or Species Plan: Western Monarch Butterfly Conservation Plan, Central Valley Joint Venture – 2020 Implementation Plan, California State Wildlife Action Plan Agriculture Companion Plan

Priority Metrics

- Benefits Justice Communities: Yes, Project is located within DACs and SDACs per the climate bond mapping tool. The Project will provide educational opportunities and climate benefits including increased carbon sequestration and dust reduction.
- Tribal Partnerships: Yes, Choinumni tribal members will perform cultural burns and workforce development opportunities will be provided for tribal youth.
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 6, Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship
- WCB Strategic Plan Target: B1.1, B2.2, B2.3, B3.4, C1.3


Sierra NF
Sierra NF
BLM
Madera County
Auberry
Sierra High School
Millerton Lake SRA
Millerton Lake
Sierra NF
145
Lost Lake Park
99
41
Pine Flat Lake
Clovis
Fresno County
Fresno State
China Creek Park
Fresno
180
Sanger
Kings River
63
Daya Deepak Singh's Farm
Parlier
Reedley
Selma
Caruthers
Dinuba
Tulare County
Kingsburg
201
Increasing Pollinator Habitat in Fresno County
Fresno County
California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD
Project
Protected Lands
Eureka
Sacramento
San Francisco
Fresno
Los Angeles
San Diego
WCB 5/28/2026

Project Description

The San Joaquin Valley has experienced significant environmental degradation due to rapid urban growth and intensive agricultural practices. These land use changes, particularly in Fresno County, have led to the loss and decline of habitat for pollinators and other wildlife. The Increasing Pollinator Habitat in Fresno County (Project) aims to increase habitat for pollinators and other wildlife and create a more connected landscape throughout Fresno County.

This will be accomplished by:

- Performing brush thinning and invasive species removal, which will include mowing, discing, and cultural burns
- Establishing 26,600 linear feet of hedgerows to benefit pollinators and other wildlife and to act as a vegetative buffer
- Restoring 100 acres of pollinator and riparian habitat on private and public lands
- Organizing workshops for landowners, local farmers, and community members that will share knowledge on pollinator protection, habitat restoration, Traditional Ecological Knowledge, and sustainable farming

Long-Term Management

The Sierra Resource Conservation District has adopted Management Plans that guide management actions for the Project, including management of the Properties. If at any time during the 15-year life of the Project, the Sierra Resource Conservation District does not manage and maintain the project improvements, the Grant Agreement requires that it refund to the state of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the Project life.

Project Funding

The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Project Management and Landowner Coordination	$300,000	---	$300,000
Site Design and Workplans	$232,960	$16,800	$249,760
Implementation and Education	$868,312	$392,000	$1,260,312
Monitoring and Maintenance	$227,246	---	$227,246

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Indirect Costs	$244,278	---	$244,278
Total	$1,872,796	$408,800	$2,281,596

Non-WCB funders include:
- Sierra Resource Conservation District - $360,800
- California Native Plant Society - $48,000

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:
- Gladys McKinney, Western Mono Elder, Cultural Bearer, and Founding board member of California Indian Basketweavers Association, Dunlap Band of Mono Indians
- Florence Dick, Western Mono Elder, Cultural Bearer, and Basketweaver, Dunlap Band of Mono Indians
- Julie Dick Tex, Western Mono Elder, Cultural Bearer, and Basketweaver, Dunlap Band of Mono Indians
- Audrey Osborne, Tribal Historian, Traditional Choinumni Tribe
- Brian Cotham, Chief Procurement Officer, California State University Fresno
- Steven E. White, Director of the Department of Public Works and Planning, County of Fresno
- Molly Schnur-Salimbene, Executive Director, Kings River Conservancy
- Sean Zweifler, Chapter President, California Native Plant Society Sequoia Chapter
- Gurreet Brar, Director, Farms-R-us
- Daya Deepak Singh, Private landowner

Opposition:
- None received

CEQA

Sierra Resource Conservation District, as lead agency, determined that the Project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15304, Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land as five projects that each consist of minor alterations to land which improve wildlife habitat and do not adversely impact soil, water or endangered, rate or threatened biological resources and their habitats. Staff considered the lead agency's CEQA exemptions and subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, appropriate NOEs will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

State Government

- Senate: Senator Anna Caballero, District 14
- Senate: Senator Shannon Grove, District 12

- Assembly: Assemblymember Joaquin Arambula, District 31
- Assembly: Assemblymember David 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.

22. River Vista Bridge Removal and River Restoration **Restoration – Implementation**

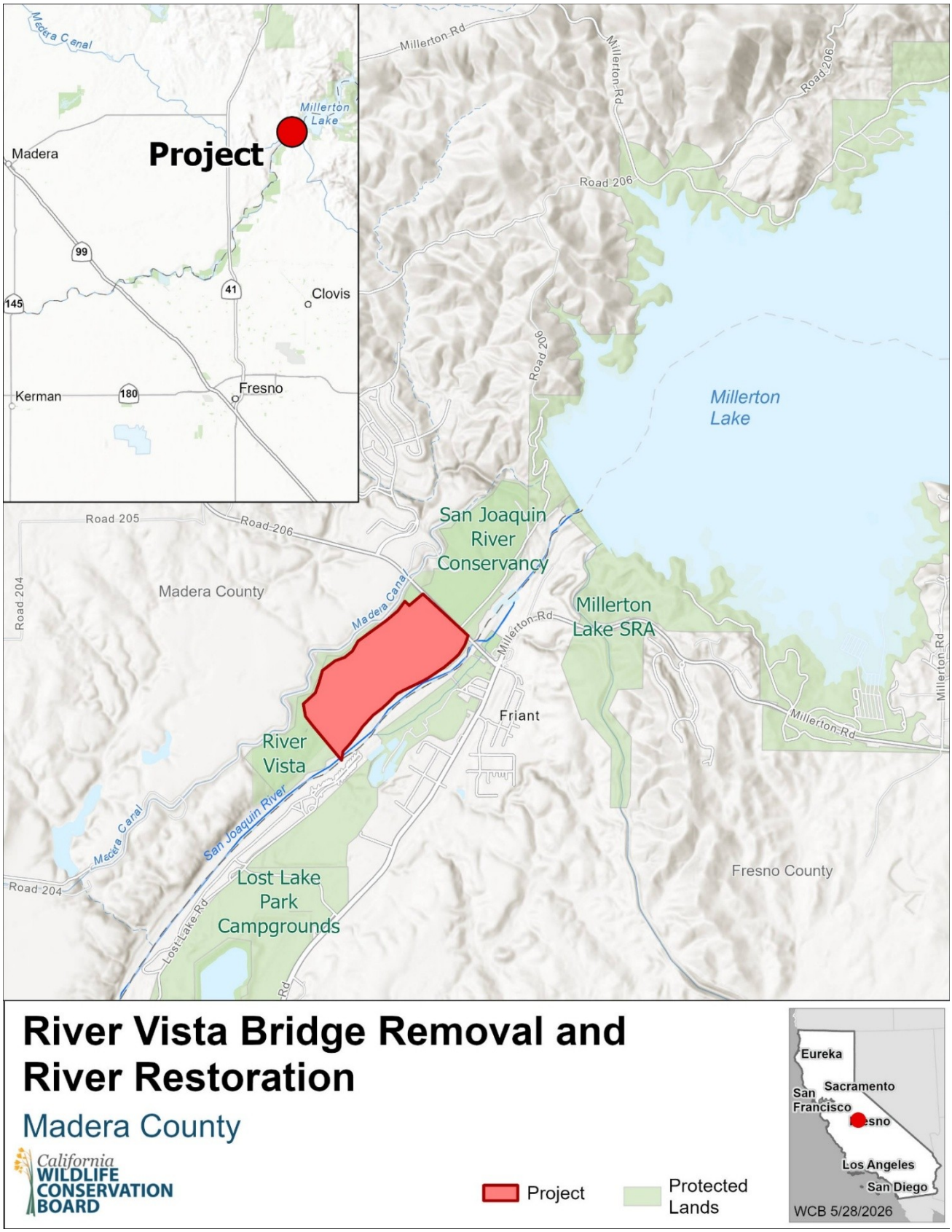
WCB Grant: $4,379,541
Fund Source(s): Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Fund of 2014 (Proposition 1 –San Joaquin River Conservancy), Water Code Section 79731(g)
Grantee: SJRC
Landowner: SJRC
Location: ~20 miles north of the City of Fresno in the Town of Friant
County: Madera County

Project Highlights

- Removal of broken bridge remnants from the San Joaquin River
- Project will benefit state and federally threatened California Central Valley spring-run Chinook salmon by removing bridge remnants which are an impediment to Chinook salmon habitat
- Consistent with San Joaquin River Restoration Program recommendations

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: B2.1, B2.2


Madera Canal
Millerton Lake
Project
Madera
Clovis
Kerman
Fresno
99
41
145
180
Millerton Rd
Road 206
Millerton Lake
Road 205
Road 204
Madera County
San Joaquin River Conservancy
Millerton Lake SRA
Friant
River Vista
San Joaquin River
Lost Lake Park Campgrounds
Lost Lake Rd
Fresno County
River Vista Bridge Removal and River Restoration
Madera County
California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD
Project
Protected Lands
Eureka
Sacramento
San Francisco
Los Angeles
San Diego
WCB 5/28/2026

Project Description

The River Vista Bridge Removal and River Restoration (Project) is located on SJRC's Vista property downstream of the Friant Dam. Spring-run Chinook were extirpated from the San Joaquin River after the Friant Dam was constructed in the 1950s, and in 1999, Central Valley spring-run Chinook were listed as both state and federally threatened. The San Joaquin River Restoration Program (SJRRP), a state and federal collaborative program, was formed to restore flows and spring-run Chinook to the river. Through their efforts, spring-run Chinook have been reintroduced to the San Joaquin River and are present at the Project site. The SJRRP identified the Project site as an important river reach for salmon spawning and rearing habitat.

The Pollasky Bridge was a bridge that spanned the San Joaquin River but was destroyed by flooding in 1950. After the flood, Madera and Fresno counties constructed a new bridge upstream of the collapsed Pollasky Bridge, and Fresno County removed the bridge remnants from their side of the river. There are six large concrete bridge remnants that remain on the Madera County side of the river, three of which are within the main channel. The in-channel remnants have caused erosion, undermining the gravel essential for Chinook spawning and rearing habitat. Removing the bridge remnants is a recommended action by the SJRRP.

The Project will increase spring-run Chinook spawning and rearing habitat by:

- Removing and demolishing bridge remnants from the river channel and upland
- Developing final (100%) engineering designs
- Completing environmental compliance and drafting necessary permit applications
- Restoring and revegetating habitat
- Conducting pre- and post-project monitoring surveys

Long-Term Management

The SJRC has adopted a Management Plan that guides management actions for the Project, including management of River Vista. If at any time during the 25-year life of the Project, the SJRC 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	$40,000	---	$40,000

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Permitting and Environmental Compliance	$567,000	---	$567,000
Engineering Designs	$38,000	---	$38,000
Project Surveys	$350,000	---	$350,000
Mobilization and Demolition	$3,069,000	---	$3,069,000
Replanting and Revegetation	$315,541	---	$315,541
Total	$4,379,541	---	$4,379,541

Non-WCB funders include:

- There are no other funders

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Alexis Phillips-Dowell, Program Manager, San Joaquin River Restoration Program, Department of Water Resources

Opposition:

- None received

CEQA

The SJRC, as lead agency, prepared a MND for the Project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA. Staff considered the MND and 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 Shannon Grove, District 12
- Assembly: Assemblymember David J. Tangipa, District 8

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.

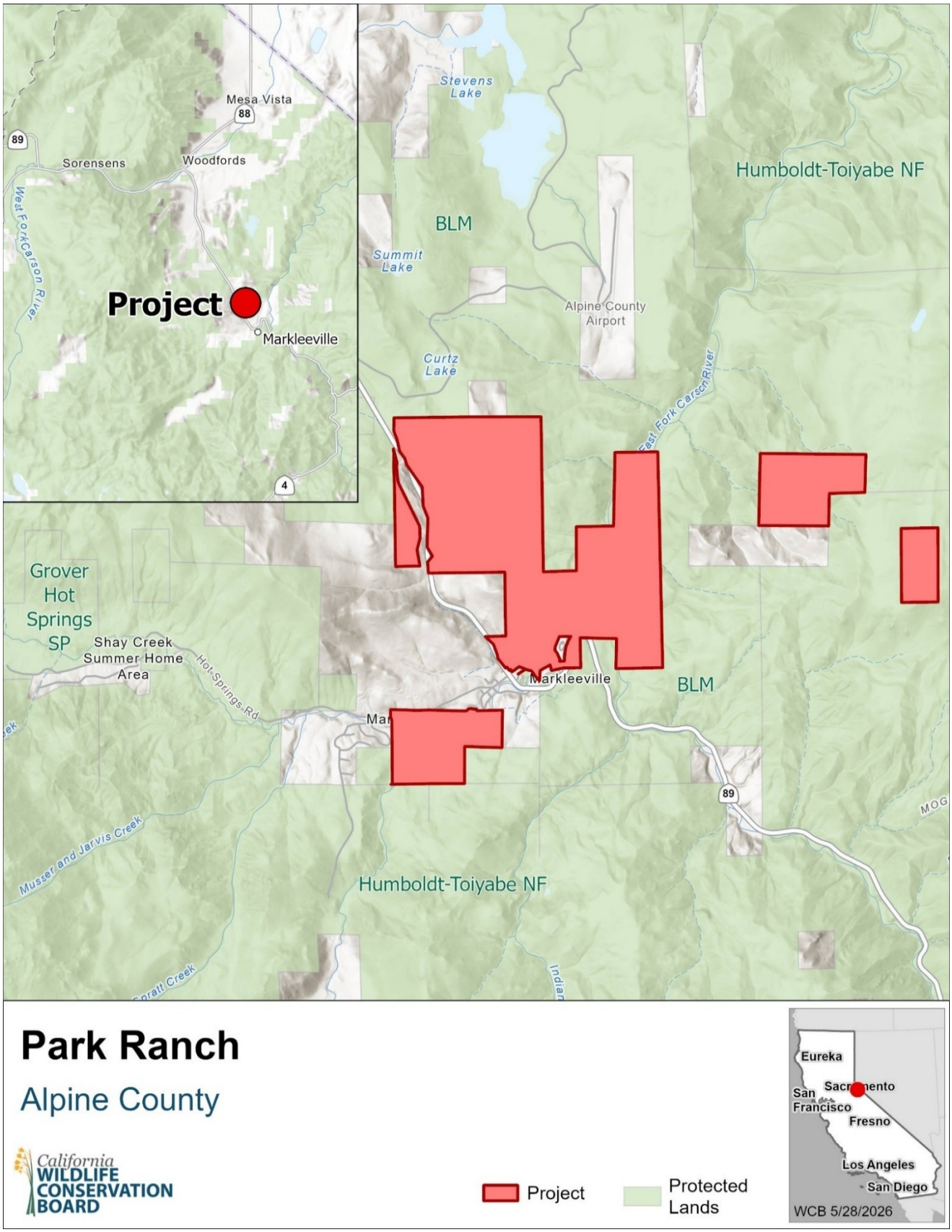
23. Park Ranch **Acquisition**
WCB Grant: $8,000,000 **Fee**
Fund Source(s): Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 (Proposition 4 – Existing Programs), Public Resources Code Section 93010 (SB 105, Sec. 94)
Grantees: Alpine County and Western Rivers Conservancy
Location: Markleeville
County: Alpine
Acres: 1,688± (Property)

Property Highlights

- Western Rivers Conservancy (WRC) negotiated an agreement to purchase the ranch in two phases with intent to transfer both phases of the ranch together to Alpine County for long-term stewardship. Currently, WRC owns the phase 1 portion of the Property.
- WRC will sell the phase 1 portion of the Property to Alpine County (WCB Grant No. WC-2614MS) and the phase 2 portion of the Property will be acquired by the County directly from the private seller under a WRC purchase agreement (WCB Grant No. WC-2615MS). The two WCB grant agreements collectively equal $8,000,000.
- Habitats represented: wet meadows, riparian, conifer forest, and sage-steppe.
- Key species: Lahontan cutthroat trout, western bumblebee, monarch butterfly, bald eagle, neotropical migratory songbirds, mule deer, and Sierra Nevada red fox.
- Property provides habitat connectivity to the adjacent Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Bureau of Land Management, and Alpine County public lands.
- Project supports wildfire resiliency and reduces fuel loads through sustainable grazing management practices that lower risk of catastrophic wildfires.
- Property provides increased access to nature and expands public access from the adjacent U.S. Forest Service-operated Markleeville Campground.

Priority Metrics

- Benefits Justice Communities: No
- Tribal Partnerships: No
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 2, Execute Strategic Acquisitions
- WCB Strategic Plan Target: B1.1, B2.3, C1.3, P1.1, P1.3
- Public Access: Yes, Alpine County intends to utilize Property for year-round nonmotorized public access including birdwatching, fishing, hunting, boating, and hiking in spring-autumn, and cross-country skiing and snowshoeing in the winter.


Project
Mesa Vista
Sorensens
Woodfords
Markleeville
Stevens Lake
Summit Lake
Curtz Lake
Alpine County Airport
Humboldt-Toiyabe NF
BLM
Grover Hot Springs SP
Shay Creek Summer Home Area
Hot Springs Rd
Musser and Jarvis Creek
West Fork Carson River
East Fork Carson River
Park Ranch
Alpine County
California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD
Project
Protected Lands
Eureka
Sacramento
San Francisco
Fresno
Los Angeles
San Diego
WCB 5/28/2026

Long-Term Management

Alpine County will be the long-term owner and steward of the Property. The County will rely on existing County personnel to staff the Property, and its long-established relationships with Alpine Watershed Group, Sierra Nevada Conservancy, CAL FIRE, and Alpine Trails Association for future collaborative projects to restore habitat and enhance public access opportunities on the Property. WRC has been approved for a USFWS Partners in Wildlife grant to install wildlife-passable fencing along lower Markleeville Creek to improve water quality for Lahontan cutthroat trout, and this fence will be built in 2026. WRC is preparing a draft adaptive management plan that Alpine County and CDFW will finalize in early 2026.

Project Funding

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

Partners	Amount
WCB	$8,000,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	$8,000,000

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Marie Alvarado-Gil, Senator, Fourth Senate District
- Matthew Zumstein, District Ranger, Forest Service, United State Department of Agriculture
- Angela Avery, Executive Officer, Sierra Nevada Conservancy
- Jenny Hatch, Executive Director, Sierra Nevada Alliance
- Steven L. Evans, Rivers Director, CalWild
- Curtis Knight, Executive Director, California Trout
- Jann Dorman, Executive Director, Friends of the River
- Marisa Ernst, Board Member and Conservation Chair, Northwest Nevada Bird Alliance
- Erin Arnsteen, Western Program Coordinator, Monarch Joint Venture
- Scott Black, Executive Director, Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation
- Bill Young, Secretary, Alpine Outdoor Recreation Organization
- Helen Loffland, Meadow Species Specialist, The Institute for Bird Populations
- Gabriel Tiller, Executive Director, Orogenesis Collective
- Tracey Diaz, Publisher, California Fly Fisher
- John Brassfield, Owner, Tahoe Fly Fishing Outfitters, Inc
- Andrew G. Harris, Owner, Confluence Outfitters
- Amy Skewes-Cox, Neighboring Landowner

- Robert Franklin, Concerned Citizen
- Angela Franklin, Concerned Citizen

Opposition:

- James Always, Private Citizen

CEQA

The project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to Public Resources Code 21080.28, Acquisition of an Interest in Land by a Public Agency, as an acquisition of an interest in land by a public agency for preservation of natural conditions existing at the time of transfer, including plant and animal habitats. Subject to Board approval of the project, staff will file the appropriate NOE with the State Clearinghouse and the county clerk.

State Government

- Senate: Senator Marie Alvarado-Gil, District 04
- Assembly: Assemblymember Heather Hadwick, District 01

Staff Recommendation

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

24. Sunset Weir Fish Passage **Restoration – Implementation**

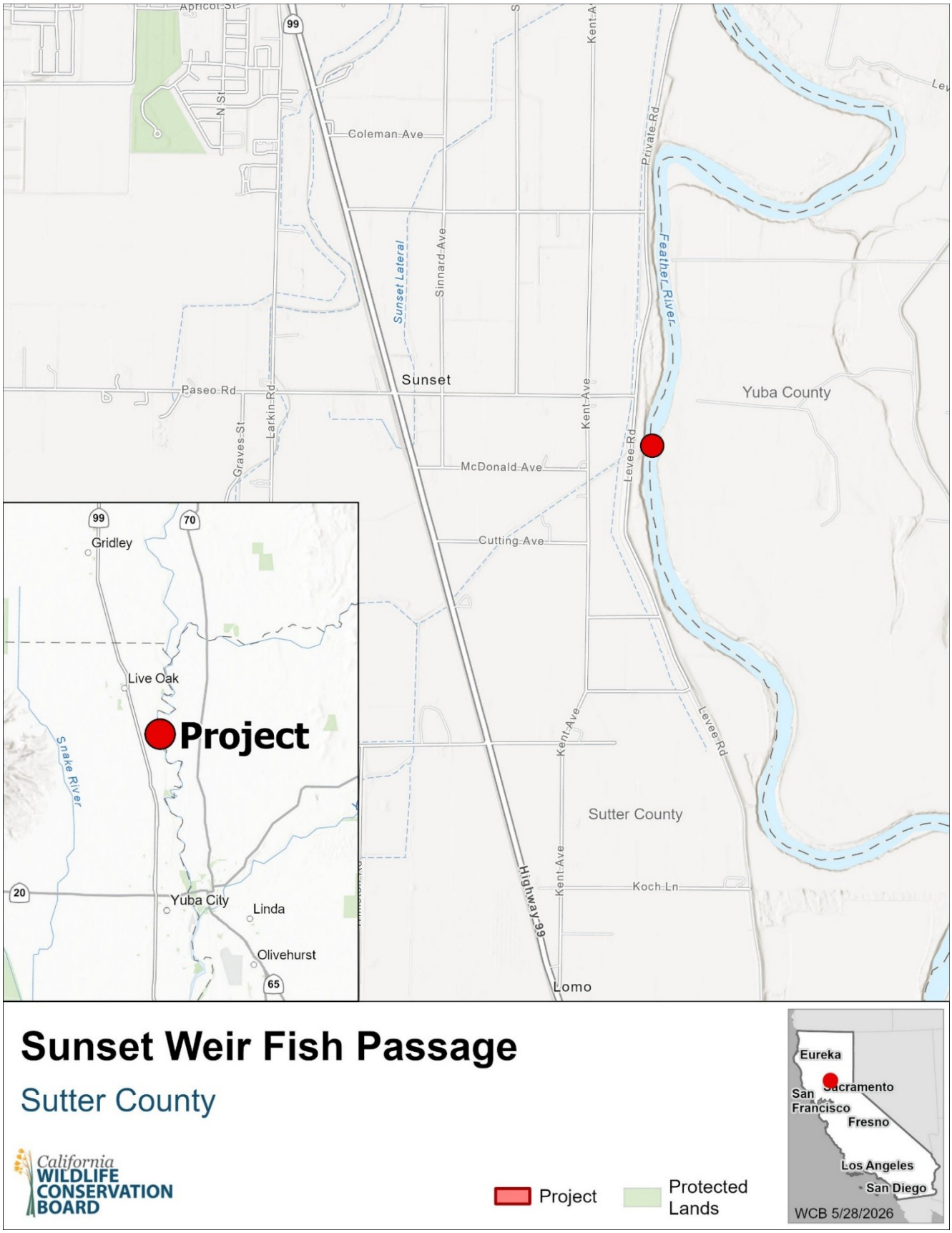
WCB Grant: $29,261,887
Fund Source(s): Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, Budget Act of 2024, Streamflow Programs (SB 108, Sec. 107(1)(3))
Grantee: Department of Water Resources (DWR)
Landowner: Sutter Extension Water District
Location: Two miles east of Live Oak
County: Sutter

Project Highlights

- Sunset Weir impedes adult fish passage on the Feather River
- River access restored: 28.5 miles of spawning and rearing habitat between Sunset Weir and Feather River Fish Barrier Dam
- Key species: Central Valley fall/spring-run Chinook salmon, Central Valley steelhead, Southern Distinct Population Segment green sturgeon
- Regional or Species Plan: California Salmon Strategy for a Hotter, Drier Future: Restoring Aquatic Ecosystems in the Age of Climate Change, NOAA Fisheries Recovery Plan for Chinook Salmon and Steelhead (NMFS 2014).

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: B1.1


Sunset Weir Fish Passage
Sutter County
California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD
Project
Protected Lands
WCB 5/28/2026
Project
Gridley
Live Oak
Yuba City
Linda
Olivehurst
Snake River
Sunset
Lomo
Yuba County
Sutter County
Coleman Ave
Sunset Lateral
Sinnard Ave
Feather River
Private Rd
Paseo Rd
Larkin Rd
Graves St
Kent Ave
Levee Rd
McDonald Ave
Cutting Ave
Koch Ln
Highway 99
N St
Apricot St
Eureka
Sacramento
San Francisco
Fresno
Los Angeles
San Diego

Project Description

The Sunset Weir is a 10-foot-tall boulder weir that spans the Feather River to impound water for upstream water diverters. The weir impedes adult fish passage and access to 28.5 miles of upstream spawning and rearing habitat, hinders juvenile fish outmigration, and causes approximately six miles of river upstream to function as a reservoir under low-to-moderate flow conditions, which have become increasingly common during California's prolonged droughts. This backwater drowns channel morphological features (riffles and gravel bars) and depresses flow velocities, resulting in lacustrine conditions as opposed to more suitable riverine habitat. The weir blocks the natural downstream flux of riverbed sediment which leads to degraded habitat downstream. The net effect is reduced hydraulic complexity and morphology and loss of ecosystem diversity within the Feather River. The Sunset Weir Fish Passage (Project) will remove the existing weir and restore unimpeded fish migration and upstream access, increase habitat connectivity and enhance riverine ecosystem function through the Project area.

Project activities include:

- Removing Sunset Weir from the river channel and restoring natural channel gradient.
- Filling downstream scour pool using onsite weir material and capping with spawning-grade gravel to create suitable spawning substrate.
- Installing five cone-shaped fish screens at the Sunset Pumps intake to meet modern fish protection standards.
- Constructing a new wet well and replacing outdated water diversion infrastructure.
- Stabilizing the left bank with vegetated rock slope protection.

Long-Term Management

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

Project Funding

The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Project Management	---	$120,000	$120,000
Construction Management	---	$7,165,480	$7,165,480

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Project Construction	$29,261,887	$47,715,407	$47,715,407
Total	$29,261,887	$55,000,887	$55,000,887

Non-WCB funders include:
- DWR - $16,736,000
- CDFW - $9,000,000

Letters of Support or Opposition
Support:
- None received

Opposition:
- None received

CEQA
DWR, as lead agency, prepared a Supplemental EIR to the Statewide General Restoration Order for the project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA. Staff considered the EIR and 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.

25. Park Fire Restoration and Enhancement **Restoration – Implementation**

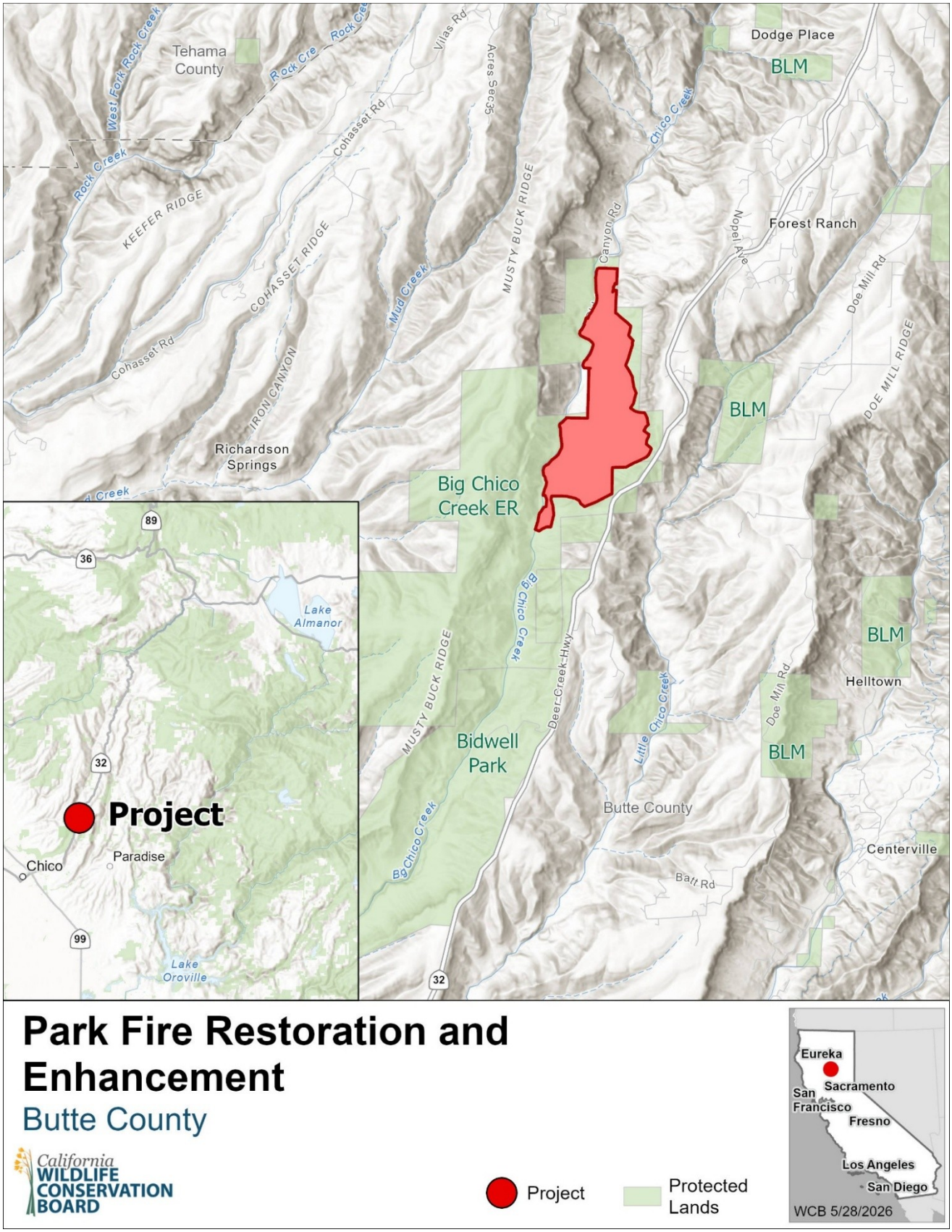
WCB Grant: $2,712,000
Fund Source(s): Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 (Proposition 4 – Existing Programs), Public Resources Code Section 93010 (SB 105, Sec. 94)
Grantee: Chico State Enterprises
Landowner: Chico State Enterprises
Location: Ten miles north of Chico
County: Butte

Project Highlights

- Post-fire restoration for oak woodlands
- Utilizes thinning, prescribed fire, cultural fire
- Leverages Chico State University experiential learning programs for restoration
- Long-term partnership with Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico Rancheria
- Key species: Foothill yellow legged frog, Chinook salmon

Priority Metrics

- Benefits Justice Communities: Yes, within a DAC polygon identified by the Climate Bond mapping tool, reduces wildfire risk to nearby city of Chico which includes DAC and SDAC populations.
- Tribal Partnerships: Yes; partnership with the Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico Rancheria for planning and implementation
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 4, Enhance Conservation of Existing Public Lands and Coastal Waters; Pathway 6, Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship
- WCB Strategic Plan Target: B3.4, C1.2, C1.3, C2.3


Park Fire Restoration and Enhancement
Butte County
California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD
Project
Protected Lands
WCB 5/28/2026
Tehama County
Dodge Place
BLM
Forest Ranch
Richardson Springs
Big Chico Creek ER
Bidwell Park
Butte County
Helltown
Centerville
Paradise
Chico
Lake Almanor
Lake Oroville
Eureka
Sacramento
San Francisco
Fresno
Los Angeles
San Diego
KEEFER RIDGE
COHASSET RIDGE
IRON CANYON
MUSTY BUCK RIDGE
DOE MILL RIDGE
Cohasset Rd
Rock Creek
West Fork Rock Creek
Mud Creek
Chico Creek
Big Chico Creek
Little Chico Creek
Deer Creek Hwy
Doe Mill Rd
Nopel Ave
Canyon Rd
Butt Rd
Vilas Rd
Acres Sec35

Project Description

The Park Fire Restoration and Enhancement (Project) will occur on Chico State University's Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve (BCCER). The entirety of BCCER experienced high severity wildfire in July 2024 when the Park fire ignited nearby. Chico State Enterprises will work with the Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico Rancheria and Chico State University students to conduct opportunistic post-wildfire vegetation treatments designed to create a mosaic of grassland and oak woodland habitats. These treatments will reduce dense post-fire regrowth and encourage tribally significant vegetation alliances. The Project will demonstrate land management techniques that can render a more resilient ecosystem when applied in a timely manner after wildfire. Work onsite will contribute to CALFIRE's Fire and Resource Assessment Program to measure the impact of land management practices to inform emerging best practices in an era of megafire.

The Project will increase biodiversity and climate resilience by:

- Thinning 668 acres of dense post-wildfire regrowth to promote the establishment of a variety of plant species and increase habitat complexity
- Applying of beneficial prescribed and cultural fire to 324 acres
- Contributing to CALFIRE's Fire and Resource Assessment Program

Long-Term Management

Chico State Enterprises (Grantee) has adopted a Management Plan that guides management actions for the Project, including management of the property. If at any time during the 15-year 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
Project Management	$262,592	$50,000	$312,592
Restoration	$2,154,386	$200,000	$2,354,386
Indirect	$295,022	$462,224	$757,246
Total	$2,712,000	$712,224	$3,424,224

Non-WCB funders include:

- Chico State Enterprises - $712,224

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Sandra Knight, Vice Chairperson, Mechoopda Indian Tribe
- Joseph Restaino, Senior Environmental Scientist, Fire and Resource Assessment Program, CALFIRE
- Garrett Sjolund, Unit Chief – Butte Unit, CALFIRE
- Len Nielson, Staff Chief Prescribed Fire and Environmental Protection, CALFIRE
- Taylor Nilsson, Executive Director, Butte County Fire Safe Council
- Holly Swan, Regional Manager, California Trout

Opposition:

- None received

CEQA

The Project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to the March 1, 2025, Proclamation of State of Emergency by Governor Newsom suspending CEQA for projects expediting critical fuels reduction. The California Environmental Protection Agency and the California Natural Resources Agency issued a Secretarial Suspension Authorization for the Project on December 22, 2025. Subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

State Government

- Senate: Senator Henry Stern, District 27
- Assembly: Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin, District 42

Staff Recommendation

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

26. Colby Mountain Recreation Trails **Public Access – Implementation**

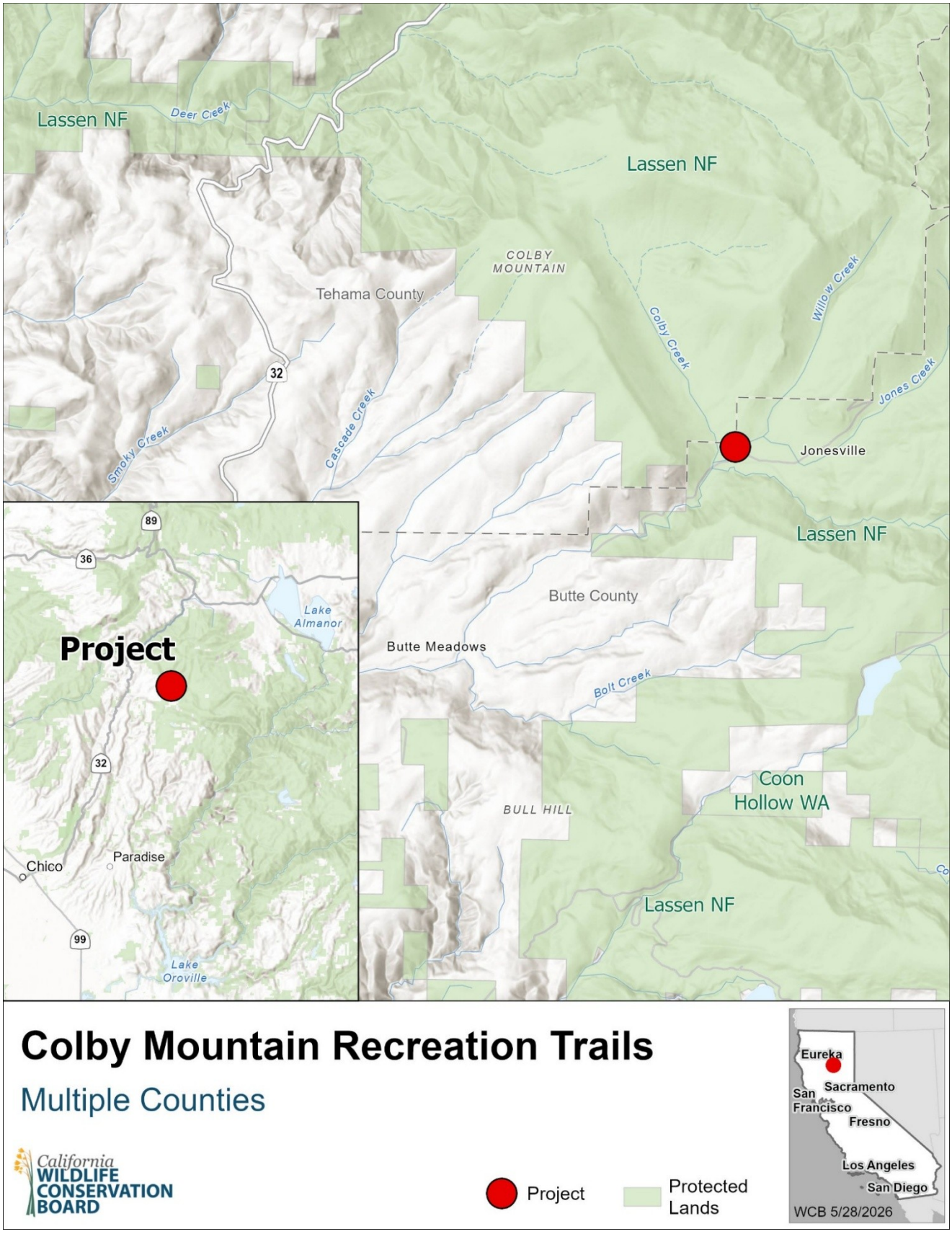
WCB Grant: $2,670,000
Fund Source(s): Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 (Proposition 4 – Existing Programs), Public Resources Code Section 93010 (SB 105, Sec. 94)
Grantee: Butte County Resource Conservation District
Landowner: U.S. Forest Service
Location: 38 miles northeast of Chico
Counties: Butte, Tehama, Plumas

Project Highlights

- Improves access to public lands in a region that has been highly impacted by wildfires.
- Trailheads include ADA amenities and portions of the trail network are accessible to adaptive mountain bikes (aMTB).
- Provides environmental education opportunities for students from Chico and surrounding areas, including Disadvantaged Communities.

Priority Metrics

- Benefits Justice Communities: Yes, the project area is within a Disadvantaged Community as identified in the climate bond mapping tool. The Project provides close-to-home recreational opportunities and climate refuge during hot summers.
- Tribal Partnerships: Yes, the Cultural Preservation staff from the Mechoopda Indian Tribe, the Konkow Maidu Tribe, and the Redding Rancheria will support the development of educational signage and curriculum.
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 6, Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship
- WCB Strategic Plan Target: P1.3, P2.2, P3.2


Lassen NF
Deer Creek
Lassen NF
COLBY MOUNTAIN
Tehama County
Willow Creek
Colby Creek
Jones Creek
32
Cascade Creek
Smoky Creek
Jonesville
Lassen NF
89
36
Lake Almanor
Project
Butte County
Butte Meadows
Bolt Creek
32
Coon Hollow WA
BULL HILL
Chico
Paradise
Lassen NF
99
Lake Oroville
Colby Mountain Recreation Trails
Multiple Counties
California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD
Project
Protected Lands
Eureka
Sacramento
San Francisco
Fresno
Los Angeles
San Diego
WCB 5/28/2026

Project Description

Colby Mountain Recreation Trails (Project) will improve access to public lands in the Lassen National Forest (Almanor Ranger District) near the community of Jonesville through the construction of 36 miles of multi-use, non-motorized trails and enhancement of trailhead facilities. Public access and recreation in Butte County and the surrounding region have been highly impacted by wildfire in recent years. The Project area is bordered by areas recovering from the 2021 Dixie Fire and the 2024 Park Fire. Butte County Resource Conservation District (BCRCD) and non-profit partner Chico Velo have completed nearly 16 miles of trail, leaving about 20 miles to be completed with WCB funding.

The Project creates a recreation opportunity that will provide a high-elevation heat refuge and health benefits for surrounding communities, increased access to public lands, enhanced environmental and public lands stewardship, and regional economic benefits. The trail system will provide a variety of high-quality recreational experiences, from one-mile loops to all-day adventures. BCRCD will develop a technical advisory committee (TAC) to support and guide project development. The TAC will consist of members representing Tribal partners and user groups, including equestrian, hiking, trail running, and mountain biking. The TAC will provide input on Project documents, plans, designated use, signage, and will conduct inspections of completed work.

Key Project features:

- The Humboldt Summit trailhead currently provides informal access to the Pacific Crest Trail. The Project will improve and formalize this trailhead by adding an ADA-accessible vault toilet, picnic benches, an ADA-accessible overlook area, and kiosks featuring signage about tribal history and geology. Local tribes and the Chico State Geology Department will provide technical guidance for tribal history information and geological information, respectively.
- The trail system includes 16 miles designed to accommodate Adaptive Mountain Bikes (aMTB), improving access for riders with disabilities.
- The Watershed Health Classroom Trail, a one-mile loop featuring educational signage, will be easily accessible from the Jonesville Snowpark parking lot. This will be an experiential education opportunity that will allow students to view ongoing restoration work and learn about the importance of meadows, headwaters, and forest health. The Project will also develop curriculum for the Classroom Trail which will be geared toward 5th and 6th grade students starting their natural sciences focus. Project partners will engage the Chico Unified School District and other local charter schools through the curriculum development process.

Long-Term Management

BCRCD has adopted a Management Plan that guides management actions for the Project. If at any time during the 25-year life of the Project, BCRCD 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	$121,235	---	$121,235
Trail Construction	$1,438,000	$105,000	$1,543,000
Trailhead Construction	$973,000	$150,000	$1,123,000
Interpretive Kiosks and Signage	$60,000	---	$60,000
Watershed Classroom Trail Curriculum	$10,000	---	$10,000
Indirect Costs	$67,765	---	$67,765
Total	$2,670,000	$255,000	$2,925,000

Non-WCB funders include:

- Chico Velo - $255,000

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Bill Connelly, Chair, Butte County Board of Supervisors
- Ivan Garcia, Programming Director, Butte County Association of Governments
- Mandi McKay, Board President, Chico Velo
- Connor Swift, Northern Sierra Regional Representative, Pacific Crest Trail Association
- Nichole Farley, CDME, Executive Director, Explore Butte County
- Kristin Cooper Carter, Owner, Durham Park Stables

Opposition:

- None received

CEQA

BCRCD, as lead agency, prepared a Negative Declaration for the Project pursuant to the provisions of the CEQA. Staff considered the Negative Declaration and 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.

27. Salt Creek Floodplain Restoration Implementation **Restoration – Implementation**

WCB Grant: $2,959,000
Fund Source(s): Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 (Proposition 4 – Stream Flow Enhancement Program), Public Resources Code Section 91040(a) (SB 105, Sec. 97)
Grantee: Watershed Research and Training Center
Landowner: Trinity County and two private landowners
Location: Within the community of Hayfork approximately 50 miles west of Redding
County: Trinity

Project Highlights

- Restore approximately 27 acres of floodplain and riparian habitat for migratory salmonids
- Reduce erosion along the creek and local bridge and road
- Key species: Coho salmon, Chinook salmon, steelhead, and other riparian species

Priority Metrics

- Benefits Justice Communities: Yes. The project is within an SDAC and will protect two key pieces of community infrastructure by improving the stream alignment (Tule Creek Road Bridge and the access road to the wastewater treatment plant).
- Tribal Partnerships: Yes. The Yurok Tribe Construction Corporation will conduct all heavy equipment earthmoving and construction tasks.
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 6, Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship
- WCB Strategic Plan Target: B 2.2


Jud Creek
Shasta-Trinity NF
Luckie Place
Cedar Gulch
Hayfork Creek
BLM
Duncan Gulch
Big Creek
DUNCAN HILL
BLM
Hayfork
State Highway 3
3
Tule Creek
West Tule Creek
Shasta-Trinity NF
Trinity River
299
Weaverville
Trinity
Hayfork
3
Project
36
Hayfork Creek
Shasta-Trinity NF
State Highway 3
Peanut
Philpot Creek
36
Salt Creek Floodplain Restoration Implementation
Trinity County
California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD
Project
Protected Lands
Eureka
Sacramento
San Francisco
Fresno
Los Angeles
San Diego
WCB 5/28/2026

Project Description

Salt Creek, a significant tributary to Hayfork Creek and the Klamath River, has been highly degraded by past land use and road construction activities. The creek is now disconnected from its historic floodplain, eroded to a hard claypan layer, and provides little habitat value for migratory salmonids.

The project will implement stream restoration activities to enhance stream flow and habitat value by:

- Adding gravel to the streambed
- Installing large wood debris to the creek to create habitat complexity
- Planting native riparian vegetation
- Realigning creek to avoid impacts from nearby roads
- Restoration of approximately 27 acres of riparian and floodplain habitat

Long-Term Management

The Watershed Research and Training Center adopted a Management Plan that guides management actions for the project, including management of the project improvements. 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
Project Management and Administration	$36,000	$57,615	$93,615
Implementation and Construction Management	$2,830,000	$150,722	$2,980,722
Revegetation and Adaptive Management	$50,000	$64,676	$114,676
Monitoring	$12,000	$40,724	$52,724
Indirect Costs	$31,000	$57,580	$88,580
Total	$2,959,000	$371,317	$3,330,317

Non-WCB funders include:

- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation - $365,317.47
- Private Landowner - $6,000.00

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Joseph L. James, Chairman, Yurok Tribal Council
- Jake Shannon, Senior Environmental Scientist, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Doug Evans and Thomas Evans, Owners, Evans Brothers, LLC

Opposition:

- None received

CEQA

The North Coast Regional Water Quality Board, as lead agency, prepared a PEIR for the project pursuant to the provisions of the CEQA. Staff considered the PEIR and 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 Mike McGurie, District 2
- Assembly: Assemblymember Chris Rogers, District 2

Staff Recommendation

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

28. Cannibal Island Restoration Project **Restoration – Implementation**

WCB Grant: $4,000,000
Fund Source(s): Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 (Proposition 4 – Existing Programs), Public Resources Code Section 93010 (SB 105, Sec. 94)
Grantee: California Trout, Inc.
Landowner: CDFW
Location: Three miles west of Loleta
County: Humboldt County

Project Highlights

- Located at the Cannibal Island Unit of the Eel River Wildlife Area
- Phase one of two phase approach
- Habitat restored: 500 acres of tidal marsh
- Key species: Coho salmon, Chinook salmon, steelhead trout, longfin smelt, tidewater goby
- Regional or Species Plan: NOAA Fisheries 2016 Coastal Multispecies Recovery Plan, Pacific Birds Joint Venture Coastal Wetlands Strategic Plan

Priority Metrics

- Benefits Justice Communities: Yes. The project is within an SDAC, will mitigate sea level rise in the area, and preserve road access on Cannibal Island Road for recreation and access to neighboring farms and the Eel River Wildlife Area.
- Tribal Partnerships: Yes. The Wiyot Tribe will assist with cultural monitoring.
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 6, Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship
- WCB Strategic Plan Target: B1.1, B1.3


Pacific Ocean
Arcata
299
Bayside
Eureka
Project
101
Fortuna
Rio Dell
36
Eel River WA
Humboldt Bay NWR
Table Bluff Rancheria
TABLE BLUFF
Copenhagen Rd
Hawks Hill Rd
Cannibal Island Rd
Niles Ln
Eel River WA
Cock Island
Eel River WA
Eel River
Camp Weott Rd
Eel River WA
Eel River Estuary Preserve
Smith Creek
Dillon Rd
Nissen Ln
Fulmor Rd
Goble Ln
Sage Rd
Port Kenyon
Arlynda Corners
Meridian Rd
Centerville Rd
Ferndale
Cannibal Island Restoration
Humboldt County
California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD
Project
Protected Lands
Eureka
Sacramento
San Francisco
Fresno
Los Angeles
San Diego
WCB 5/28/2026

Project Description

The Cannibal Island Restoration (Project) area, like much of the Eel River Delta, was historically comprised of estuarine tidal marsh and a network of tidal channels. In the late 1800s, the area was diked, drained, and isolated from tidal waters for agricultural use. For decades, the area was used for dairy and cattle ranching, farming for hay, beets, carrots, and other crops. In 1968, CDFW added a portion of Cannibal Island into the now 2,600-acre Eel River Wildlife Area.

Cannibal Island is isolated from natural tidal hydrology by an earthen dike constructed for agricultural purposes. Culverts with tide gates were installed through the dike to prevent saltwater inflow and allow for drainage of ag lands. The dikes have reduced the frequency of riverine and tidal inundations and consequently negated sediment accumulation throughout the project area. As a result, the interior land elevations have subsided up to three feet relative to the exterior land elevations. However, the remaining tide gates and culverts no longer function, and exterior dikes have breached in several locations resulting in muted tidal exchange and gradual conversion of the low interior lands from freshwater pasture to muted tidal salt marsh vegetation and relatively poor-quality aquatic habitats with poor fish access. The failed tide gates, degraded dike system, and subsided land exacerbate vulnerabilities to adjacent agricultural lands and infrastructure from sea level rise and storm events.

The Project will restore a resilient complex of wetlands in the Project area by:

- Removing earthen fill to enhance tidal wetlands within the Project area.
- Removing earthen fill to construct an eco-levee to protect surrounding agricultural lands.
- Removing a culvert and repairing north levee on 7-mile Slough.
- Removing derelict building structures.
- Constructing tidal channel network and enhance marsh plain.
- Removing relict water control structures.
- Constructing tidal channel connection.
- Completing mechanical non-native Spartina removal.

A future phase of the Project will complete interior tidal channel network construction and marsh plain creation/enhancement.

Long-Term Management

CDFW has adopted a Management Plan that guides management actions for the Project, including management of the property. If at any time during the 20-year life of the Project, California Trout, Inc. does not manage and maintain the project improvements, the Grant Agreement requires that it refund to the state of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the Project life.

Project Funding

The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Project Management	$200,000	---	$200,000
Construction	$3,700,000	$2,125,000	$5,825,000
Indirect Costs	$100,000	---	$100,000
Total	$4,000,000	$2,125,000	$6,125,000

Non-WCB funders include:

- California State Coastal Conservancy - $1,400,000
- CDFW - $725,000

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Wren Kaiser, Conservationist Supervisor, California Conservation Corps
- Bob Pagliuco, Marine Habitat Resource Specialist, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Monica Iglecia, Director and U.S Coordinator, Pacific Birds Joint Venture

Opposition:

- None received

CEQA

CDFW, as lead agency, determined that 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. Staff considered the lead agency’s CEQA exemption and, subject to approval of this proposal by WCB, the appropriate NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

State Government

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

Staff Recommendation

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

29. Fieldbrook Valley Redwood Restoration **Restoration – Implementation**

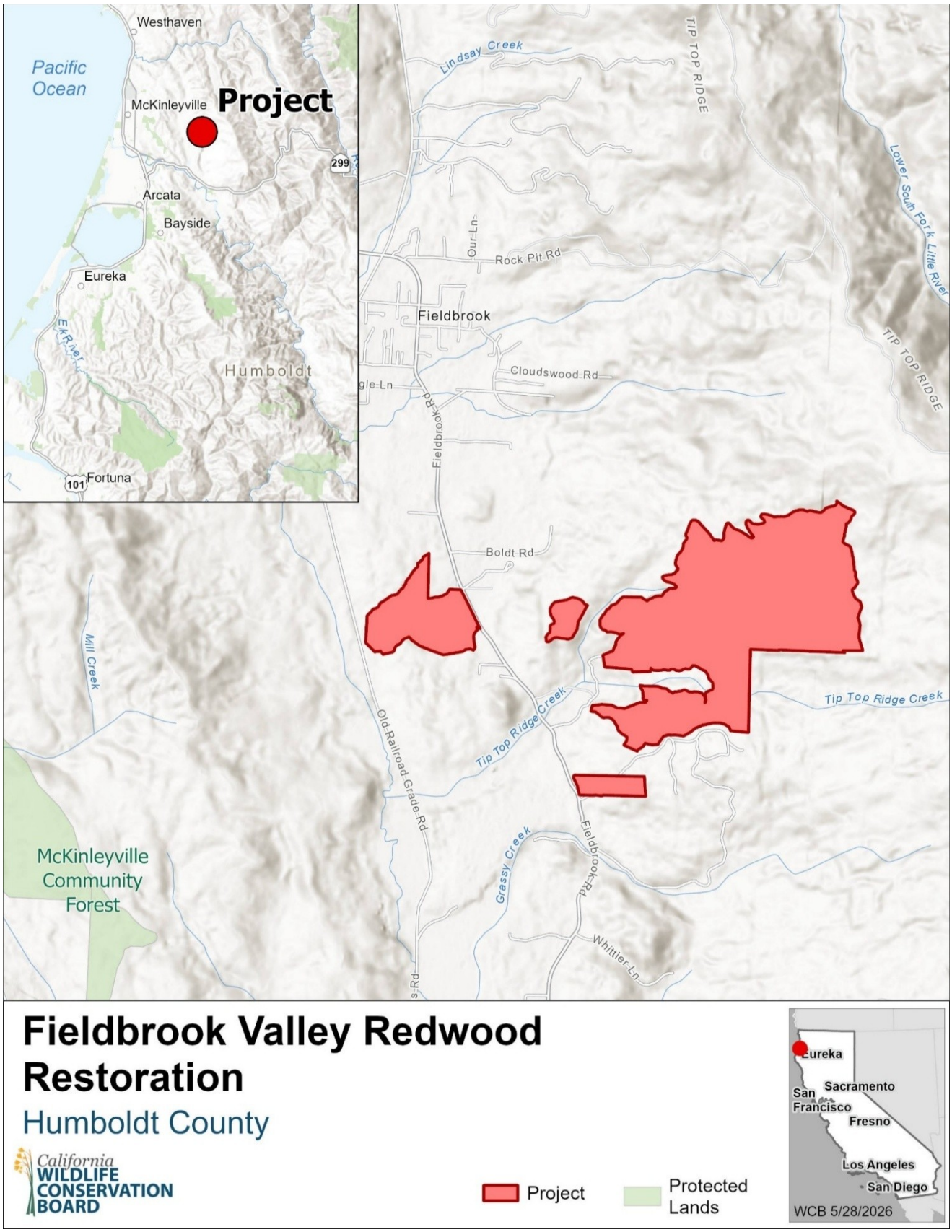
WCB Grant: $1,991,000
Fund Source(s): Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 (Proposition 4 – Existing Programs), Public Resources Code Section 93010 (SB 105, Sec. 94)
Grantee: Pacific Forest Trust
Landowner: Fred M. Van Eck Forest Foundation
Location: Five miles east of McKinleyville
County: Humboldt

Project Highlights

- Forest health project to benefit redwoods
- Increases climate resilience and carbon sequestration
- Beneficial fire in partnership with local tribes
- Builds upon long term management by the landowner to enable prescribed fire
- Key species: Northern spotted owl, Coho salmon, Pacific fisher

Priority Metrics

- Benefits Justice Communities: Yes, within disadvantaged community polygon per Climate Bond mapping tool. Increases climate and wildfire resilience, decreases risk of carbon loss to wildfire.
- Tribal Partnerships: Local tribes will participate in broadcast burning
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 6, Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship
- WCB Strategic Plan Target: B2.1, C.1, C1.3, C2.1, C2.2, C2.3


Westhaven
Pacific Ocean
McKinleyville
Project
299
Arcata
Bayside
Eureka
Humboldt
Fortuna
101
Lindsay Creek
TIP TOP RIDGE
Lower South Fork Little River
Our Ln
Rock Pit Rd
Fieldbrook
Cloudswood Rd
Fieldbrook Rd
Boldt Rd
Mill Creek
Tip Top Ridge Creek
Old Railroad Grade Rd
Grassy Creek
Whittier Ln
McKinleyville Community Forest
Fieldbrook Valley Redwood Restoration
Humboldt County
California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD
Project
Protected Lands
Eureka
Sacramento
San Francisco
Fresno
Los Angeles
San Diego
WCB 5/28/2026

Project Description

The Fieldbrook Valley Redwood Restoration (Project) site has dense fuel loads created by logging and subsequent habitat conversion from old growth redwood to second and third growth stands. These relatively young forests lack the complexity necessary to support the diverse plant and animal species array associated with old growth redwood forests. Select areas of the property were cleared for grazing and once abandoned, these forest gaps became colonized by Sitka spruce, which is less climate and fire resilient than redwood.

The Project will implement forest management activities to increase biodiversity, restore ecologically appropriate disturbance regimes, and increase climate resilience by:

- Performing variable density thinning across 54 acres of homogenous Sitka spruce stands
- Creating one-acre gaps within Sitka Spruce stands followed by reforestation with redwood seedlings
- Performing manual and mechanical invasive plant treatment
- Implementing prescribed fire on 500 acres in partnership with the tribal fire department

Long-Term Management

The Pacific Forest Trust has adopted a Management Plan that guides management actions for the Project, including management of the property. If at any time during the 15-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
Project Management	$173,519	$50,000	$223,519
Prescribed Burning	$1,376,000	---	$1,376,000
Invasive Plant Treatment	$80,000	---	$80,000
Redwood Reforestation	$303,750	$195,000	$498,750
Indirect	$57,731	---	$57,731
Total	$1,991,000	$245,000	$2,236,000

Non-WCB funders include:

- Pacific Forest Trust - $245,000

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Ross Dollarhide, Battalion Chief Humboldt Del Norte Unit, CALFIRE
- Erin Kelly, Department Chair and Professor Forest Policy Economics and Administration, Cal Poly Humboldt

Opposition:

- None received

CEQA

CALFIRE, as lead agency, approved a Nonindustrial Timber Management Plan (NTMP) for the Project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA. Staff considered the NTMP and have 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 Mike McGuire, District 2
- Assembly: Assemblymember Chris Rogers, District 2

Staff Recommendation

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

30. Wildlife Connectivity Fencing Modifications **Restoration – Implementation**

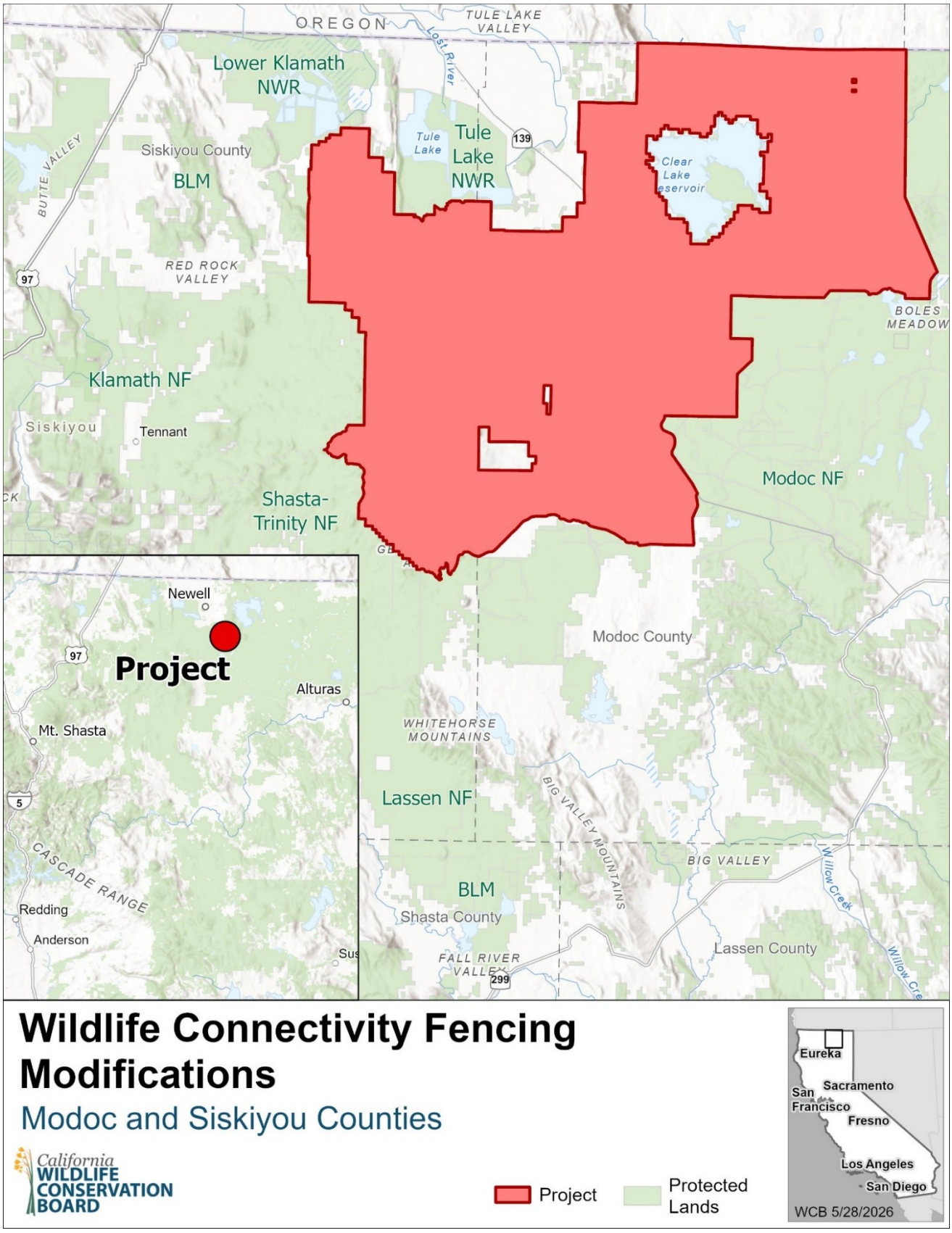
WCB Grant: $2,907,000
Fund Source(s): Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 (Proposition 4- Habitat Connectivity), Public Resources Code Section 93030 (SB 105, Sec. 95)
Grantee: Mule Deer Foundation
Landowner: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service
Location: 24 miles south of Tulelake
County: Modoc and Siskiyou

Project Highlights

- Located in the Doublehead Ranger District of the Modoc National Forest
- Work will take place on federally managed lands characterized by mountain big sagebrush, scattered western juniper, and open rangeland
- Removal of 12 miles of woven-wire fencing and modification of 51 miles of existing 4 and 5 strand barbed-wire fencing to a wildlife friendly design
- Contributes to the improvement of habitat conditions for mule deer, elk, and pronghorn antelope in northeast California
- CDFW identified the area as a migration corridor and critical winter range for ungulates

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: B1.1, B2.1, C2.2


OREGON
TULE LAKE VALLEY
Lost River
Lower Klamath NWR
Tule Lake
Tule Lake NWR
139
Clear Lake eservoir
Siskiyou County
BLM
BUTTE VALLEY
RED ROCK VALLEY
97
BOLES MEADOW
Klamath NF
Siskiyou
Tennant
Modoc NF
Shasta-Trinity NF
Newell
Project
Modoc County
Alturas
Mt. Shasta
WHITEHORSE MOUNTAINS
Lassen NF
BIG VALLEY MOUNTAINS
BIG VALLEY
Willow Creek
5
CASCADE RANGE
Redding
Anderson
BLM
Shasta County
Lassen County
FALL RIVER VALLEY
299
Wildlife Connectivity Fencing Modifications
Modoc and Siskiyou Counties
California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD
Project
Protected Lands
Eureka
Sacramento
San Francisco
Fresno
Los Angeles
San Diego
WCB 5/28/2026

Project Description

The Wildlife Connectivity Fencing Modifications (Project) addresses barriers to wildlife movement caused by outdated fencing across the Doublehead Ranger District in the Modoc National Forest, where over 55 percent of the land area overlaps with mapped migration corridors or home ranges for mule deer, elk, and pronghorn antelope. More than 500 miles of fencing, originally constructed for livestock management, exists on the landscape, fragmenting key habitat areas. Existing fence types include tightly spaced woven-wire fencing and four or five strand barbed wire with suboptimal wire heights. These designs are not compatible with safe passage for animals and create direct impediments to movement.

The Project will improve wildlife mobility within the Project area by:

- Removing 12 miles of woven-wire fencing that presents as a near-total obstruction to wildlife movement, particularly for pronghorn and juvenile ungulates.
- Retrofitting 51 miles of four and five strand barbed wire fencing to specifications that allow safe passage by big game species.
- Reducing entanglements and crossing-related injuries, while also decreasing energy expenditure associated with movement.
- Engaging the public in habitat stewardship and wildlife conservation by hosting events where up to two miles of woven wire fencing will be hand removed by volunteers.
- Allowing migratory wildlife in the region to recapture a portion of their historical movement behavior.

Long-Term Management

The Mule Deer Foundation has adopted a Management Plan that guides management actions for the Project, including management of the property. If at any time during the 20-year 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
Project Management	$27,250	---	$27,250
Planning	$26,690	$8,039	$34,729
Fence Removal and Modification	$2,571,900	$179,922	$2,751,822

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Monitoring and Maintenance	$16,898	$8,039	$24,937
Indirect Costs	$264,262	---	$264,262
Total	$2,907,000	$196,000	$3,103,000

Non-WCB funders include:
- Mule Deer Foundation - $80,000
- CDFW - $116,000

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:
- Chris Bieleki, Forest Supervisor, Modoc National Forest
- David Garcelon, President, Institute for Wildlife Studies

Opposition:
- None received

CEQA

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

31. Project Monitoring Program Presentation
Staff will provide an overview of WCB's Monitoring Program and highlight results of past project monitoring.

32. Public Forum for Items not on the Agenda

Adjourn

ATTACHMENT A – MAP OF May 28, 2026, PROJECTS