

COASTAL CONSERVANCY

Staff Recommendation  
March 29, 2012

**WHEELCHAIR RIDER'S ONLINE COASTAL GUIDE PHASE 2**

File No. 07-023-02  
Project Manager: Joan Cardellino

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Authorization to disburse up to \$125,000 to Access Northern California to complete its online guide to wheelchair accessible coastal parks and trails.

**LOCATION:** Humboldt, Del Norte, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Alameda, Contra Costa, Solano, Napa, Los Angeles and Orange Counties

**PROGRAM CATEGORY:** Public Access

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**EXHIBITS**

Exhibit 1: [May 24, 2007 Staff Recommendation](#)

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**RESOLUTION AND FINDINGS:**

Staff recommends that the State Coastal Conservancy adopt the following resolution pursuant to Sections 31400 *et seq.* of the Public Resources Code regarding public access to the coast:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes disbursement of an amount not to exceed one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars (\$125,000) to Access Northern California to prepare an internet-based guide to coastal sites accessible by wheelchair. Prior to disbursement of Conservancy funds for this project, Access Northern California shall submit for the review and approval of the Executive Officer the names and qualifications of any contractors proposed to be hired, a project work program, schedule and budget, and a proposal for acknowledging the Conservancy’s assistance in developing the guide.”

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 authorization is consistent with Public Resources Code Sections 31400-31409.
2. The proposed authorization is consistent with the Conservancy’s Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.
3. Access Northern California is nonprofit organization existing under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and whose purposes, which include providing people with

disabilities information about wheelchair accessible travel destinations, are consistent with Division 21 of the Public Resources Code.”

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**PROJECT SUMMARY:**

Staff recommends authorization to disburse up to \$125,000 to Access Northern California (ANC) for the purpose of preparing a web-based guide to coastal sites, including sites around San Francisco Bay, accessible by wheelchair.

In May 2007, the Conservancy authorized funding to ANC to prepare the *Wheelchair Rider's Online Guide*. The website is currently up and running and can be viewed at [www.wheelingcalscoast.org](http://www.wheelingcalscoast.org).

The website was initially created by incorporating previously published information for Orange and Los Angeles Counties, and for San Francisco Bay Counties, which were in an Adobe “pdf” format, into the website, which otherwise contained an interactive format for sites in other coastal counties. The source of the information for the “pdf” documentation for Orange and Los Angeles Counties was *A Wheelchair Rider's Guide to Los Angeles and Orange County Coast*, which was published by the Coastal Conservancy and Coastwalk in 2001. For San Francisco Bay the publication was *A Wheelchair Rider's Guide --San Francisco Bay and the Nearby Coast*, published by the Coastal Conservancy in 2006.

As the website developed and was used, it became clear that having two different formats, a non-interactive “pdf” format for Orange, Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay Area Counties, and an interactive format for other coastal counties, was unsatisfactory. The proposed funding of \$125,000 will be used, in part, by ANC to gather and update the wheelchair accessibility information for Orange, Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay Area Counties and to incorporate it into the interactive website.

In addition, there is a need to add information about new coastal sites in Humboldt and Del Norte Counties. The proposed grant will be used for this purpose as well.

Finally, ANC has identified additional features that would make the website easier to use and more informative. These include: an ancillary website that is designed to work with mobile devices; a video feature; administrative features that facilitate communication with managers of parks and trails; social media tools such as *Twitter* and Facebook; and trip planning features to coordinate with public transportation and Google maps. ANC will also use the proposed funding to add these functions to the accessibility guide website.

**Site Description:** New sites in Humboldt and Del Norte Counties will be added, as well as sites in Los Angeles, Orange, and the San Francisco Bay Area counties.

**Project History:** ANC staff worked on the Conservancy's publication *A Wheelchair Rider's Guide: San Francisco Bay and the Nearby Coast*, which was published in 2006. During the course of that effort, ANC approached Conservancy staff with a proposal to

create an on-line wheelchair rider's guide to coastal sites throughout the coastal zone, where no comparable guides currently exist. ANC's idea was to use wheelchair riders exclusively to research the sites and make the publication web-based only, i.e., no hard copies of the guide would be published. Readers will be able to search the site for the specific information they want, and print it out in an easily readable format.

**PROJECT FINANCING:**

Coastal Conservancy	\$125,000
<b>Total Project Cost</b>	<b>\$125,000</b>

The anticipated source of Conservancy funds is the fiscal year 2009-10 appropriation to the Conservancy from the California Beach and Coastal Enhancement Account, created in the California Environmental License Plate Fund by Vehicle Code Section 5067(c). These funds may be used for coastal projects that are consistent with the provisions of the Conservancy enabling legislation, Division 21 of the Public Resources Code. The proposed project is consistent with Division 21, as detailed in the "Consistency with Conservancy Enabling Legislation" section of the May 24, 2007 staff recommendation (Exhibit 1).

**CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S ENABLING LEGISLATION:**

For the same reasons explained in the May 24, 2007 staff recommendation (Exhibit 1), the proposed project is consistent with Public Resources Code Section 31400.3.

**CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL(S) & OBJECTIVE(S):**

For the same reasons explained in the May 24, 2007 staff recommendation (Exhibit 1), this project remains consistent with **Goal 11, Objective D**.

**CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA & GUIDELINES:**

The proposed project remains consistent with the Conservancy's Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines, as detailed in the May 24, 2007 staff recommendation. However, the Conservancy adopted updated Guidelines on November 10, 2011, to include the following new required criterion, which was not considered in the 2007 staff recommendation:

**Sea-level rise vulnerability:** Consistent with Executive Order S-13-08, for new projects located in areas vulnerable to future sea-level rise, planning shall consider a range of sea-level rise scenarios in order to assess project vulnerability and, to the extent feasible,

reduce expected risks and increase resiliency to sea-level rise.

Since the proposed project does not involve coastal construction, this criterion is inapplicable.

**COMPLIANCE WITH CEQA:**

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) continues to be inapplicable to the proposed website development, since providing information on a website does not constitute a “project” for the purposes of CEQA under Section 15378 of the CEQA Guidelines (14 Cal. Code Regs., §15378).