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December 12, 2003

To: Coastal Commissioners

From: Mike Reilly, Chair, California Coastal Commission
Dick Wayman, Communications Director, Coastal Conservancy

Significant Events at the December 11 Meeting of the State Coastal Conservancy in San Francisco

The Coastal Conservancy approved the following:

South Coast

1. Disbursement of \$13,826,298 to the Department of Fish and Game to acquire properties within the Otay River watershed near Lower Otay Reservoir to implement the San Diego Multiple Species Conservation Plan, as part of the state's Natural Communities Conservation Planning Program.
2. A grant of \$12,500,000 to Orange County for the restoration of Upper Newport Bay.
3. Disbursement of \$1,250,000 to purchase a vacant parcel located at 21724 Pacific Coast Highway, Malibu, for public access to La Costa and Carbon beaches and preservation of scenic views.
4. Two grants for restoration of Santa Monica Bay: 1) a \$62,957 grant to the Los Angeles Conservation Corps to undertake the Redondo Beach Bluff Restoration Pilot Project, and 2) a \$444,000 grant to the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District for final planning and feasibility for the Malibu Creek Recycled Water Line Extension Project.
5. A grant of \$200,000 of Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) funds to the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project to implement the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project Science Advisory Project.

Central Coast

6. A grant of \$115,000 to the City of Pismo Beach for construction of a section of the Coastal Trail between the cities of Pismo Beach and Grover Beach.
7. Amendment of the Conservancy's January 24, 2002, authorization for disbursement of planning funds to the Bay Foundation of Morro Bay to authorize use of funds for preparation of conceptual designs, preliminary engineering plans, and cost estimates for future restoration activities.

**Coastal Conservancy Status Report to the Coastal Commission
December 2003**

Page 2

San Francisco Bay Area

8. Acceptance of a grant of \$357,146 from the California Bay-Delta Authority Ecosystem Restoration Program (CalFed) to implement a public outreach program in the Marsh Creek watershed in Contra Costa County and to conduct planning for restoration of lower Marsh Creek in Oakley, and disbursement of a grant of \$110,000 of the CalFed funds to the Natural Heritage Institute to implement the Marsh Creek public outreach program and to plan the restoration of lower Marsh Creek.
9. A grant of \$500,000 to the Sonoma Land Trust to construct public access improvements and provide associated management at the Sonoma Baylands, a 322-acre restored wetlands at the mouth of the Petaluma River.
10. A grant of \$150,000 to the City of Benicia to improve public access to the First Street Peninsula Pier on the Carquinez Strait in Benicia, Solano County.
11. A grant of \$400,000 to the City of Oakland to restore a portion of Arroyo Viejo Creek in Knowland Park and construct five educational classrooms alongside the creek.
12. Two grants related to the restoration of the Laguna de Santa Rosa in Sonoma County: 1) a \$225,000 grant to the Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation to prepare a restoration management plan, and 2) a \$225,000 grant to the Sonoma County Water Agency to conduct a Phase II sedimentation study including design plans and environmental documentation for one or more habitat restoration and flood control projects.
13. Disbursement of \$400,000 to California State University Sacramento to lead facilitation and public outreach efforts for the South San Francisco Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project.
14. Acceptance of \$2,325,000 from the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission to assist the Commission with implementation of the San Francisco Bay Plan, and disbursement of a \$30,170 grant to the Richardson Bay Regional Agency for fish and wildlife habitat enhancement.
15. A grant of \$50,000 to the Center for Ecosystem Management and Restoration for conceptual design of barrier modifications to allow for anadromous fish passage in Stonybrook Creek, a tributary of Alameda Creek in southern Alameda County.
16. A grant of \$100,000 to the City of El Cerrito to produce final construction documents and a maintenance and management plan for restoration of Baxter Creek and a parallel multi-use trail, to complete environmental review and obtain permits for the construction, and to create educational signage for this public open space in the Cities of El Cerrito and Richmond.

**Coastal Conservancy Status Report to the Coastal Commission
December 2003**

Page 3

17. A grant of \$137,600 to the City of Santa Rosa for the construction of recreational pathway improvements and fencing for the Prince Memorial Greenway Phase 2004 in downtown Santa Rosa along Santa Rosa Creek.

North Coast

18. A grant of \$10,000,000 (\$4,000,000 repayable) to The Conservation Fund to acquire the approximately 23,500-acre Coastal Forestlands, Ltd. properties in the Garcia River watershed, Mendocino County.
19. A grant of \$300,000 to the Occidental Arts and Ecology Center to prepare an enhancement plan for the Salmon Creek estuary, Sonoma County.
20. A grant of \$60,000 to the Southern Sonoma County Resource Conservation District for the design, production, and placement of watershed signs and hazardous river condition signs for the Russian River and Sonoma Creek watersheds.
21. A grant of \$78,000 to the City of Fort Bragg to conduct engineering and design of public access improvements at Pomo Bluffs Park at the mouth of the Noyo River, Mendocino County.
22. A grant of \$614,100 to the Point Cabrillo Lightkeepers Association for restoration of the eastern lightkeeper's residence and for management of public use improvements at the Point Cabrillo Light Station north of the town of Mendocino.
23. A grant of \$50,000 to Sustainable Conservation to develop and implement a permit coordination program, which includes Best Management Practices, in order to reduce the duration, cost, and complexity of the regulatory review process for proposed habitat restoration projects, and thus encourage the implementation of voluntary water quality and habitat improvement projects on private lands in Humboldt County.

The next Conservancy meeting is scheduled for January 29, 2004.