

COASTAL CONSERVANCY

Staff Recommendation
May 27, 2010

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WETLANDS RECOVERY PROJECT
SCIENCE ADVISORY PANEL**

File No. 00-068-01
Project Manager: Karen Bane

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Authorization to disburse an amount not to exceed fifty one thousand five hundred dollars (\$51,500) to augment the Conservancy's October 5, 2006 authorization to the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project to manage the Science Advisory Panel of the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project.

LOCATION: Coastal wetlands and watersheds from Point Conception in Santa Barbara County south to the international border with Mexico (Exhibit 1).

PROGRAM CATEGORY: Resource Enhancement

EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1: [Project Location and Site Map](#)

Exhibit 2: [Staff Recommendation, October 5, 2006](#)

RESOLUTION AND FINDINGS:

Staff recommends that the State Coastal Conservancy adopt the following resolution pursuant to Sections 31251-31270 of the Public Resources Code:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of up to fifty- one thousand five hundred dollars (\$51,500) to augment its October 5, 2006 authorization to the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project to manage the Science Advisory Panel of the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project. This augmentation is subject to the October 5, 2006 authorization's conditions, attached to the accompanying staff recommendation as Exhibit 2.”

Staff further recommends that the Conservancy adopt the following findings:

“Based on the accompanying staff report and attached exhibits, the State Coastal Conservancy hereby finds that:

1. The proposed augmentation of funds is consistent with the Conservancy's most recent Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines updated on June 4, 2009.

2. The proposed augmentation of funds remains consistent with the findings made under the Conservancy's October 5, 2006 authorization, attached to the accompanying staff recommendation as Exhibit 2."

PROJECT SUMMARY:

Staff recommends augmenting the Conservancy's October 5, 2006 authorization to add up to \$51,500 in funds to the grant to Southern California Coastal Water Research Project, a joint powers agency, to manage the Science Advisory Panel of the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project (WRP). (See Exhibit 2) These additional funds would come from the California Natural Resources Agency (Resources) through an inter-agency agreement proposed for summer 2010. These funds were previously advanced to the Conservancy through an interagency agreement with Resources issued in June 2001 to develop a state-wide inventory of wetlands. The previous agreement expired December 31, 2003 with \$51,500 remaining unspent. Resources asked Conservancy staff to enter into a new interagency agreement and apply the funds to the WRP's Science Advisory Panel to support tasks that use the wetland inventory. For example, the inventory is an integral part of assessing wetland condition and addressing restoration science uncertainties discussed in Exhibit 2.

PROJECT FINANCING:

Coastal Conservancy	\$500,000
Natural Resources Agency	51,500
Total Project Cost	\$551,500

The Conservancy's funding for this project was approved on October 5, 2006 (Exhibit 2). This authorization would augment the existing project budget with \$51,500 from an interagency agreement with the Natural Resources Agency.

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S ENABLING LEGISLATION, STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL(S) & OBJECTIVE(S), PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA & GUIDELINES:

The proposed augmentation of funds remains consistent with the Conservancy's October 5, 2006 authorization regarding the Conservancy's enabling legislation, strategic plan goal(s) and objective(s), and project selection criteria and guidelines. (See Exhibit 2).

The Conservancy's Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines were updated on June 4, 2009 to include criteria responsive to the Conservancy's Climate Change Policy. The Science Advisory Panel work is not directly vulnerable to sea level rise or to other climate change impacts. The work of the Science Advisory Panel often entails transportation of many individuals to meetings and field sites throughout Southern California; however, greenhouse gas emissions are minimized by carpooling and web supported meetings. The products of the Science Advisory Panel are geared toward helping the Conservancy and its grantees design, build, and monitor more effective wetland restoration projects in Southern California in the face of climate change.

COMPLIANCE WITH CEQA:

The proposed authorization of an augmentation of funds does not have the potential to result in any physical changes to the environment and therefore is not a "project" subject to the California Environmental Quality Act, as provided in 14 California Code of Regulations Section 15378.