

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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May 17, 1996

TO: Coastal Commissioners

FROM: James W. Burns, Chief Deputy Director

SUBJECT: **May 1996 Coastal Conservancy Meeting**

At its May 16, 1996 meeting, the Coastal Conservancy:

1. Approved the Monterey Bay State Seashore Enhancement Plan and authorized disbursement of \$2,250,000 to the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District for acquisition of vacant property adjoining Monterey State Beach.
2. Authorized disbursement of \$300,000 to the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District for acquisition of conservation easements north of Bodega Bay in Sonoma County; \$150,000 to the Sonoma Land Trust for acquisition of properties near the Estero Americano in Sonoma County; and \$68,000 to the Sonoma Land Trust for evaluation of possible property acquisitions between Bodega Bay and the Russian River in Sonoma County.
3. Approved the Oro Loma Marsh Enhancement Plan in Alameda County, adopted a CEQA negative declaration for the Plan, and authorized disbursement of \$125,000 to the East Bay Regional Park District to implement the Plan.
4. Authorized Conservancy staff to accept \$17,500 from the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) to provide technical assistance to the CEC for preparation of a strategy plan for control of land-based sources of marine pollution within coastal watersheds of the southern California bight ecosystem.
5. Authorized a \$40,000 augmentation to an existing grant to the Sonoma Land Trust for preparation of hydrologic, engineering, and biological studies of the Leonard Ranch of the Sonoma Baylands property in order to implement the Sonoma Baylands Enhancement Plan.

6. Authorized disbursement of \$38,500 to retain technical specialists to assist in the pre-project feasibility analysis and design of the Conservancy-held Chiate/Wildman access easement and the adjacent, unaccepted Offer-to-Dedicate for a parking easement.
7. Approved Phase 2 of the Ballona Lagoon Enhancement Plan, adopted a CEQA negative declaration, and authorized the transfer of all public access and habitat protection easements held by the Conservancy to the City of Los Angeles.
8. Authorized disbursement of \$200,000 to retain technical specialists to assist in the design and implementation of Conservancy projects.

Following are: (1) the Conservancy's news releases regarding the board's actions on the Monterey Bay State Seashore acquisitions and the acquisitions near Bodega Bay, Estero Americano, and the Russian River, and (2) a tentative list of agenda items to be considered at the June and August 1996 Conservancy meetings.



Coastal Conservancy

**For Immediate Release
May 16, 1996**

**Contact: Dick Wayman
(916) 927-9999**

Protection for the Sonoma County Coast

Oakland--The California Coastal Conservancy today authorized over one-half million dollars for the protection of farmland, wildlife habitat, and coastal views near Bodega Bay. Grants will be made to the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District and the Sonoma Land Trust to help purchase properties and conservation easements in the area.

"Farms, coastal visitors, and the natural environment will all benefit from these purchases," said Penny Allen, chair of the Coastal Conservancy. "The Conservancy is pleased to work with local preservation and open space groups and with private landowners to help protect this beautiful and largely unspoiled part of California's coast."

The properties to be purchased are on the shore of the Estero Americano, a portion of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary whose water quality and wildlife habitat are affected by large-lot residential development. The two adjacent properties, which together contain about 96 acres, are along the northern boundary of an area proposed for expansion of the Point Reyes National Seashore by Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey and Marin County Supervisor Gary Giacomini. President Clinton recently endorsed this plan, authorizing \$1 million for the purchase of agricultural easements to forestall development of farmland between Olema and Bodega Bay. To purchase the properties, \$150,000 in Coastal Conservancy funds will be joined by \$150,000 from the Sonoma Land Trust.

(MORE)

Sonoma County Coastal Protection, 5/16/96

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The Coastal Conservancy's funds will also allow purchase of conservation easements for 1,570 acres of land in the Coleman Valley, north of Bodega Bay. The property offers spectacular views to the coast along Coleman Valley Road, and contains valuable wildlife habitat. The easements will prevent future development of the property, although grazing and other agricultural uses will be allowed to continue. The Coastal Conservancy's \$300,000 for purchase of the easements will add to almost \$900,000 to be provided by the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District.

The Coastal Conservancy will also grant \$68,000 to the Sonoma Land Trust to study potential acquisitions of property and easements in the Russian River, Salmon Creek, Coleman Valley, and Willow Creek watersheds of Sonoma County. Future purchases would be funded by the Open Space District and the state Wildlife Conservation Board.

Today's authorization of \$518,000 follows almost \$3 million already spent by the Coastal Conservancy for properties and easements in Sonoma County. The authorization marks the end of funding available to the Conservancy and designated for Sonoma County from Proposition 70, a bond act approved by California voters in 1988.

The Conservancy's grants are supported by Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey, State Senator Mike Thompson, Assembly Member Dan Hauser, and Sonoma County Supervisor Ernie Carpenter, among others.

The California Coastal Conservancy is a state agency that works with the people of California to preserve, protect and restore the coastline and its resources.

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**For Immediate Release
May 16, 1996**

**Contact: Dick Wayman
(916) 927-9999**

Monterey Bay State Seashore to Grow

Oakland--The acquisition of an important addition to Monterey Bay State Seashore was advanced today with the California Coastal Conservancy's approval of a \$2.25 million grant for the purchase of up to 614 privately owned lots in Sand City. The grant to the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District will be used to purchase lots that will help to link extensive beachfront at Fort Ord with the northernmost portion of Monterey State Beach in the city of Monterey.

"The Coastal Conservancy's grant will help to establish a continuous public corridor along Monterey Bay, from the city of Monterey to the Salinas River" said Penny Allen, chair of the Coastal Conservancy. "Conservancy funds will also be used to protect endangered species habitat and to solve a development problem that has prevented both public and private use of a valuable coastal area."

The targeted lots are part of a "paper subdivision" that has remained undeveloped for more than 80 years. Some of the lots, only 25 feet wide, are located below the mean high tide line. The lots are rumored to have been given away with newspaper subscriptions between 1912 and 1917.

About one-quarter mile south of the subdivision, in the city of Monterey, is a portion of Monterey State Beach. Less than one mile north of the subdivision are 990 acres of beachfront at Fort Ord, soon to become the new Fort Ord State

(MORE)

Monterey Bay State Seashore, 5/16/96

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Beach. Putting the Sand City lots under public ownership will help to link the two beaches.

The paper subdivision overlays sandy beaches and degraded dunes with little vegetation. The endangered Smith's blue butterfly, whose habitat is threatened by coastal development and invading exotic plants, is a dune resident, along with other rare, threatened, and endangered plant and animal species.

Both the Park District and the California Department of Parks and Recreation will use the Coastal Conservancy's grant to purchase lots in the subdivision. The Department, meanwhile, is pursuing other sources of funds to complete the purchase of all remaining privately held lots. The Big Sur Land Trust has also been active in the area, working with the Park District to acquire more than 180 lots in the subdivision since 1990 at a cost of \$1.8 million.

The Park District will repay the Coastal Conservancy \$2 million of its grant between 1998 and 2002, with no interest charged. The full amount of the grant is needed now in order to speed the growth of the State Seashore.

The project is supported by Congressman Sam Farr, State Senator Henry Mello, Assemblyman Bruce McPherson, and the city of Sand City, among others.

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Updated 5/9/96

SCC BOARD AGENDA ITEMS (TENTATIVE)

June 20, 1996 - - Sacramento

Upland Disposal of Dredged Materials grant	400,000
Hamilton Field Tidal Marsh design grant (TN)	200,000
BCDC Interagency Agreement re: LTMS	100,000
Sonoma Baylands Tidal Marsh access/O&M grant (JC)	200,000
Victorine Ranch Water System + Subdivision (PW)	100,000
West Newport Enhancement (RH)	200,000
Bolsa Chica Site Assessment (MD)	200,000
Bear Creek monitoring grant (MW)	20,000
Malibu Creek Enhancement monitoring grant (JM)	100,000
Point Cabrillo FEMA grant acceptance (JM) (consent)	
OSPRA grants acceptance (SH) (consent)	
E.O. Report: HCF Priorities update (SH)	
Long-Term Financial Strategy update (SH)	

July - - no meeting

August 15, 1996

Ormond Beach Restoration Plan implementation (TN)	200,000
Estero San Antonio Enhancement implementation grant (PB)	200,000
Nonprofits Assistance Grants Program project selection (JD)	
Mill Creek acquisition (JD)	470,000
Bolsa Chica MOA (MD)	
Eel River Delta 319 grant acceptance (JC)	
E.O. Report: Gould Property Disposition	