

State Coastal Conservancy Meeting Report

May 27, 2021

W24

The Coastal Conservancy approved the following:

NORTH COAST

1. A grant of up to \$269,318 to the Yurok Tribe for planning and to prepare designs and permit applications for instream salmonid habitat enhancement projects in the [Elk Meadows Cabin reach of lower Prairie Creek](#), a tributary to Redwood Creek, in Humboldt County.
2. A grant of up to \$413,000 to Save the Redwoods League to construct approximately 4.5 miles of [new trails extending the coastal trail on the Shady Dell property](#) near the Usal Beach area of the southern Lost Coast in Mendocino County, and adoption of findings under the California Environmental Quality Act.
3. A grant of up to \$505,000 to the City of Healdsburg for their Fire Department to conduct wildfire fuel management, create defensible space, and update the management plan for [Fitch Mountain Park and Open Space Preserve](#) in Sonoma County, and adoption of findings under the California Environmental Quality Act.
4. A grant of up to \$2,000,000 to The Wildlands Conservancy to acquire approximately 7,480 acres of the [Lone Pine Ranch property](#) at the confluence of the Eel River mainstem and North Fork Eel River in Trinity and Mendocino Counties for the purposes of preserving and restoring fish and wildlife habitat, public access and recreation, open space, and natural resource protection.
5. A grant of up to \$2,000,000 to the County of Humboldt to complete designs and permits and construct the [Humboldt Bay Trail South](#), a new 4.25 mile stretch of the California Coastal Trail linking the Cities of Arcata and Eureka, and adoption of findings under the California Environmental Quality Act.
6. A grant of up to \$940,000 to the Smith River Alliance, Inc. to acquire beach, dune, wetland, upland and forested parcels in the vicinity of the [Pacific Shores](#) subdivision, adjacent to Lake Earl, Del Norte County.

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA

7. A grant of up to \$500,000, including \$74,000 in funds from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, to the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department to realign and improve the existing trail network at Twin Peaks in San Francisco County, part of the [Bay Area Ridge Trail](#) alignment, to control erosion, increase public safety, restore native plants, and provide interpretive and directional signs.
8. A grant of up to: 1) \$7,605,000 to Ducks Unlimited, Inc. for construction, monitoring and modeling of [Phase 2 South Bay Salt Pond \(SBSP\) Restoration Project](#) actions at Eden Landing Ecological Reserve in Alameda County; 2) \$720,000 of in-lieu fee funds awarded to the Conservancy from the California Department of Transportation for development of the public access trail as part of the Phase 2 project at Ravenswood in San Mateo County; 3) \$3,500,000 to the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District to conduct studies and prepare designs and a 408 permit application for alterations to flood control facilities at Eden Landing; 4) \$460,000 to the Aquatic Science Center for a lead scientist, the SBSP Restoration Project website, and applied studies to support implementation of the SBSP Restoration Project in Alameda, San Mateo, and Santa Clara counties; 5) \$385,000 for executive project management of the SBSP Restoration Project; and 6) \$800,000 to the California Wildlife Foundation for monitoring and applied studies that facilitate ongoing adaptive management of the SBSP Restoration Project.
9. A grant of up to \$950,000, to be reimbursed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program, to the California Invasive Plant Council for the planning, management, treatment, monitoring, restoration, and permit compliance activities of the [San Francisco Estuary Invasive *Spartina* Project](#).
10. Amending an existing Project Partnership Agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Santa Clara Valley Water District for construction of [the Shoreline Project](#) in the City of San José, Santa Clara County

CENTRAL COAST

11. A grant of up to \$60,000 to the California Department of Parks and Recreation to prepare plans, environmental review documents, and permit applications for two new restrooms in [Garrapata State Park](#) in Big Sur, Monterey County.
12. A grant of up to \$1,123,000 to the Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County for the [Integrated Watershed Restoration Program](#) to conduct planning and prepare designs and permit applications for 23 high priority watershed restoration projects in San Mateo, Santa Cruz, and Monterey Counties.

SOUTH COAST

13. A grant of up to \$1,692,360 to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for design and permitting of the restoration of the [Ballona Wetlands](#) Ecological Reserve in Los Angeles County and further authorization to disburse up to \$500,000 to the Prevention Institute to support broad community engagement in planning for that restoration; and the adoption of findings under the California Environmental Quality Act.
14. A grant of up to \$1,200,000 to Riverside County Regional Park and Open Space District to prepare plans, designs, and environmental documentation for the 3.4-mile segment of the [Santa Ana River Trail known as the Rincon to Prado Spillway](#) segment in the County of Riverside.
15. A grant of up to \$10,000,000 to the County of San Diego to implement the Tijuana River Valley – [Smuggler’s Gulch Improvements Project](#), and adoption of findings under the California Environmental Quality Act.
16. A grant of up to \$700,000 to the Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains to augment a previously authorized Conservancy grant of \$460,000 for planning for the [Topanga Lagoon Restoration Project](#) at Topanga State Park and Topanga Beach in Los Angeles County.
17. A grant of up to \$255,000 for environmental review and community engagement to support the [Malibu Coastal Access Public Works Plan](#) for seventeen sites in the City of Malibu.
18. A grant of up to \$1,300,000 through one or more contracts to prepare environmental compliance documents and related technical studies for the [Ormond Beach Restoration and Public Access Plan](#).

19. Authorization for the [City of Chula Vista](#) to remove use restrictions on 1.86 acres of the Conservancy-funded, City-owned Faivre Street property in the lower Otay River Valley in exchange for the City's acquisition and restriction of a property of equal size and equal or greater value in the Otay River Valley.

The Board agreed to appoint Mary Small as Acting Executive Officer following Sam Schuchat's retirement. The Board also heard Executive Officer reports concerning the California Coastal Trail Data and Mapping Viewer, the [Legislative Report](#) and the new [Prop 68 Inclusive Coastal Storytelling Grant Program](#).

There was a lengthy public comment period and discussion on the Ballona Wetlands project and a shorter discussion on the Smugglers Gulch project. There was also discussion on the Malibu PWP project with a Malibu resident concerned with safety at Carbon/La Cuesta Beach after MRCA removed a fence between PCH and the beach.

The next Conservancy meeting is scheduled for June 7, 2021 and will be held via teleconference. It will be Sam Schuchat's last meeting.