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**Wildlife Conservation Board
August 27, 2026 Board Meeting
King Gillette Ranch**

Beaver Valley Headwaters Preserve (AP Ranch)
Credit: WCB



Item 1. Roll Call

Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area, Expansion 20 (Stocker)
Credit: Geocon Consultants, Inc.



Item 2. Approval of Agenda

Mojave Reserve
Credit: WCB



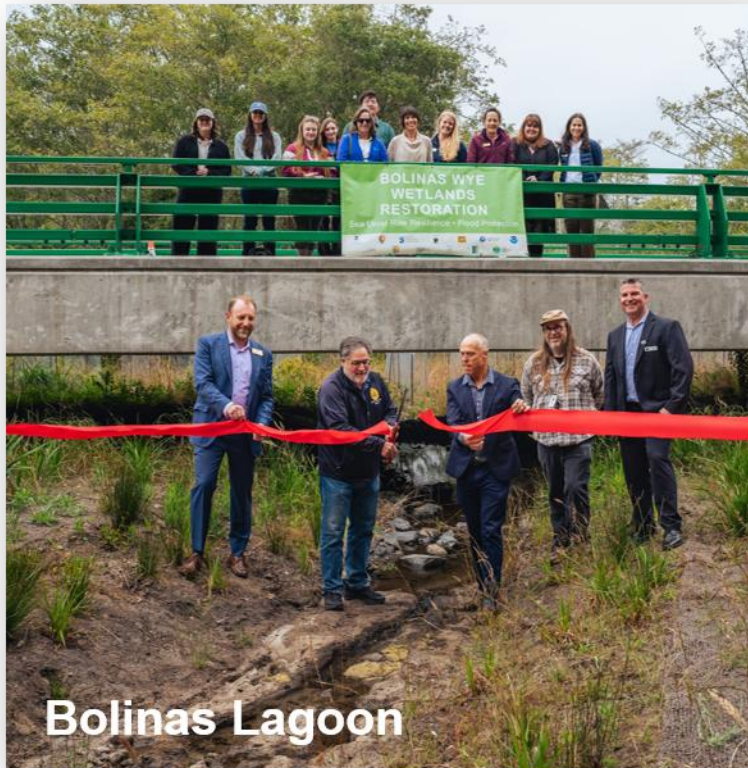
Item 3. Executive Director's Report

Big Springs Ranch Habitat Implementation
Credit: WCB

Augmentations Approved in Fiscal Year 25-26

Date	2025-26 Augmentations by Executive Director	Augmentation Amount
7/3/2025	Mohave Ground Squirrel Management Actions	\$196,000
1/16/2026	Education Center at Mt. Diablo State Park	\$262,000
2/16/2026	Oroville WA Thermalito Recreation Improvements	\$292,859
3/9/2026	Napa River Ecology Center	\$249,141
	TOTAL	\$1,000,000

Events



Credit: Marin County



Credit: Save the Redwoods League



Credit: WCB

VerdeXchange Conference



Credit: Joe Edmiston



Diablo Range
Convening

Credit: Save Mt. Diablo



Oroville
Wildlife Area

Credit: WCB



Item 4. Board Member Updates and Reports

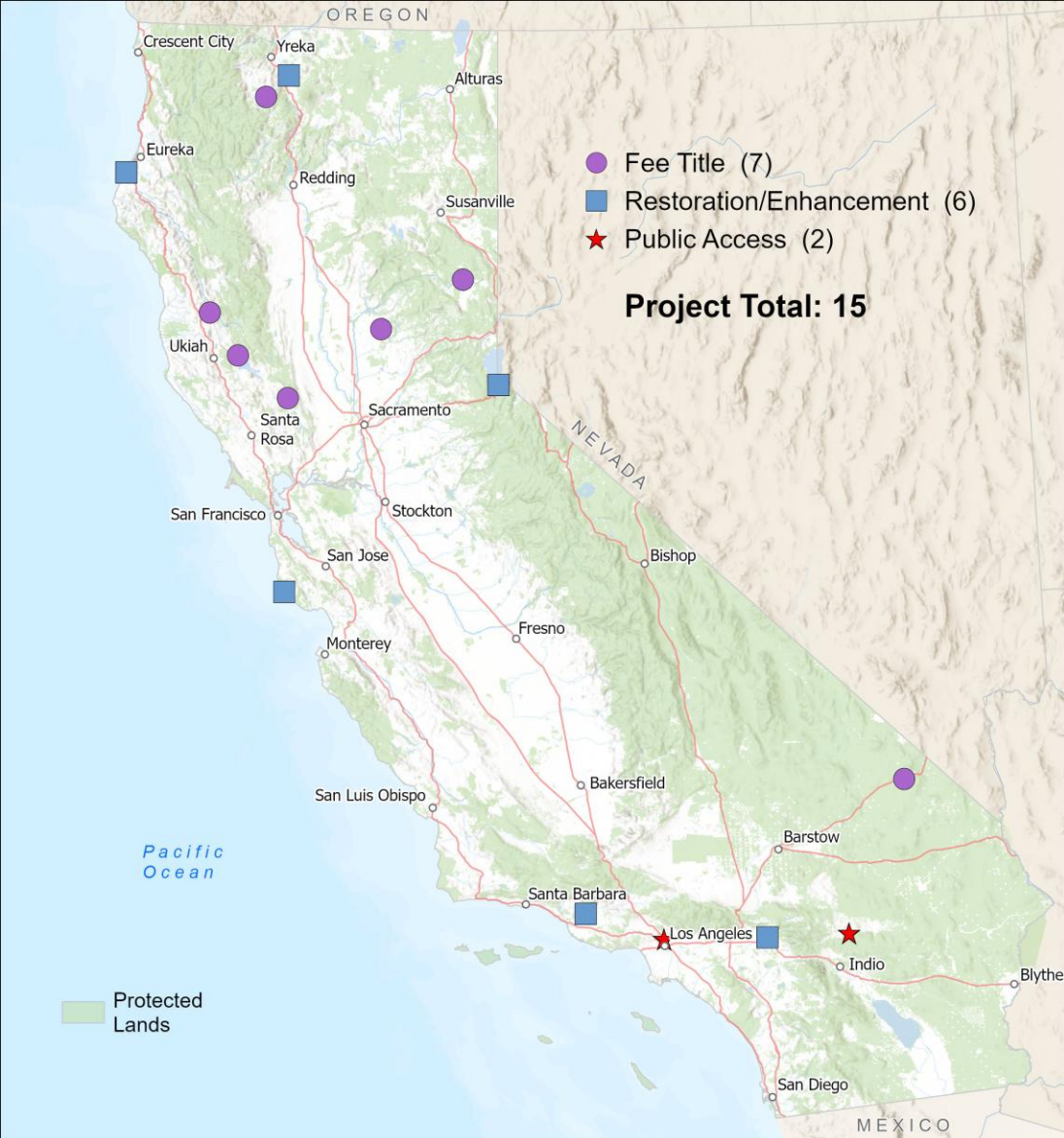
Table Bluff ER Coastal Prairie Restoration, Augmentation
Credit: CDFW





Item 5. Funding Status - Informational

Politsuwi
Credit: WCB



Wildlife Conservation Board Meeting August 27, 2026 Project Map

Proposed Projects
August 27, 2026



Consent Items 6 - 11

Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area, Expansion 20 (Stocker)
Credit: Geocon Consultants, Inc.



Item 6. Recovery of Funds

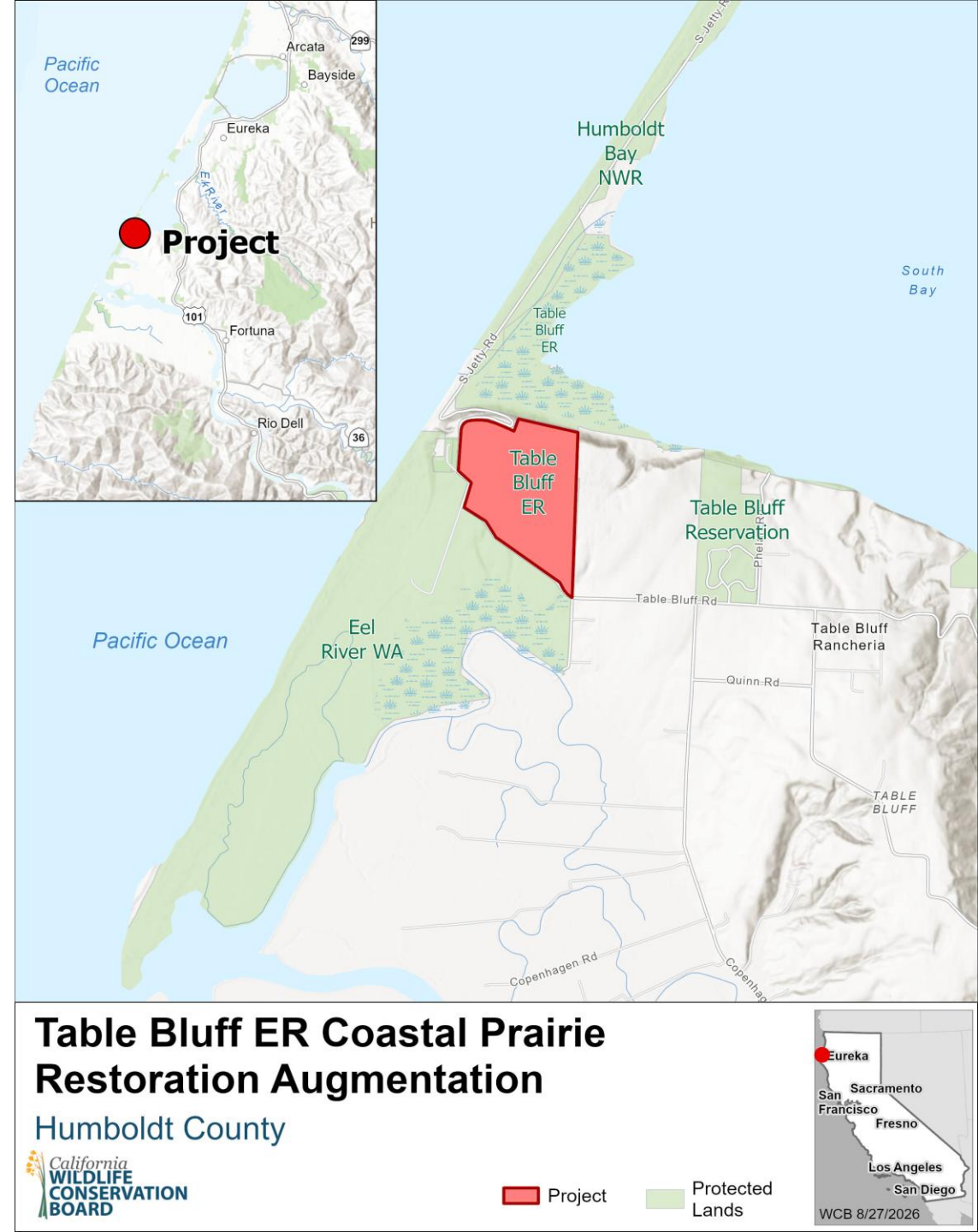
Fund Name	Amount
General Fund	\$71,824.35
Habitat Conservation Fund	\$4,213.33
Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Fund of 2014	\$27,201.50
The California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018	\$55,344.08
<i>Total Recoveries for All Funds</i>	<i>\$160,583.26</i>

Table Bluff ER Coastal Prairie Restoration Augmentation

- Mattole Restoration Council (applicant)
- WCB request \$2,421,000 (total project cost \$2,573,800)
- WCB augmentation request \$400,000 (total project cost \$2,973,800)
- Restore/enhance 100 acres of coastal prairie to benefit federally endangered western lily and construct public access trail system

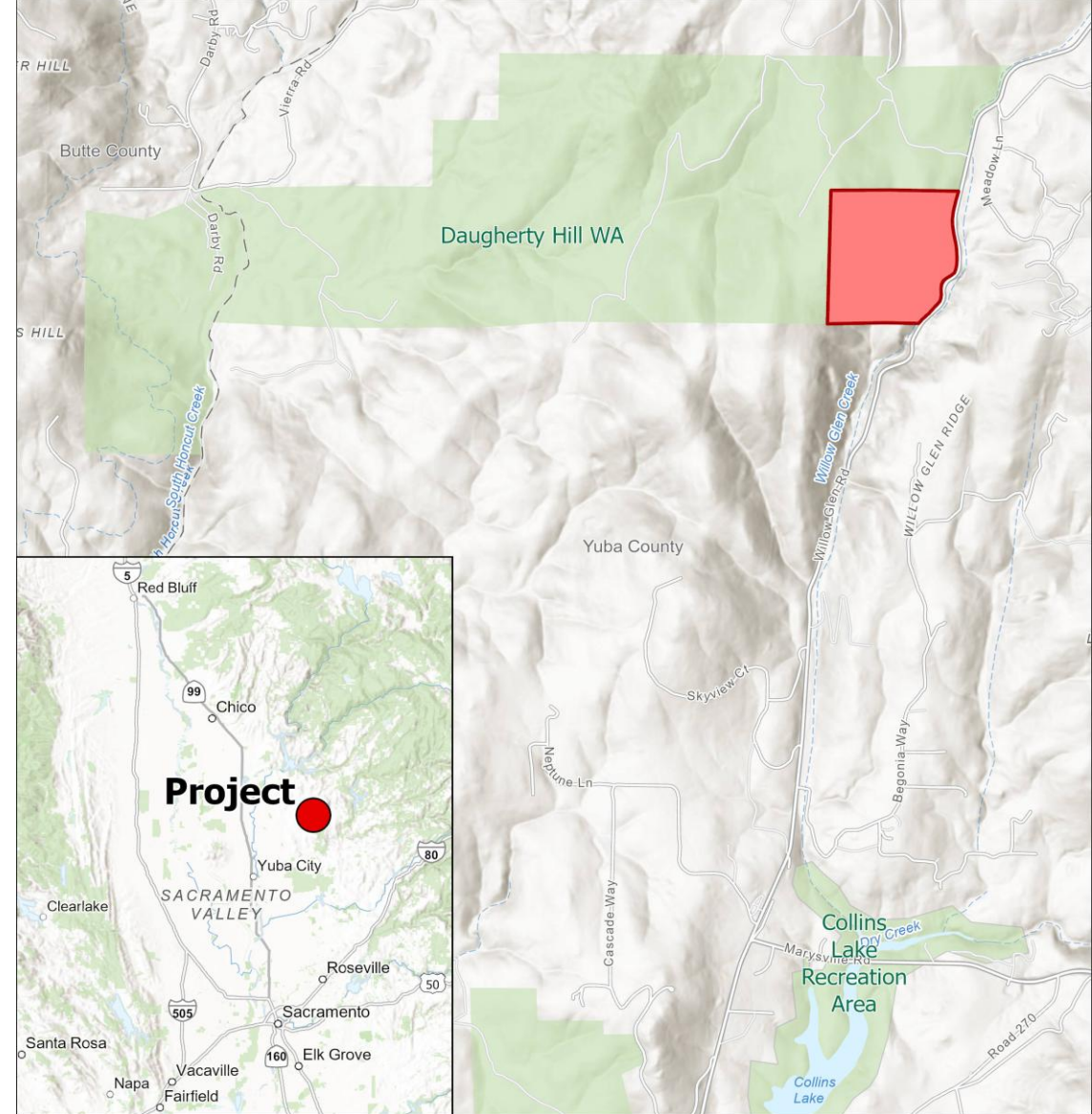


Credit: WCB



Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area, Expansion 20 (Stocker)

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife acquisition
- 155± acre fee acquisition
- Purchase price \$697,000
- WCB request \$697,000
- Critical winter range for the Mooretown deer herd



Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area, Expansion 20 (Stocker) Yuba County



Project

Protected Lands

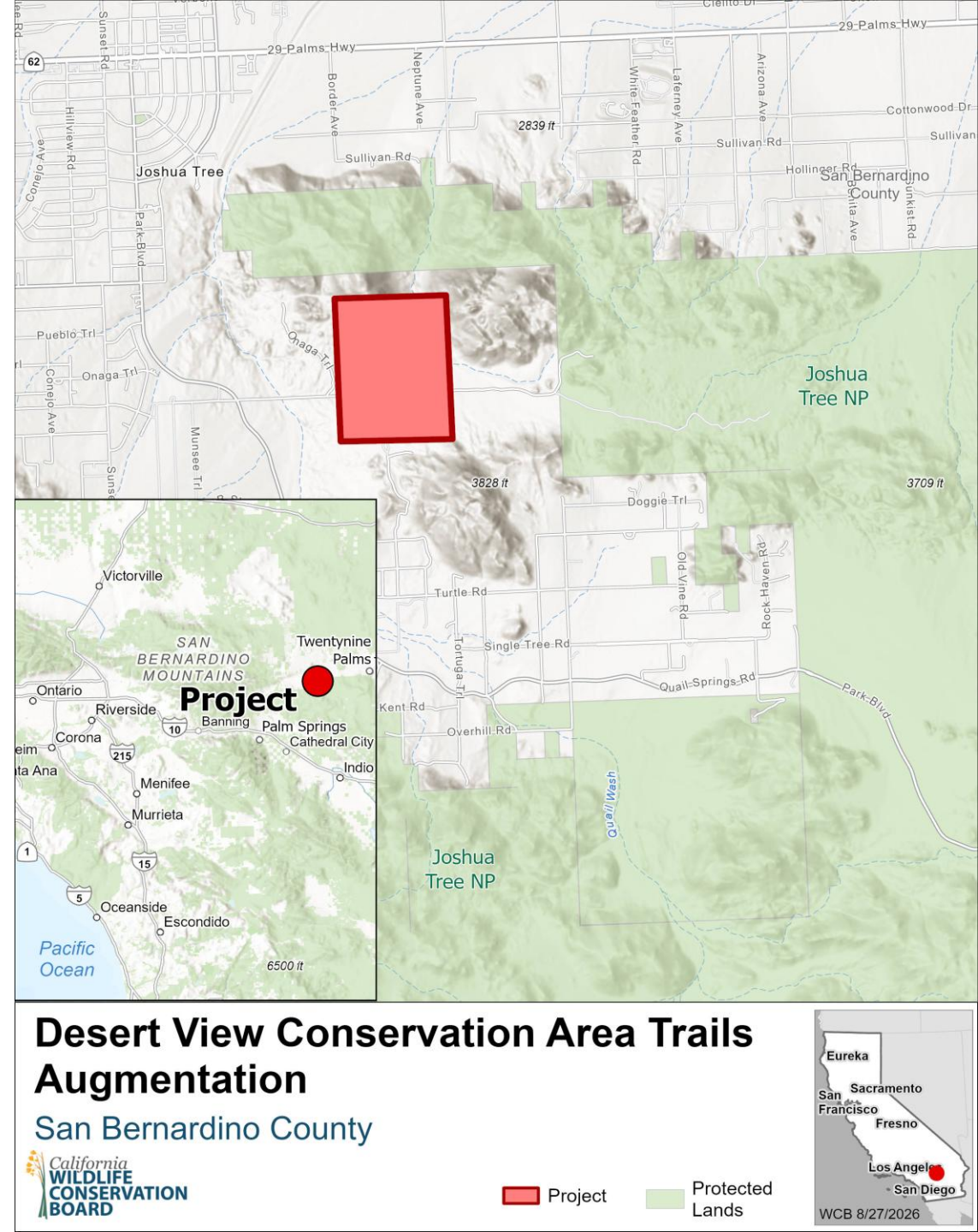


Desert View Conservation Area Trails Augmentation

- County Service Area 20 Joshua Tree (applicant)
- WCB augmentation request \$707,000 (total project cost \$2,707,000)
- Construct recreational and educational improvements and wildland protective measures

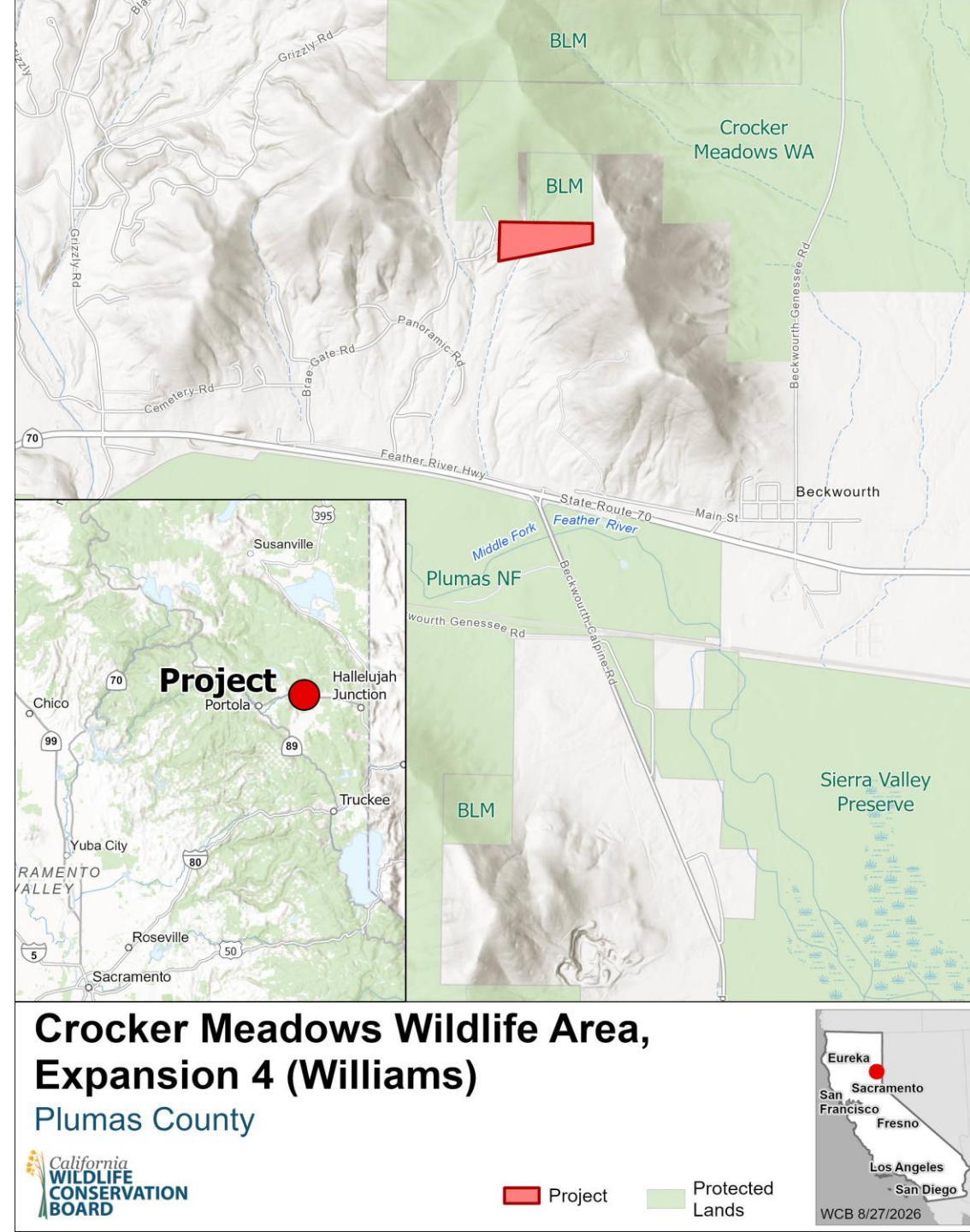


Credit: WCB



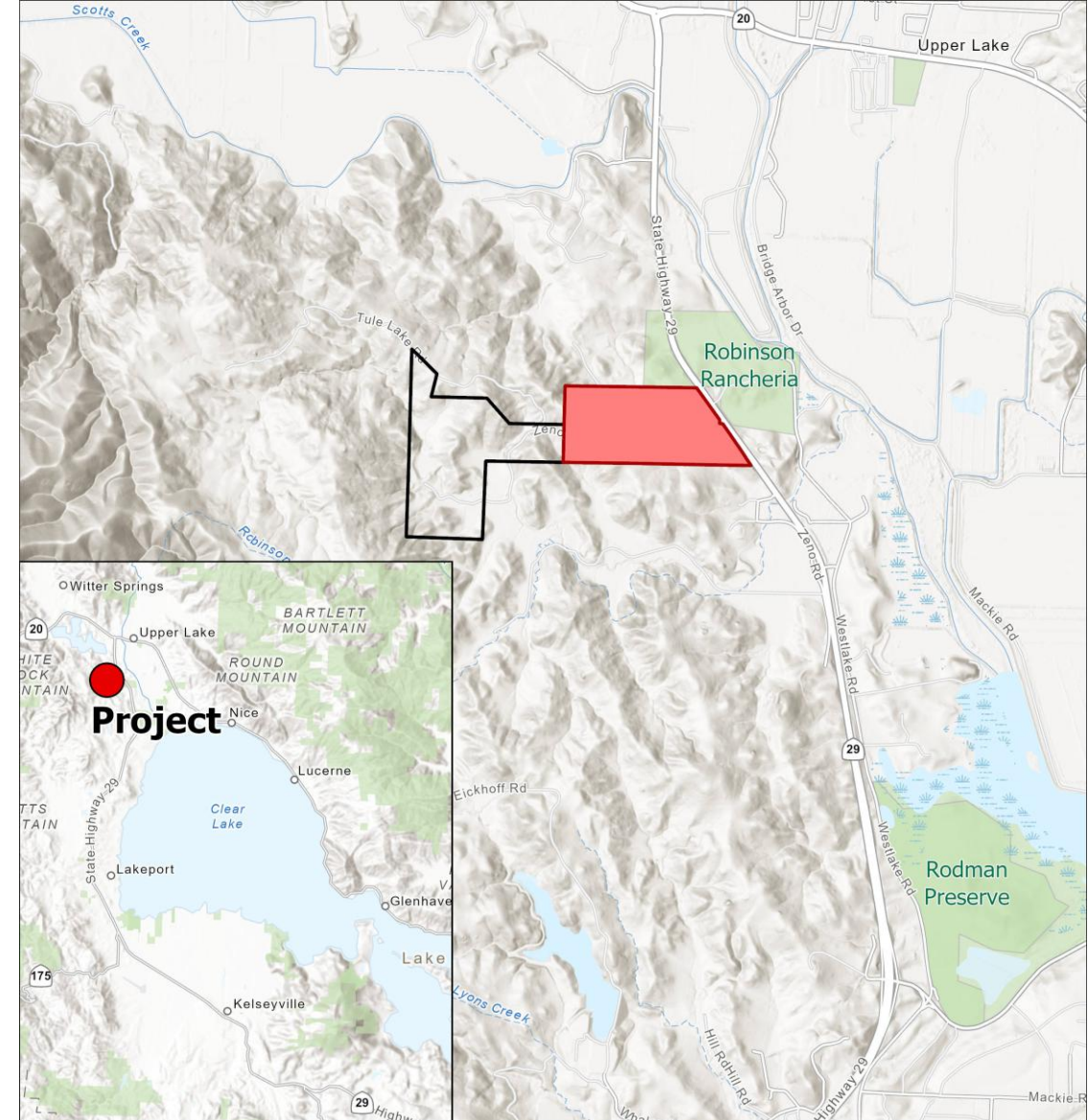
Crocker Meadows Wildlife Area, Expansion 4 (Williams)

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife acquisition
- 23± acre fee acquisition
- Purchase price \$5,000
- \$80,000 bargain sell by landowner
- WCB request \$5,000
- Property is adjacent to the existing Crocker Meadows Wildlife Area and expands protection for deer winter and fawning habitat



Politsuwi

- Tribal EcoRestoration Alliance (applicant)
- 80± acre fee acquisition
- Purchase price \$700,000
- WCB request \$700,000
- The property, adjacent to Tribal EcoRestoration Alliance's EcoCultural Stewardship Training and Demonstration Center, will provide a "living classroom", an ecocultural stewardship training and demonstration site



Politsuwi Lake County



Project

Protected
Lands

Tribal
EcoRestoration
Alliance



Credit: WCB



Consent Items 6-11, Motion

Table Bluff ER Coastal Prairie Restoration, Augmentation
Credit: CDFW



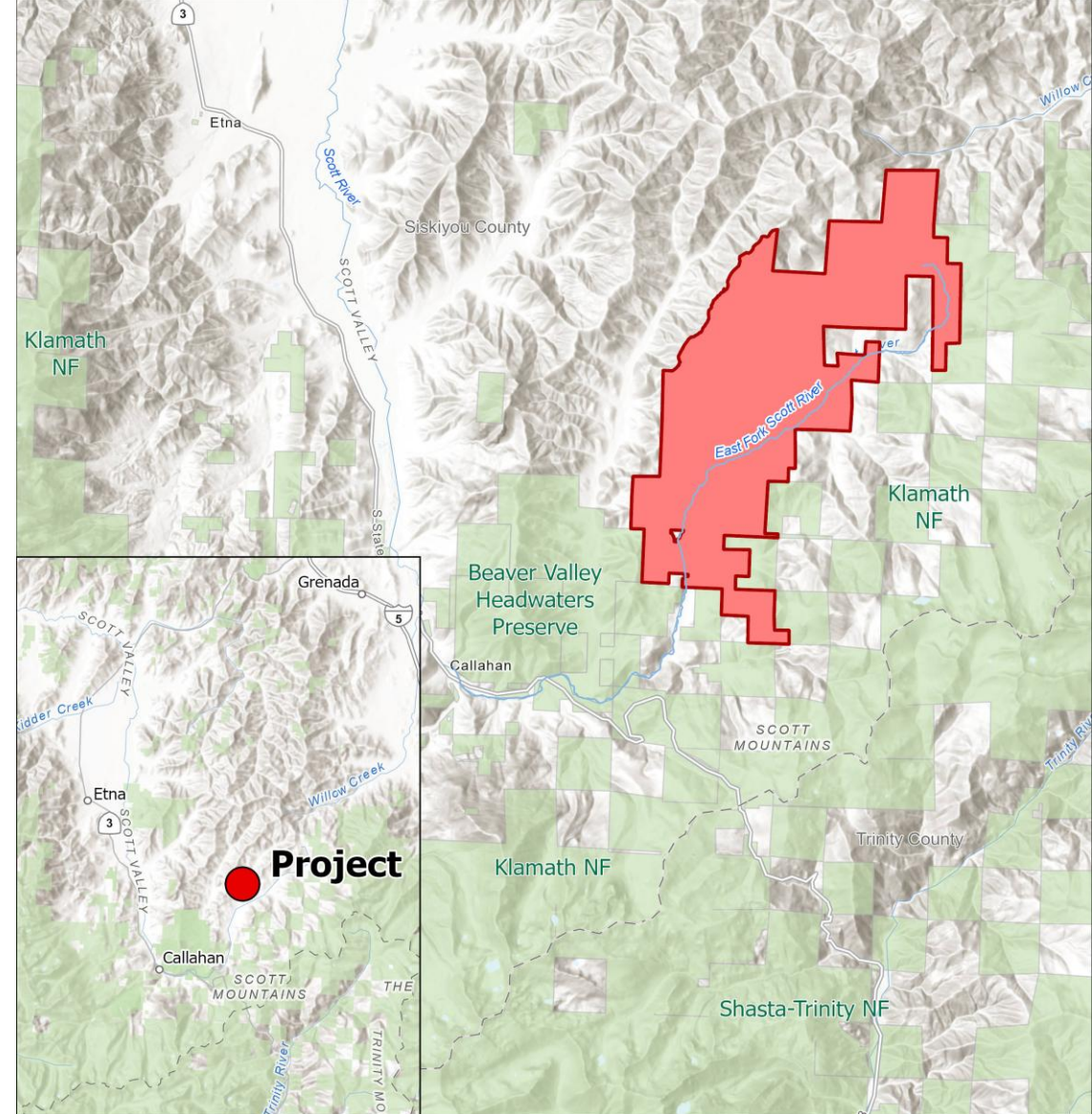
Presented Items 12-21

Johnson Meadow Restoration
Credit: WCB



Beaver Valley Headwaters Preserve (AP Ranch)

- The Wildlands Conservancy (applicant)
- 14,177± acre fee acquisition
- Purchase price \$15,500,000
- WCB request \$11,500,000



Beaver Valley Headwaters Preserve (AP Ranch) Siskiyou County



Beaver Valley Headwaters Preserve (AP Ranch)

Slide 2

Irrigated meadows and E. Fork Scott River amid a backdrop of the Klamath Mountains
Credit: California Outdoor Properties

Beaver Valley Headwaters Preserve (AP Ranch)

Slide 3





Beaver Valley Headwaters Preserve (AP Ranch)

Slide 4

E. Fork Scott River corridor on AP Ranch
Credit: California Outdoor Properties

Beaver Valley Headwaters Preserve (AP Ranch)

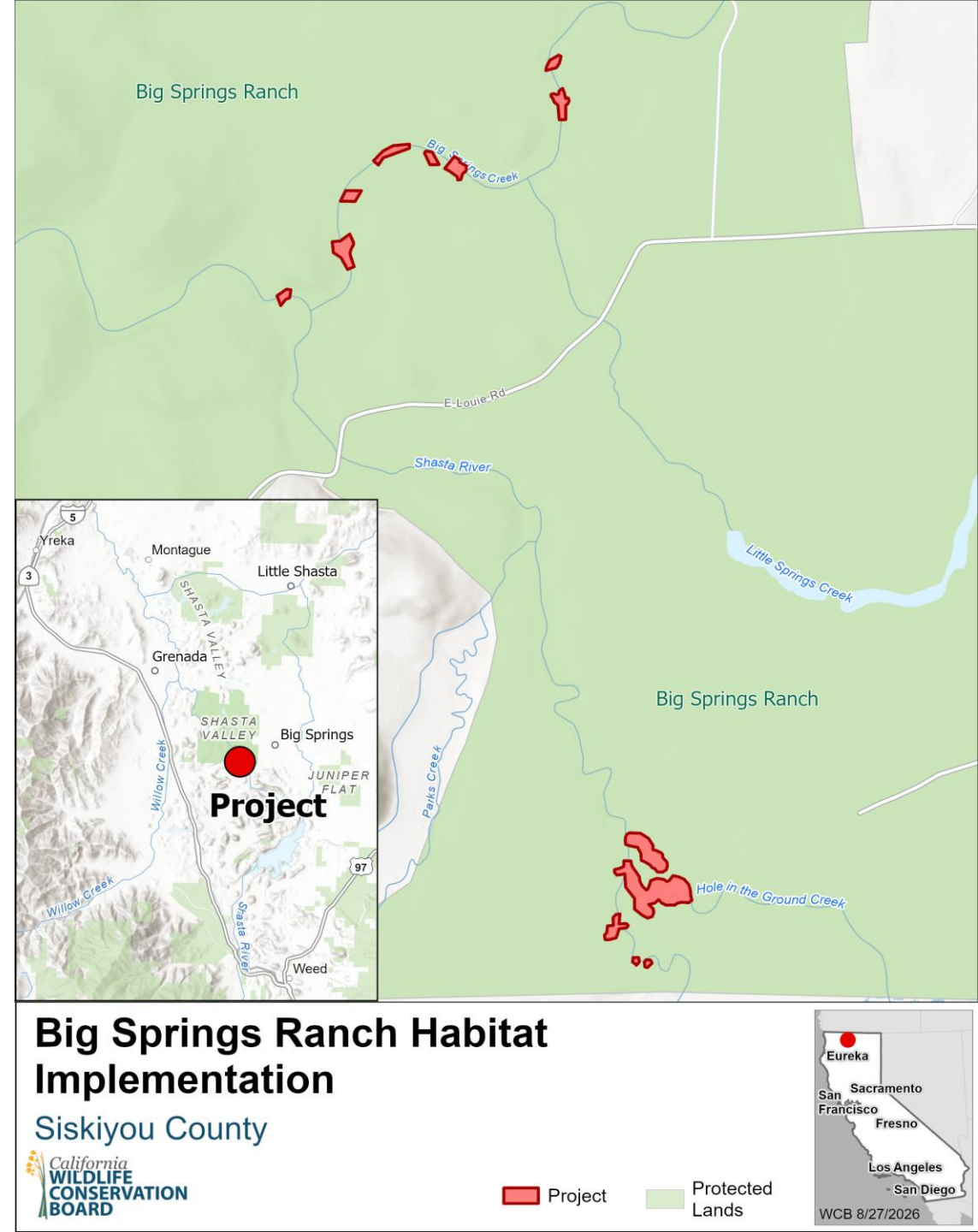
Slide 5



Meadow adjacent to the East Fork Scott River
Credit: WCB

Big Springs Ranch Habitat Implementation

- California Trout, Inc (applicant)
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife (landowner)
- WCB request \$2,447,000 (total project cost \$3,447,000)



Big Springs Ranch Habitat Implementation

Slide 2

Background:

- The Shasta River historically supported large populations of salmonids
 - Coho salmon, Chinook salmon, and steelhead
- Historic land use practices have decreased habitat value for salmonids
- Cold water springs are important for long-term salmonid survival





Big Springs Ranch Habitat Implementation

Slide 3

Purpose:

- Restore two headwaters sites (8 acres in total)
 - Big Springs Creek
 - Hole in the Ground Creek
- Reconnect historic floodplain (including Beaver Dam Analog)
- Create side channel and alcove habitat
- Install boulders and large wood to increase channel complexity
- Add gravel to increase spawning habitat



Top: Simplified creek bed at Big Springs Creek

Credit: WCB

Bottom: Marginal habitat at Hole in the Ground Creek

Credit: California Trout



Big Springs Ranch Habitat Implementation

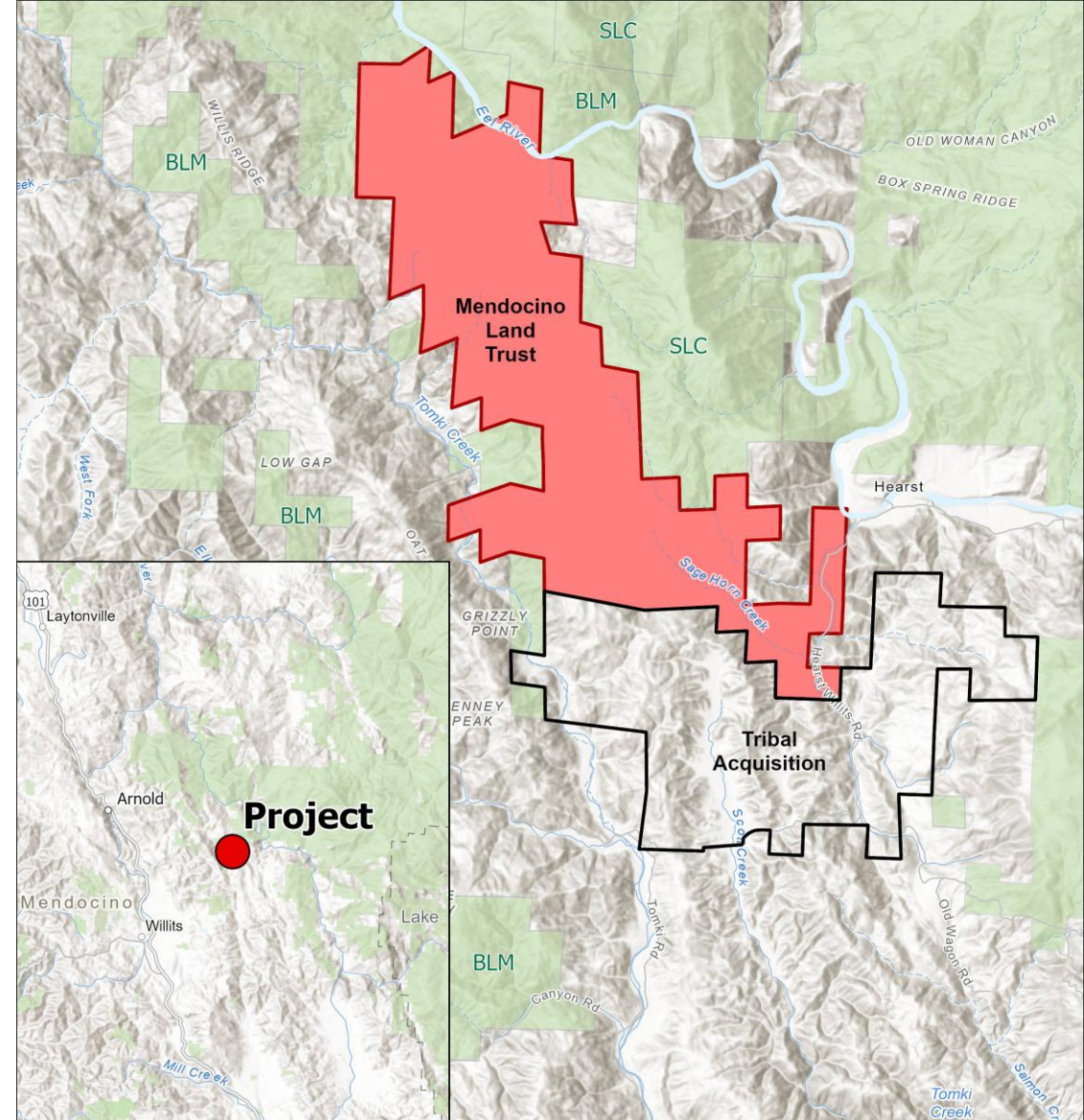
Slide 4

Context:

- Cold water inputs will benefit 26 miles of waterway
- Big Springs Ranch is a high priority site for restoration (CDFW and Cal Trout)
- Area is of particular importance to recovery of coho salmon, and will also benefit Chinook salmon, steelhead, Pacific lamprey, and migratory waterfowl

Folsom Ranch (Mendocino Land Trust)

- Mendocino Land Trust (applicant)
- 3,946± acre fee acquisition
- Purchase price \$5,400,000
- WCB request \$4,500,000



Folsom Ranch (Mendocino Land Trust)

Mendocino County

Folsom Ranch (Mendocino Land Trust)

Slide 2

- Acquire $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of Wild and Scenic Eel River and frontage along Tomki Creek
- Mixed conifer forests, oak woodlands, valleys, and meadows
- Protection of tule elk, threatened coho, Chinook, and steelhead
- Adjacent to thousands of acres of conserved lands (total consecutive conserved acreage = 72,000 acres)

The Eel River where it passes through
Folsom Ranch

Credit: Mendocino Land Trust



Folsom Ranch (Mendocino Land Trust)

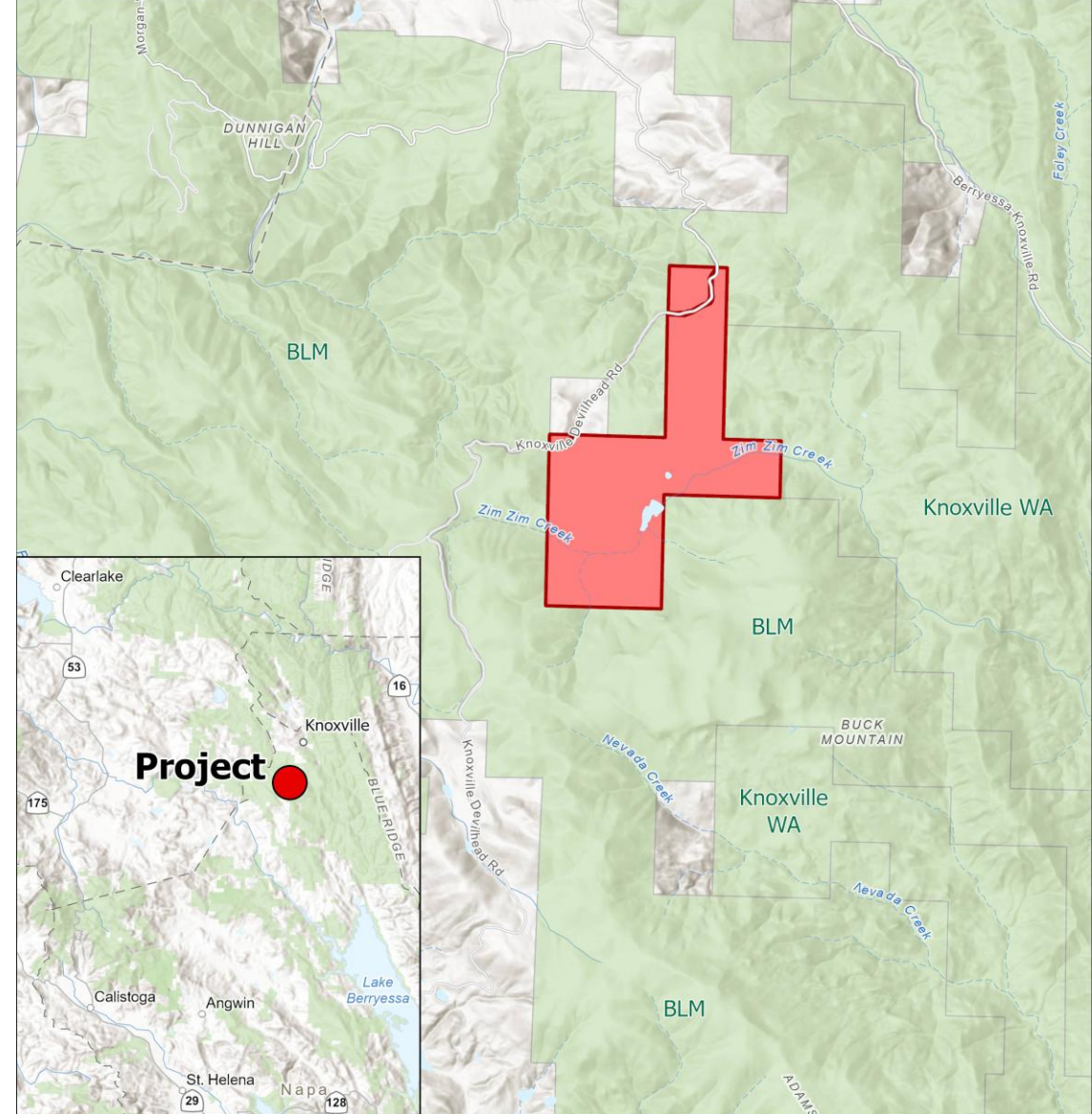
Slide 3



Oak woodland and mixed conifer forest with the
Sanhedrin Wilderness in the distance
Credit: Mendocino Land Trust

Knoxville Wildlife Area, Expansion 3

- Land Trust of Napa County (applicant)
- 436± acre fee acquisition
- Purchase price \$1,000,000
- WCB request \$1,000,000



Knoxville Wildlife Area, Expansion 3

Napa County



Knoxville Wildlife Area, Expansion 3

Slide 2

Property gate entrance located along Devilhead Road

Credit: WCB



Knoxville Wildlife Area, Expansion 3

Slide 3

Left and Middle: High point looking out into Knoxville Wildlife Area, above Zim Zim Creek

Right: High point looking at property

Credit: WCB



Knoxville Wildlife Area, Expansion 3

Slide 4

High point overlooking the lake
Credit: WCB

Knoxville Wildlife Area, Expansion 3

Slide 5



From the lake, looking back to the high point
Credit: WCB

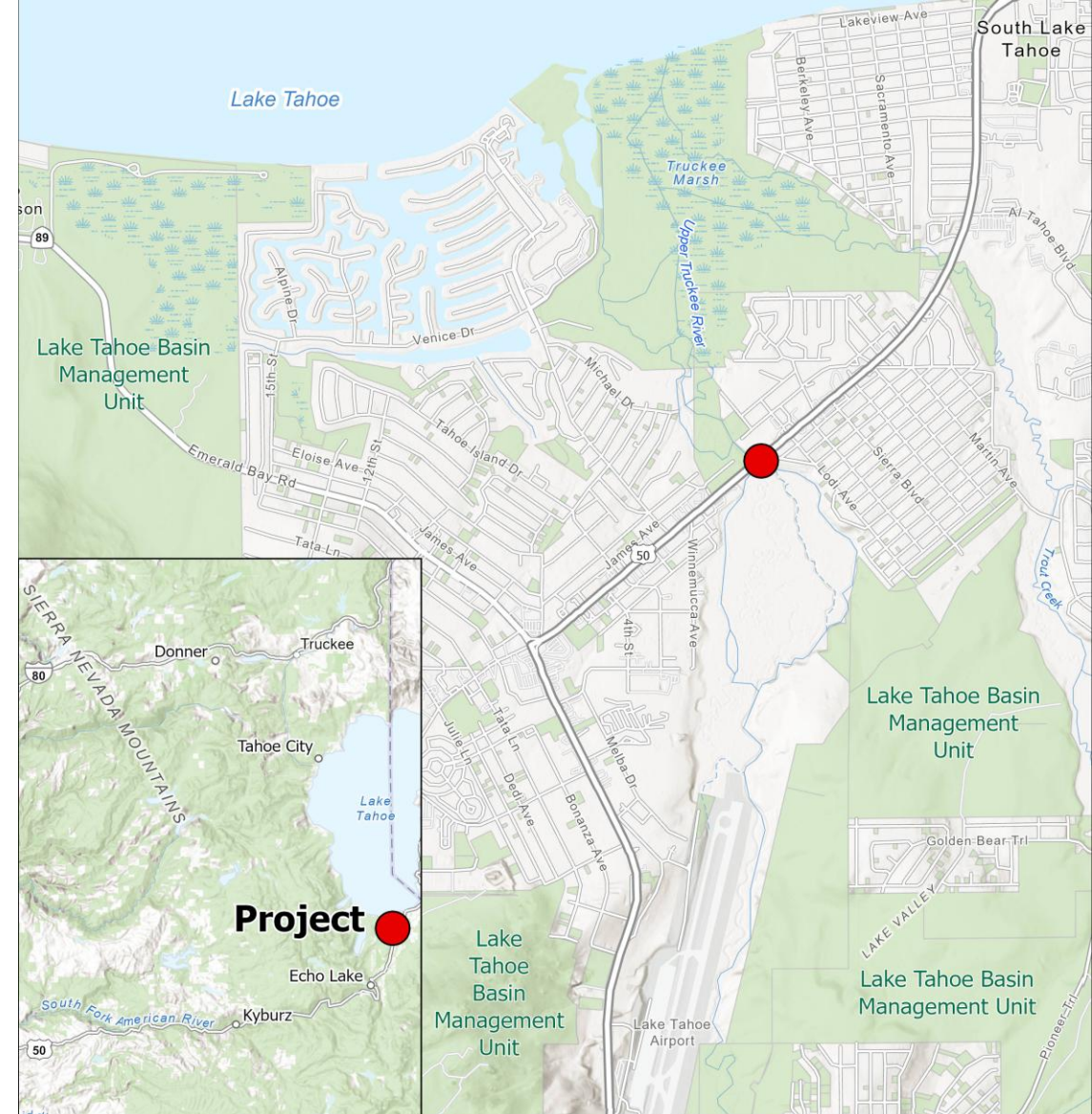
Knoxville Wildlife Area, Expansion 3

Slide 6



Johnson Meadow Restoration

- Tahoe Resource Conservation District (applicant)
- WCB request \$4,000,000 (total project cost \$5,020,000)



Johnson Meadow Restoration

El Dorado County



Project



Protected Lands

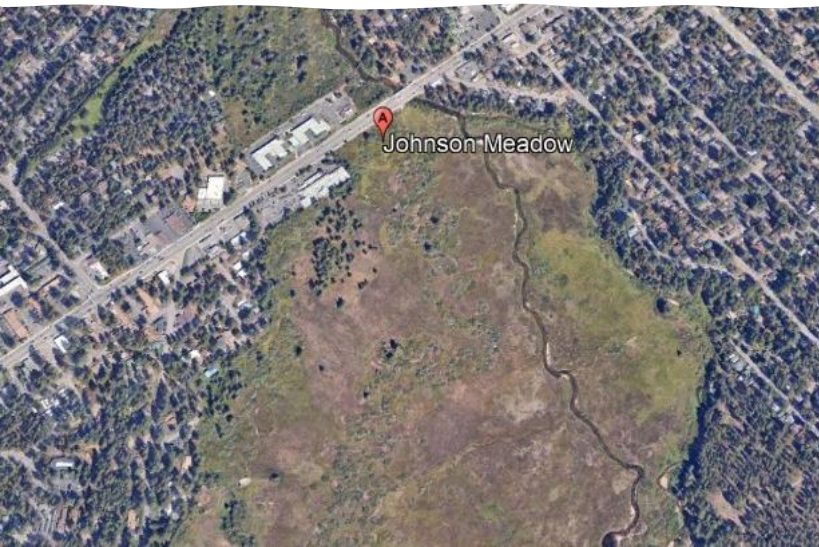




Johnson Meadow Restoration

Slide 2

- Pasture and dairy 1860s-1920s
- Channel realignment for pasture
- 1997 flood
- Conservation efforts began in 1980



Top: Johnson Meadow, 1940

Credit: USGS/Google Earth

Bottom: Johnson Meadow, 2023

Credit: Google Earth



Johnson Meadow Restoration

Slide 3

- Highway 50 bridge
- Buried utilities
- Adjacent to former Motel 6 site

Upper Hwy. 50 bridge, upstream side (left), Hwy. 50 bridge, downstream side (middle), view upstream to Hwy. 50 bridge (right)

Credit: WCB

Johnson Meadow Restoration

Slide 5

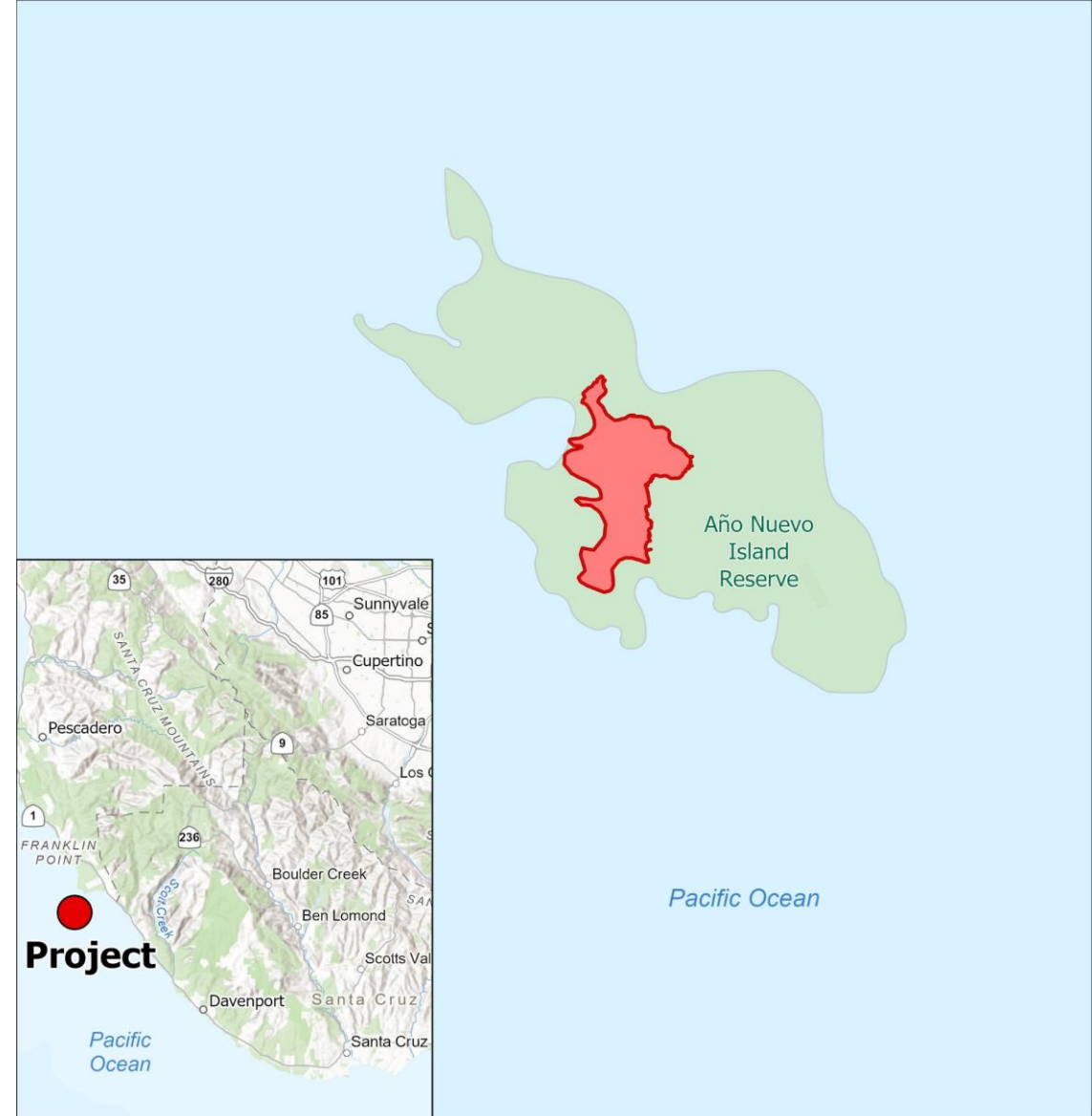
Project outcomes:

- Improved wet meadow conditions
- Increased biodiversity, carbon sequestration, and climate resilience
- Water quality improvements
- Critical infrastructure enables future restoration phases



Año Nuevo Island Seabird Habitat

- Oikonos-Ecosystem Knowledge (applicant)
- WCB request \$2,500,000 (total project cost \$3,445,000)



Año Nuevo Island Seabird Habitat

Slide 2



Año Nuevo Island Seabird Habitat

Slide 3

- Año Nuevo Island within Año Nuevo State Park, managed by California Department of Parks and Recreation
- Año Nuevo Natural Reserve within the University of California Natural Reserve System



Seabirds and pinnipeds on rocky outcropping
Credit: Oikonos-Ecosystem Knowledge



Pictures of seabirds
Credit: Oikonos-Ecosystem Knowledge

Año Nuevo Island Seabird Habitat

Slide 4

Six Species of Greatest Conservation Need breed or rest on Año Nuevo Island:

- Rhinoceros auklet
- Cassin's auklet
- Pigeon guillemot
- Pelagic cormorant
- Black oystercatcher
- California brown pelican

Año Nuevo Island Seabird Habitat

Slide 5

Project activities:

- Conservation fence replacement
- Ceramic nest installation
- Monitoring and education



Left: Rhinoceros auklet

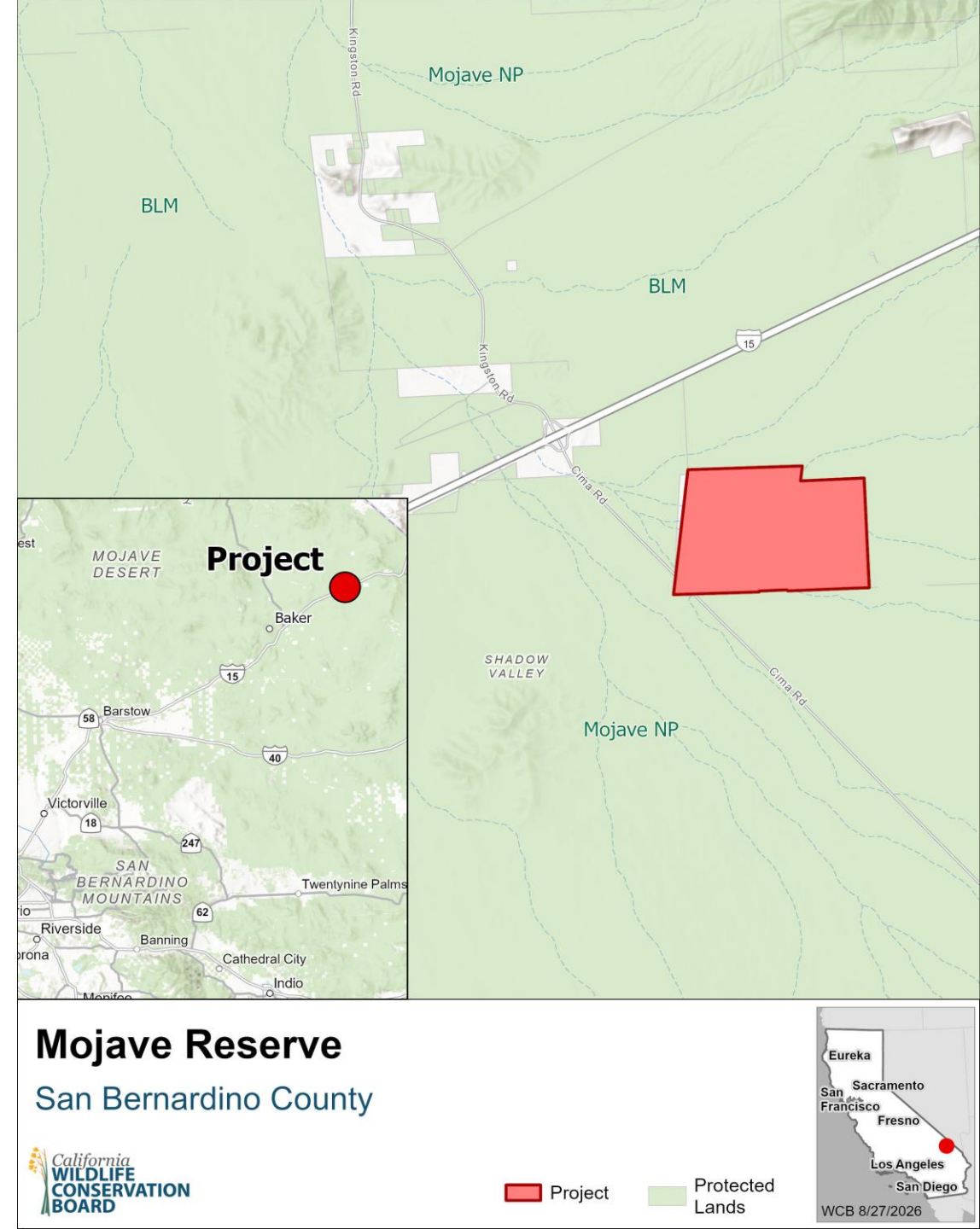
Right: Ceramic nest module

Bottom: Conservation fencing

Credit: Oikonos-Ecosystem Knowledge

Mojave Reserve

- Mojave Desert Land Trust (applicant)
- 1,093± acre fee acquisition
- Purchase price \$7,500,000
- WCB request \$7,500,000



Mojave Reserve

Slide 2

Critical habitat for Mojave desert tortoise:

- Joshua tree woodland
- Creosote bush scrub
- Mojave mixed scrub

Top: Joshua tree, Mojave yucca, creosote, and white
bursage plant assemblages
Credit: Mojave Desert Land Trust

Bottom: Developed area with ornamental trees
Credit: Cody Hanford



Mojave Reserve

Slide 3

Mojave desert tortoise:

- Status
 - Federally listed – threatened
 - State listed – endangered
- Recovery plans
 - US Fish and Wildlife Service
 - State Wildlife Action Plan

Left: Mojave desert tortoise in Mojave National Preserve

Right: Adult tortoise

Bottom: Tortoise hatchling

Credit: Kristina Drake



Mojave Reserve

Slide 4



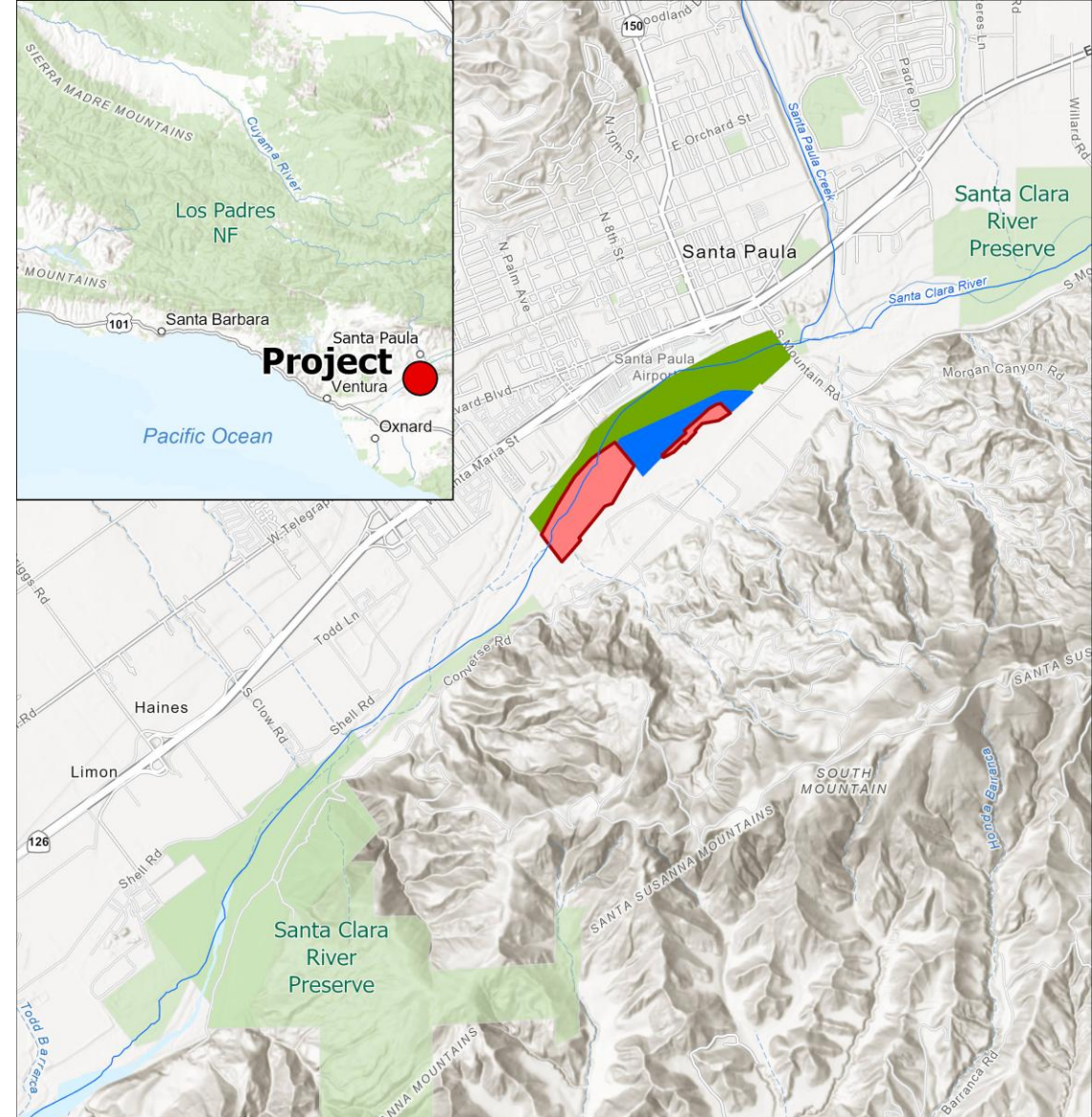
Looking east with Joshua trees and Mojave
yucca in foreground and Mescal Range beyond
Credit: WCB

Santa Clara River Middle Reach Restoration

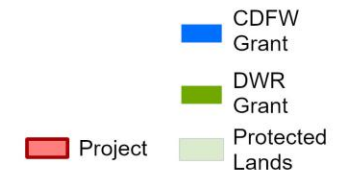
- Santa Clara River Conservancy (applicant)
- WCB request \$2,018,000 (total project cost \$2,769,475)



Credit: WCB



Santa Clara River Middle Reach Restoration Ventura County



Santa Clara River Middle Reach Restoration

Slide 2

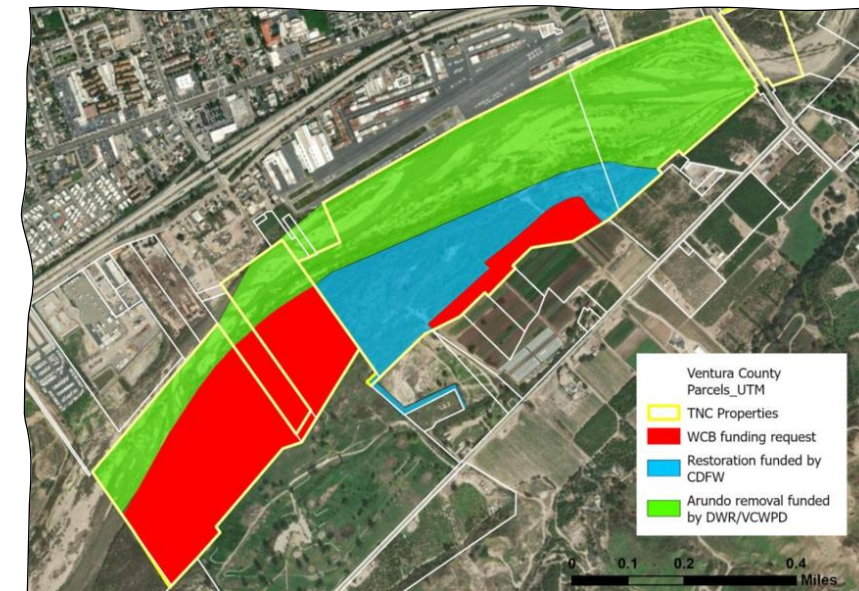
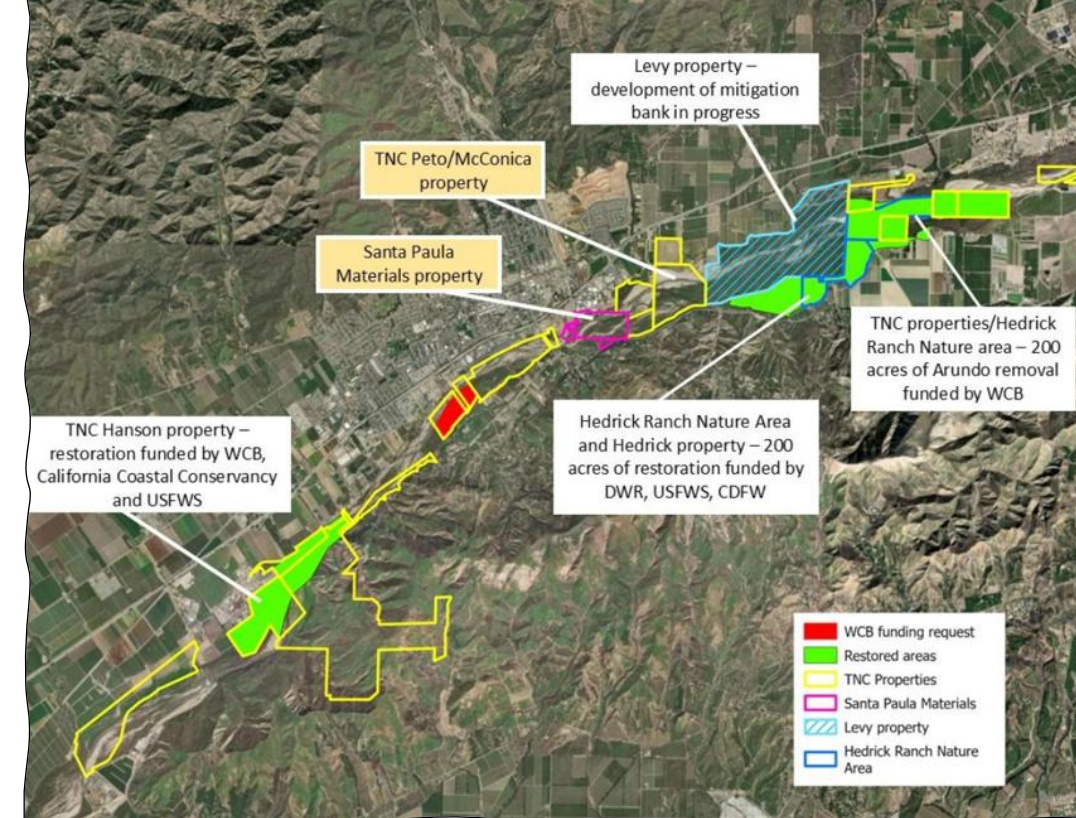
Project area highlights:

- Largest groundwater-dependent ecosystem in the watershed
- Key linkage for 700 acres of restored habitat
- Filing a restoration gap on conserved property
- Within a disadvantaged community
- Riparian-dependent special status species documented upstream and downstream

Top: Properties restored under the Santa Clara River Restoration Program

Bottom: Active restoration projects on the property

Credit: Santa Clara River Conservancy (SCRC)





Santa Clara River Middle Reach Restoration

Slide 3

Existing conditions:

- Altered hydrology
- Minimal native cover
- High cover by nonnative plants
- Reduced regenerative capacity of native plants
- Increased fire risk



Nonnative plants dominate the project area
Credit: SCRC



Santa Clara River Middle Reach Restoration

Slide 4

Proposed work:

- Baseline monitoring and site assessments
- Site preparation and plant collection
- Revegetation and maintenance
- Annual monitoring
 - Vegetation
 - Birds
 - Groundwater



Top: Nine-acre row crop field to be restored
Credit: WCB

Bottom: Elderberry shrub will be protected during restoration
Credit: WCB

Santa Clara River Middle Reach Restoration

Slide 5

Expected outcomes:

- 70 acres of riparian habitat restored
- Quality habitat for riparian-dependent species and pollinators
- 220 acres of habitat connected
- Migration corridor enhanced
- Climate benefits
- Justice community engaged

Top: Restored riparian forest completed by project team
Bottom: On-site restoration planted in 2025 with CDFW funding
Credit: WCB



Bowtie Park Public Access

- California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) (applicant)
- WCB request \$2,614,000 (total project cost \$24,914,000)



Bowtie Park Public Access

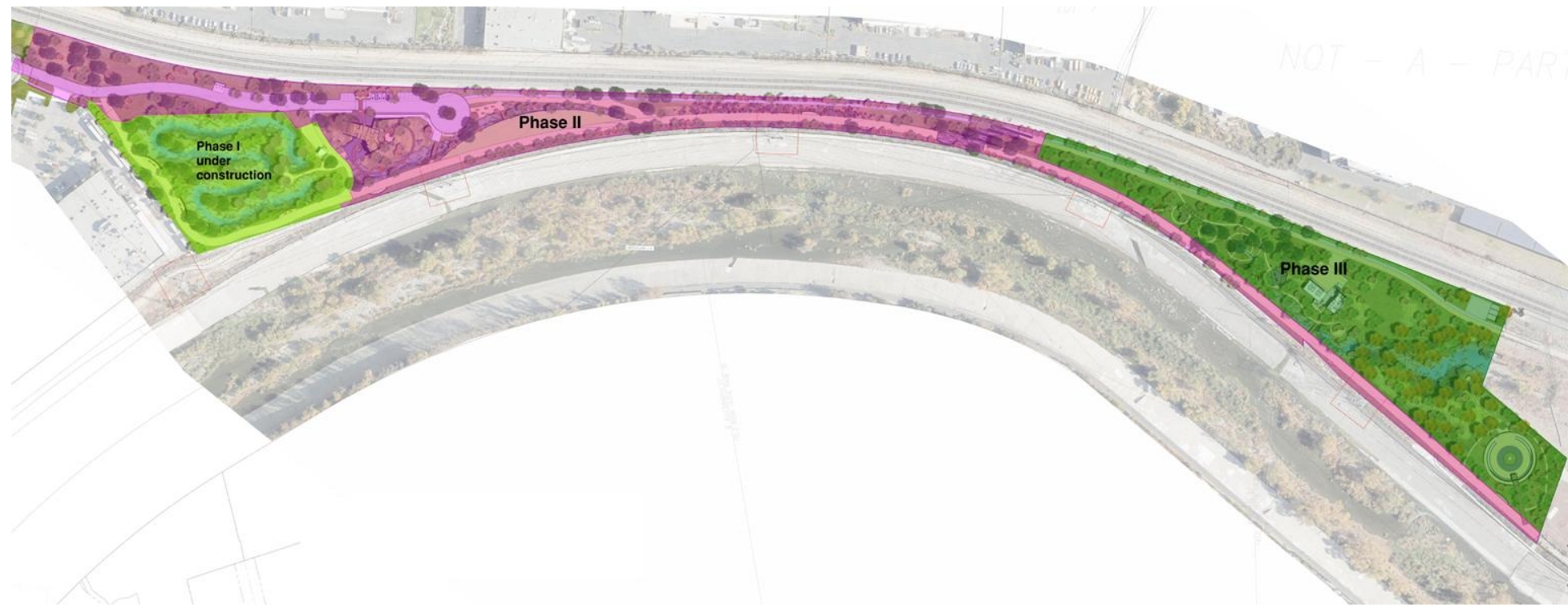
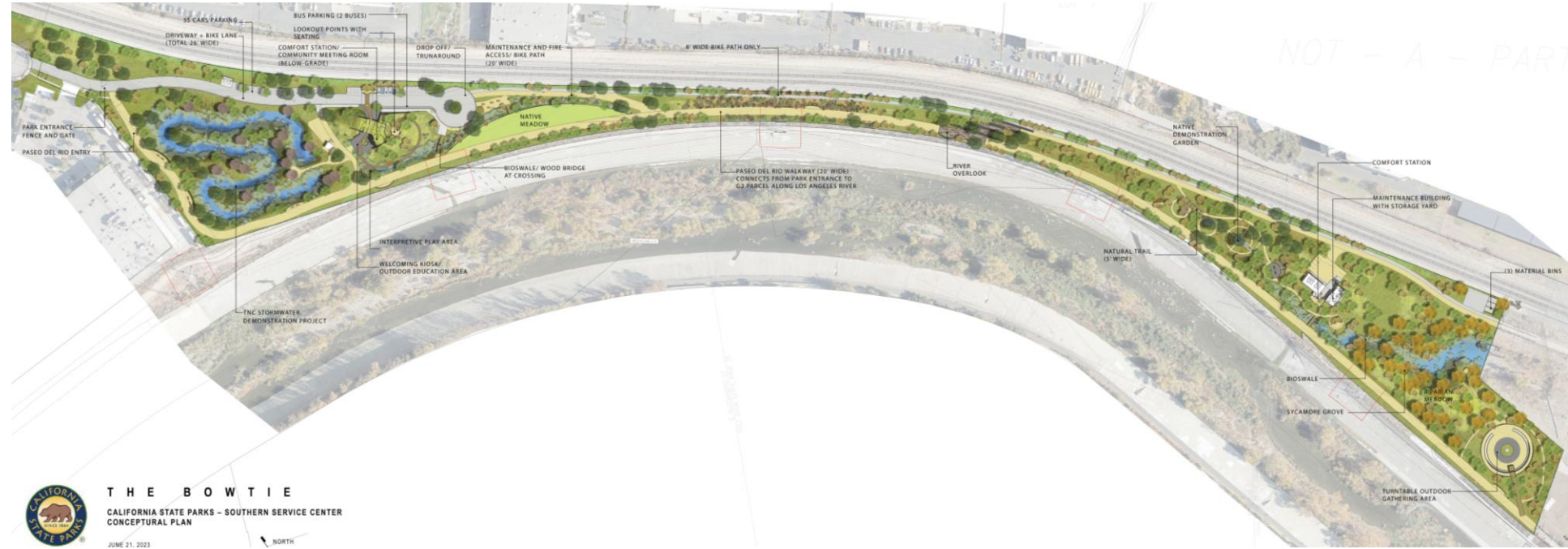
Los Angeles County



Credit: WCB

Bowtie Park Public Access

Slide 2



Top: Aerial rendering
Bottom: Phasing plan
Credit: State Parks



Bowtie Park Public Access

Slide 3

Landscaping/habitat:

- Native grasses, shrubs, and shade trees
- Pollinator habitat

Interpretive elements:

- Ecology and cultural history
- Viewing portal and river overlook
- Plant ID signs

Public access:

- Entry access road with bus drop-off area, bike path, and connection to Paseo del Rio



Right: Existing path with non-native vegetation

Credit: WCB

Left: Crotch's bumblebee

Bottom: View of Glendale Narrows

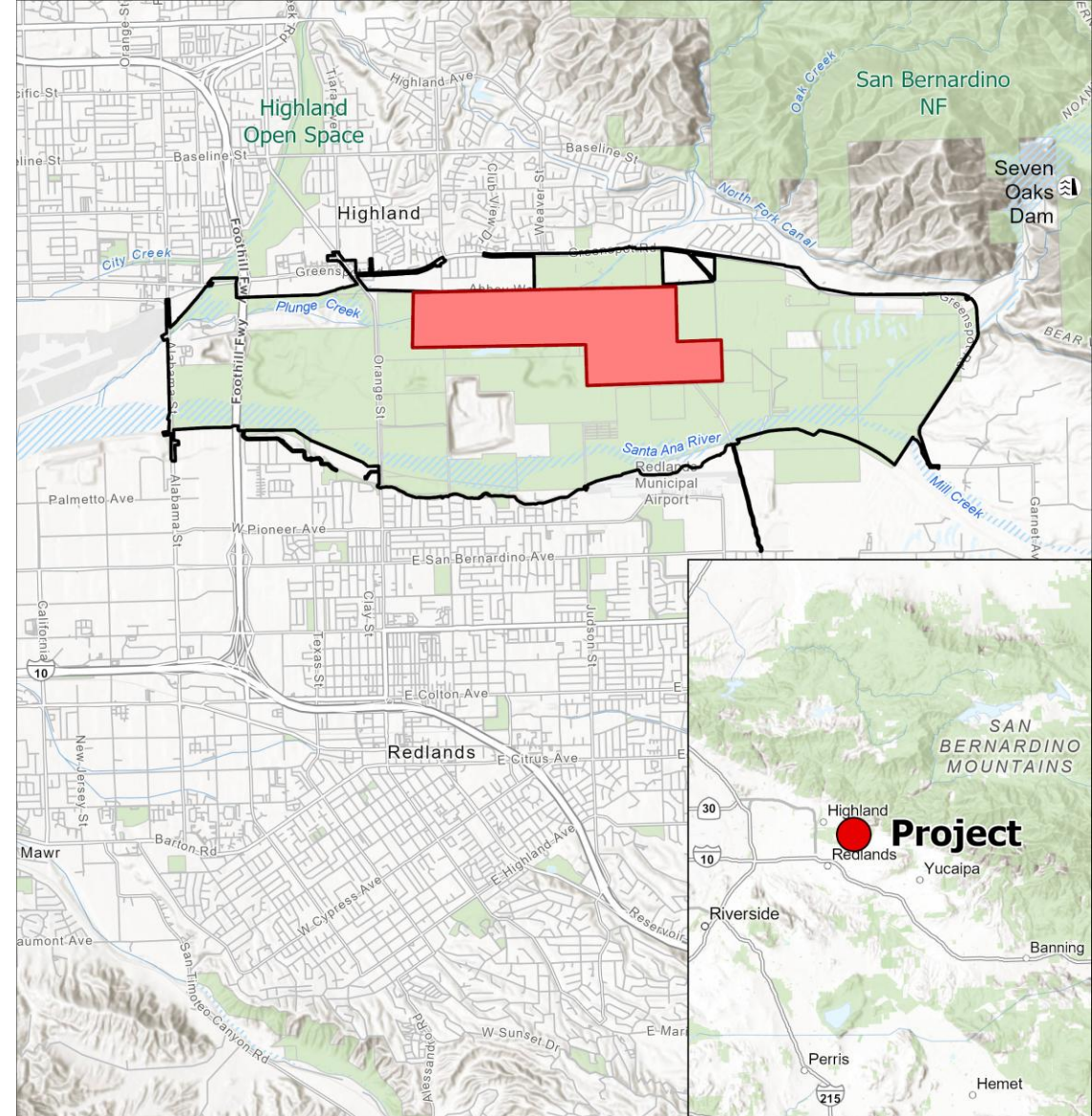
Credit: State Parks

Santa Ana River Wash Restoration

- San Bernardino Valley Conservation Trust (applicant)
- WCB request \$3,280,000 (total project cost \$4,935,000)



Credit: WCB



Santa Ana River Wash Restoration

San Bernardino County



Santa Ana River Wash Restoration

Slide 2

Project area highlights:

- Rare riparian system
- Working landscape
- Preserve system of Habitat Conservation Plan
- Ancestral lands of San Manuel Nation
- Severely Disadvantaged Community



Coastal cactus wren



Coastal California gnatcatcher



San Bernardino kangaroo rat (SBKR)



Project area in the wash between Plunge Creek and Santa Ana River



Santa Ana woolly star



Slender-horned spineflower



Santa Ana River Wash Restoration

Slide 3

Existing conditions:

- Absence of disturbance-driven fluvial processes has allowed undesirable conditions to form
 - Invasion by annual grasses
 - Dense shrub canopy
 - Increased fire risk
 - Plunge Creek confined to main channel



Top: Annual grasses dominate the floodplain of Plunge Creek
Credit: WCB

Bottom: Annual grasses and dense shrub cover
Credit: SBVCT

Santa Ana River Wash Restoration

Slide 4

Proposed hydrological treatments:

- Splitter structures
- Pilot channels



Left: Splitter structure
Right: Pilot Channel
Credit: SBVCT

Bottom: 2023 floodwaters flow down
constructed pilot channel (on left)
Credit: Daniel Cozad



Santa Ana River Wash Restoration

Slide 5

Proposed mechanical treatments:

- Light soil scraping
- Sand spreading
- Herbicide application
- Seeding and planting

Top Left: Sand spreading

Middle Left: Cactus planting

Bottom Left: Light soil scraping

Top Right: Post-sand spreading

Bottom Right: Post-soil scraping and seeding

Credit: SBVCT



Santa Ana River Wash Restoration

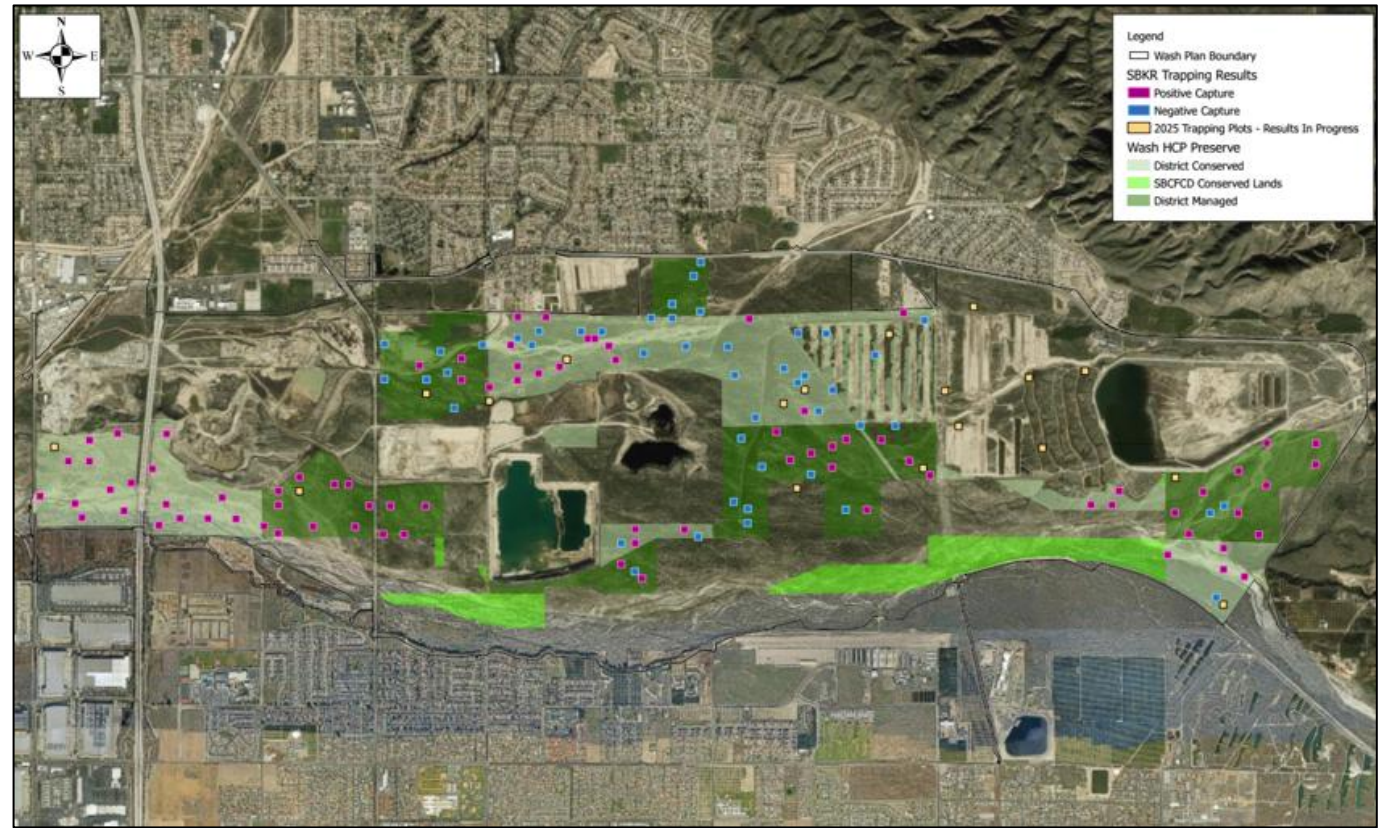
Slide 6

Proposed new science:

- SBKR dietary analysis
- Competition modeling

Data will inform:

- Seed mix
- Mechanical treatment locations
- Range-wide species recovery science



SBKR trapping results
Credit: SBVCT

SBKRs captured onsite
Credit: SBVCT

Santa Ana River Wash Restoration

Slide 7

Expected outcomes:

- 44 acres of enhanced fluvial terraces
- 200 acres of controlled annual grasses
- 30 acres of enhanced alluvial fan habitat
- Implements HCP conservation measures and recovery actions for listed species
- Improves climate resiliency
- Provides meaningful tribal participation



Top: Native plant recruitment after treatment
Credit: SBVCT

Bottom: Hydrological treatments divert water into pilot channels
Credit: Daniel Cozad



Item 22. Public Forum for Items not on the Agenda

Desert View Conservation Area Trails Augmentation
Credit: County Service Area 20 Joshua Tree



Meeting Adjourned
Next Board Meeting, November 19, 2026

Beaver Valley Headwaters Preserve (AP Ranch)
Credit: WCB