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

Final Meeting Agenda

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

November 19, 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.

Join the webinar

Phone one-tap:
+1408-961-3929,,87094498306# US
+1408-961-3927,,87094498306# US

Join via audio:
+1 408-961-3929 US; +1 408-961-3927 US;+1 408-961-3928 US; 1 855-758-1310 US Toll Free

Webinar ID: 870 9449 8306
International numbers available: https://wildlife-ca-gov.zoom.us/u/kbLC9ITAl3

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.

Final Meeting Agenda ..... **i**

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

Consent Items **5**

6. **Recovery of Funds, Thursday, August 27, 2026** **6**
7. **Sheepy Ridge Wildlife Area Transaction** **6**
8. **Mattole Headwaters Habitat Enhancement** **12**
9. **North Coast Range Fen Conservation Area (Woodcock)** **16**
10. **Calvi Ranch Public Access Planning Infrastructure** **19**
11. **Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Improvements Infrastructure** **23**
12. **Indian Joe Springs Ecological Reserve Easement Exchange** **27**
13. **North Carrizo Ecological Reserve, Expansion 1** **30**
14. **Del Dios** **33**
15. **Encino Ranch Habitat Restoration Restoration** **37**
16. **San Felipe Valley Wildlife Area, Expansion 11 (Parfrey)** **41**
17. **San Felipe Valley Wildlife Area, Expansion 12 (Corner)** **44**
18. **San Felipe Valley Wildlife Area, Expansion 13 (Schaarsmith)** **47**
19. **Grasslands Ecological Area Hunting Access** **50**

Presentation Items **54**

20. **Galiano Fen Restoration** **54**
21. **Upper Hoke Meadow Restoration** **58**
22. **Harvego Bear River Preserve, Phase II** **62**
23. **Restoration of Hoover Ranch on Bethel Island** **67**
24. **Point Reyes National Seashore Implementation** **71**
25. **Golden Gate Fields** **75**
26. **La Grange Salmon Habitat Restoration Project, Phase 2b** **82**
27. **Mount Stakes** **86**
28. **Ferrini Ranch** **91**

29. Laguna Coast Wilderness Park 94

30. Red's Meadow Valley Restoration 104

31. Revision to Delegation of Authority Policy for Grant Augmentation Amendments 109

32. 2027 Board Meeting Dates 110

33. Public Forum for Items not on the Agenda 110

Adjourn 110

Attachments

Attachment A – Map of November 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
- Meghan Hertel, 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. Board Member Updates and Report

4. Executive Director's Reports

5. Funding Status – Informational

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

GENERAL FUND (0001)	**$7,293,128.00**
November 2026 Board Meeting Allocation:	(7,293,128.00)
Total Project Development:	(0.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	**$0.00**
HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (0262)	**$59,310,154.90**
November 2026 Board Meeting Allocation:	(1,560,000.00)
Total Project Development:	(16,595,733.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	**$41,154,421.90**
WATER SECURITY, CLEAN DRINKING WATER, COASTAL AND BEACH PROTECTION FUND OF 2002 (Proposition 50) (6031)	**$1,829,000.00**
November 2026 Board Meeting Allocation:	(0.00)
Total Project Development:	(0.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	**$1,829,000.00**
SAFE DRINKING WATER, WATER QUALITY AND SUPPLY, FLOOD CONTROL, RIVER AND COASTAL PROTECTION FUND OF 2006 (Proposition 84) (6051)	**$3,532,128.00**
November 2026 Board Meeting Allocation:	(0.00)
Total Project Development:	(29,060.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	**$3,503,068.00**
WATER QUALITY, SUPPLY, AND INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT FUND (Proposition 1) (6083)	**$21,955,647.00**
November 2026 Board Meeting Allocation:	(5,803,000.00)
Total Project Development:	(1,600,000.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	**$14,552,647.00**

THE CALIFORNIA DROUGHT, WATER, PARKS, CLIMATE, COASTAL PROTECTION, AND OUTDOOR ACCESS FOR ALL ACT OF 2018 (Proposition 68) (6088)	**$26,812,510.49**
November 2026 Board Meeting Allocation:	(4,919,132.00)
Total Project Development:	(5,019,999.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	**$16,873,379.49**
SAFE DRINKING WATER, WILDFIRE PREVENTION, DROUGHT PREPAREDNESS, AND CLEAN AIR BOND ACT OF 2024 (Proposition 4) (6093)	**$432,745,261.00**
November 2026 Board Meeting Allocation:	(80,133,468.00)
Total Project Development (Competitive):	(97,082,196.00)
Total Project Development (Directed Projects):	(121,225,000.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	**$139,304,597.00**
SAFE DRINKING WATER, WILDFIRE PREVENTION, DROUGHT PREPAREDNESS, AND CLEAN AIR BOND ACT OF 2024 (Proposition 4) (6093) DIRECTED INTERAGENCY FUNDING TRANSFERS	**$102,460,000.00**
November 2026 Board Meeting Allocation:	(20,000,000.00)
Total Project Development:	(82,460,000.00)
Projected Unallocated Balance:	**$0.00**
TOTAL – ALL FUNDS	**$655,937,829.39**
Grand Total – November 2026 Board Meeting Allocation:	(119,708,728.00)
Grand Total - Project Development:	(319,011,988.00)
Grand Total Projected Unallocated Balance:	**$217,217,113.39**

Consent Items

Items 6-19 are part of the Consent Calendar

6. Recovery of Funds, Thursday, November 19, 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	$5,653.40
Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund	$94.99
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	$6,220.86
The California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018	$631,100.30
Total Recoveries for All Funds	***$643,069.55***

Table 2 - General Fund

Project Name	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Eel River Wildlife Area, Expansion 6 (Pedrazzini)	$45,000.00	$41,538.85	$3,461.15
Eel River Wildlife Area, Expansion 7 (Hansen)	$30,000.00	$27,807.75	$2,192.25
Total Recoveries to General Fund			***$5,653.40***

Table 3 - Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund

Project Name	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Eel River Wildlife Area, Expansion 6 (Pedrazzini)	$680,000.00	$680,000.00	$0.00
Eel River Wildlife Area, Expansion 7 (Hansen)	$420,000.00	$420,000.00	$0.00
Wildlife Resilience Metrics for Sierra Nevada Forests	$334,800.00	$334,705.01	$94.99
Total Recoveries to Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund			***$94.99***

Table 4- Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006

Project Name	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Quail Ridge UC Davis Natural Reserve System, Implementation	$213,484.00	$213,484.00	$0.00
Quail Ridge UC Davis Natural Reserve System, Implementation, Augmentation	$74,104.00	$74,104.00	$0.00
Total Recoveries to Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006			***$0.00***

Table 5 - Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Fund of 2014

Project Name	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Alliance Redwoods Water Conservation	$1,526,416.00	$1,526,414.75	$1.25
Hallwood Side Channel and Floodplain Restoration, Phases III and IV	$1,985,000.00	$1,985,000.00	$0.00
Martin Slough Flow Enhancement Planning	$589,413.00	$588,303.36	$1,109.64
Pena Creek Flow Enhancement Prioritization	$523,460.00	$518,461.00	$4,999.00
Putah-Cache Watershed Arundo Eradication Program, Phase I	$2,221,858.00	$2,221,857.91	$0.09
Reducing Limiting Factors in the San Lorenzo River Lagoon	$2,215,000.00	$2,215,000.00	$0.00
Stream Flow Enhancement Plan for the Arroyo Seco	$427,488.00	$427,377.12	$110.88
Total Recoveries to Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Fund of 2014			***$6,220.86***

Table 6 - The California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018

Project Name	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Boyd Desert Research Center Safety and Efficiency Improvements	$133,863.00	$106,606.74	$27,256.26
Camp-Pendola Forest Restoration	$1,381,000.00	$1,343,498.77	$37,501.23
Childs Meadow Restoration	$1,164,055.00	$1,164,055.00	$0.00
Donner Lake Lagoon Access Improvement	$372,662.00	$298,203.02	$74,458.98
Quail Ridge UC Davis Natural Reserve System, Implementation	$10,616.00	$10,616.00	$0.00
Truckee River Wildlife Area, Boca Unit Restoration	$1,190,000.00	$698,116.17	$491,883.83
Turtle Bay Boat Ramp Improvements, Planning	$311,000.00	$311,000.00	$0.00
Total Recoveries to The California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018			***$631,100.30***

7. Sheepy Ridge Wildlife Area — Transaction

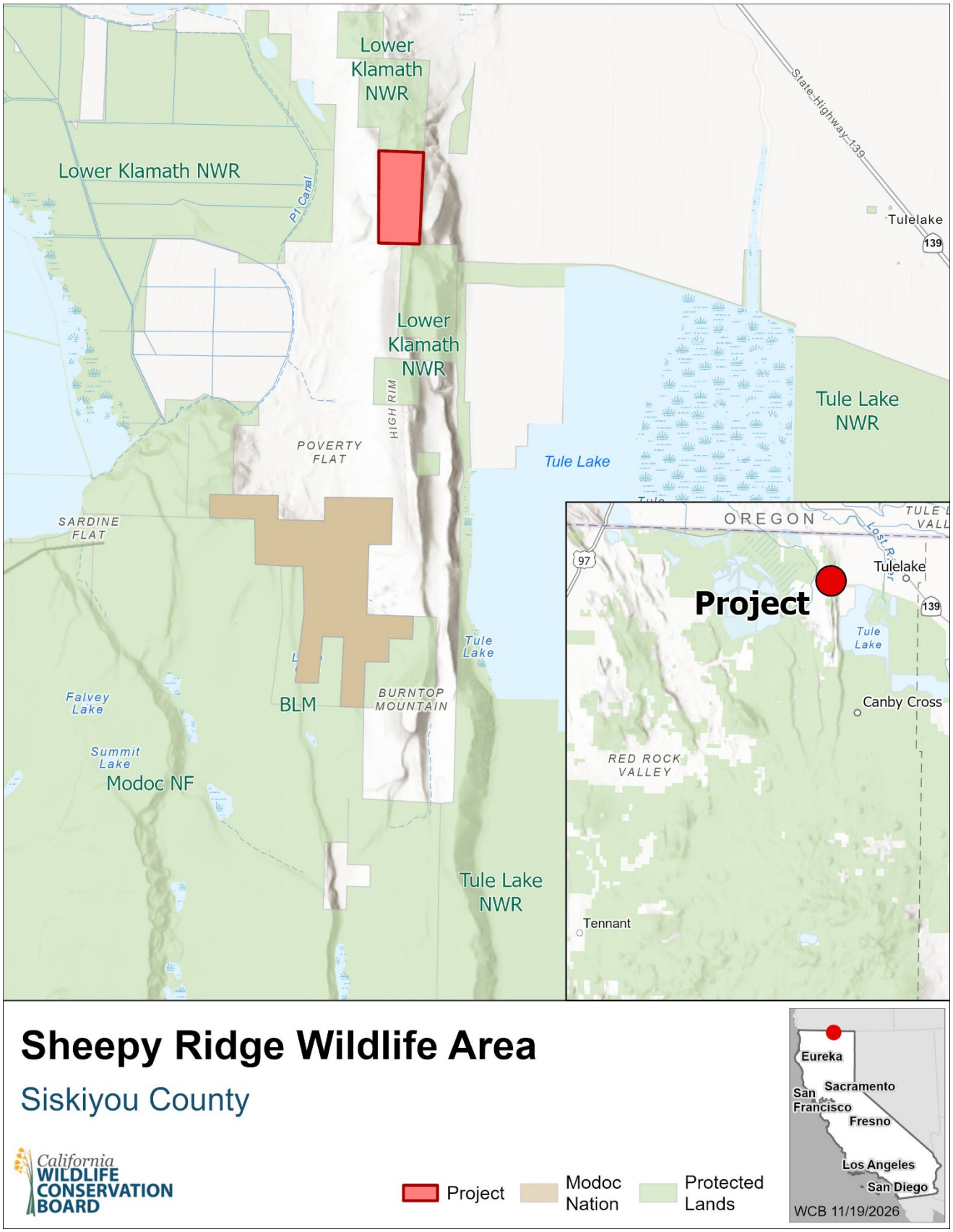
Location: 5 miles west of Tulelake
County: Siskiyou County
Acres: 320± (Property)

Project Highlights

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife is transferring Sheepy Ridge Wildlife Area (Property) to the Modoc Nation.
- The Property is located in the ancestral territory of the Modoc Nation, which is actively acquiring other lands near the Property.
- The Property is surrounded by Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuge and Lower Klamath Lake Wildlife Refuge.
- The US Fish and Wildlife Service has designated its lands surrounding the Property as closed to hunting, effectively eliminating the hunting public access for which the Property was acquired.
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife decided that due to the lost hunting access, the most appropriate path forward is to transfer ownership of the Property to the Modoc Nation, as the Modoc Nation recently acquired land adjacent to the south edge of the Property,
- This action is consistent with Executive Order N-15-19, directing all state agencies to correct historic wrongs.
- Property transfer is dependent on California Fish and Game Commission approval to delist the property as a Wildlife Area under Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations. Transfer will not occur until the Title 14 process is complete.

Priority Metrics

- Benefits Justice Communities: Yes, Property is located in a disadvantaged community.
- Tribal Partnerships: Yes, the Property is being transferred to the Modoc Nation.
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 2, Execute Strategic Acquisitions; Pathway 4, Pathway 7, Strengthen Coordination Among Governments.
- WCB Strategic Plan Target: B1.1, B3.1
- Public Access: Any future public access will be allowed at the discretion of the Modoc Nation.


Lower Klamath NWR
Lower Klamath NWR
P1 Canal
Lower Klamath NWR
HIGH RIM
POVERTY FLAT
Tule Lake
Tule Lake NWR
State Highway 139
Tulelake
139
SARDINE FLAT
BLM
BURNTOP MOUNTAIN
Tule Lake
Falvey Lake
Summit Lake
Modoc NF
Tule Lake NWR
OREGON
97
Tulelake
Project
139
Tule Lake
Canby Cross
RED ROCK VALLEY
Tennant
Sheepy Ridge Wildlife Area
Siskiyou County
California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD
Project
Modoc Nation
Protected Lands
Eureka
Sacramento
San Francisco
Fresno
Los Angeles
San Diego
WCB 11/19/2026

Long-Term Management

The Modoc Nation owns approximately 3,000 acres of land in Siskiyou and Modoc counties. It recently purchased 850 acres with funding from the California Natural Resource Agency's Tribal Nature-Based Solutions grant program. The Modoc Nation is committed to working with local partners including the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and US Fish and Wildlife Service to reconnect habitats in the Klamath Basin. The transfer documents and grant deed require that the Modoc Nation manage the Property, in perpetuity, for fish and wildlife habitat conservation, restoration, and cultural reconnection.

Project Funding

The Department of General Services approved fair market value is $96,000. CDFW is transferring the property to the Modoc Nation at no cost.

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Chief Robert Burkybile III, Modoc Nation

Opposition:

- None received

CEQA

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

State Government

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

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the 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. Mattole Headwaters Habitat Enhancement **Restoration**
Purchase Price: $688,000 **Implementation**
Fund Source(s): Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Fund of 2014 (Proposition 1 – Enhanced stream flows), Water Code Section 79733
Grantee: Mattole Salmon Group
Landowner: Sanctuary Forest, Inc. and three Private Landowners
Location: 0.5 miles southwest of Whitethorn
Counties: Humboldt, Mendocino

Property Highlights

- Thinning of approximately 32 acres of riparian forest to reduce water use and fire risks.
- Enhancement of two, half-mile reaches of waterway along the Mattole River and McKee Creek with large wood debris and boulders to increase habitat complexity.
- Key species: coho salmon, Chinook salmon, steelhead, Pacific lamprey.

Priority Metrics

- Benefits Justice Communities: Yes. This project is located within an SDAC census tract. It will increase groundwater reliability, reduce wildfire risks, and provide employment opportunities to the local community.
- Tribal Partnerships: Yes. The Wailaki Tribe, White Lily Clan and the Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria were both involved in the planning efforts leading to this project and are included in the budget for cultural resource monitoring work.
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 6, Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship
- WCB Strategic Plan Target: B2.2


Thorn Junction
Shelter Cove Rd
Mattole River
Vanauken Creek
BLM
BLM
Hungry Gulch Rd
Anderson Creek
Harris Creek Rd
Gibson Creek Rd
Whitethorn Grove
Whitethorn
Mill Creek
Road A
Road A Rd
Sinkyone Wilderness SP
101
Eureka
Fortuna
Redcrest
Garberville
Shelter Cove
Project
Pacific Ocean
1
Mattole Headwaters Habitat Enhancement
Humboldt County
California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD
Project
Protected Lands
Eureka
Sacramento
San Francisco
Fresno
Los Angeles
San Diego
WCB 11/19/2026

Project Description

Habitat quality and capacity in the Mattole River and its tributaries have been reduced by past timber harvest activities and hotter summers, resulting in dense second-growth forest and reduced summer streamflow. The Mattole Headwaters Habitat Enhancement project (Project) reaches are essentially devoid of large instream wood, a key ingredient for habitat complexity in this stream system. The Project will add large wood debris to approximately one mile of stream in the upper mainstem Mattole River and McKee Creek (an important tributary to the Mattole) which will increase pool depth and cover, slow-water velocity refugia for juvenile fish during winter high flows, and retention of spawning gravel. Thinning 32 acres of riparian forest will speed the development of old-growth forest characteristics, increase long-term potential for instream wood recruitment, and reduce evapotranspiration, The project is expected to reduce overall water use, reduce wildfire risks and increase summer streamflow by:

- Adding large wood debris at 24 sites in the mainstem Mattole River and 6 sites in lower McKee Creek, consisting of over 113 pieces of large wood debris.
- Thinning 32 acres of riparian forest.
- Slowing water velocities to provide refugia for juvenile salmonids.
- Allowing gravel bed formation and sorting to create spawning beds for salmonids and lamprey.

Long-Term Management

The Mattole Salmon Group 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's Long-Term Management Period, Grantee does not manage and maintain the project improvements, the Grant Agreement requires that it refund to the state of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the Project life.

Project Funding

The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Project Management and Administration	$16,000	---	$16,000
Permits and Approvals	$20,000	---	$20,000
Implementation	$541,000	$92,000	$633,000
Project Monitoring	$30,000	---	$30,000
Indirect Costs	$81,000	---	$81,000
Total	$688,000	$92,000	$780,000

Non-WCB funders include:

- Lost Coast Forestlands - $41,600
- Sanctuary Forest - $12,000
- Combination of private landowners - $38,400

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Dorothy Hoaglin, Chairwoman, and Markida Hoaglin, Secretary, Wailaki Tribe, Band of White Lily Clan
- Josefina Frank, Chairwoman, Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria
- Michelle Bushnell, 2nd District Supervisor, Humboldt County Board of Supervisors
- Sarah Vroom, Executive Director, Mattole Restoration Council
- April Newlander, Executive Director, Sanctuary Forest Inc.

Opposition:

- None received

CEQA

The Humboldt County Planning Department, 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 the 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. North Coast Range Fen Conservation Area (Woodcock) — Acquisition — CDFW Fee

Purchase Price: $600,000
Fund Source(s): Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c)
Location: 12 miles east of Bridgeville
County: Humboldt
Acres: 110± (Property)

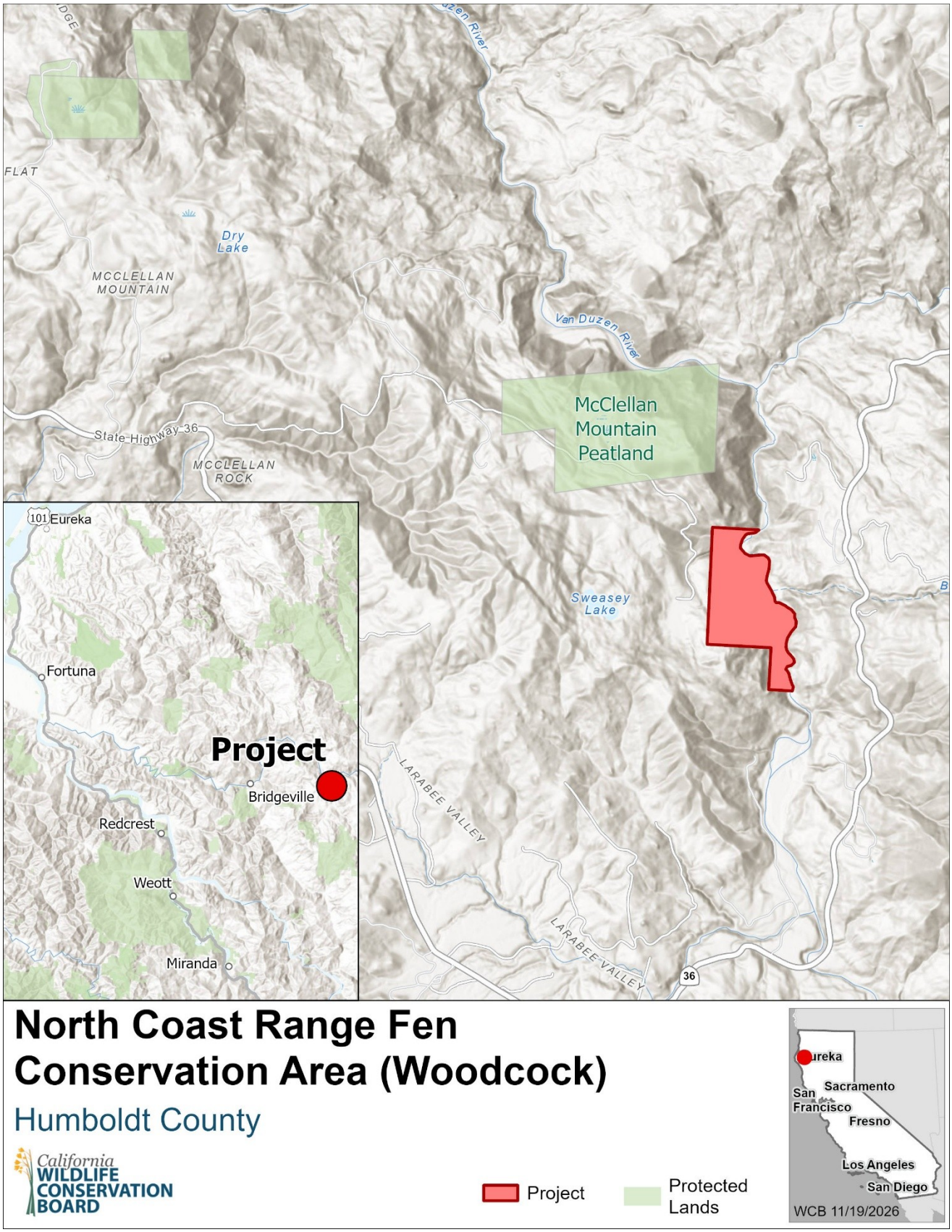
Project Highlights

- Habitats represented: stream habitat, spring and wetland complex, mixed evergreen hardwood forest, and riparian forest habitat.
- Key species and special status species: summer steelhead trout, foothill yellow-legged frog, northern red-legged frog, southern torrent salamander, coastal tailed frog, deer, and mountain lion.
- Property will be incorporated into the CDFW owned and managed North Coast Range Fen Conservation Area (NCRFCA).

Inclusion of the property in the NCRFCA will preserve 1 mile of stream habitat and a large spring and wetland complex, which is a cold-water source supporting endangered summer steelhead trout in the Van Duzen River.

Priority Metrics

- Benefits Justice Communities: No
- Tribal Partnerships: No
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 2, Execute Strategic Acquisitions
- WCB Strategic Plan Target: B1.1, C1.1
- Public Access: No


FLAT
Dry Lake
MCCLELLAN MOUNTAIN
Van Duzen River
McClellan Mountain Peatland
State Highway 36
MCCLELLAN ROCK
Sweasey Lake
LARABEE VALLEY
LARABEE VALLEY
36
101 Eureka
Fortuna
Project
Bridgeville
Redcrest
Weott
Miranda
North Coast Range Fen Conservation Area (Woodcock)
Humboldt County
California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD
Project
Protected Lands
Eureka
Sacramento
San Francisco
Fresno
Los Angeles
San Diego
WCB 11/19/2026

Long-Term Management

The 110-acre property will be incorporated into the CDFW owned and managed North Coast Range Fen Conservation Area (NCRFCA). Management of NCRFCA is focused on ecological values and protecting in-stream water resources. Once incorporated, the property will undergo forest restoration to improve fire resiliency and long-term forest health.

Project Funding

The Department of General Services approved fair market value is $600,000. The proposed funding breakdown is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	$600,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	$600,000

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

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the 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. Calvi Ranch Public Access Planning **Infrastructure Planning**

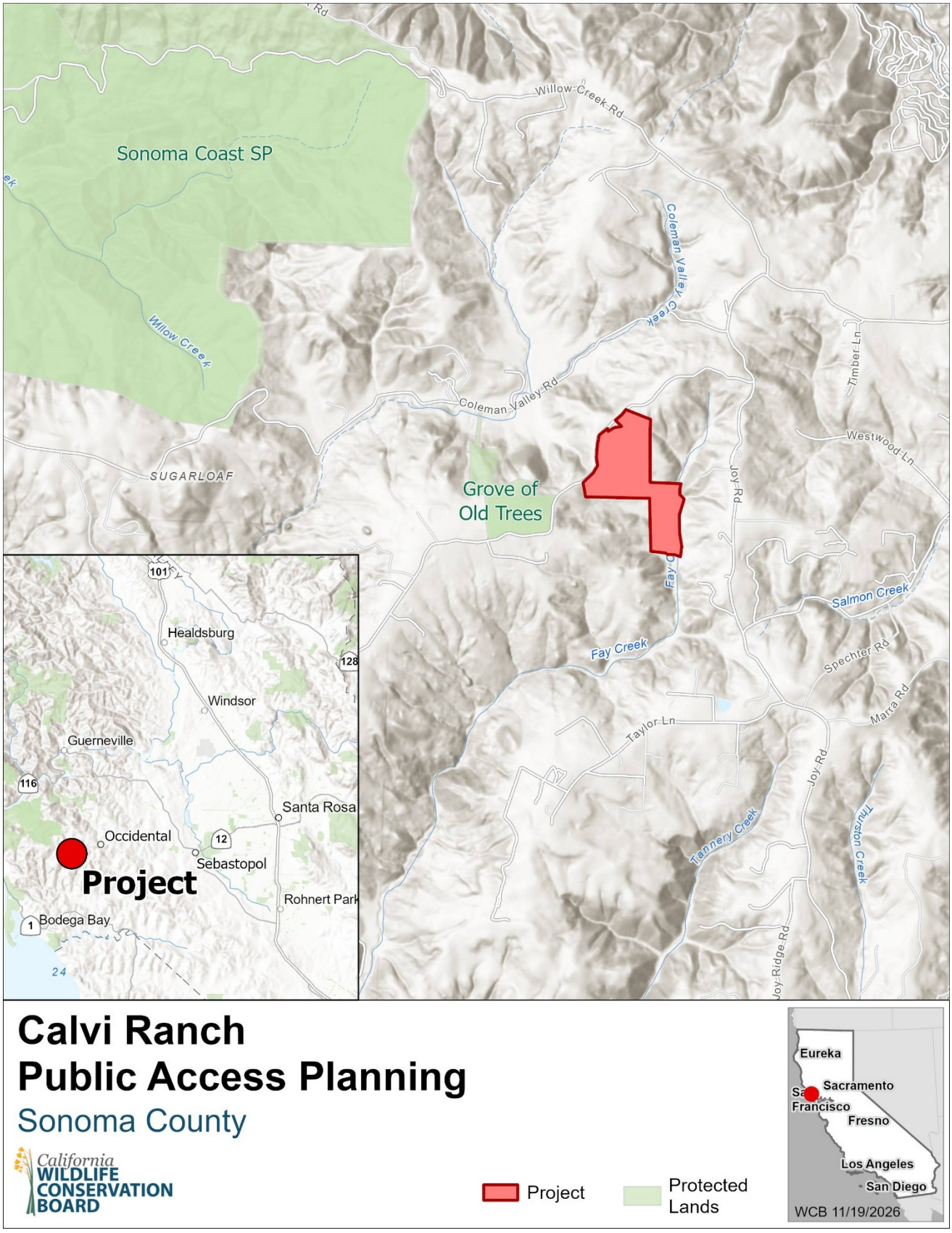
WCB Grant: $750,000
Fund Source(s): Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 (Proposition 4 – Existing Programs), Public Resources Code Section 93010 (SB 105, Sec. 94)
Grantee: LandPaths
Landowner: LandPaths
Location: 3 miles west of Occidental
County: Sonoma

Property Highlights

- Public access planning across 73 acres of old and second growth redwood forest, oak woodland, riparian and grassland habitat.
- Directly adjacent to the publicly accessible, 49-acre “Grove of Old Trees”. Planning work will contribute to improving amenities across both sites.
- ADA accessibility incorporated into planning for trails, parking and restrooms.
- Project will develop a guide for sustainable management of Fay Creek and onsite rare serpentine grasslands and will focus on reducing wildfire risk.
- Notable species: California giant salamander, western pond turtle, burrowing owl, mountain lion.

Priority Metrics

- Benefits Justice Communities: Yes, grantee hosts school programs from majority Title 1 schools and a Spanish language outings program for children and community members. Grantee intends to use the Calvi Ranch site to continue this work.
- Tribal Partnerships: Yes, grantee intends to partner with the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria and the Kashia Band of Pomo Indians to conduct cultural resource surveys and advise on guide for sustainable management of the site.
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 6, Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship
- WCB Strategic Plan Target: P1.3


Sonoma Coast SP
Willow Creek Rd
Willow Creek
Coleman Valley Creek
Coleman Valley Rd
Timber Ln
Westwood Ln
SUGARLOAF
Grove of Old Trees
Joy Rd
Fay Creek
Salmon Creek
Spechter Rd
Mara Rd
Taylor Ln
Tannery Creek
Thurston Creek
Joy Ridge Rd
Healdsburg
Windsor
Guerneville
Santa Rosa
Occidental
Sebastopol
Project
Rohnert Park
Bodega Bay
101
128
116
12
1
24
Calvi Ranch
Public Access Planning
Sonoma County
California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD
Project
Protected Lands
Eureka
Sacramento
San Francisco
Fresno
Los Angeles
San Diego
WCB 11/19/2026

Project Description

The Calvi Ranch Public Access Planning Project (Project) site was recently acquired by LandPaths to preserve habitat and provide public access, but it currently lacks formal amenities for visitors. The site hosts redwood forests, expansive grasslands and several structures. This project develops a Site Stewardship Plan and Public Access Plan to provide guidance for stewardship of the site's natural resources and to develop planning documents for up to four miles of hiking trails, parking, and educational opportunities. The Project will create these comprehensive plans by:

- Working in concert with adjacent landowners, tribal representatives, agencies and additional stakeholders to garner input.
- Conducting cultural and natural resource surveys to inform site stewardship.
- Completing a Public Access Plan for trails, visitor amenities and educational programming, with particular focus on using existing structures where possible and complying with ADA accessibility standards.
- Completing a Site Stewardship Plan to inform on-site fire fuel reduction and management of coastal grassland and creeks.
- Developing 100% designs for public access elements described in the Public Access Plan.
- Executing a CEQA addendum (if deemed necessary).

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	$128,019	$190	$144,209
Resource Enhancement Planning	$110,800	$820,224	$924,776
Public Access Planning	$303,000	$379,200	$844,200
Engineering Plans	$140,000	$0	$153,000
Indirect	$68,181	$10,1340	$86,348
Total	$750,000	$1,209,748	$2,152,533

Non-WCB funders include:

- LandPaths - $896,000
- State Coastal Conservancy - $103,500
- Save the Redwoods League - $4,000

- Resources Legacy Fund - $50,000
- American Endowment Foundation - $100,000
- Caryl & Mickey Hart - $50,000
- North Bay Forest Improvement Program - $6,248

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Jared Huffman, Member of Congress, Congress of the United States, 2nd District, House of Representatives
- Mike McGuire, Senator, 2nd District, California State Senate
- Chris Rogers, Assemblymember, Assembly, 2nd District, California Legislature
- James Gore, Supervisor, Sonoma County Board of Supervisors
- Lynda Hopkins, Supervisor, Sonoma County Board of Supervisors
- Brock Dolman, Co-Founder and Program Director, Occidental Arts & Ecology Center

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

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the 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. Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Improvements **Infrastructure Implementation**

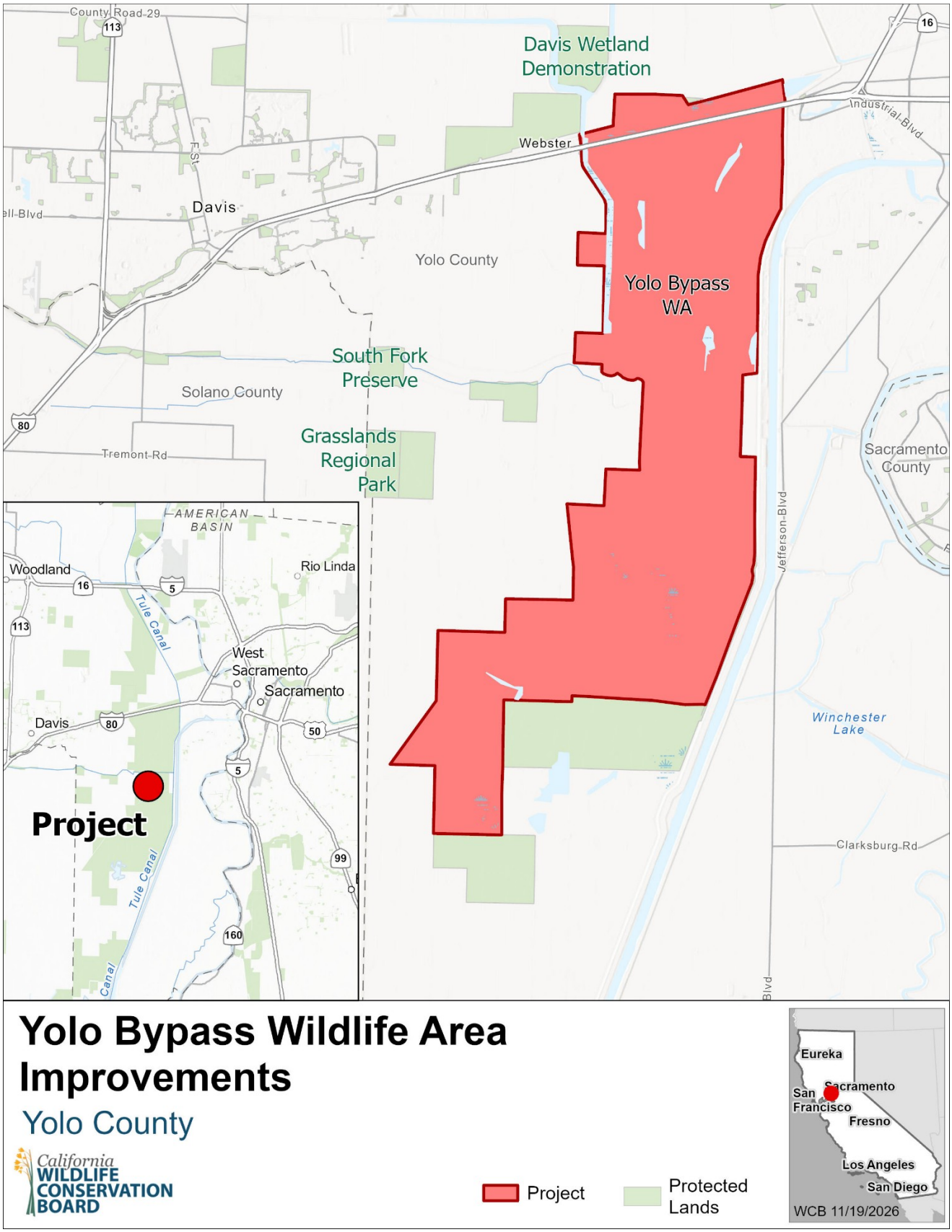
WCB Grant: $615,000
Fund Source(s): California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68), Public Resources Code Section 80111(d)
Grantee: California Waterfowl Association
Landowner: California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Location: 4 miles east of Davis
County: Yolo

Property Highlights

- Located at a highly-visited CDFW Wildlife Area between Sacramento and Davis
- Project will help accommodate increasing visitor demand, while improving safety and quality of consumptive and non-consumptive recreation
- Project includes accessibility upgrades, including a compacted gravel hiking trail and an ADA hunting blind, plus planning and permitting of two ADA-accessible viewing platforms

Priority Metrics

- Benefits Justice Communities: Yes, Project is near-adjacent to an SDAC and will enhance safety and accessibility for visitors
- Tribal Partnerships: Yes, the Project site is on the ancestral lands of the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, who will provide cultural sensitivity training and monitoring during excavation activities.
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 1, Accelerate Regionally Led Conservation
- WCB Strategic Plan Target: P1.1, P2.1


County Road 29
113
Davis Wetland Demonstration
16
Industrial Blvd
Webster
F St
Davis
Yolo County
Yolo Bypass WA
South Fork Preserve
Solano County
80
Tremont Rd
Grasslands Regional Park
Sacramento County
Jefferson Blvd
AMERICAN BASIN
Woodland
Rio Linda
16
5
113
Tule Canal
West Sacramento
Sacramento
Davis
80
50
5
Project
Winchester Lake
99
Clarksburg Rd
160
Tule Canal
Canal
Blvd
Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Improvements
Yolo County
California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD
Project
Protected Lands
Eureka
Sacramento
San Francisco
Fresno
Los Angeles
San Diego
WCB 11/19/2026

Project Description

The Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area (YBWA) is a popular CDFW property near Sacramento used annually by over 60,000 auto tour participants, 8,000 hunters, 7,000 anglers, and thousands of public visitors for tours and events. To address growing demand while improving accessibility and recreational quality, the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Improvements (Project) will:

- Install 24 new or replacement waterfowl hunting blinds, including one ADA-accessible floating blind.
- Expand and relocate the undersized Parking Lot M, a popular access point for free roam hunting at the southern end of the YBWA. The parking lot is currently located just past a narrow ditch crossing, creating a safety hazard.
- Construct a 0.8-mile ADA-accessible hiking trail between Parking Lots B and C to improve wildlife viewing and environmental education experiences.
- Complete planning and permitting for two new ADA-accessible wildlife observation platforms.

These improvements and planning activities aim to provide equitable outdoor experiences for hunters, anglers, photographers, wildlife viewers, school groups, and visitors with disabilities.

Long-Term Management

CDFW has adopted a Management Plan that guides management actions for the Project, including management of the YBWA. If at any time during the 20-year life of the Project's Long-Term Management Period, 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	$119,200	---	$119,200
Hunting Blind Installations	$166,440	$12,000	$178,440
Parking Lot M Expansion	$129,200	---	$129,200
Accessible Hiking Trail	$73,160	---	$73,160
Planning for Wildlife Observation Platforms	$50,000	---	$50,000
Indirect Costs	$77,000	---	$77,000
Total	$615,000	$12,000	$627,000

Non-WCB funders include:

- CDFW - $12,000 in-kind

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Michael Webb, Chief Administrative Officer, County of Yolo
- Heather Nichols, Executive Director, Yolo County Resource Conservation District
- Efraim Lopez, Executive Director, Yolo Basin Foundation
- Xerónimo Castañeda, Program Director, Audubon California
- Paul Miller, President, Sacramento Audubon Society
- Ann Brice and Genevieve Diane Colburn, Co-Presidents, Yolo Bird Alliance
- James Cogswell, CVJV Coordinator, Central Valley Joint Venture

Opposition:

- None received

CEQA

CDFW, as lead agency, prepared a Negative Declaration for the YBWA Land Management Plan, covering the project, pursuant to the provisions of the CEQA. Staff considered the Negative Declaration and has prepared proposed, written findings documenting WCB's compliance with CEQA. Subject to approval of this proposal by the WCB, the appropriate Notice of Determination will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

State Government

- Senate: Senator Christopher Cabaldon, District 3
- Assembly: Assemblymember Cecelia Aguiar-Curry, District 4

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.

12. Indian Joe Springs Ecological Reserve Easement Exchange **Acquisition Easement**

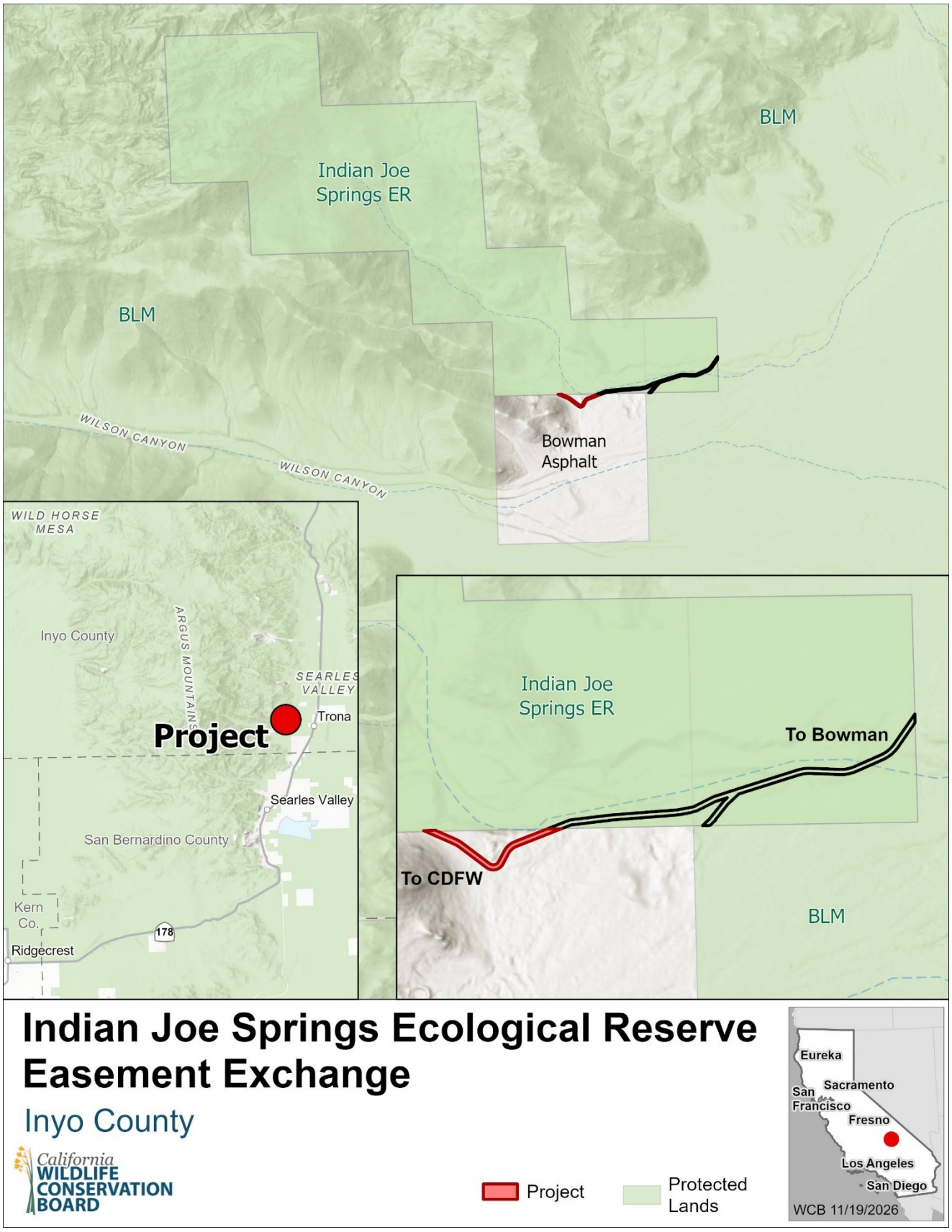
Purchase Price: $0
Fund Source(s): N/A
Location: Exchange easements are located near the community of Trona
County: Inyo
Acres: 1± (Easement granted to CDFW) and 2± (CDFW granted Easement)

Project Highlights

- CDFW proposes to acquire an access easement from adjacent property owner, Bowman Asphalt, Inc. (Bowman), to improve CDFW access to the Indian Joe Springs Ecological Reserve (IJSER).
- In exchange, CDFW will grant an access easement of 1.72± acres to Bowman over an existing road located primarily on the recently acquired IJSER, Expansion 1 property that was approved at WCB's November 2025 Board meeting.
- This exchange of easements will grant each party respective legal access on paths traveled by both parties over the years.
- Acquisition of the Easement improves CDFW access to IJSER for scientific surveys and maintenance purposes and supports IJSER's protection of critical desert habitats for the Inyo California towhee, Desert tortoise, and Mohave ground squirrel.

Priority Metrics

- Benefits Justice Communities: Yes, the Easement is located within a Severely Disadvantaged Community as determined by DWR's DAC mapping tool.
- Tribal Partnerships: No
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 2, Execute Strategic Acquisitions and Pathway 4, Enhance Conservation of Existing Lands
- WCB Strategic Plan Target: B1.1
- Public Access: No


BLM
Indian Joe Springs ER
BLM
WILSON CANYON
WILSON CANYON
Bowman Asphalt
WILD HORSE MESA
Inyo County
ARGUS MOUNTAINS
SEARLES VALLEY
Trona
Project
Searles Valley
San Bernardino County
Kern Co.
178
Ridgecrest
Indian Joe Springs ER
To Bowman
To CDFW
BLM
Indian Joe Springs Ecological Reserve Easement Exchange
Inyo County
California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD
Project
Protected Lands
Eureka
Sacramento
San Francisco
Fresno
Los Angeles
San Diego
WCB 11/19/2026

Long-Term Management
CDFW will manage the Easement as part of the IJSER.

Project Funding
There will be no cash payment by State to Bowman or Bowman to State associated with the exchange. The easements have nominal value and Bowman will commit to installing a gate that benefits both the State and Bowman. The proposed funding breakdown is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	$0
TOTAL Purchase Price	$0

Letters of Support or Opposition
Support:
- None received

Opposition:
- None received

CEQA
The project has been reviewed for compliance with CEQA requirements and is proposed as exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15301, Existing Facilities, as operation and maintenance of existing public or private facilities involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. Subject to Board approval of the project, staff will file the appropriate NOE with the State Clearinghouse.

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

Staff Recommendation
Staff recommends that the 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.

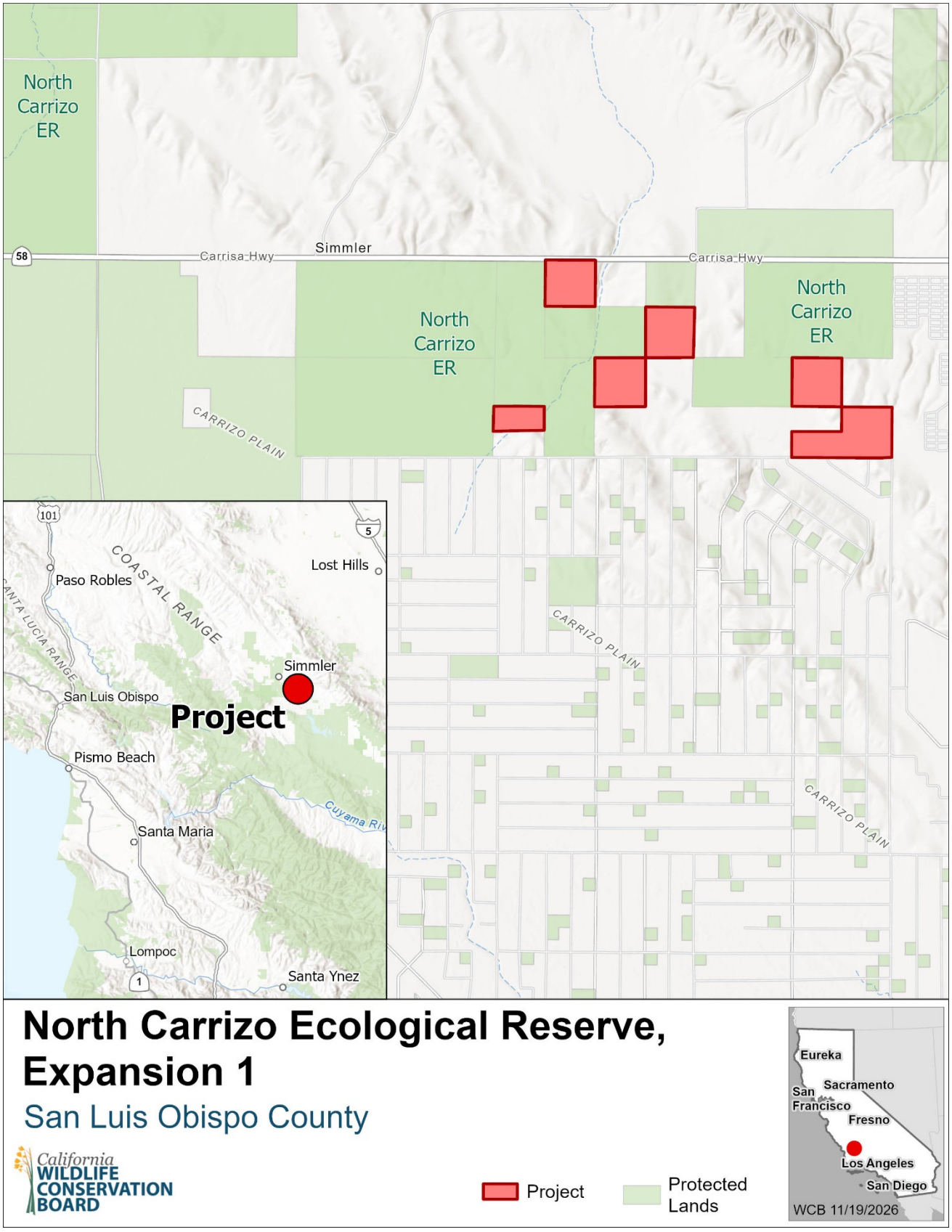
13. North Carrizo Ecological Reserve, Expansion 1 **Acquisition**
Purchase Price: $5,000 **CDFW Fee**
Fund Source(s): Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c)
Location: 36 miles east of Santa Maria
County: San Luis Obispo
Acres: 240± (Property)

Property Highlights

- Habitats represented: annual grassland, saltbush scrub, and vernal pool.
- Key species: San Joaquin kit fox, pronghorn antelope, burrowing owl, vernal pool fairy shrimp, and giant kangaroo rat.
- The parcels have been acquired over several years by the Carrizo Plain Conservancy and will be transferred to the Department of Fish and Wildlife for ownership and management at a discounted purchase price.
- The project will provide an additional 240 acres to the greater 12,887-acre North Carrizo Ecological Reserve.
- Project provides habitat connectivity between the federal land within the Los Padres National Forest, conserved lands in the northern Carrizo Plain, and the Carrizo Plain National Monument.

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


North Carrizo ER
Simmler
58
Carrisa Hwy
Carrisa Hwy
North Carrizo ER
North Carrizo ER
CARRIZO PLAIN
CARRIZO PLAIN
CARRIZO PLAIN
CARRIZO PLAIN
101
5
COASTAL RANGE
Paso Robles
Lost Hills
SANTA LUCIA RANGE
Simmler
San Luis Obispo
Project
Pismo Beach
Cuyama Riv
Santa Maria
Lompoc
1
Santa Ynez
North Carrizo Ecological Reserve, Expansion 1
San Luis Obispo County
California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD
Project
Protected Lands
Eureka
Sacramento
San Francisco
Fresno
Los Angeles
San Diego
WCB 11/19/2026

Long-Term Management

The property will be owned and managed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife as part of the 12,887-acre North Carrizo Ecological Reserve, which is managed to protect rare, threatened and endangered plants and animals and the important ecological communities found within and adjacent to the Carrizo Plain in southeastern San Luis Obispo County.

Project Funding

The Department of General Services approved fair market value is $550,000, and the landowner has agreed to sell at a reduced price of $5,000. The proposed funding breakdown is as follows:

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

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 John Laird, District 17
- Assembly: Assemblymember Dawn Addis, District 30

Staff Recommendation

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

14. Del Dios **Acquisition**
WCB Grant: $423,600 **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)
Grantee: San Dieguito River Valley Land Conservancy
Location: Five miles southwest of the city of Escondido
County: San Diego
Acres: 59± (Property)

Property Highlights

- Habitats represented: coastal sage scrub, chapparal, ruderal woodland
- Key species: coastal California gnatcatcher, *Encinitas baccharis*
- Regional or Species Plan: San Diego Multiple Species Conservation Plan
- Project strengthens regional wildlife corridors between Lake Hodges and surrounding preserves

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, C2.2
- Public Access: No


Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve
Olivenhain Dam
Del Dios Highlands Preserve
Del Dios Rd
Hodges Reservoir Open Space
The Keithley Preserve
Olivenhain Dam
Escondido Creek
Del Dios
Del Dios Open Space Preserve
Lake Hodges
Del Dios Rd
San Dieguito River Park
15
76
78
5
56
Oceanside
Vista
Carlsbad
San Marcos
Escondido
OAT HILLS
Del Dios
Encinitas
Project
Pacific Ocean
Del Mar
Del Dios
San Diego County
California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD
Project
Protected Lands
Eureka
Sacramento
San Francisco
Fresno
Los Angeles
San Diego
WCB 11/19/2026

Long-Term Management

Upon acquisition, the Property will be managed as an expansion of the existing 117-acre Del Dios Open Space Preserve and incorporated into the preserve's established Resource Management Plan. Management activities will focus on habitat conservation and stewardship, including monitoring, invasive species control, ecological restoration as needed, and scientific or educational stewardship activities consistent with conservation goals.

Project Funding

The Department of General Services approved fair market value is $1,059,000 and the landowner has agreed to sell at a reduced price of $423,600. The proposed funding breakdown is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	$423,600
TOTAL Purchase Price	$423,600

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Shawna Anderson, Executive Director, San Dieguito River Park Joint Powers Authority
- Bob Byrnes and Arne Johanson, Co-Chairs, California Native Plant Society San Diego Chapter
- Candice Bowman, Vice President, Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley
- Clayton Tschudy, Executive Director and CEO, San Diego Canyonlands
- Eric Jones, President and Executive Director, Volcan Mountain Foundation

Opposition:

- None received

CEQA

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

State Government

- Senate: Senator Brian W. Jones, District 40
- Assembly: Assemblymember Dr. Darshana R. Patel, District 76

Staff Recommendation

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

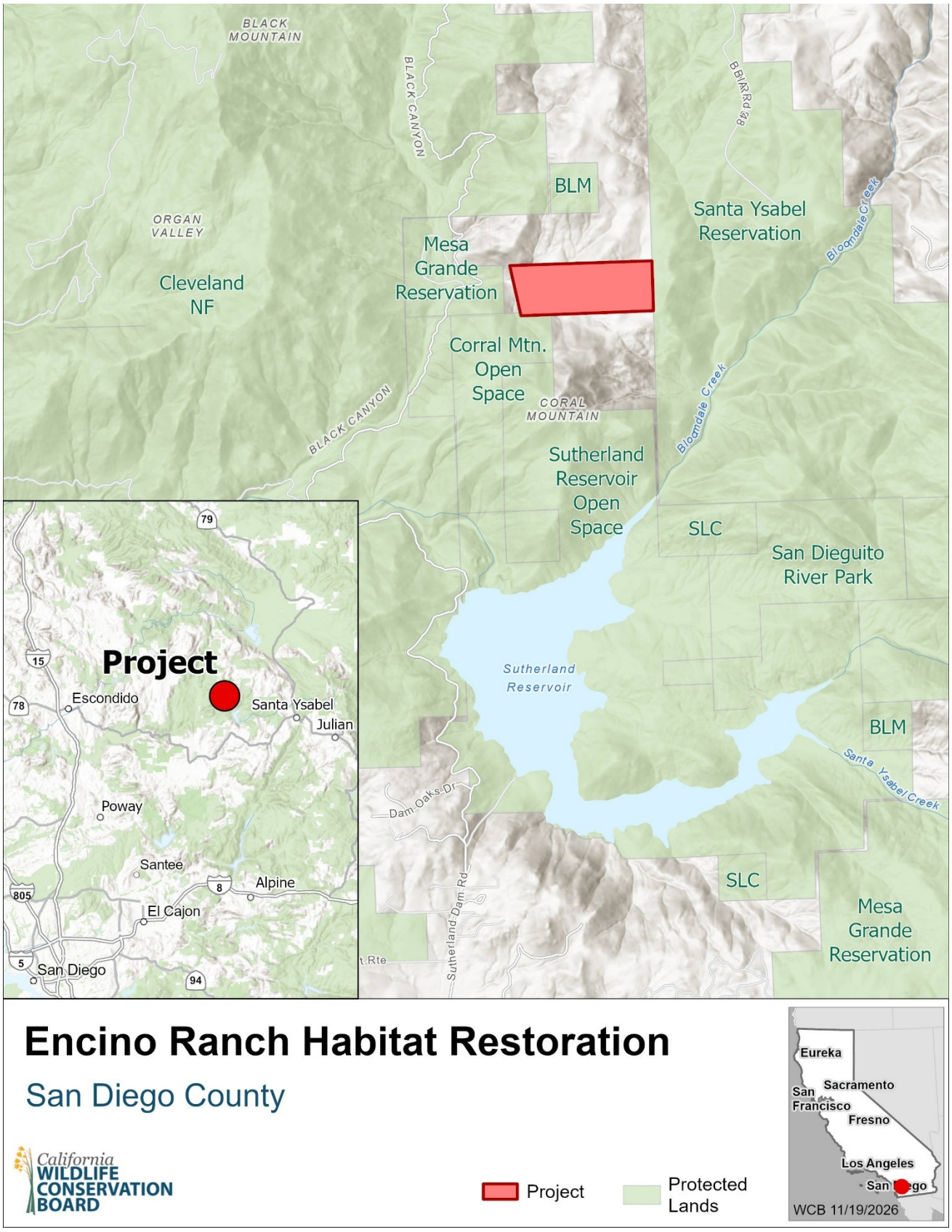
15. Encino Ranch Habitat Restoration **Restoration**
WCB Grant: $445,000 **Implementation**
Fund Source(s): Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 (Proposition 4 – Existing Programs), Public Resources Code Section 93010 (SB 105, Sec. 94)
Grantee: Encino Conservancy
Landowner: Lisa Lee Hargleroad Family Trust
Location: Six miles northeast of the unincorporated community of Ramona
County: San Diego

Project Highlights

- Increasing wildfire resiliency by removing ladder fuels and dead oaks infected by Golden Spotted Oak Borer (GSOB)
- Enhancing/restoring southern coast live oak riparian and Engelmann oak habitats
- Restoring native grasslands
- Enhancing pollinator habitat for monarchs and other pollinators
- Key species: Engelmann oak and Monarch butterfly

Priority Metrics

- Benefits Justice Communities: Yes, project is located within a DAC and will reduce fire threats, increase groundwater recharge, and protect and enhance biodiversity.
- Tribal Partnerships: Yes, the Mesa Grande Band of Diegueño Mission Indians are currently contracted by the Encino Conservancy to help with cultural resource monitoring.
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 6, Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship
- WCB Strategic Plan Target: B2.1, B2.3, C1.2, C2.1


BLACK MOUNTAIN
BLACK CANYON
BLM
Santa Ysabel Reservation
ORGAN VALLEY
Mesa Grande Reservation
Cleveland NF
Corral Mtn. Open Space
CORAL MOUNTAIN
Bloomdale Creek
Sutherland Reservoir Open Space
SLC
San Dieguito River Park
Project
Escondido
Santa Ysabel
Julian
Poway
Santee
Alpine
El Cajon
San Diego
Sutherland Reservoir
Dam Oaks Dr
Sutherland Dam Rd
Santa Ysabel Creek
Encino Ranch Habitat Restoration
San Diego County
California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD
Project
Protected Lands
Eureka
Sacramento
San Francisco
Fresno
Los Angeles
WCB 11/19/2026

Project Description

The Encino Ranch Habitat Restoration project (Project) addresses southern coast live oak riparian forest habitat degradation due to an infestation of gold spotted oak borer (GSOB). GSOB is killing coast live oak trees in the area, leading to an accumulation of dead trees and ladder fuels and an increased susceptibility to wildfire. The Project also proposes to remove several acres of invasive plant species and restore native grassland and pollinator habitat. The Project will increase wildfire and climate resiliency and improve native habitats by:

- Improving the resilience of 30.5 acres of southern coast live oak riparian forest by removing ladder fuels and 60 dead oak trees.
- Establishing 200 Engelmann oaks, which are not susceptible to GSOB, creating 2.05 acres of Engelmann oak woodland.
- Removing 6.1 acres of invasive species including Russian olive and Armenian blackberry.
- Restoring 12.3 acres of native grassland through burning, invasive species control and planting 500 native bunchgrass and forb seedlings.
- Installing 200 plantings of native forbs, sedges, and small shrubs to support native pollinators.
- Enhancing groundwater recharge through the installation of three beaver dam analogs (BDAs) or post assisted log structures (PALS).
- Repairing perimeter fencing to prevent neighboring cattle from entering the ranch.

Long-Term Management

The Encino Conservancy has prepared a Management Plan that guides management actions for the Project, including management of the Encino Ranch. If at any time during the 20-year life of the Project's Long-Term Management Period, Grantee does not manage and maintain the project improvements, the Grant Agreement requires that it refund to the state of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the Project life.

Project Funding

The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Project Management	$7,739	---	$7739
Enhance Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Habitat	$128,792	$14,540	$143,332
Invasive Species Removal	$41,275	$2,311	$43,586
Installation of BDAs or PALS	$17,699	---	$17,699
Supplemental Reforestation	$29,056	$6,506	$35,562
Native Grassland Restoration	$110,724	$2,867	$113,591
Native Pollinator Habitat Enhancement	$32,683	$4,508	$37,191
Monitoring and Reporting	$27,647	$1,500	$29,147

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Indirect Costs	$49,385	---	$49,385
Total	$445,000	$32,232	$477,232

Non-WCB funders include:

- Encino Conservancy - $14,217
- California Climate Action Corps - $4,625
- Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego - $10,540
- Netflix - $750
- U.S Fish and Wildlife Service Partners for Wildlife Program - $2,100

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Heather Cady, Director of Forestry and Fire Prevention Programs, RCD of Greater San Diego County
- Caroline Garcia, President, Southern California Chapter of The Wildlife Society
- Clayton Tschudy, CEO & Executive Director, San Diego Canyonlands
- Jim Crouch, Founder, Re-Oak California

Opposition:

- None received

CEQA

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

State Government

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

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the 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. San Felipe Valley Wildlife Area, Expansion 11 (Parfrey) **Acquisition**
Purchase Price: $150,000 **CDFW Fee**
Fund Source(s): Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c)
Location: 13 miles north of Warner Springs
County: San Diego
Acres: 31± (Property)

Project 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: Yes, located within a DAC per the Department of Water Resource's mapping tool.
- Tribal Partnerships: No
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 2, Execute Strategic Acquisitions
- WCB Strategic Plan Target: B1.1, B2.1
- Public Access: Yes, property will be open to limited public access.


Exp. 13
Exp. 12
DAMERON VALLEY
BLM
79
Chihuahua Creek
BLM
San Felipe Valley WA
OAK GROVE VALLEY
BLM
Murrieta
Oak Grove
State Route 79
Exp. 11
Project
Santa Margarita River
BLM
Oceanside
78
Escondido
5
15
DODGE VALLEY
Santee
8
El Cajon
San Diego
Cleveland NF
Pacific Ocean
Chula Vista
94
805
San Felipe Valley Wildlife Area,
Exp. 11 (Parfrey), Exp. 12 (Corner) and
Exp. 13 (Schaarsmith)
San Diego County
California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD
Project
Protected Lands
Eureka
Sacramento
San Francisco
Fresno
Los Angeles
San Diego
WCB 11/19/2026

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 approved fair market value is $150,000. The proposed funding breakdown is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	$150,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	$150,000

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 the 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. San Felipe Valley Wildlife Area, Expansion 12 (Corner) **Acquisition**
Purchase Price: $560,000 **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: 77± (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: Yes, located within a DAC per the Department of Water Resource's mapping tool
- Tribal Partnerships: No
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 2, Execute Strategic Acquisitions
- WCB Strategic Plan Target: B1.1, B2.1
- Public Access: Yes, property will be open to limited public access


Exp. 13
Exp. 12
Exp. 11
DAMERON VALLEY
BLM
BLM
BLM
BLM
San Felipe Valley WA
Chihuahua Creek
OAK GROVE VALLEY
Oak Grove
State Route 79
DODGE VALLEY
Cleveland NF
Project
Murrieta
Santa Margarita River
Oceanside
Escondido
Santee
El Cajon
San Diego
Chula Vista
Pacific Ocean
78
5
15
8
94
805
79
Eureka
Sacramento
San Francisco
Fresno
Los Angeles
San Diego
WCB 11/19/2026
San Felipe Valley Wildlife Area,
Exp. 11 (Parfrey), Exp. 12 (Corner) and
Exp. 13 (Schaarsmith)
San Diego County
California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD
Project
Protected Lands

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 approved fair market value is $560,000. The proposed funding breakdown is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	$560,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	$560,000

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 the 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. San Felipe Valley Wildlife Area, Expansion 13 (Schaarsmith) **Acquisition**
Purchase Price: $245,000 **CDFW Fee**
Fund Source(s): Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c)
Location: 18 miles north of Warner Springs
County: San Diego
Acres: 58± (Property)

Project 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: Yes, located within a DAC per the Department of Water Resource's mapping tool
- Tribal Partnerships: No
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 2, Execute Strategic Acquisitions
- WCB Strategic Plan Target: B1.1, B2.1
- Public Access: Yes, property will be open to limited public access


Exp. 13
Exp. 12
DAMERON VALLEY
BLM
BLM
Chihuahua Creek
San Felipe Valley WA
OAK GROVE VALLEY
BLM
Murrieta
Oak Grove
State Route 79
Exp. 11
Project
Santa Margarita River
BLM
Oceanside
Escondido
DODGE VALLEY
Santee
El Cajon
San Diego
Cleveland NF
Pacific Ocean
Chula Vista
San Felipe Valley Wildlife Area,
Exp. 11 (Parfrey), Exp. 12 (Corner) and
Exp. 13 (Schaarsmith)
San Diego County
California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD
Project
Protected Lands
Eureka
Sacramento
San Francisco
Fresno
Los Angeles
WCB 11/19/2026

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 approved fair market value is $245,000. The proposed funding breakdown is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	$245,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	$245,000

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

19. Grasslands Ecological Area Hunting Access **Restoration Implementation**

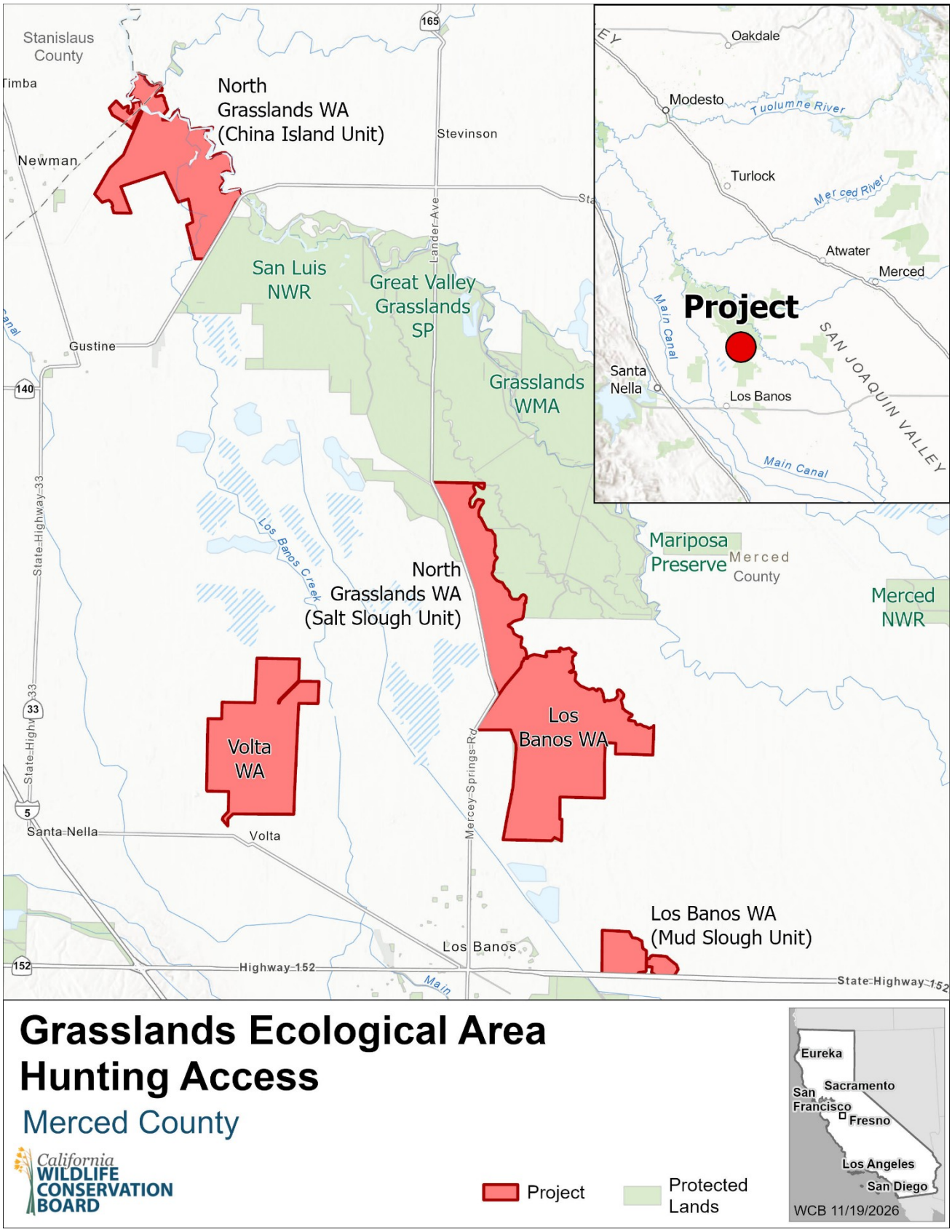
WCB Grant: $542,000
Fund Source(s): California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68), Public Resources Code Section 80132(a)
Grantee: California Waterfowl Association
Landowner: California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Location: Los Banos
County: Merced

Project Highlights

- Increases hunting capacity, distribution, and accessibility.
- Enhances visitor safety and education.
- Reduces maintenance costs and effort.
- Project will include ADA-compliant educational signage in both English and Spanish.

Priority Metrics

- Benefits Justice Communities: Yes. Project expands access to nature and accessible recreation for DAC and SDAC communities nearby.
- Tribal Partnerships: No
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 6, Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship
- WCB Strategic Plan Target: P1.1


Stanislaus County
Newman
Gustine
Stevinson
Lander Ave
165
140
33
5
152
State Highway 33
Santa Nella
Volta
Mercey Springs Rd
Los Banos
Highway 152
State Highway 152
Los Banos Creek
Main Canal
North Grasslands WA (China Island Unit)
San Luis NWR
Great Valley Grasslands SP
Grasslands WMA
North Grasslands WA (Salt Slough Unit)
Volta WA
Los Banos WA
Los Banos WA (Mud Slough Unit)
Mariposa Preserve
Merced County
Merced NWR
Oakdale
Modesto
Turlock
Atwater
Merced
Tuolumne River
Merced River
Project
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY
Grasslands Ecological Area
Hunting Access
Merced County
California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD
Project
Protected Lands
Eureka
Sacramento
San Francisco
Fresno
Los Angeles
San Diego
WCB 11/19/2026

Project Description

The Grasslands Ecological Area Hunting Access (Project) will improve public access, visitor safety, and recreational opportunities at California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Los Banos Wildlife Area (LBWA), North Grasslands Wildlife Area (NGWA), and Volta Wildlife Area (VWA). Collectively, these wildlife areas provide significant public outdoor recreation opportunities including hunting, wildlife viewing, environmental education, hiking, and fishing, bringing roughly 31,000 visitors annually. However, aging infrastructure, limited accessibility, inadequate visitor amenities, and increasing public demand have created substantial unmet needs that negatively affect visitor experiences and operational efficiency.

Across all three wildlife areas, there is a need for additional hunting blinds, improved parking and roadway infrastructure, updated lighting systems, enhanced accessibility for mobility-impaired visitors, and expanded educational signage. Existing facilities are insufficient to meet current public use demands and have deteriorated due to years of heavy use.

Each wildlife area contains numerous free-roam hunting units where hunters are dispersed throughout the marsh with limited infrastructure. The lack of adequate blind spacing contributes to crowding and safety concerns during peak hunting periods. The proposed installation of strategically placed hunting blinds will improve hunter distribution, reduce overcrowding, and create a safer and more enjoyable recreational experience for visitors.

The Project will improve public access, accessibility, and recreational experience across three wildlife areas by:

- Installing nine new hunting blinds, including multiple 3-person pit and stand-up blinds and one ADA-accessible floating blind.
- Enhancing parking lots and access roads to decrease muddy conditions and providing accessibility to the Project improvements.
- Enhancing the hunter check-station at the Volta Wildlife Area including: upgrading lighting and audio systems, new safety fencing, and a new kiosk with educational signage.

These Project activities will improve ADA accessibility and enhance mobility-impaired participation, increase overall hunting capacity and distribution by adding three new hunters to the existing quota, reduce maintenance needs associated with degraded parking areas, and enhance visitor safety and education through updated lighting, signage and interpretive materials. Long term, these improvements will strengthen public access, enhance the users experience across all three wildlife areas, and support continued participation in California's hunting and wildlife conservation programs.

Long-Term Management

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife 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's Long-Term Management Period, 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	$38,000	---	$38,000
Public Access Improvements	$433,000	---	$433,000
Indirect Costs	$71,000	---	$71,000
Total	$542,000	---	$542,000

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- None received

Opposition:

- None received

CEQA

The project is proposed as exempt from the CEQA pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15301, Class 1, Existing Facilities, 15302, Class 2, Replacement or Reconstruction, and Section 15303, Class 3, New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures. Subject to approval of this proposal by the WCB, the appropriate Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

State Government

- Senate: Senator Anna M. Caballero, District 14
- Assembly: Assemblymember Esmeralda Soria, District 27

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the 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

20. Galiano Fen Restoration — Restoration

WCB Grant: $2,622,000 — **Implementation**

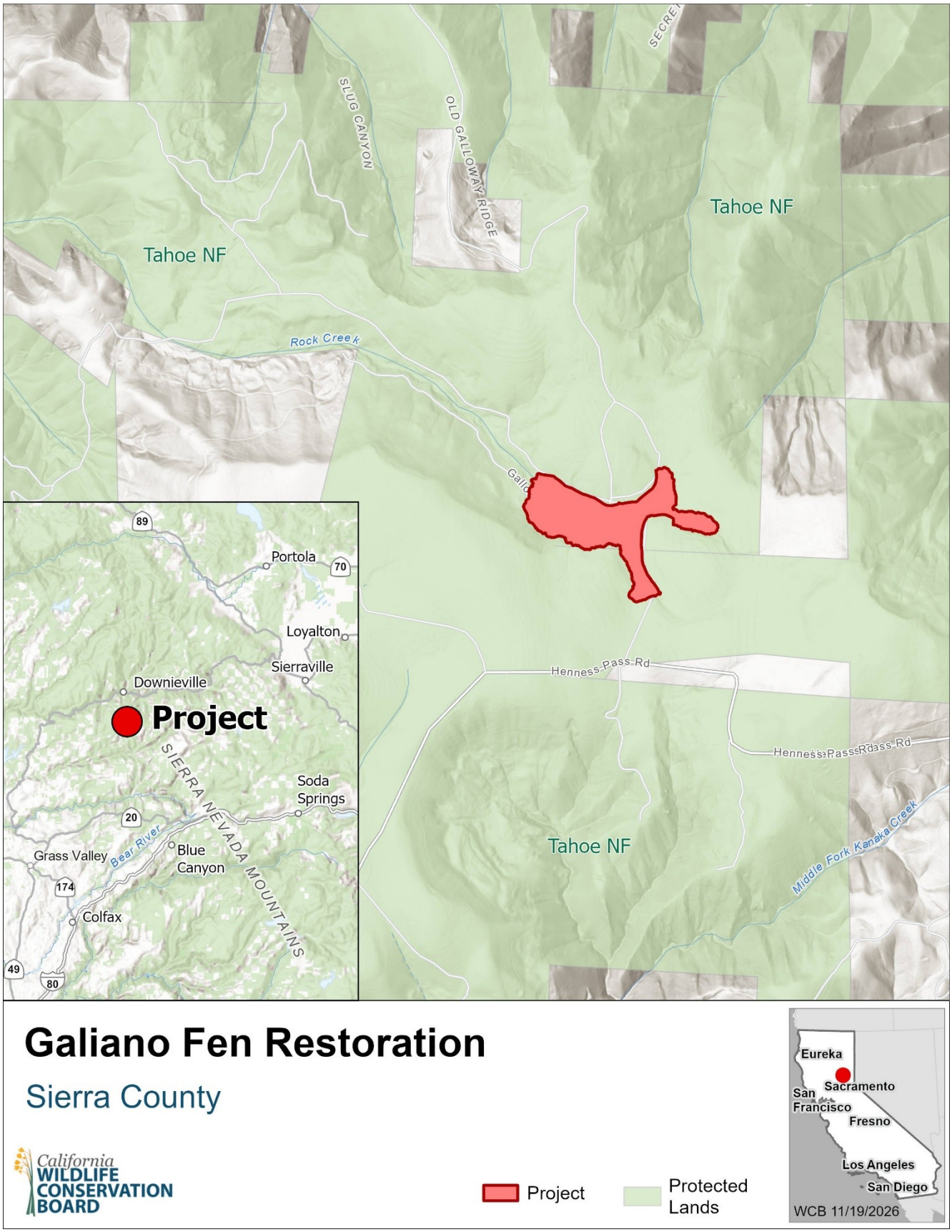
Fund Source(s): California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68), Public Resources Code Section 80132(f) Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 (Proposition 4 – Existing Programs), Public Resources Code Section 93010 (SB 105, Sec. 94)
Grantee: South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL)
Landowner: U.S. Forest Service, Tahoe National Forest
Location: Three miles southeast of Downieville
County: Sierra

Project Highlights

- Restores rare fen habitat.
- Contributes to regional conservation goals.
- Restores and expands mountain meadow habitat.
- Removes former mining infrastructure from sensitive habitat.

Priority Metrics

- Benefits Justice Communities: Yes, within DAC on lands open to recreation, increases carbon sequestration and resilience to future high heat events.
- Tribal Partnerships: No
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 1, Accelerate Regionally Led Conservation, and Pathway 6, Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship
- WCB Strategic Plan Target: B1.3, C1.1, C2.1, C2.2, C2.3


Tahoe NF
Tahoe NF
Tahoe NF
SLUG CANYON
OLD GALLOWAY RIDGE
Rock Creek
Henness Pass Rd
Middle Fork Kanaka Creek
Portola
Loyalton
Sierraville
Downieville
Project
Soda Springs
Grass Valley
Bear River
Blue Canyon
Colfax
SIERRA NEVADA MOUNTAINS
89
70
20
174
49
80
Galiano Fen Restoration
Sierra County
California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD
Project
Protected Lands
Eureka
Sacramento
San Francisco
Fresno
Los Angeles
San Diego
WCB 11/19/2026

Project Description

The Galiano Fen Restoration (Project) is located within the headwaters of the North Yuba River in the Northern Sierra Nevada. This Project will restore 22 acres of degraded wet meadow, lost meadow, and fen habitat, as well as 42 acres of overstocked upland forest by reconnecting hydrologic processes, modifying grazing practices, and thinning dense forest stands. The Project area contains a rich history of human activity beginning with indigenous land stewardship followed by grazing, mining, logging, fire suppression, and beaver extirpation. The myriad of uses at the Project site have led to degradation of forests, meadows, fen, and riparian habitats. The Project is supported by the North Yuba Forest Partnership – a regionally led group of nine organizations of which SYRCL and the Tahoe National Forest are founding members. The Project will implement meadow and forest restoration to increase biodiversity and climate resiliency by:

- Restoring remnant mining ponds and stream diversion channels.
- Reconnecting hydrology and reducing erosion utilizing low tech processed based restoration techniques (beaver dam analogs, log jams).
- Removing conifers in lost meadow habitat.
- Improving roads to reduce channel incision and sediment input including culvert removal and road decommissioning.
- Thinning upland forests to reduce wildfire risk and groundwater loss through transpiration.
- Grazing management utilizing virtual fencing and relocation of grazing infrastructure out of sensitive habitats.

Long-Term Management

SYRCL 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's Long-Term Management Period, Grantee does not manage and maintain the project improvements, the Grant Agreement requires that it refund to the state of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the Project life.

Project Funding

The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Project Management	$204,756	---	$204,756
Restoration	$1,891,970	$230,000	$2,121,970
Monitoring	$308,737	$5,225	$313,962
Indirect	$216,537	---	$216,537
Total	$2,622,000	$235,225	$2,857,225

Non-WCB funders include:
- South Yuba River Citizens League - $5,225
- U.S. Forest Service, Tahoe National Forest -$230,000

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:
- Amber Waters, Deputy Forest Supervisor, U.S. Forest Service
- Shelly Covert, Executive Director, Huswej

Opposition:
- None received

CEQA

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, 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 Megan Dahle, District 01
- Assembly: Assemblymember Heather Hadwick, District 01

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the 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

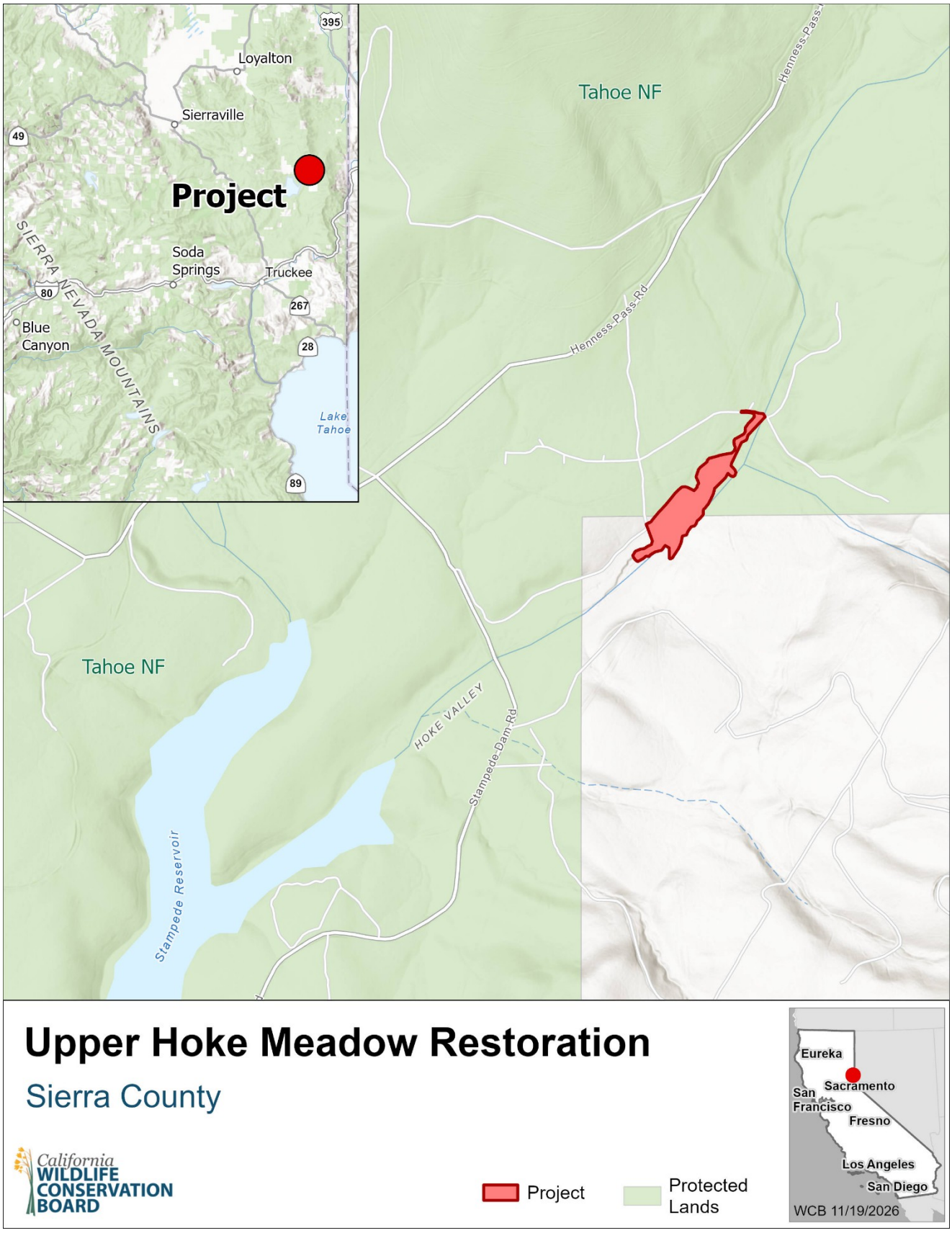
21. Upper Hoke Meadow Restoration **Restoration**
WCB Grant: $1,724,000 **Implementation**
Fund Source(s): Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Fund of 2014 (Proposition 1 – Enhanced stream flows), Water Code Section 79733
Grantee: Truckee River Watershed Council
Landowner: U.S. Forest Service, Tahoe National Forest
Location: 13 miles northeast of Truckee
County: Sierra

Project Highlights

- 35 acres of mountain meadow habitat restoration.
- CDFW ACE rank 5 for terrestrial connectivity (essential and irreplaceable corridor).
- CDFW ACE rank 4 for terrestrial climate change resilience.
- Within U.S. Forest Service priority watershed that is connected to downstream municipal water supply.
- Builds upon regional strategies and prior restoration projects.

Priority Metrics

- Benefits Justice Communities: Yes; within a DAC on public land, increases carbon sequestration.
- Tribal Partnerships: No
- 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: B1.3, C1.1, C2.1, P2.2


Loyalton
Sierraville
Project
Soda Springs
Truckee
Blue Canyon
SIERRA NEVADA MOUNTAINS
Lake Tahoe
Tahoe NF
Henness Pass Rd
HOKE VALLEY
Stampede Dam Rd
Stampede Reservoir
Upper Hoke Meadow Restoration
Sierra County
California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD
Project
Protected Lands
Eureka
Sacramento
San Francisco
Fresno
Los Angeles
San Diego
WCB 11/19/2026

Project Description

Hoke Meadow is a 60-acre meadow in the Boca watershed on the east side of the Truckee River watershed with a diverse land use history that includes a section of the historic Emigrant Trail, roads, dispersed camping, telephone and petroleum lines, historic logging, and grazing impacts. The Lower Hoke Meadow Restoration project was funded by the USFS and completed in 2023, leaving 35 acres of upper Hoke Meadow remaining to complete the restoration of the entirety of Hoke Valley. The stream within the Upper Hoke Meadow Restoration (Project) project area is incised and the channel has eroded up to ten feet deep in some sections, creating increasingly dry conditions that decrease meadow habitat quality and biodiversity. The Project will improve these conditions by:

- Replacing an erosive road crossing with improved low water crossing.
- Expanding an inset floodplain to allow increased groundwater infiltration and expand wet meadow habitat.
- Removing a remnant railroad berm that is disrupting hydrology.
- Partially filling a channel to improve hydrologic conditions.
- Extensive pre/post project monitoring for efficacy and site response (i.e. vegetation, groundwater).

Long-Term Management

The Truckee River Watershed Council 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's Long-Term Management Period, Grantee does not manage and maintain the project improvements, the Grant Agreement requires that it refund to the state of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the Project life.

Project Funding

The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Project Management	$80,101	---	$80,101
Monitoring	$115,500	---	$115,500
Restoration	$1,484,150	$18,800	$1,502,950
Indirect	$44,249	---	$44,249
Total	$1,724,000	$18,800	$1,742,800

Non-WCB funders include:

- Truckee River Watershed Council - $3,800
- Sacramento Regional Conservation Corps - $15,000

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Rachel Hutchison, Acting District Ranger, Tahoe National Forest

Opposition:

- None received

CEQA

The Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, 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 ecological restoration project that does not exceed five acres. 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 Megan Dahle, District 01
- Assembly: Assemblymember Heather Hadwick, District 01

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommend that the 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.

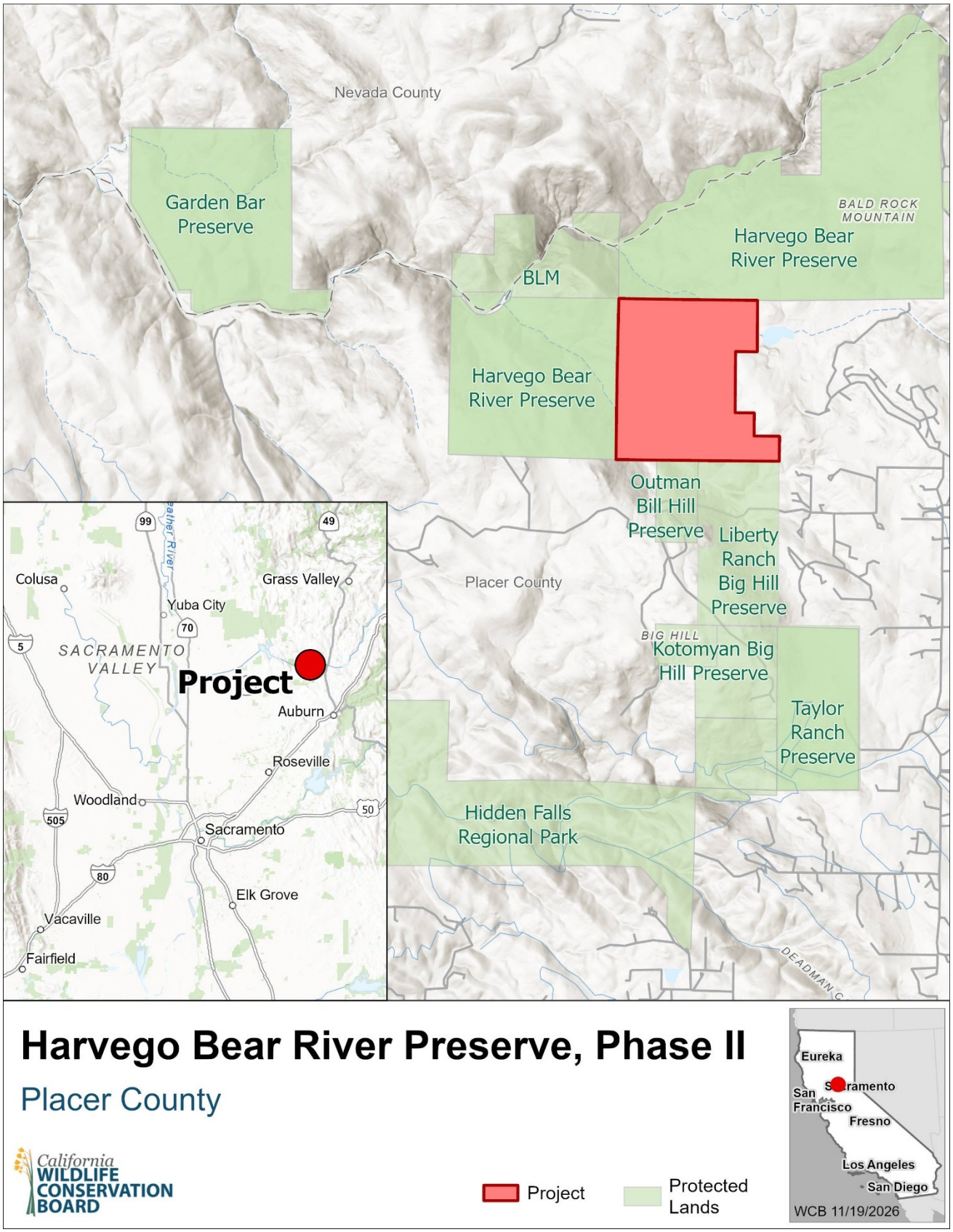
22. Harvego Bear River Preserve, Phase II **Acquisition**
WCB Grant: $5,200,000 **Fee**
Fund Source(s): Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 (Proposition 4 – Existing Programs), Public Resources Code Section 93010 (SB 105, Sec. 94)
Grantee: Placer Land Trust (PLT)
Location: Approximately 4.5 miles northwest of Auburn
County: Placer
Acres: 525± (Property)

Property Highlights

- Property represents the second and final phase to acquire and permanently protect the Harvego Bear River Preserve, resulting in an approximately 2,300-acre preserve located adjacent to thousands of acres of already protected land.
- To the north, northwest, and west, the Property connects to protected land on both sides of the Bear River in Placer and Nevada Counties. To the south, the Property connects to protected land on both sides of Raccoon Creek.
- Property will enhance the connectivity of approximately 9,000 acres of contiguous conserved land.
- WCB was a funder in the acquisition and protection of the first phase of Harvego Bear River Preserve (2010) as well as PLT's nearby Taylor Ranch Big Hill Preserve (2007) and Laursen Bear River Preserve (2018). PLT also holds a conservation easement over the nearby Liberty Ranch Big Hill Preserve which WCB helped fund (2007).
- Habitats represented: About 90% of the Property consists of oak woodlands; this habitat type contains some of the highest biodiversity of any ecosystem in California. There is abundant water on the Property, including two ponds that hold water year-round and several intermittent streams.
- Key species: Northwestern Pond Turtle, Blacktail deer, wild pig, and coyote. Mountain lion, bobcat black bear, gray fox, and ringtail have been observed on adjacent PLT preserves.
- Placer County is currently working on permitting and construction of new trails on both PLT and Placer County property that will connect the nearby Big Hill Preserve with Hidden Falls Regional Park with the goal of ultimately connecting Hidden Falls Regional Park to the Harvego Bear River Preserve.
- Development is a significant threat to the Property. The Property is adjacent to the Auburn Valley Golf Course community which consists of approximately 120 homes. The Property's zoning allows for 33 primary residential units and an additional 33 Accessory Dwelling Units to be built with the potential to irreversibly impair the Property's conservation values.

Priority Metrics

- Benefits Justice Communities: No
- Tribal Partnerships: No
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 2, Execute Strategic Acquisitions
- WCB Strategic Plan Target: B.1.1, B.2.1, C.1.2, P.1.1, P.1.2
- Public Access: Yes. Upon acquisition, PLT will begin utilizing the Property as part of its 15-year-old docent-led tour program, which includes hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian riding, offered free to the public with reservation, and led by PLT volunteers or staff. Additionally, PLT committed to work with the CDFW SHARE Program to provide public hunting and fishing access to the Property. It is important to note that the Property is not served by a public road (deeded access to the Property is via private road across several private properties) so full, unfettered public access is not currently envisioned.


Nevada County
Garden Bar Preserve
BALD ROCK MOUNTAIN
Harvego Bear River Preserve
BLM
Harvego Bear River Preserve
Outman Bill Hill Preserve
Liberty Ranch Big Hill Preserve
Placer County
BIG HILL
Kotomyan Big Hill Preserve
Taylor Ranch Preserve
Hidden Falls Regional Park
DEADMAN C
Colusa
Yuba City
Grass Valley
SACRAMENTO VALLEY
Project
Auburn
Roseville
Woodland
Sacramento
Elk Grove
Vacaville
Fairfield
99
49
70
5
505
50
80
Harvego Bear River Preserve, Phase II
Placer County
California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD
Project
Protected Lands
Eureka
San Francisco
Fresno
Los Angeles
San Diego
WCB 11/19/2026

Long-Term Management

PLT will work with the Placer Conservation Authority (PCA) who will hold a Conservation Easement on the subject Property, and PLT and PCA will create a Long-Term Management Plan that is consistent with the adjacent protected land management and the region-wide Placer County Conservation Program (HCP/NCCP). The primary anticipated improvement is utilizing the Property for public recreation, including (as time and funding allow) access and trail enhancements, docent-led activities, and trail use, and (when set up in the SHARE Program) hunting and fishing.

Project Funding

The Department of General Services approved fair market value is $8,130,000, and the landowner has agreed to sell at a reduced price of $8,000,000. The proposed funding breakdown is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	$5,200,000
Placer Conservation Authority/Placer County	$2,800,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	$8,000,000

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Northern Foothills Partnership
- United Auburn Indian Community
- 40 Acre Conservation League

Opposition:

- None received

CEQA

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

State Government

- Senate: Senator Roger Niello, District 6
- Assembly: Assemblymember Joe Patterson, District 5

Staff Recommendation

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

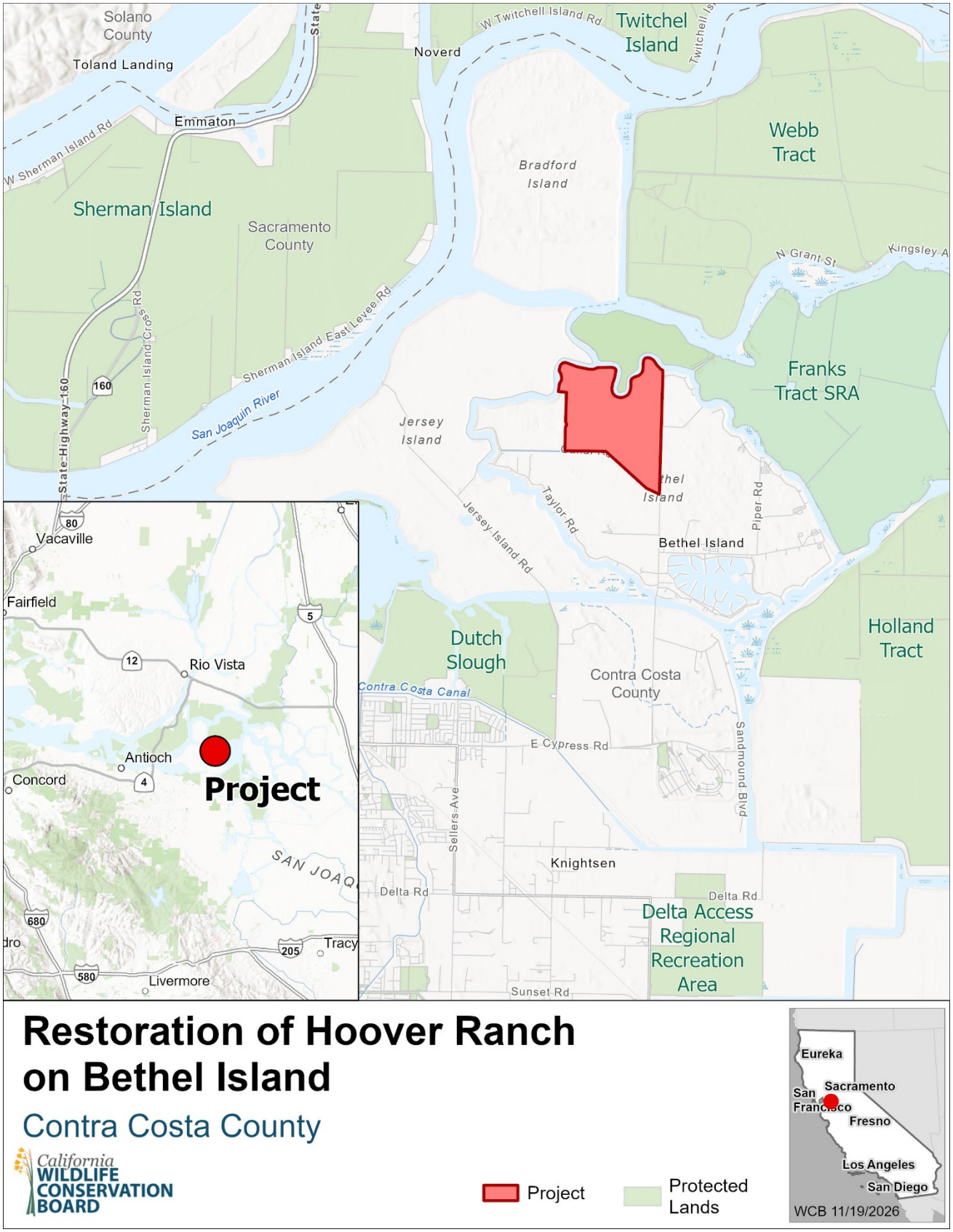
23. Restoration of Hoover Ranch on Bethel Island **Restoration**
WCB Grant: $1,659,000 **Planning**
Fund Source(s): Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 (Proposition 4 – Existing Programs), Public Resources Code Section 93010 (SB105, Sec. 94).
Grantee: John Muir Land Trust
Landowner: John Muir Land Trust
Location: 6.5 miles northeast of Oakley, CA.
County: Contra Costa

Project Highlights

- Large privately held parcel comprising 1/5th of Bethel Island, a leveed and subsided residential island in the interior Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.
- Will bring 500 acres of wetland, riparian, and rare inland dune habitat to a shovel-ready restoration stage.
- Will deliver restoration design to halt subsidence and peat soil oxidation at the site.
- Establishes public access to open space and safe, habitat-sensitive walking paths, particularly for the local community.
- Key species: giant garter snake, Swainson’s hawk, valley elderberry, longhorn beetle, Contra Costa wallflower, Antioch primrose.

Priority Metrics

- Benefits Justice Communities: Yes; The project will support levee resilience and provide habitat-sensitive public access for residents of Bethel Island, as well as to nearby disadvantaged communities. Once implemented, the restored riparian and wetland systems will improve local water and air quality and increase the flood resilience of the leveed site.
- Tribal Partnerships: John Muir Land Trust (JMLT) is currently reaching out to the tribes identified by the Native American Heritage Commission as having cultural ties to the property to ensure Tribal collaboration and consultation is centered early in project development.
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 6, Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship, Pathway 8, Align Investments to Maximize Conservation Benefits
- WCB Strategic Plan Target: B1.3 C1.1


Solano County
Toland Landing
Emmaton
Noverd
W Twitchell Island Rd
Twitchell Island
Webb Tract
Bradford Island
W Sherman Island Rd
Sherman Island
Sacramento County
N Grant St
Kingsley A
Sherman Island East Levee Rd
Sherman Island Cross Rd
State Highway 160
160
San Joaquin River
Franks Tract SRA
Jersey Island
Taylor Rd
Piper Rd
Jersey Island Rd
Bethel Island
Vacaville
80
Fairfield
5
12
Rio Vista
Dutch Slough
Holland Tract
Contra Costa Canal
Contra Costa County
Antioch
Concord
4
Project
E Cypress Rd
Sandmound Blvd
Sellers Ave
Knightsen
Delta Rd
Delta Access Regional Recreation Area
680
Tracy
205
580
Livermore
Sunset Rd
Restoration of Hoover Ranch on Bethel Island
Contra Costa County
California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD
Project
Protected Lands
Eureka
Sacramento
San Francisco
Fresno
Los Angeles
San Diego
WCB 11/19/2026

Project Description

The Restoration of Hoover Ranch on Bethel Island (Project) planning project will complete all planning, design, permitting, and community outreach activities needed to implement restoration of emergent wetlands and riparian woodlands on approximately 500 of 600 total acres of diked, subsided land on Bethel Island in the western Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Specifically, the Project will bring the site to a shovel-ready state for the following implementation activities:

- Halting of subsidence within the project footprint;
- Sequestering carbon and avoiding emissions by rewetting peat soils in managed wetlands;
- Equalizing hydrostatic pressure on levees;
- Improving habitat for special status species;
- Providing safe, habitat-sensitive community access to open space on Bethel Island.

Project Funding

The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Project Management	$194,257	$52,738	$246,995
Planning & Design	$1,051,000	$388,700	$1,439,700
CEQA & Permitting	$198,221	$211,279	$409,500
Indirect Costs	$215,522	$97,908	$313,430
Total	$1,659,000	$750,625	$2,409,625

Non-WCB funders include:

- JMLT - $250,625
- Delta Conservancy - $500,000

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Christopher Cabaldon, California State Senator, Third Senatorial District
- Candace Andersen, Chair, Board of Supervisors, Contra Costa County
- Lori D. Wilson, Assemblymember, 11th District

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 the WCB, the appropriate Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

State Government

- Senate: Senator Christopher Cabaldon, District 3
- Assembly: Assemblymember Lori D. Wilson, District 11

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the 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. Point Reyes National Seashore Implementation **Restoration Implementation**

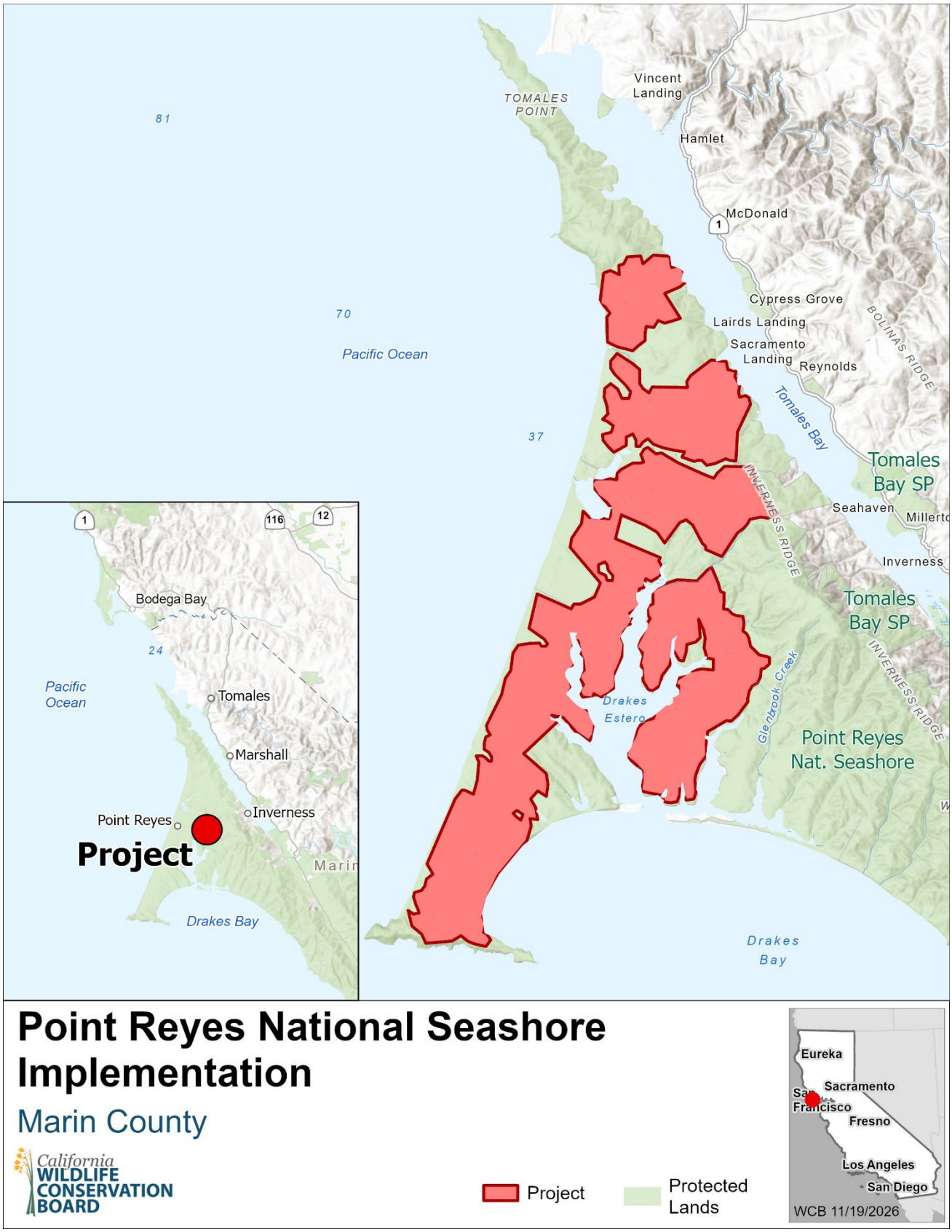
WCB Grant: $7,293,128
Fund Source(s): General Fund, Budget Act of 2024, Point Reyes (SB 108, Sec. 106(1)(4))
Grantee: The Nature Conservancy
Landowner: The National Park Service (NPS)
Location: Seven miles west of Point Reyes Station
County: Marin

Project Highlights

- Implement a grazing plan for 16,000 acres of coastal grasslands
- Install flexible water infrastructure
- Set up a virtual fencing system
- Maintain habitat mosaic of grasslands, shrublands, and riparian vegetation
- Reduce invasive plant cover
- Encourage rare native plant growth
- Increase public stewardship and engagement

Priority Metrics

- Benefits Justice Communities: No
- Tribal Partnerships: Yes. The Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria (FIGR) has a co-stewardship agreement with the NPS at Point Reyes National Seashore. They are a key partner and will be regularly consulted in the design of long-term management, restoration, and cultural resource stewardship.
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 6, Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship
- WCB Strategic Plan Target: B1.1, B3.3, B3.4, C1.2


Vincent Landing
TOMALES POINT
Hamlet
McDonald
Cypress Grove
Lairds Landing
Sacramento Landing
Reynolds
BOLINAS RIDGE
Tomales Bay
Tomales Bay SP
Seahaven
Inverness
INVERNESS RIDGE
Tomales Bay SP
Glenbrook Creek
Drakes Estero
Point Reyes Nat. Seashore
Pacific Ocean
Drakes Bay
81
70
37
24
Bodega Bay
Tomales
Marshall
Inverness
Point Reyes
Project
Drakes Bay
Point Reyes National Seashore Implementation
Marin County
California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD
Project
Protected Lands
Eureka
Sacramento
San Francisco
Fresno
Los Angeles
San Diego
WCB 11/19/2026

Project Description

Point Reyes National Seashore (PRNS) is an ecologically significant coastal landscape known for its biodiversity and deep cultural history. The grasslands of outer PRNS are undergoing significant landscape-level changes following the departure of historic cattle operations. The resulting changes in grazing pressures require new grazing landscape management. The landscapes at PRNS are highly diverse with multiple coastal habitats including interior dunes, wetlands, riparian zones, shrublands, and remnant patches of rare, native coastal prairie. Not only are grasslands among the least protected and most rapidly disappearing natural ecosystems on Earth, but California's coastal prairie is among the most biodiverse grassland habitats in North America. Native tule elk currently occupy parts of PRNS, and the removal of fencelines will allow them to expand in range and numbers, to move across the landscape, and aid in the maintenance of this complex mosaic of habitat types.

The Project will implement a grazing plan and virtual fencing system to increase landscape health by:

- Developing a public stewardship plan
- Installing virtual fencing system covering 16,000 acres to allow targeted and managed grazing
- Removing internal physical fencelines to increase habitat connectivity
- Creating a mobile water infrastructure system to improve grazing management

Long-Term Management

The Nature Conservancy 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's Long-Term Management Period, Grantee does not manage and maintain the project improvements, the Grant Agreement requires that it refund to the state of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the Project life.

Project Funding

The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Project Management	$1,018,697	---	$1,018,697
Targeted Grazing Program	$4,527,950	---	$4,527,950
Public Stewardship Program	$331,900	---	$331,900
Restoration Capacity	$225,000	---	$225,000
Indirect Costs	$1,189,581	---	$1,189,581
Total	$7,293,128	---	$7,293,128

Non-WCB funders include:

- None

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Greg Sarris, Chairman, Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria
- Dennis Rodoni, District 4 Supervisor, County of Marin
- Jun Bando, PhD, Executive Director, California Native Plant Society
- Donna Faure, Executive Director, Point Reyes National Seashore Association
- Thomas Gardali, CEO, All Hands Ecology

Opposition:

- None received

CEQA

The San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board, as lead agency, prepared a Negative Declaration (ND) for the project pursuant to the provisions of the CEQA. Staff considered the ND and prepared proposed, written findings documenting WCB's compliance with CEQA. Subject to approval of this proposal by the WCB, the appropriate Notice of Determination will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

State Government

- Senate: Senator Mike McGuire, District 2
- Assembly: Assemblymember Damon Connolly, District 12

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the WCB adopt the CEQA 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. Golden Gate Fields **Acquisition**
WCB Grant: $53,000,000 **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 (AB 113, Sec. 96, Item 1.1(a))
Grantee: East Bay Regional Parks District (EBRPD)Location: Within Albany and Berkeley
County: Alameda
Acres: 162± (Property)

Project Highlights

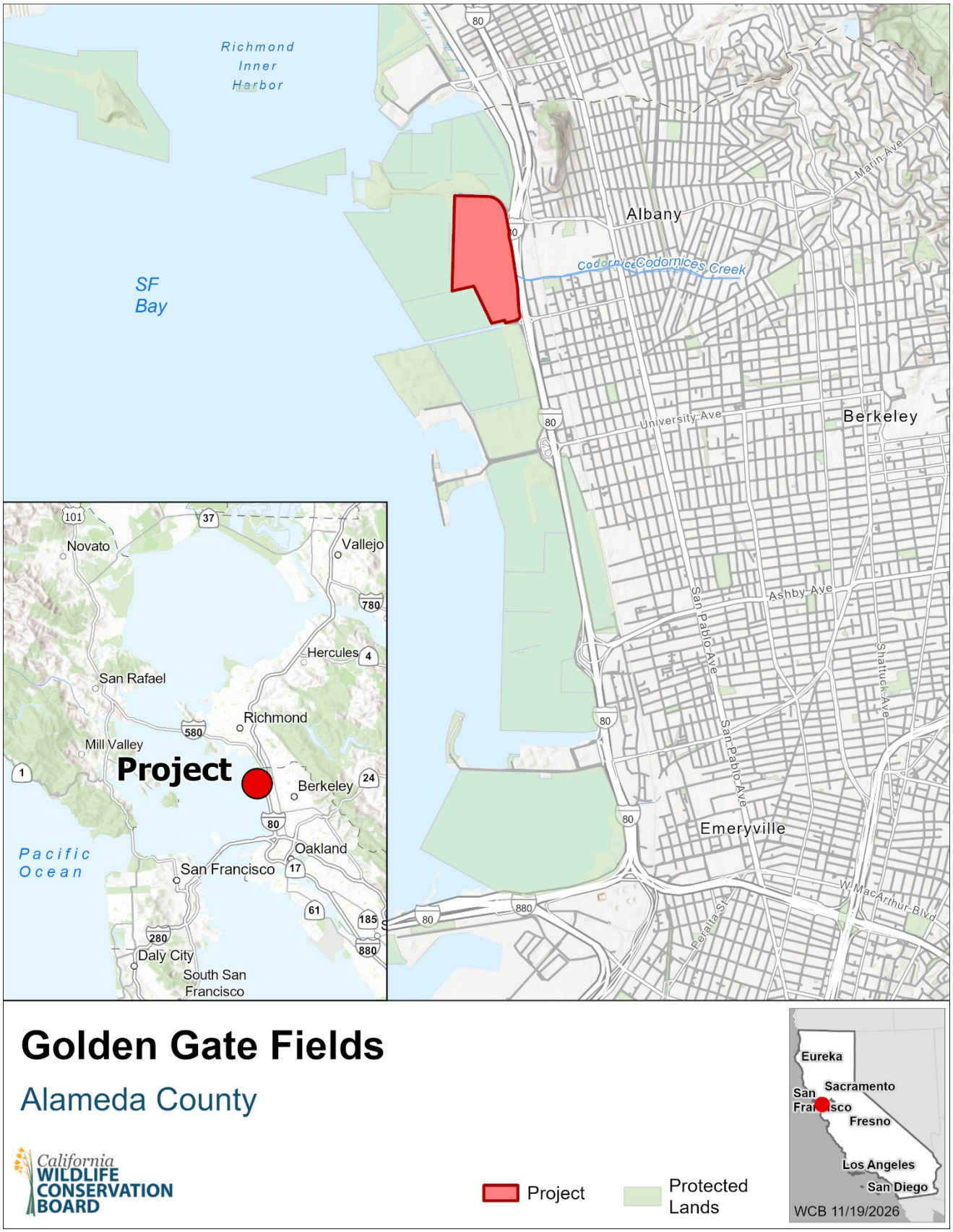
- The site is a former horse racetrack facility that was built in the early 20th century. The racetrack was built by reclaiming the San Francisco Bay with debris from Point Fleming, a rocky promontory about 1/3 mile offshore, and on which the grandstand was constructed. The southern 1/3 of the Property, comprised of the stable area, was likely created, in the early 20th century, by filling the bay with material that may include Berkeley's municipal waste and incinerated waste debris. The northern portion of the Property was likely filled in the 1950's. Construction of the racetrack and Eastshore Highway, now Interstate 80, and other infrastructure destroyed the natural mudflats, tidal marsh, dunes, beach and tidal flat ecosystems that existed prior to development.
- Acquisition of the Property presents an opportunity to create, restore, and enhance wildlife habitat and to provide public recreation. Public recreational opportunities may include youth sports fields and urban park amenities including commercial uses. There is an existing Verizon cell tower lease on the Property which runs through 2034. WCB's grant agreement requires restoration of at least 49.1± acres of the Property.
- Potential future habitats may include:
  - Upland Habitats: Coastal Dune, Coastal Scrub, Maritime Chaparral, Oak Woodland, and Mixed Evergreen Forest;
  - Transitional Ecotones: Beach, Moist Grassland, Coastal Prairie, Coastal Prairie, Coastal Scrub, Willow Groves, and Riparian Forest
  - Marsh
  - Tidal Flats/Channels
- Restoration may also include re-grading the Property and removing fill to rebuild and connect historic flood plains and wetlands, bringing sediment into the site, and facilitating natural geomorphic processes and sea level rise resilience.
- Conservation and restoration of the Property will complete a 10-mile San Francisco Bayland habitat and recreational corridor from Oakland to Richmond, along the San Francisco Bay Trail. The Property connects to CDFW's 160-acre Albany Mudflats

Ecological Reserve, the Albany Bulb, Albany Beach, Tom Bates Sports Complex, and Mcloughlin East Shore State Park State Seashore.

- In its existing state the Property includes 24 acres of estuarine and marine deepwater, approximately 12 acres of estuarine and marine wetland and ponds, and one-half acre of riverine wetland. Common fish, birds, and crustaceans likely use these habitats. A restored site may be suitable habitat for California tiger salamander, Myrtles silverspot butterfly, monarch butterfly, western pond turtle, burrowing owl, loggerhead shrike, white-tailed kite, and northern harrier.

Priority Metrics

- Benefits Justice Communities: Yes. The Property is in a Justice Community, and restoration will reduce the impacts of sea level rise.
- Tribal Partnerships: No
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 2, Execute Strategic Acquisitions
- WCB Strategic Plan Target: B1.1, P1
- Public Access: Yes. EBRPD will prepare a plan to permit wildlife habitat compatible public access on the Property. Prior to restoration, EBRPD will hold events at the Property.


Richmond Inner Harbor
SF Bay
Albany
Codornices Creek
Berkeley
University Ave
Marin Ave
Ashby Ave
San Pablo Ave
Shattuck Ave
Emeryville
W MacArthur Blvd
Ferdinand St
Novato
Vallejo
Hercules
San Rafael
Richmond
Mill Valley
Project
Berkeley
Oakland
San Francisco
Pacific Ocean
Daly City
South San Francisco
Golden Gate Fields
Alameda County
California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD
Project
Protected Lands
Eureka
Sacramento
San Francisco
Fresno
Los Angeles
San Diego
WCB 11/19/2026

Environmental Condition and Clean Up of Property

Under the purchase agreement for the Property, and assumptions of the appraisal, the seller is responsible for demolishing above grade improvements such as the racetrack, grandstands, stables and dorms within 90-180 days after close of escrow. At grade and below ground infrastructure such as asphalt, concrete, rebar, substructures, and utilities will remain until restoration/park development occurs. WCB's disbursement of funds and close of escrow are contingent upon the seller and EBRPD entering into a Post-Closing Operating Agreement, approved by WCB, which will cover the seller's obligation to complete demolition after EBRPD assumes ownership of the Property. At present, demolition permits from Albany and Berkeley have yet to be approved.

Above ground site reconnaissance and review of historical records indicate that the Property was largely created by filling the bay with rock debris from Fleming Point. The stable area was likely created by reclaiming the bay with fill material that may include municipal waste and incinerated waste debris. A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment dated August 21, 2026, ("Phase I") has been provided to the State and reviewed by the Department of General Services environmental team. The Phase I concluded "no Recognized Environmental Conditions or environmental conditions likely to compromise the purpose of the contemplated transaction/future property use were identified." Subsurface site investigations and/or a Phase II Environmental Site Assessment were not performed pursuant to the terms of the purchase agreement between the Trust for Public Land (TPL) and the seller.

Two areas are known to require remediation prior to future redevelopment of the Property, including residual hydrocarbons from the historic underground storage tank area at the corporation yard, and low concentrations of lead and mercury in the soil in the southern area likely filled by municipal waste and incinerated waste debris. Lead and mercury levels detected are below the action level for human exposure, although mercury levels are above the threshold risk concentrations for ecologic health. This contaminated soil is presently capped by stable infrastructure and hardscape and there is no complete ecologic exposure pathway; accordingly, at present, shallow soil is effectively managed in place. However, the Phase I concluded that, at a minimum, "[s]hallow soil in the southern stable area will require management [ ] during and following redevelopment of this area for public use." Further analysis, design/engineering and consultation with regulatory agencies is required to determine appropriate management actions to address these issues. Management actions may include removing shallow soil, replacing the hardscape with cover such as a parking lot, engineered soil cap (like caps over landfills used as parks/recreational facilities), or constructed playing field such as at the Tom Bates Regional Sports Complex.

Estimates range from $6 million to $15 million to complete this work. The range is attributable to different assumptions on the scope of regulatory agency engagement, site assessment screening methodology, and solutions to remediate hydrocarbons and heavy metals. Pursuant to an agreement between the seller and EBRPD, the seller will transfer $8.25 million dollars to EBPRD to purchase an environmental liability insurance policy, conduct further environmental investigations, and remediate known issues. The environmental liability insurance policy will provide coverage for unknown environmental contamination, i.e. those conditions not identified in the Phase I environmental site assessment. The policy will exclude from coverage lead and mercury contamination anywhere on the Property and hydrocarbons within the corporation yard footprint north of turns three and four on the racetrack.

It is important to note that this transaction is unique for WCB. WCB grant funded projects for acquisition of properties with known environmental contamination, routinely require subsurface testing to fully characterize the extent of contamination. WCB also requires a Remedial Action Plan (RAP) approved by a regulatory agency, and appropriate monetary holdbacks in escrow or financial guarantees from the seller (ex. bonding) to ensure implementation of the RAP. This is to protect the state's investment by ensuring the property owner is not obligated to incur additional clean up expenses that could hinder or prevent them from accomplishing the purposes of grant. If cleanup costs at Golden Gate Fields exceed $8.25 million, EBRPD will be obligated to fund the remainder of those costs to meet WCB's restoration requirements.

Long-Term Management

The terms of the grant require that by 2034, EBRPD will complete a planning process and site plan to create, restore, and enhance a minimum of 49.1± acres of wildlife habitat. Construction of wildlife habitat must begin no later than 2037. Forty-nine and one tenth acres represents a portion of the total Property acreage proportionate to WCB's $53,000,000 contribution to the acquisition. Public recreational opportunities currently being discussed for the non-habitat portions of the Property include youth sports fields, urban park amenities, and commercial uses. EBRPD and the City of Albany want to maintain opportunities for commercial recreational development within approximately 30 acres on Fleming Point. Once the habitat area is constructed, the grant agreement and notice of unrecorded grant agreement will be amended to apply to the wildlife habitat area only.

Project Funding

The Department of General Services approved fair market value is $175,000,000. TPL, pursuant to its option agreement with the seller, is directing the seller to deed the Property to EBRPD. The appraisal report was also reviewed by an independent third-party appraiser in accordance with the Appraisal Review and Disclosure Policy. The proposed funding breakdown is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	$53,000,000
CNRA	$12,000,000
SCC	$60,000,000
San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority	$25,000,000
EBRPD	$20,000,000
TPL	$5,000,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	$175,000,000

WCB's grant agreement requires review and approval of all documents related to real property transactions including, but not limited to, any and all purchase and sale agreements, escrow instructions, closing statements, and Post-Closing Operating Agreement referenced above. Grant funds will not be disbursed into escrow until all documents are final and approved by all parties.

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Adena Ishii, Mayor, City of Berkeley
- Peggy McQuaid, Mayor, City of Albany
- Authur Feinstein, Board President, and Robert Cheasty, Executive Director, Citizens for Eastshore Parks
- Glenn Phillips, Executive Director, Golden Gate Bird Alliance
- Jenny Mulholland-Beahrs, Founding Partner, Inclusion Outdoors
- Najari Smith, Executive Director, Richmond City Rides
- Merrill Pierce, Coordinator, Richmond Outdoors Coalition
- Janet Johnson, coordinator, Richmond Shoreline Alliance
- Edward Sortwell Clement, Jr., Executive Director, Save Mount Diablo
- Joshua Quigley, Sn. Policy Manager, Save the Bay
- Norman La Force, Sierra Club
- Nicolas Maderas

Opposition:

- Brennan Cox, Founder, Friends of the Golden Gate Fields Park
- Katharine Bierce
- Peter Birkholz
- Orion Fulton
- Michael Gold
- Rachel Howard

- Rod Howard
- Peter Maass
- Nick Pilch
- Christopher Sensenig
- Kieron Slaughter

CEQA

The project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.57 as an approval necessary for a site acquisition of a public park funded in whole or in part by the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024, and Public Resources Code Section 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 restoration of natural conditions, including plant and animal habitats, and preservation of open space or lands for park purposes. The project is also 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 Jesse Arreguín, District 7
- Assembly: Assemblymember Buffy Wicks, District 14

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the 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.

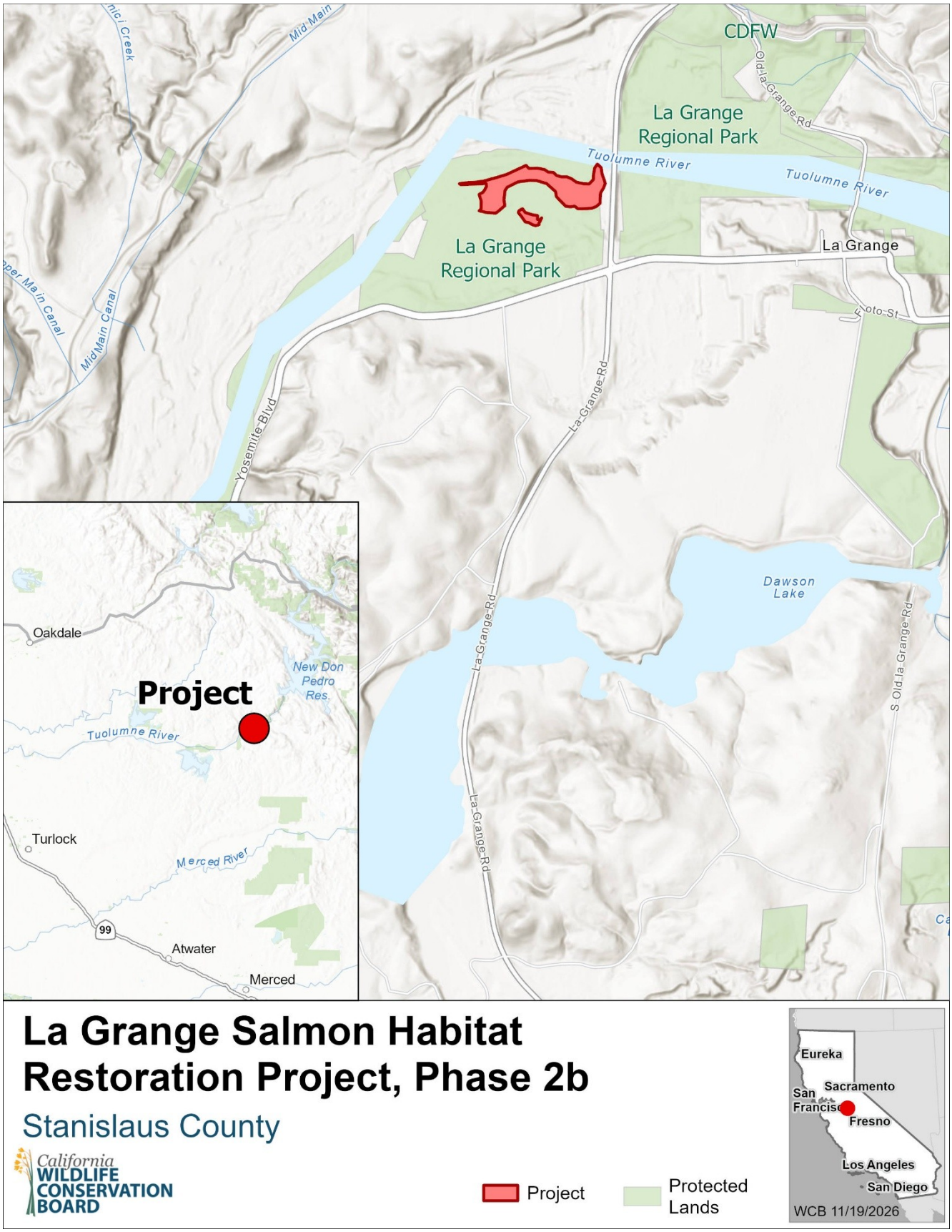
26. La Grange Salmon Habitat Restoration Project, Phase 2b **Restoration Implementation**
WCB Grant: $3,391,000
Fund Source(s): Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Fund of 2014 (Proposition 1 – Enhanced stream flows), Water Code Section 79733.
Grantee: Yosemite Rivers Alliance
Landowner: Stanislaus County Parks and Recreation
Location: 0.5 miles northwest of La Grange
County: Stanislaus

Project Highlights

- Restore 20 acres of floodplain, riparian, and side channel habitat
- Increase habitat value and channel complexity
- Create spawning and rearing habitat for migratory salmonids
- Support populations of fall-run Chinook salmon, spring-run Chinook salmon, and steelhead
- Complete implementation of Phase 2, which began with the Phase 2a project funded by WCB

Priority Metrics

- Benefits Justice Communities: Yes. Project is located within an SDAC. This project will support salmonid populations and increase recreational opportunities for surrounding communities. It will also reduce flood risks and pollution exposure for downstream communities along the lower Tuolumne River corridor.
- Tribal Partnerships: Yes. The Northern Valley Yokuts and Chicken Ranch Rancheria of Me-Wuk both are providing cultural monitoring for the Phase 2a portion and are anticipated to continue to do so for phase 2b.
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 6, Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship
- WCB Strategic Plan Target: B2.2


CDFW
La Grange Regional Park
Tuolumne River
Tuolumne River
La Grange Regional Park
La Grange
Old La Grange Rd
Mid Main
Mid Main Canal
Yosemite Blvd
La Grange Rd
La Grange Rd
La Grange Rd
S Old La Grange Rd
Dawson Lake
Oakdale
Project
New Don Pedro Res.
Tuolumne River
Turlock
Merced River
99
Atwater
Merced
La Grange Salmon Habitat Restoration Project, Phase 2b
Stanislaus County
California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD
Project
Protected Lands
Eureka
Sacramento
San Francisco
Fresno
Los Angeles
San Diego
WCB 11/19/2026

Project Description

The La Grange Salmon Habitat Restoration Phase 2b project (Project) will address the needs of salmonid species that have declined significantly since the1960s, largely due to dredger mining in the Tuolumne River in the early 1900's. This resulted in a simplified and straightened river channel with little complexity and habitat value. The Project will create new side channels, reshape floodplains, add gravel, place large woody debris and boulders, and establish native vegetation. This Phase 2b work will be the second and final section to complete implementation of Phase 2. Phase 2a was funded by a previous WCB grant in February 2026. The Project will create new river channel features and reconnect the river to its historic floodplain by:

- Creating 4 acres of side channel habitat that will be 0.75 miles long
- Reconnecting 16 acres of high and low floodplain habitat
- Increasing channel complexity of the mainstem Tuolumne River and side channels by installing large woody debris and boulders
- Adding gravel for salmon spawning
- Establishing riparian vegetation

Long-Term Management

The Yosemite Rivers Alliance 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's Long-Term Management Period, Grantee does not manage and maintain the project improvements, the Grant Agreement requires that it refund to the state of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the Project life.

Project Funding

The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Project Management, Coordination, and Outreach	$180,000	$323,280	$503,280
Permitting	$60,000	$70,500	$130,500
Pre-Construction Surveys, Biological Monitoring, and Resource Monitoring	$200,000	$186,615	$386,615
Engineering and Environmental Oversight of Construction and Contracts	$50,000	$100,300	$150,300
Construction	$2,798,000	$3,661,665	$6,459,665
As-Built Report	$25,000	$25,000	$50,000
Maintenance and Monitoring Plan	$18,000	$18,000	32,000
Indirect Costs	$60,000	---	$60,000
Total	$3,391,000	$4,385,360	$7,776,360

Non-WCB funders include:

- California Department of Water Resources - $4,385,360

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Erika Holcombe, Fish Biologist/Habitat Restoration Coordinator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Tera Chumley, Director, Stanislaus County Parks and Recreation
- Ron Zanker, Local Landowner

Opposition:

- None received

CEQA

Stanislaus County Parks and Recreation, 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 Marie Alarado-Gil, District 4
- Assembly: Assemblymember Heath Flora, District 9

Staff Recommendation

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

27. Mount Stakes **Acquisition**

WCB Grant: $2,675,000 **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)

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy

Subgrantee: California Department of State Parks and Recreation

Location: 33 miles west of Patterson, 33 miles west of San Jose

County: Stanislaus and Santa Clara

Acres: 3,856± (Property)

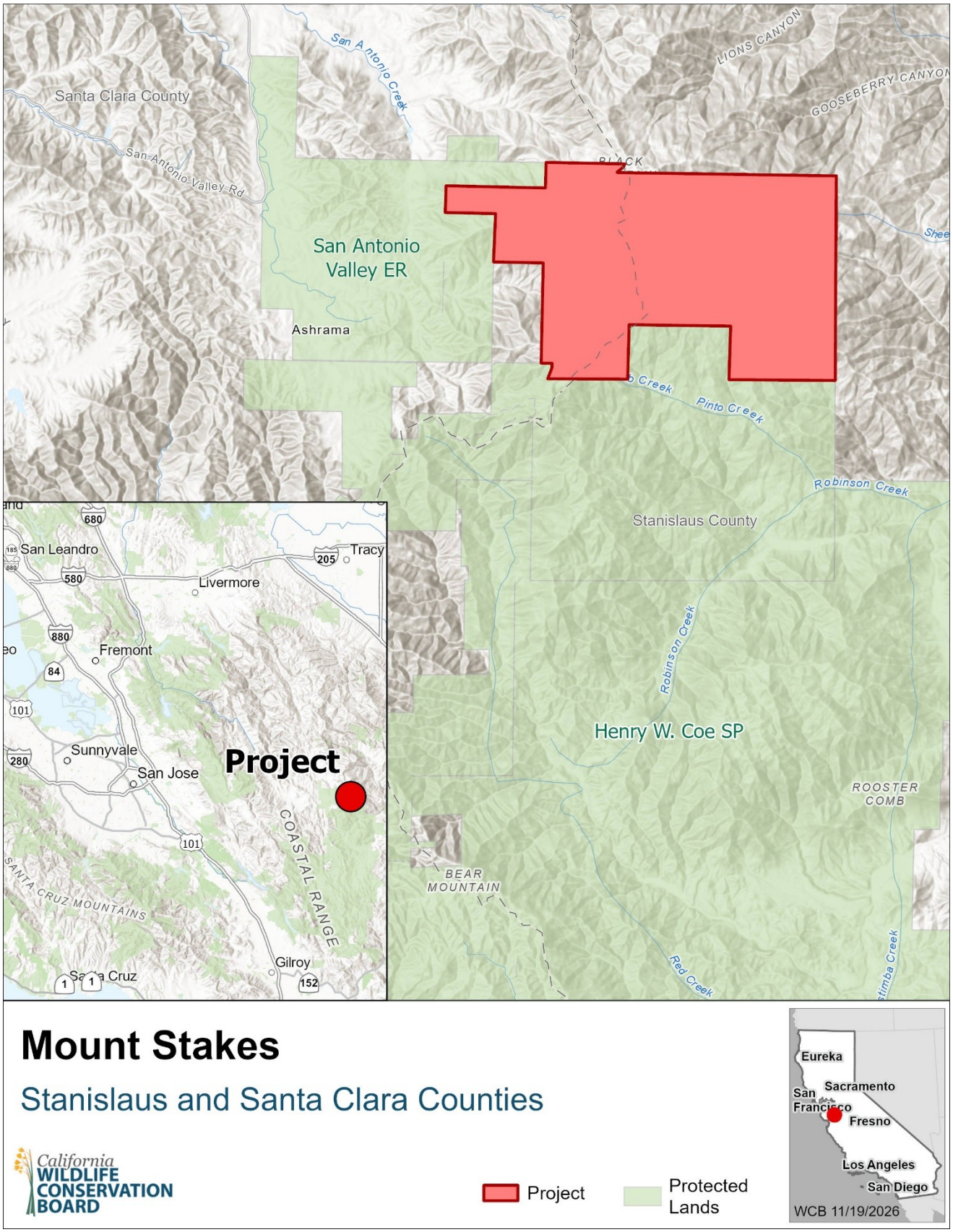
Project Highlights

- The Property is contiguous with Henry W. Coe State Park and the San Antonio Valley Ecological Reserve, creating 93,800-acre block of conserved lands. Conservation of the Property will permit public access while maintaining wildlife corridors and habitat linkages.
- Property sits at 2,640 feet to 3,246 feet above sea level, which provides for climate adaptation as species seek to move across elevational gradients to seek refugia.
- Property contains the highest point in Stanislaus County, likely to become a destination for hikers from Henry W. Coe State Park.
- Habitats include chamise, manzanita, sagebrush, and oak savannah. Over 10 acres of streams and ~1 acre of pond/wetland.
- California tiger salamander (state and federally threatened), foothill yellow legged frog (state endangered, proposed federally threatened), red-legged frog (federally threatened), as well as golden eagle and western spadefoot toad in vicinity. The Property likely supports common wide-ranging species including black bear, mountain lion, bobcat, and black-tailed deer, and has the potential to support other wide-ranging conservation targets including tule elk.
- Grantee purchased the Property in February 2026 with financing provided by a private foundation. WCB grant funding is in accordance with Public Resources code section 95013 authorizing Proposition 4 bond funds to be used for repayment of qualified financing, such as the foundation’s financing, commonly known as a “program-related investment”.
- After repayment of the program-related investment, The Nature Conservancy intends to transfer the Property to State Parks as an expansion of Henry W. Coe State Park.

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, C2.2, P1.3
- Public Access: Yes, as part of Henry W. Coe State Park, the public will be able to access the Property for back country experiences along existing trails


Santa Clara County
San Antonio Creek
San Antonio Valley Rd
LIONS CANYON
GOOSEBERRY CANYON
San Antonio Valley ER
Ashrama
Pinto Creek
Robinson Creek
Stanislaus County
Henry W. Coe SP
ROOSTER COMB
BEAR MOUNTAIN
Red Creek
San Leandro
Tracy
Livermore
Fremont
Sunnyvale
San Jose
Project
COASTAL RANGE
SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS
Gilroy
680
580
205
880
84
101
280
152
Mount Stakes
Stanislaus and Santa Clara Counties
California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD
Project
Protected Lands
Eureka
Sacramento
San Francisco
Fresno
Los Angeles
San Diego
WCB 11/19/2026

Long-Term Management

Grantee intends to transfer the Property to State Parks in a no-cost transaction. In September 2026, Grantee entered into a management agreement with State Parks for it to manage the Property as part of Henry W. Coe State Park pending completion of the transfer. Under the WCB grant, State Parks will be responsible for managing the Property as part of the State Park. State Parks anticipates the Property will be added to the Orestimba wilderness park unit, which will require Parks Commission and possibly Legislative approval. The park expansion will be a wilderness back county experience and park facilities will not be constructed. Access to the Property will require a 20-mile hike or bike ride. If the transfer is not approved by State Parks, Grantee will hold the Property and manage it as a conservation preserve consistent with the terms and conditions of the WCB grant agreement.

Project Funding

The Department of General Services approved fair market value is $2,890,000. Grantee purchased the Property in February, the acquisition financing requires only $2,675,000 to be repaid with the remainder representing a conservation donation. The proposed funding breakdown is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	$2,675,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	$2,675,000

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Senator Dave Cortese, 15th Senate District
- Edward Sortwell Clement, Jr. Executive Director, Save Mount Diablo

Opposition:

- None received

CEQA

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

State Government

- Senate: Senator Dave Cortese, District 15
- Assembly: Assemblymember Ash Kalra, District 25

Staff Recommendation

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

28. Ferrini Ranch **Acquisition**

WCB Grant: $12,500,000 **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)

Grantee: Big Sur Land Trust

Location: Seven miles southeast of the city of Salinas

County: Monterey

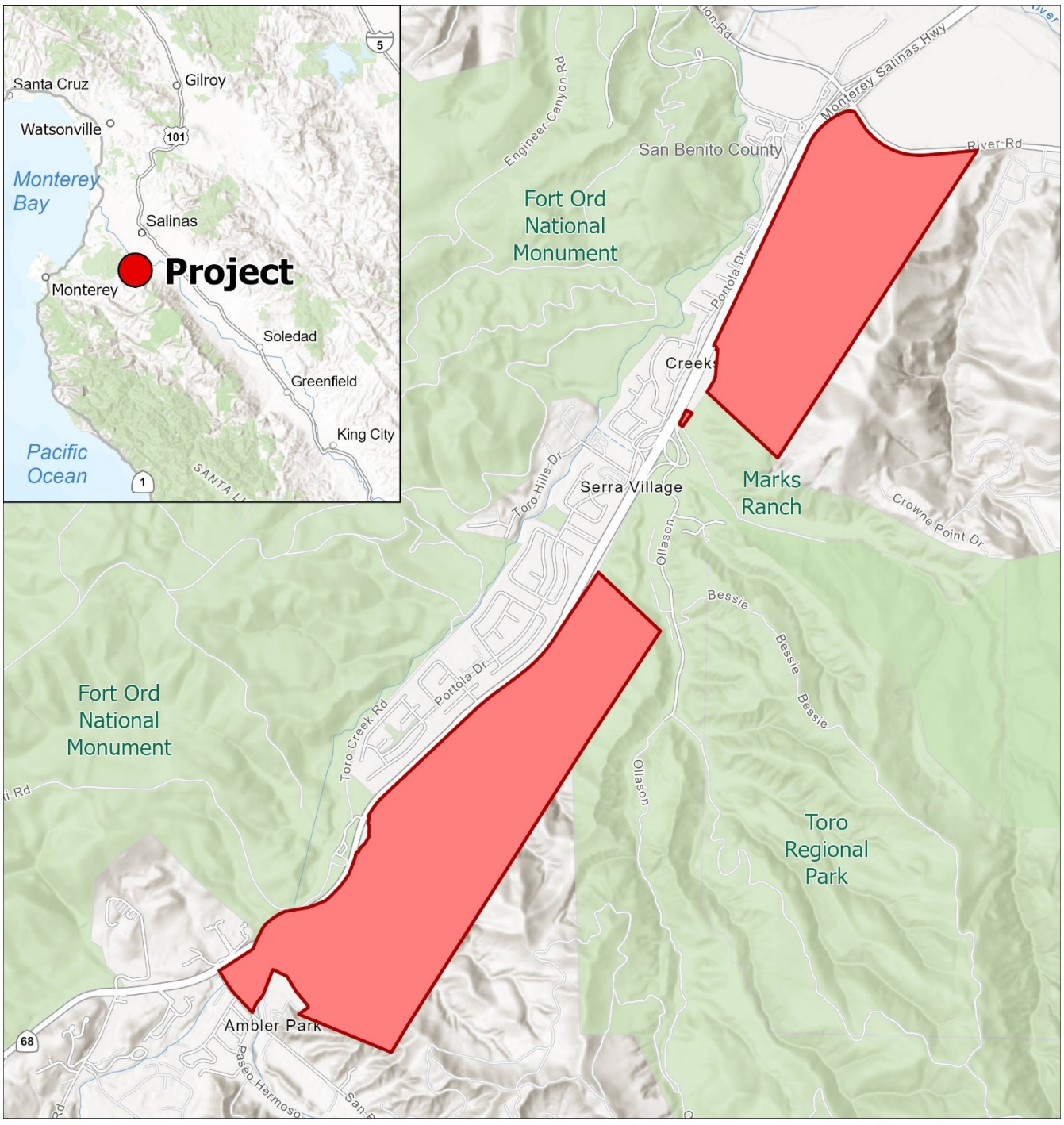
Acres: 868± (Property)

Property Highlights

- Habitats represented: oak woodlands and savannas, grassland, coastal scrub, and wetlands.
- A wildlife undercrossing is located on the southern section of the Property, along a portion of State Route 68 designated by CDFW in 2024 as one of 12 top priority wildlife connectivity barriers in the state.
- Property provides access to both sides of the critical regional wildlife undercrossing and is actively used by bobcats, mountain lion, deer, coyote, raccoons, opossums, brush rabbits, Monterey dusky-footed woodrats, skunks, and American badger.
- Key species: California tiger salamander
- Largely untouched open space property.

Priority Metrics

- Benefits Justice Communities: Yes, the population of Salinas would benefit from managed public access and any other land use benefits on the Property. Salinas has roughly 30% of its population designated as disadvantaged or severely disadvantaged per DWR’s DAC mapping tool.
- Tribal Partnerships: No
- Pathways to 30x30: Pathway 2, Execute Strategic Acquisitions
- WCB Strategic Plan Target: B1.1, B2.1, C1.2, C2.3, and P2.1
- Public Access: Some amount of managed public access anticipated. However, the specifics of this will be determined once the community land use planning process is completed.



Ferrini Ranch

Monterey County

California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

Project

Protected Lands



Long-Term Management

BSLT will manage the Property in line with the policies and procedures that guide the management of the other protected working lands in its care, which will include creation of a long-term management plan that incorporates a conservation grazing management plan specific to the Property.

Project Funding

The Department of General Services approved fair market value is $26,660,000, and the landowner agreed to sell at a reduced price of $15,000,000. The proposed funding breakdown is as follows:

Partners	Amount
WCB	$12,500,000
DOC	$2,500,000
TOTAL Purchase Price	$15,000,000

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- None received

Opposition:

- None received

CEQA

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

State Government

- Senate: Senator John Laird, District 17
- Assembly: Assemblymember Robert Rivas, District 29 and Assemblymember Dawn Addis, District 30

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the 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. Laguna Coast Wilderness Park **Restoration**
WCB Grant: $1,945,000 **Implementation**
Fund Source(s): California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68), Public Resources Code Section 80111(b)
Grantee: Laguna Canyon Foundation
Landowner: Orange County Parks
Location: Laguna Woods
County: Orange

Project Highlights

- Located on the Laguna Coast Wilderness Park (Park)
- Habitats restored: Three acres of coastal sage scrub (CSS), eight acres of cactus scrub, and three acres of riparian scrub will be restored, and 53 acres of annual and perennial grasslands, CSS, and Alkali Marsh habitats will be enhanced
- Key species: California coastal gnatcatcher, Pacific pocket mouse, coastal cactus wren and grasshopper sparrow, white-tailed kite, and Crotch's bumblebee
- Regional or Species Plan: Natural Community Conservation Plan and Habitat Conservation Plan (NCCP/HCP) for Central and Coastal Subregion of County of Orange and the Resource Management Plan for Laguna Coast Wilderness Park
- 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


William R. Mason Regional Park
South-Quail Hill Open Space Preserve
FRENCH HILL
Turtle Rock Dr
South-Shady Canyon Open Space Preserve
South-Bommer Canyon Open Space Preserve
SHADY CANYON
BOMMER CANYON
San Joaquin Hills
Newport Beach
Laguna Coast Wilderness Park
Aliso Viejo
Ridge Park Rd
SAN JOAQUIN HILLS
Laguna Coast Wilderness Park
MUDDY CANYON
Crystal Cove SP
MORO CANYON
EMERALD CANYON
Laguna Coast Wilderness Park
Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park
LAGUNA CANYON
Laguna Beach
Alta Laguna Blvd
N Coast Hwy
Alton Pkwy
Laguna Canyon Rd
Jamboree Rd
MacArthur Blvd
San Miguel Dr
Culver Dr
Harvard Ave
Dove St
Rancho Cucamonga
El Monte
Ontario
Corona
Anaheim
Santa Ana
Huntington Beach
Irvine
Lake Forest
Mission Viejo
Laguna Niguel
Project
Pacific Ocean
San Clemente
Laguna Coast Wilderness Park Restoration
Orange County
California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD
Project
Protected Lands
Eureka
Sacramento
San Francisco
Fresno
Los Angeles
San Diego
WCB 11/19/2026

Project Description

The Laguna Coast Wilderness Park Restoration project (Project) site is within a portion of the Park known as “Parcel 5”. Parcel 5 was type converted to non-native annual grassland by a history of livestock grazing that greatly altered the natural soils and introduced invasive, non-native plants, resulting in the displacement of native flora and a reduction in the quality of wildlife habitat. The Project will improve the habitat value of this area for species dependent on coastal sage scrub, cactus scrub, and grassland habitats by:

- Removing non-native plants using mechanical and chemical methods.
- Installing native plants originated from local sources within coastal Orange County using seed, containers, plugs, cactus pads, and cuttings.
- Restoring 14 acres and enhancing 57 acres of various habitats historically found in the Park.
- Maintaining newly installed plants through weeding and hand watering until they are established.
- Providing an opportunity for volunteers and the Orange County Conservation Corps to meaningfully contribute to habitat restoration in the Park.

Long-Term Management

Orange County Parks 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	$207,186	$10,000	$217,186
Site Preparation	$539,955	$118,334	$658,289
Site Maintenance	$169,318	$118,333	$287,651
Plant Establishment	$663,719	$158,333	$822,052
Monitoring	$188,066	---	$188,066
Indirect Costs	$176,756	---	$176,756
Total	$1,945,000	$405,000	$2,350,000

Non-WCB funders include:

- Laguna Canyon Foundation - $75,000
- Orange County Conservation Corps - $280,000
- Orange County Parks - $50,000

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Jonathan Snyder, Acting Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Pam Passow, Director, Orange County Parks
- Danny Fry, Science Coordinator, Natural Communities Coalition
- Nathan Gregory, PhD., Senior Vice President and Chief Programs Officer, Irvine Ranch Conservancy
- Gayle Waite, President, Laguna Canyon Conservancy
- Norm Grossman, President, Laguna Greenbelt, Inc.

Opposition:

- None received

CEQA

The project is proposed as exempt from the CEQA pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines, 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 the WCB, the appropriate Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

State Government

- Senate: Senator Tony Strickland, District 36
- Assembly: Assemblymember Diane B. Dixon, District 72

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the 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 Parcel 5 "*Restoring and Enhancing Habitats for Multiple Protected Species in Laguna Coast Wilderness Park"* project comprises approximately 71 acres within Laguna Coast Wilderness park in the Laguna Canyon Watershed. Presently, Parcel 5 consists predominantly of annual, non-native grassland along with many non-native, invasive plants such as *Bromus spp., Cynara cardunculus, Rumex crispus, Brassica nigra, Hirschfeldia incana, Centaurea melitensis,* and *Brachypodium spp.* Distribution of these plants occur both in monocultures and mixed with native plants including perennial bunchgrass (e.g., *Stipa pulchra),* bulbs (e.g., *Dipterostemma capitatum, Bloomeria crocea)* and perennial shrubs (e.g., *Artemesia californica, Eriogonum fasciculatum, Ericameria pinii*). Invasive plant control through integrated pest management (including both mechanical and chemical treatment) is essential to achieve the primary goal of this project, which is to restore the project area to multiple healthy ecosystems with key structures to support wildlife species of special concern (including coastal California gnatcatcher, least Bell's vireo, white-tailed kite, grasshopper sparrow, coastal cactus wren and others). Without adequate site preparation and maintenance throughout the plant establishment phase, the invasive species will outcompete plants installed through seed, cuttings (cactus pads, mulefat cuttings), and containers.

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, wood, etc.).

Specific plant life forms targeted are the following:

- Invasive annual grass seeds (pre-emergent)
- Invasive annual grasses (post-emergent)
- Perennial & annual invasive grasses & broadleaf weeds
- Perennial trees & wood stems.

Each of these will use different active ingredients, concentrations, application rates, and adjuvants. These are based on Orange County Parks Pest Control Advisor programmatic recommendations made in 2025. Chemical treatments to be used for this project have been summarized in **Table 1**.

Table 2 shows proposed chemical treatments based on target plant life forms.

Target Plant Life Forms	Timing	Brand Name	Active Ingredient	Signal Word	EPA Registration #	Dilution Rate	Application Rates
Pre-emergent selective for invasive annual grasses.	Early Season (October - January)	Dimension Ultra 40WP	dithiopyr	Caution	62719-445 - Herbicide	.05 lb Active Ingredient per Acre	Determined w/ Calibration
		Lesco Tracker (or equivalent blue dye)	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.50%	0.6 oz/gal water
Annual invasive grasses.	Early Season (October - January)	Fusilade DX	fluazifop-p-butyl	Caution	100-1070 - Herbicide	0.05%	0.6 oz/gal water
		Liberate	soyal phospholipids	Warning	34704-50030 - NIS Surfactant/Drift Control	0.50%	0.6 oz/gal water
		Lesco Tracker (or equivalent blue dye)	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.50%	0.6 oz/gal water
Perennial & annual invasive grasses & broadleaf weeds.	Mid Season (January - May)	Round Up Custom	glyphosate	Caution	524-343 - Herbicide	1.50%	2 oz/gal water
		Rainier EA	Polyoxyethylene polyol fatty acid ester, butyl lactate and alcohol ethoxylate phosphate ester	Caution	2935-50200 - NIS Surfactant	0.50%	0.6 oz/gal water
		Lesco Tracker (or equivalent blue dye)	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.50%	0.6 oz/gal water

Perennial trees & woody stems. (Cut Stump)	Late Season (May - July)	Round Up Custom	glyphosate	Caution	524-343 - Herbicide	50.00%	64 oz/gal water
		Lesco Tracker (or equivalent blue dye)	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.50%	.6 oz/gal water

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?

This project will use different herbicides depending on the target plant life form. Although glyphosate will be used, it is expected that usage of different herbicides throughout the season will minimize overall glyphosate usage. Specifically, Dimension Ultra 40WP (dithiopyr) will be used in the early season as a selective pre-emergent for grasses and Fusilade DX (fluazifop-p-butyl) will be used for early season treatment of annual grasses. Glyphosate will be used for post-emergent control of perennial & annual invasive grasses & broadleaf weeds. Glyphosate is an effective, systemic, cost-effective, broad spectrum herbicide that controls all the target invasive weed species, which is not the case for other synthetic alternatives. Using glyphosate as proposed will result in no soil residency or potential for runoff, as any minimal spray not directly absorbed by the target plants rapidly binds to the soil and becomes inert. It is widely considered to be one of the safest products in its class, both in terms of ecological and worker toxicity.

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.

This project utilizes an IPM approach that will be using glyphosate and multiple other alternative herbicides. Only herbicides and adjuvants approved for aquatic use, such as Round Up Custom, are used near perennial and ephemeral waterways.

Alternative herbicides such as Dimension Ultra 40WP and Fusilade DX will be used to selectively target non-native annual grasses and reduce the potential for non-target environmental impacts to native vegetation. The formulations used in Table 1 are referenced from the OC Parks 2025 PCA recommendations.

We considered a tank mix of a grass-specific and broad-leaf specific herbicides, such as fluazifop and triclopyr, but determined that glyphosate would be the most environmentally

friendly due to reducing the risk of leaching into water resources and other non-target environmental impacts.

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?

The following adjuvants will be used in this project: Rainier EA and Liberate. The active ingredient in Rainier EA is "polyoxyethylene polyol fatty acid ester, butyl lactate and alcohol ethoxylate phosphate ester" (Table 1) and is stated as NPE free by Wilbur Ellis. The active ingredient in Liberate is soyal phospholipid.

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?

As this project will be using an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach, the following non-chemical treatments will be used to reduce the amount of herbicide used:

- *Mowing* will be used when herbicide application is not possible due to weather conditions (i.e. high winds, forecasted rain) or logistical considerations (i.e. permitting delays, required trail buffers). Mowing will also be used if invasive species are too large or developed (i.e. flowering) to control safely and adequately with herbicide. Mowing is also used to remove flower heads to reduce exposure of invertebrate pollinators to herbicides.
- *Hand weeding* will be used to remove invasive species from in and around native plants and seedlings, as well as in trail buffers. Hand weeding will also be used in areas with less than 10% germinating non-native cover, and in areas of the project with substantial intact native vegetation.

Both mowing and hand-weeding have the potential for impacts on the biological community. Potential impacts include trampling of native forbs & shrubs due to increased repeated access required to attain successful treatment, as well as potential noise and vegetation disturbance that may impact nesting birds and other wildlife species.

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.

The following best management practices (BMPs) will be used to reduce negative impacts:

- All herbicide applications are done by highly trained employees who follow all federal, state, local, and organizational regulations and guidelines.
- LCF staff are trained in identification of target and non-target plant species.

- LCF staff are trained to minimize drift during application by maintaining awareness of nozzle height, checking spray patterns, and adjusting nozzles as needed.
- Only herbicides and adjuvants approved for aquatic use are used near perennial and ephemeral waterways.
- Applications do not occur if windspeed is forecasted to be above 10 mph or if rain is expected in the next 24-48 hours.
- In accordance with OC Parks Policies, we do not apply herbicide within 10 ft of unpaved or 20 ft of paved trails. Temporary fencing is erected when making applications within 50 ft of trails.
- LCF has an organizational Spill Prevention and Mitigation Plan in place that includes keeping well-stocked spill clean-up kits on-site and performing all mixing, loading, and repairs in spill-proof trays.
- Herbicide is not applied to flowering plants when pollinators are present.

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.

Removal of invasive weeds using only non-chemical methods is not feasible for this project. Due to the 71-acre scope of this project, usage of only non-chemical methods will result in an increased need for labor that LCF does not have the capacity to provide.

Additionally, the need for multiple re-entries, more workers, and increased levels of vegetation disturbance using these methods could result in additional disturbance of the sensitive wildlife species present on this site, including the grasshopper sparrow, coastal CA gnatcatcher, least Bell's vireo and white-tailed kite.

Other non-selective methods of control, such as grazing and prescribed fire are not feasible either. LCF's extensive experience of the use of goat grazing for fuel modification purposes in Laguna Beach has shown that it can cause unintended consequences, including soil erosion, compaction, and introduction of novel invasive species. Due to the proximity to developed areas, prescribed fire will not be feasible due to safety and air quality concerns.

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.

Assuming LCF could find adequate labor, using only mowing and/or hand weeding could cost 6 to 10 times as much as current costs based on studies done by another organization doing similar work in our area. If this project were to be completed without herbicide, costs related to Site Maintenance, Site Preparation, and Plant Establishment would be drastically increased.

Total project cost is estimated to be increased to a minimum of $11,126,000 for the full 5-year project, resulting in a $8,837,000 increase needed to be compensated for primarily through contractor support.

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

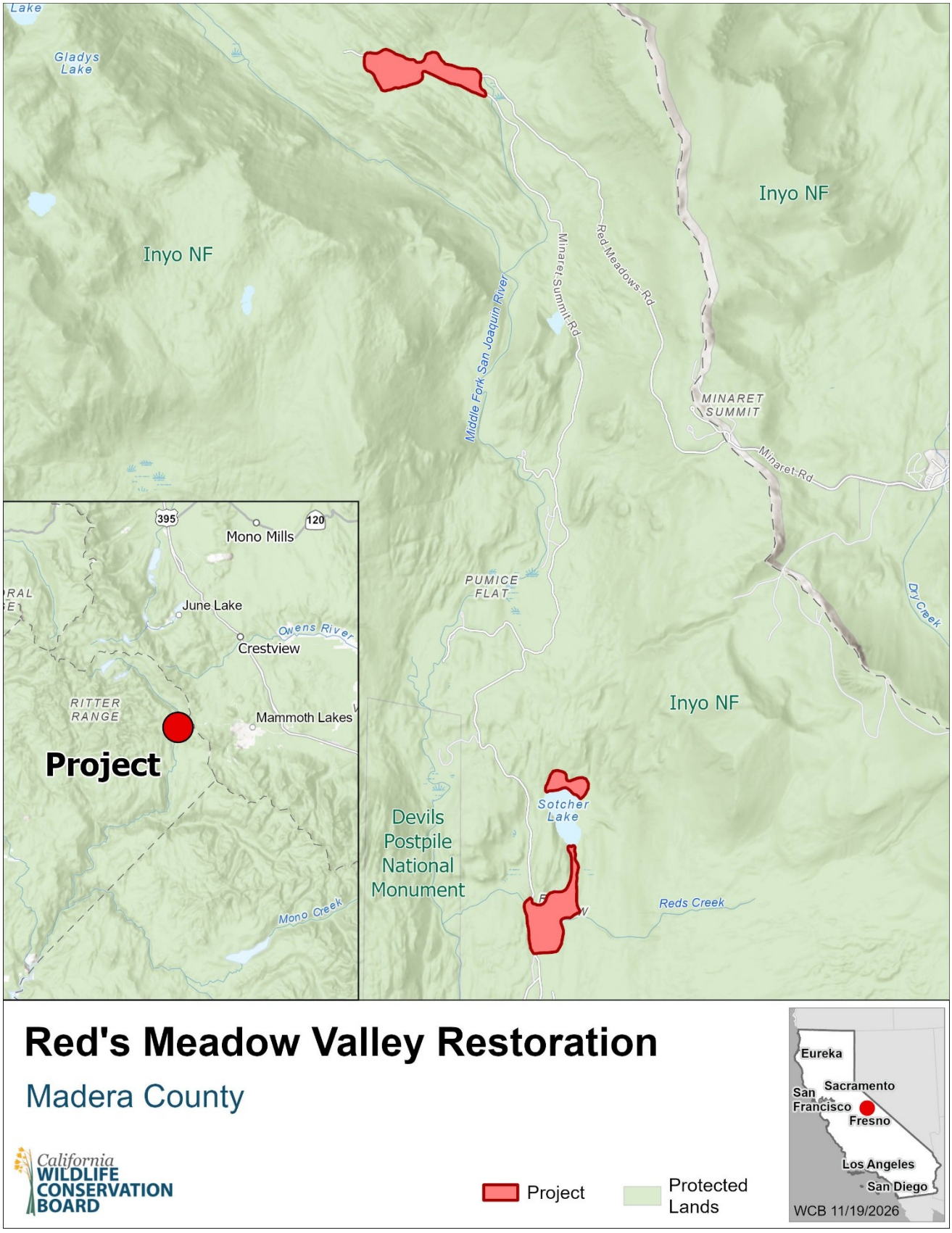
30. Red's Meadow Valley **Restoration**
WCB Grant: $2,676,000 **Implementation**
Fund Source(s): Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 (Proposition 4 – Existing Programs), Public Resources Code Section 93010 (SB 105, Sec. 94)
Grantee: John Muir Trail Wilderness Conservancy
Landowner: U.S. Forest Service, Inyo National Forest
Location: Ten miles west of Mammoth Lakes
County: Madera

Property Highlights

- Protects and restores sensitive spring mound fens within a larger meadow complex
- Restores mountain meadow habitat
- Contributes to larger, comprehensive restoration project throughout Red's Meadow Valley
- North Fork Mono Tribe members participated in project planning and will participate in implementation, including the use of traditional ecological knowledge

Priority Metrics

- Benefits Justice Communities: Yes, within DAC on land open for public recreation with risk of future high heat events. The project increases carbon sequestration, reduces risk of pollution exposure due to wildfire, and modulates heat effects.
- Tribal Partnerships: Yes, the North Fork Mono Tribe participated in project planning and will participate in implementation.
- 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: B1.3, B3.4, C1.1, C2.1, C2.3


Lake
Gladys Lake
Inyo NF
Inyo NF
Red Meadows Rd
Minaret Summit Rd
Middle Fork San Joaquin River
MINARET SUMMIT
Minaret Rd
PUMICE FLAT
Dry Creek
Inyo NF
Devils Postpile National Monument
Sotcher Lake
Reds Creek
395
120
Mono Mills
June Lake
Owens River
Crestview
RITTER RANGE
Mammoth Lakes
Project
Mono Creek
Red's Meadow Valley Restoration
Madera County
California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD
Project
Protected Lands
Eureka
Sacramento
San Francisco
Fresno
Los Angeles
San Diego
WCB 11/19/2026

Project Description

The Red's Meadow Valley Restoration (Project) project is situated along the Middle Fork of the San Joaquin River within a short drive from Mammoth Lakes and offers access to multiple Sierra attractions: Devil's Postpile National Monument, Minaret Falls, Sotcher Lake, Rainbow Falls, and trailheads to the iconic John Muir Trail and Ansel Adams Wilderness. The Project area in Red's Meadow Valley is currently in a degraded state due to road development, grazing, mining, removal of indigenous stewardship, and disrupted ecological disturbance regimes. This resulted in conifer encroachment, eroding and incising stream channels, and a shift to dryer upland conditions within historic meadow footprints. This shift imperils rare spring mound peat fens located within the Project area, which play an outsized role in carbon sequestration. The Project will restore 97 acres of meadow habitat to increase biodiversity and climate refugia by:

- Installing approximately 300 beaver dam analogs within 6,200 linear feet of stream channel
- Removing encroached conifers from 15 acres of meadow habitat
- Installing 1,200 linear feet of exclusionary fencing to protect highly sensitive habitat from grazing
- Improving road conditions to reduce erosion and disruption to meadow hydrology

Long-Term Management

The John Muir Trail Wilderness Conservancy 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's Long-Term Management Period, Grantee does not manage and maintain the project improvements, the Grant Agreement requires that it refund to the state of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the Project life.

Project Funding

The proposed funding breakdown for the Project is as follows:

Project Task	WCB	Non-WCB Funds	Totals
Project Management	---	$647,000	$647,000
Forest Restoration	---	$113,000	$113,000
Meadow Restoration	$2,501,000	$135,000	$2,636,000
Riparian Recreation Improvements	---	$2,121,000	$2,121,000
Monitoring	---	$122,000	$122,000
Indirect	$175,000	$250,000	$425,000
Total	$2,676,000	$3,388,000	$6,064,000

Non-WCB funders include:

- John Muir Trail Wilderness Conservancy - $500,000
- California Natural Resources Agency - $2,860,000

- U.S. Forest Service, Inyo National Forest - $28,000

Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Ron Goode, Chairman, North Fork Mono Tribe
- Robert “Bobby” Macauley, Supervisor, Madera County Board of Supervisors
- Jennifer Kreitz, Chair, Mono County Board of Supervisors
- Jennifer Roeser, Supervisor, Inyo County Board of Supervisors
- Nathan Sill, Acting Forest Supervisor, Inyo National Forest, U.S. Forest Service
- Steph Muchovej, Mayor, City of Bishop
- Amanda Rice, Mayor, Town of Mammoth Lakes
- Matt Freitas, California Headwaters Program Manager, American Rivers
- Jessica Strickland, California Inland Trout Program Manager, Trout Unlimited, Inc.
- Laura Beardsley, Executive Director, Whitebark Institute
- Wendy Schneider, Executive Director, Friends of the Inyo
- John Wentworth, President/CEO, Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access Foundation

Opposition:

- None received

CEQA

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, 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 Marie Alvarado-Gil, District 04
- Assembly: Assemblymember David J. Tangipa, District 42

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommend that the 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. Revision to Delegation of Authority Policy for Grant Augmentation Amendments

This proposal is to consider a revision to the policy delegating authority to the Executive Director of the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) to execute amendments to existing Grant Agreements for certain budget augmentations.

Background
Under the policy approved by the Board at the February 2024 Board meeting, the Executive Director currently has delegated authority to:

- Approve augmentation requests up to $300,000,
- Authorize a yearly augmentation fund of $1 million to be set aside for this use,
- Excluded from the delegation are projects that include herbicide use,
- The delegation requires an annual accounting of projects authorized under the delegation, and
- Requires a request for Board approval for additional augmentation funding to be set aside once the original yearly augmentation fund has been depleted.

The reason for the policy is that many projects inadvertently exceed the approved grant budget due to rising labor and materials costs, or other unforeseen circumstances. This policy allows small augmentation requests to be approved more quickly and efficiently using less staff time while allowing the project to continue and not be delayed pending approval at a quarterly Board meeting.

At the August 2026 Board meeting, during a report about the current use of the policy, Board members questioned whether an increase in the approved augmentation limits would be beneficial. Staff were tasked with analyzing augmentation request amounts, identifying reasons for augmentation requests, and recommending any proposed changes to the policy.

Analysis
The analysis shows that the average cost of all 37 augmentations approved since February 2024 was $529,000. Less than half (16 out of 37) were at or under $300,000 and able to be approved by the policy. In addition, the $1 million dollar cap was reached before the end of the year. The main reasons for augmentation requests were increased materials costs, tariffs, required additional studies or permits, and additional irrigation needs due to drought. An increase in the per project augmentation limit to $500,000, with no annual cap, would allow for projects to be augmented more quickly without going to a Board meeting for approval, thus saving time and promoting efficiency.

Recommendation
Based on the above analysis, staff recommends the Board revise the existing augmentation policy to:

- Approve the delegation of augmentation authorization to the Executive Director for requests up to $500,000,
- Remove the yearly augmentation total limit of $1 million,
- Report the augmentations approved under this policy in each quarterly Board Meeting Full Agenda.

32. 2027 Board Meeting Dates

The Board will be asked to approve WCB meeting dates for 2027:

Thursday, February 25, 2027
Thursday, May 27, 2027
Thursday, August 26, 2027
Wednesday, November 17, 2027

33. Public Forum for Items not on the Agenda

Adjourn

ATTACHMENT A – MAP OF November 19, 2026 PROJECTS



ATTACHMENT B – WCB DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS

DEFINITIONS

Disadvantaged Community – a community with a median household income less than 80 percent of the statewide average (PRC § 80002[e]).

Severely Disadvantaged Community – a community with a median household income less than 60 percent of the statewide average (PRC § 80002[n]).

Justice Community(ies) – a community within census tracts that have the top 25% of the CalEnviroScreen 4.0 overall score; a community within census tracts designated as severely disadvantaged communities (SDAC) according to the Department of Water Resources' Disadvantaged Communities Mapping tool; or are a California Native American tribe or Native American-led nonprofit organization.

ACRONYMS

Americans with Disabilities Act	ADA
Bureau of Land Management	BLM
California Department of Fish and Wildlife	CDFW
California Department of Finance	DOF
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection	CAL FIRE
California Department of General Services	DGS
California Department of Transportation	Caltrans
California Department of Water Resources	DWR
California Endangered Species Act	CESA
California Environmental Quality Act	CEQA
California Fish and Game Commission	FGC
California Natural Resources Agency	CNRA
Conceptual Area Protection Plan	CAPP
Disadvantaged Community	DAC
Enactment Year	EY
Habitat Conservation Plan	HCP
Land Acquisition Evaluation	LAE
Mitigated Negative Declaration	MND
National Environmental Policy Act	NEPA
National Marine Fisheries Service	NMFS
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	NOAA
Natural Community Conservation Plan	NCCP
Negative Declaration	ND
Notice of Determination	NOD
Notice of Exemption	NOE
Resource Conservation District	RCD
Resource Conservation Investment Strategy	RCIS
Severely Disadvantaged Community	SDAC
Sierra Nevada Conservancy	SNC
State Coastal Conservancy	SCC

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act	SGMA
Tahoe National Forest	TNF
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	USFWS
U.S. Forest Service	USFS
Wildlife Conservation Board	WCB

ATTACHMENT C – WCB STRATEGIC PLAN TARGETS

GOAL B. PROTECT AND RESTORE BIODIVERSITY

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

B1. Build, protect, and restore large interconnected landscapes

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

GOAL C. TAKE ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Functioning natural ecosystems are essential to maintain community health and well-being in a changing climate. Intact and restored terrestrial, freshwater, and coastal systems remove and store carbon from the atmosphere, safeguard important resources such as

clean water, and can help protect people and wildlife from the impacts of climate change like megafires, flooding, and extreme heat.

C1. Reduce and remove carbon pollution

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

GOAL P. EXPAND PUBLIC ACCESS TO NATURE

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

P1. Promote diverse outdoor experience

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

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

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

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

P2.1 By 2030, invest in at least ten projects that protect or restore areas that provide public access for disadvantaged or severely disadvantaged1 communities.

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

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

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

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

GOAL O. IMPROVE ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

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

O1. Create new partnerships and expand engagement

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

O3. Improve grantmaking processes (Cut Green Tape)

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

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

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

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