

**STATE COASTAL CONSERVANCY  
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**  
Wharfinger Building – The Great Room  
Eureka Public Marina  
Eureka, CA  
October 18, 2012

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Douglas Bosco (Public Member), Chairman  
Marisa Moret (Public Member)  
Ann Notthoff (Public Member)  
John Laird, Secretary for Natural Resources; Bryan Cash (Designated)  
Mary Shallenberger, Coastal Commission Chair  
Ana Matosantos, Director, Department of Finance; Karen Finn (Designated)

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Sam Schuchat, Executive Officer  
Elena Eger, Legal Counsel

**LOCATION**

Wharfinger Building – The Great Room  
1 Marina Way  
Eureka, CA

**1. ROLL CALL**

Douglas Bosco (Public Member), Chairman  
Marisa Moret (Public Member)  
Ann Notthoff (Public Member)  
Bryan Cash (Designated)  
Mary Shallenberger, Coastal Commission Chair  
Karen Finn (Designated)

**2. APPROVAL of Minutes of Conservancy, August 2, 2012 Public meeting**

Moved and seconded. Approved by a vote of 6-0.

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**3. CONSENT ITEMS**

Mr. Cash moved to add agenda items numbers. 7, 8, 10, 16, 18, 20 and 21 to the consent calendar as items numbers: G-L, respectively. Ms. Finn amended Mr. Cash's motion to delete agenda item no. 21 from removal to the regular calendar. Amended motion moved and seconded. Approved by vote of 6-0.

**A. USAL-SHADY DELL CREEK PROPERTY**

Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of up to seventy-eight thousand seven hundred fifty dollars (\$78,750.00) to Save the Redwoods League (SRL) for the planning and design of, including permit applications for, an approximately 2 mile segment of the California Coastal Trail on the Usal-Shady Dell Creek property in northern Mendocino County. Prior to the disbursement of any funds for the project, SRL shall submit for the review and approval of the Executive Officer a work program, schedule, budget and the names and qualifications of any subcontractors.”

Findings:

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 project is consistent with the current Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines, updated by the Conservancy on November 10, 2011.
2. The proposed authorization is consistent with the purposes and objectives of Chapter 9 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding public access.

SRL is a private nonprofit organization existing under the provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code and its purposes are consistent with Division 21 of the Public Resources Code.”

**B. STUART CREEK**

Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of an amount not to exceed one hundred and sixty-two thousand dollars (\$162,000) to Sonoma Land Trust to complete final engineered designs, environmental review and permit applications for three priority fish passage improvements on Stuart Creek, and for public access improvements on the Stuart Creek Run property near Glen Ellen, Sonoma County. Prior to disbursement

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of funds, Sonoma Land Trust shall submit for the review and approval of the Executive Officer a work program, including a budget and schedule, and the names of any subcontractors to be retained for project work. Prior to project completion, SLT shall provide final designs for the review and approval of the Executive Officer.”

Findings:

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 project is consistent with the current Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.
2. The proposed authorization is consistent with the purposes and objectives of Chapter 4.5 (Sections 31160-31165) of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding the enhancement of natural resources of the San Francisco Bay Area.
3. Sonoma Land Trust is a nonprofit, public benefit organization formed pursuant to the Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation Law, California Corporations Code section 5000 et seq., and existing under section 501(c) (3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Service Code, and whose purposes are consistent with Division 21 of the Public Resources Code.”

**C. LITTLE RIVER STATE BEACH TO SCENIC DRIVE**

Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of an amount not to exceed ninety thousand dollars (\$90,000) to the Redwood Community Action Agency (RCAA) to prepare conceptual plans for a new section of California Coastal Trail from Little River State Beach to Scenic Drive in Humboldt County subject to the condition that prior to disbursement of funds, the RCAA shall submit a work program, schedule and budget, and the names and qualifications of any contractors, for the review and approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy.”

Findings:

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 project is consistent with the Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines adopted by the Conservancy on November 10, 2011.

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2. The proposed authorization is consistent with the purposes and objectives of Chapter 9 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding the implementation of a system of public accessways.
3. RCAA is a nonprofit organization existing under Section 501 (c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code whose purposes are consistent with Division 21 of the Public Resources Code.”

**D. ALAMEDA COUNTY WILDLIFE-FRIENDLY POND RESTORATION PROGRAM**

Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of an amount not to exceed one hundred seventy-five thousand dollars (\$175,000) to the Alameda County Resource Conservation District (ACRCD) to plan and implement a minimum of four wildlife-friendly pond restoration projects in Alameda County as part of the Alameda County Wildlife-Friendly Pond Restoration Program, subject to the following conditions:

1. No Conservancy funds shall be disbursed for the project until the Conservancy’s Executive Officer has reviewed and approved in writing:
  - a. A final work plan, including a budget and schedule.
  - b. The name and qualifications of any contractors that ACRCD intends to retain to carry out the project.
  - c. A plan for acknowledging Conservancy funding.
2. For each project site, ACRCD shall provide evidence that all permits and approvals have been obtained.
3. For each project site, ACRCD shall submit for the Conservancy’s Executive Officer’s review and approval an agreement or other instrument providing for the maintenance of the ponds for a minimum of 10 years according to Natural Resources Conservation Service design standards and specifications.”

Findings:

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 project is consistent with the current Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.

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2. The proposed authorization is consistent with the purposes and objectives of Chapter 4.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, Sections 31160-31165, regarding the San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program.
3. The Conservancy has independently reviewed the *Final Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Alameda County Voluntary Local Program*, August 2012 as adopted on August 20, 2012 by the ACRCDC's Board of Directors, which is attached to the accompanying staff recommendation as Exhibit 2 and which adequately describes the proposed project, and finds that there is no substantial evidence that the proposed project will have a significant effect on the environment, as defined in 14 California Code of Regulations Section 15382."

**E. MARTINEZ FEEDER TRAIL #1**

Resolution:

"The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes disbursement of an amount not to exceed \$125,000 (one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars) to the East Bay Regional Park District (the "Park District") for construction of approximately 3 miles of a segment of the Bay Area Ridge Trail known as Martinez Feeder Trail #1, and surveying of an additional 0.7-mile segment of the same trail, west of the City of Martinez in unincorporated Contra Costa County, subject to the following conditions:

1. Prior to the disbursement of funds, the Park District shall submit the following for the review and approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy:
  - a. A detailed work program, budget, and schedule;
  - b. A plan for the installation of a sign acknowledging Conservancy participation and displaying the Conservancy logo; and
  - c. The names and qualifications of any contractors that it intends to employ.
2. The Park District shall ensure compliance with all project actions, components, and mitigation measures that are required by the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for the East Bay Regional Park District Feeder Trail #1 Project certified by the Park District on September 18, 2012, and accompanying the project staff recommendation as Exhibit 4."

Findings:

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:

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1. The proposed project is consistent with the current Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.
2. The proposed authorization is consistent with the purposes and objectives of Chapter 4.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding the improvement of public access to, within, and around the bay, coast, ridgetops and urban open spaces of the San Francisco Bay area.
3. The Conservancy has independently reviewed the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for the East Bay Regional Park District Feeder Trail #1 Project certified by the Park District on September 18, 2012 pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, and finds no substantial evidence that the project, with the identified measures to avoid, reduce or mitigate the possible significant environmental effects, will have a significant effect on the environment.”

**F. SOUTH BAY SALT PONDS RESTORATION PROJECT**

Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes disbursement of up to \$545,562 (five hundred forty-five thousand five hundred sixty-two dollars), including \$465,562 (four hundred sixty-five thousand, five hundred sixty-two dollars) to be reimbursed by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), as follows: to the United States Geological Survey (USGS) up to approximately \$390,000 (three hundred ninety thousand dollars); to the San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI) up to approximately \$40,000 (forty thousand dollars); and to the University of California at Davis (UCD) up to approximately \$150,000 (one hundred fifty thousand dollars); in order to undertake studies related to sediment transport, mercury accumulation in sediments, mercury bioaccumulation, and modeling of scouring of sediments with mercury contamination, associated with the South Bay Salt Ponds Restoration Project. Prior to the disbursement of any Conservancy funds for the project, the USGS, SFEI and UCD shall submit for the review and approval of the Conservancy’s Executive Officer a work program for each study, including schedule and budget, and a plan to acknowledge the Conservancy in all publications.”

Findings:

1. 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:
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.

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3. The proposed authorization is consistent with the purposes and objectives of Chapter 4.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding the Conservancy's mandate to address the resource and recreational goals of the San Francisco Bay Area.
4. SFEI is a nonprofit organization existing under the provisions the U.S. Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3), whose purposes are consistent with Division 21 of the Public Resources Code.”

**G. MCDANIEL SLOUGH WETLANDS**

Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes disbursement of an amount not to exceed two hundred thirty-five thousand dollars (\$235,000) to the City of Arcata for the purposes of restoring tidal flow and fish passage to former salt marsh wetlands and enhancing associated wildlife habitat in the McDaniel Slough and Janes Creek areas bordering northern Humboldt Bay, subject to the following conditions:

1. Prior to the disbursement of any funds the Conservancy's Executive Officer shall approve in writing a work plan, budget and schedule, and any contractors to be used for the activities under this authorization.
2. The City shall provide evidence that all permits and approvals necessary for the project have been obtained.
3. Conservancy funding shall be acknowledged by erecting and maintaining a sign at the project site that has been reviewed and approved by the Executive Officer.”

Findings:

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 the purposes and objectives of Chapter 6 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding enhancement of coastal resources.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.
3. As a responsible agency, the Conservancy has independently reviewed the McDaniel Slough Restoration Environmental Impact Report and Supplement Environmental Impact Report, prepared by the City of Arcata pursuant to the California

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Environmental Quality Act, and approved by the City of Arcata on December 20, 2006 and July 16, 2010, respectively, as well as public comment and the mitigation and monitoring report (together attached to the accompanying staff recommendation as Exhibit 6). The Conservancy finds that the project as conditioned avoids, reduces, or mitigates the potential significant environmental effects to a level of insignificance, and there is no substantial evidence that the project will have a significant effect on the environment, as defined in 14 California Code of Regulations Section 15382.”

**H. INTERTRIBAL SINKYONE WILDERNESS PLAN**

Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby:

1. Adopts the Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared under the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) for the InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Limited Access Management Plan, attached as Exhibit 3 to the accompanying staff recommendation.
2. Adopts the InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Limited Access Management Plan Mitigation Monitoring Program, attached as Exhibit 4 to the accompanying staff recommendation.
3. Authorizes disbursement of an amount not to exceed two hundred twenty thousand dollars (\$220,000) to the InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council (“the Council”) to implement public access improvements, consistent with the InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Access Management Plan, attached as Exhibit 2 to the accompanying staff recommendation, subject to the following conditions:
  - a. Prior to disbursement of any funds, the Conservancy’s Executive Officer shall approve in writing a work plan, budget and schedule, project designs, and any contractors to be used for the activities under this authorization.
  - b. With respect to work funded by the Conservancy and constituting an improvement or development, the Council shall provide evidence that it has obtained all necessary permits for the project.
  - c. The Council shall implement all mitigation measures for the project identified in the InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Limited Access Management Plan Mitigation Monitoring Program, attached as Exhibit 4 to the accompanying staff recommendation.
  - d. Conservancy funding shall be acknowledged by erecting and maintaining on the property a sign or signs, the design and placement of which has been reviewed and approved by the Conservancy’s Executive Officer, or by some other alternative form of acknowledgement, appropriate to the project and approved by the Conservancy’s Executive Officer.”

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Findings:

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 project is consistent with Chapter 9 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding public access to and along the coast.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines, most recently updated by the Conservancy on November 10, 2011.
3. Consistent with 14 California Code of Regulations Section 15074, the Conservancy has considered the Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring Program including comments received during the public review process, attached to the accompanying staff recommendation as Exhibits 3 and 4, respectively, and finds, on the basis of the whole record before it and its independent judgment and analysis, that there is no substantial evidence that the project as mitigated will have a significant effect on the environment, as defined in 14 California Code of Regulations Section 15382.
4. The proposed project will serve greater than local needs.
5. The Intertribal Sinkiyone Wilderness Council is a nonprofit organization existing under Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code whose purposes are consistent with Division 21 of the Public Resources Code.”

**I. TOMALES BAY WATERSHED**

Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes disbursement of an amount not to exceed two hundred sixty three thousand dollars (\$263,000) to the Marin Resource Conservation District (MRCD) to conduct erosion-control and riparian enhancement projects on the Bloom and Lawson ranches in the Tomales Bay watershed , subject to the following conditions:

1. Prior to the disbursement of any Conservancy funds for each project, the MRCD shall submit for review and approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy (Executive Officer) a work program, schedule and budget, and the names and qualifications of any contractors to be used on the project.

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2. Prior to implementing each project, the MRCD shall ensure each project receives permits under the Marin Coastal Watersheds Permit Coordination Program, as well as any other permits required to implement the projects.
3. Prior to implementing each project, the MRCD shall secure and submit to the Executive Officer for review and written approval an agreement with the owner of the property on which each project is to occur that authorizes the proposed enhancement work, that serves to protect the public interest in the project and that ensures that the project will be maintained in a manner consistent with the purposes of the grant.
4. Conservancy funding shall be acknowledged by erecting and maintaining on the property on which each project is undertaken a sign or signs, the design and placement of which has been reviewed and approved by the Executive Officer, or by some other alternative form of acknowledgement, appropriate to the project and approved by the Executive Officer.
5. The MRCD shall monitor and ensure compliance with the provisions of the mitigation and monitoring plan incorporated into the Mitigated Negative Declaration, attached to the accompanying staff recommendation as Exhibit 3.”

Findings:

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 the purposes and objectives of Chapter 6 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding enhancement of coastal resources.
2. The proposed projects are consistent with the current Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.
3. As a responsible agency, the Conservancy has independently reviewed and evaluated the Mitigated Negative Declaration, each project checklist and public comment attached to the accompanying staff recommendation as Exhibit 3, and finds that the projects, as mitigated, avoid, reduce or mitigate the possible significant environmental effects to a level of insignificance, and that there is no substantial evidence that the projects will have a significant effect on the environment.”

**J. UVAS RESERVOIR COUNTY PARK AREA PROPERTY**

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of up to \$250,000 (two hundred fifty thousand dollars) to Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) for acquisition of

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the approximately 358-acre property commonly known as the “Uvas Reservoir County Park Area property”, Santa Clara County Assessor’s Parcel Numbers 776-08-004, 776-08-005, and 776-08-017 (more particularly described in Exhibit 1, attached to the accompanying staff recommendation), for the purposes of preserving open space, scenic resources, plant and wildlife communities, and other natural resources; protecting watersheds; and enabling natural resource-compatible public access. This authorization is subject to the following conditions:

1. Prior to disbursement of any Conservancy funds, POST shall submit for review and approval by the Executive Officer of the Conservancy (“the Executive Officer”):
  - a. All relevant acquisition documents including but not limited to the appraisal, environmental assessments, agreement of purchase and sale, easements, escrow instructions, title reports and documents of title necessary for the purchase of the property.
  - b. Evidence that there is legal access to the property from a public road.
  - c. Evidence that POST possesses sufficient funds to complete the acquisition.
  - d. A stewardship plan, budget, and schedule describing the actions that POST will take, prior to the anticipated future transfer of the property to Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department (County Parks), to monitor and maintain existing natural resources on the property, any natural resource-compatible public access, and any grazing proposed for the property.
  - e. A plan showing the design and placement of signs acknowledging Conservancy funding for the acquisition.
2. POST shall pay no more than fair market value for the property, as established in an appraisal approved by the Executive Officer.
3. POST shall permanently dedicate the property for the purposes of preserving open space, scenic resources, plant and wildlife communities, and other natural resources; protecting watersheds, and enabling natural resource-compatible public access in an instrument acceptable to the Executive Officer, consistent with Public Resources Code Section 31116(b).
4. POST shall submit a written monitoring report to the Executive Officer before close of escrow for the property acquisition, and at five-year intervals thereafter for as long as it holds a property interest. The report shall state the existing property conditions with respect to preserving open space, scenic resources, plant and wildlife communities, and other natural resources, protecting watersheds, and enabling natural resource-compatible public access.”

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Findings:

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 project is consistent with the current Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.
2. The proposed authorization is consistent with the purposes and objectives of Chapter 4.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding the San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program.
3. POST is a nonprofit organization existing under the provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code, and whose purposes are consistent with Division 21 of the Public Resources Code.”

**K. EXPLORATORIUM, BAY OBSERVATORY AND PUBLIC PROMENADE**

Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes disbursement of up to \$250,000 to the Exploratorium to construct and install exhibits for the Bay Observatory and Public Promenade at the new Exploratorium location on Piers 15/17, to plan future exhibits for these spaces and to sponsor a series of Bay-focused workshops at the Exploratorium in the City and County of San Francisco, subject to the following conditions:

1. Prior to the disbursement of funds, the Exploratorium shall submit for the review and approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy:
  - a. A final work program, schedule and budget.
  - b. The scopes of work and the roster of contractors to be employed in the project.
  - c. A sign plan acknowledging the Conservancy and displaying its logo in a manner approved by the Executive Officer.
2. Prior to initiating construction, the Exploratorium shall provide written evidence to the Conservancy’s Executive Officer that all permits and approvals necessary to the implementation and completion of the project under applicable local, state and federal laws and regulations have been obtained.
3. The Exploratorium and the landowner shall enter into an agreement sufficient to protect the public interest in the project pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 31116(c).”

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Findings:

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 project is consistent with the current Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.
2. The proposed authorization is consistent with the purposes and objectives of the San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program, Chapter 4.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, Sections 31160-31165.
3. As a responsible agency, the Conservancy has independently reviewed and considered the information contained in the City of San Francisco’s Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR), attached to the accompanying staff recommendation as Exhibit 4, and finds that there is no substantial evidence that the Conservancy’s proposed project will have a significant effect on the environment.
4. The Exploratorium is a nonprofit organization existing under Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code, and whose purposes are consistent with Division 21 of the Public Resources Code.”

**L. MISSION CREEK FISH PASSAGE ENHANCEMENT**

Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes disbursement of up to three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000), including one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) of grant funds from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to the City of Santa Barbara (the City) to implement fish passage improvements on the lower channel of Mission Creek, as shown on Exhibit 1 to the accompanying staff recommendation. Prior to commencement of construction and to disbursement of any Conservancy funds, the City shall submit for the review and approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy the following items:

1. A work program, schedule and budget and the names and qualifications of any contractors or subcontractors that the City intends to employ to construct the project.
2. Evidence that the City can provide all remaining funds needed to complete construction.
3. Evidence that all applicable permits and approvals for the project have been obtained.”

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Findings:

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 project is consistent with the current Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.
2. The proposed authorization is consistent with the purposes and objectives of Chapter 5.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding integrated coastal and marine resources protection.
3. The project area has been identified in the certified Local Coastal Program of the City of Santa Barbara as environmentally sensitive habitat area requiring public action to resolve existing or potential resource protection problems.”

All consent items were moved and seconded. Approved by a vote of 6-0.

**4. EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT**

Executive Officer report was given in this order:

- A. Conservancy adopted meeting dates for 2013. The board agreed to meet in the 4 regions and have one meeting in Sacramento which will be scheduled for June. Approved by a vote of 6-0 with the change.
- B. Legislative Report by Executive officer informing the board the Governor signed 6 bills which included AB1656 Fong (SFBRA) and SB1266 (Corbett). (report attached)
- C. Update on the SF Bay Restoration Authority – Sam is the Chair of the 7 member board and will keep the Conservancy updated on the activities of the Restoration Authority.
- D. Karyn Gear introduced Marin County Supervisor Kinsey who discussed Agricultural Easements and Bob Berner, Executive Director, Marin Agricultural Land Trust distributed handouts to the board.
- E. Budget Report was presented by Mary Small. Staff will provide the board with two budget reports each year, one in the spring with the long-term financial strategy and one in the fall summarizing available project funding and an end of fiscal year review. (report attached)
- F. Draft of the Conservancy Strategic Plan was presented by Mary Small. The draft plan was posted on the Conservancy website for 30 days of public comment ending on

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November 15. Staff anticipate bringing the final plan to the board in December for more adoption. Board member provided specific comments on the draft plan and thanked the Conservancy staff for their hard work on drafting the Strategic Plan ( Draft attached)

**NORTH COAST**

**5. CRESCENT CITY HARBOR PUBLIC ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS**

Peter Jarausch of the Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

Speaking in favor of the Staff Recommendation: Richard Young, Harbor Master

Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of an amount not to exceed two million three hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$2,350,000) to the Crescent City Harbor District (“Harbor District”) to construct a promenade around the Inner Boat Basin, a new approximately a half-mile long section of California Coastal Trail, and other public access improvements at the Crescent City Harbor, Del Norte County, subject to the following conditions:

- 1) Prior to the disbursement of funds, the Harbor District shall submit for the written approval of the Conservancy’s Executive Officer a work program and budget for the project, the names and qualifications of all contractors to be used on the project, and a plan for incorporating acknowledgment of Conservancy funding on project signs; and
- 2) The Harbor District shall provide evidence that all permits and approvals necessary to the completion of the project under applicable local, state and federal laws and regulations have been obtained.”

Findings:

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 the purposes and objectives of Chapter 9 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code.
2. The proposed authorization is consistent with the Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines adopted by the Conservancy on November 10, 2011.
3. The project will serve greater than local needs.

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4. As a responsible agency, the Conservancy has independently reviewed and considered the information contained in the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration adopted by the Harbor District on September 4, 2012, which is attached to the accompanying staff recommendation as Exhibit 3, , and finds that the project, as mitigated, will not have a significant adverse effect on the environment. "

Moved and seconded. Approved by a vote of 6-0.

**6. BARBONI RANCH**

Su Corbaley of the Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

Speaking in favor of the Staff Recommendation: Jeff Stump, Easement Program Director, MALT

Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby modifies its March 29, 2012 authorization, by authorizing acceptance of up to one million five hundred seventy-four thousand dollars (\$1,574,000) in funds from the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the disbursement of those funds to the Marin Agricultural Land Trust (MALT) for the acquisition of a conservation easement over an additional 204 acres of the 1,194-acre Barboni Ranch (Marin County Assessor parcel nos. 125-020-11, -12, -13, -14), for pre-acquisition activities, and to fund an endowment for the perpetual management of California Red-Legged Frog dispersal habitat on the ranch.

This authorization is subject to the conditions imposed by the Conservancy’s March 29, 2012 authorization, specified in the staff recommendation attached as Exhibit 2 to the staff recommendation accompanying this resolution, and the following additional conditions:

1. Prior to the disbursement of any funds, the Conservancy, through its Executive Officer, and Caltrans shall execute an agreement for the use and management of Caltrans funds.
2. Prior to the expenditure of any Caltrans funds for the acquisition, MALT shall submit for review and approval of the Conservancy’s Executive Officer a Resources Management Plan for the perpetual stewardship of the 204 acres protected by the conservation easement acquired with the Caltrans funding.
3. The purchase price of the conservation easement shall not exceed fair market value, as established in an appraisal, provided to Caltrans for review and approval, and approved by the Department of General Services.”

Findings:

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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 disbursement of Caltrans mitigation funds for the acquisition and long-term management of 204-acres of California Red-Legged Frog habitat on the Barboni Ranch is consistent with the Conservancy authorization and findings adopted on March 29, 2012 and with the staff recommendation of that date, attached as Exhibit 2 to the accompanying staff recommendation.”

Moved and seconded. Approved by a vote of 6-0.

**9. KA KAHLEH COASTAL TRAIL**

Joel Gerwein of the Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

Speaking in favor of the Staff Recommendation: Linda Ruffing, City Manager, City of Fort Bragg

Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes disbursement of up to one million three hundred sixty two thousand dollars (\$1,362,000) to the City of Fort Bragg (“the City”) for construction of the Ka Kahleh coastal trail and associated facilities on Noyo Headlands Park, the former Georgia Pacific Mill Site, for natural resource enhancement on a portion of the site, and for the acquisition of the 4-acre Johnson Property (Mendocino County Assessor’s Parcel Number 018-430-04).

This authorization is subject to the following conditions:

1. Prior to disbursement of any Conservancy funds for the project, the City shall submit a work program, schedule, and budget for the review and approval of the Conservancy’s Executive Officer (“Executive Officer”).
2. Prior to disbursement of funds for construction, the City shall submit for the review and approval of the Executive Officer:
  - i) Final plans, cost estimates, and a plan for signage that acknowledges the Conservancy's funding assistance and identifies the Ka Kahleh Trail as part of the California Coastal Trail.
  - ii) Evidence that all necessary permits and approvals have been obtained.

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- iii) The names and qualifications of all contractors the City retains to complete any portions of the project funded by the Conservancy funds.
- 3. The City shall carry out the project in compliance with and shall incorporate all mitigation measures required by the Final Environmental Impact Report (“FEIR”), adopted by the City of Fort Bragg, attached as Exhibit 4 to the accompanying staff recommendation.
- 4. The City shall ensure that the coastal trail and related facilities improvements are consistent with all applicable federal and state statutes, regulations and guidelines governing barrier-free access for persons with disabilities.
- 5. Prior to the disbursement of Conservancy funds for acquisition of the Johnson Property, the City shall submit for the review and approval of the Executive Officer:
  - a. All relevant acquisition documents, including but not limited to an appraisal, environmental assessments, agreement of purchase and sale, easements, escrow instructions, and documents related to title.
  - b. Evidence that the City has obtained all funds necessary to complete the acquisition.
- 6. The City shall pay no more than fair market value for the Johnson Property as established in an appraisal approved by the Executive Officer.
- 7. The City shall permanently dedicate the Johnson Property in a manner acceptable to the Executive Officer for the purposes of providing public access, and protecting habitat for plants and wildlife.
- 8. The City shall acknowledge Conservancy funding by erecting and maintaining on the Ka Kahleh Trail and on the Johnson Property a sign or signs, the placement and design of which has been reviewed and approved by the Executive Officer.”

Findings:

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 project is consistent with the current Conservancy’s Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines, most recently updated on November 10, 2011.
- 2. The proposed authorization is consistent with the purposes and objectives of Chapter 9 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding a system of public accessways.

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3. Public access facilities along the Fort Bragg coast at this location would serve greater than local public needs.
4. The Conservancy has independently reviewed and considered the FEIR for the Fort Bragg Coastal Restoration and Trail Project, attached to the accompanying staff recommendation as Exhibit 3, and finds that the project, as mitigated, avoids, reduces or mitigates the possible significant environmental effects and that there is no substantial evidence that the project will have a significant effect on the environment, as defined in 14 California Code of Regulations Section 15382.”

Moved and seconded. Approved by a vote of 6-0.

**11. SEA LEVEL RISE ADAPTATION PLAN FOR THE HUMBOLDT BAY REGION**

Joel Gerwein of the Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

Speaking in favor of the Staff Recommendation: Rebecca Price-Hall, Board Member, Coastal Ecosystems Institute of Northern California; Dan Berman, Director of Conservation, Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District.

Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) to the Coastal Ecosystems Institute of Northern California (CEI) to prepare a sea level rise adaptation plan for the Humboldt Bay region, subject to the following conditions: Prior to the disbursement of funds, (1) the Conservancy’s Executive Officer shall approve in writing a work program, budget, schedule and any contractors to be employed for these tasks; (2) CEI shall provide evidence satisfactory to the Conservancy’s Executive Officer that it has obtained all remaining funds needed to complete the plan. In addition, (3) CEI shall report to the Conservancy on the project results when the vulnerability assessment is complete. Upon completion of the plan, CEI shall provide the final report produced under this grant to the Conservancy.”

Findings:

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 project is consistent with the current Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.

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2. The proposed authorization is consistent with the purposes and objectives of Chapter 5.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code (Section 31220), regarding integrated coastal and marine resources protection.
3. Humboldt Bay has been identified in the Certified Local Coastal Programs of the Cities of Eureka and Arcata and the County of Humboldt as a resource requiring protection.
4. CEI is an organization existing under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service code whose purposes are consistent with Division 21 of the Public Resources Code.”

Moved and seconded (with amendment to add requirement to report to Conservancy on vulnerability assessment). Approved by a vote of 6-0.

**SAN FRANCISCO BAY**

**12. SEARS POINT WETLAND AND WATERSHED RESTORATION PROJECT**

Betsy Wilson of the Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

Speaking in favor of the Staff Recommendation: Julian Meisler, Sonoma Land Trust

Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of an amount not to exceed three million, one hundred eighty-nine thousand, five hundred dollars (\$3,189,500), which includes nine hundred ninety-two thousand dollars (\$992,000) in grant funds to the Conservancy from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Program and one million, two hundred thirty-two thousand, five hundred dollars (\$1,232,500) in grant funds to the Conservancy from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Integrated Regional Water Management Program, to the Sonoma Land Trust (SLT) for implementation of the Sears Point Wetland and Watershed Restoration Project in Sonoma County. This authorization is subject to the following conditions:

1. Prior to disbursement of any funds, SLT shall submit for the review and approval of the Conservancy’s Executive Officer of a work program for the project, including schedule and budget, the names of any contractors it intends to use to complete the project, and a sign plan to acknowledge Conservancy funding for the project.
2. In carrying out the project, SLT shall comply with all applicable mitigation and monitoring measures that are identified in the Sears Point Wetland and Watershed Restoration Final Environmental Impact Report/Statement (EIR/S) certified by the California Department of Fish and Game on June 22, 2012.

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3. SLT shall enter into an agreement with the Conservancy to protect the public interest in any improvements funded by the Conservancy, consistent with Public Resources Code Section 31116(c).”

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 project is consistent with the current Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.
2. The proposed authorization is consistent with the purposes and objectives of Chapter 4.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding the Conservancy’s mandate to address the resource and recreational goals of San Francisco Bay Area.
3. As a responsible agency, the Conservancy has independently reviewed and considered the information contained in the Sears Point Wetland and Watershed Restoration Project EIR/S approved by the California Department of Fish and Game on June 22, 2012 in order to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and finds that the current proposed project, as modified by incorporation of the mitigation measures identified in the EIR/S, avoids, reduces or mitigates all of the possible significant environmental effects of the project.
4. Sonoma Land Trust is a nonprofit organizations existing under Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code, whose purposes are consistent with Division 21 of the Public Resources Code.”

Moved and seconded. Approved by a vote of 6-0.

**13. PLEASANTON RIDGE REGIONAL PARK**

Betsy Wilson of the Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

Speaking in favor of the Staff Recommendation: Nancy Winnegar, Assistant General Manager, East Bay Regional Park District.

Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes disbursement of up to seven hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$750,000) to the East Bay Regional Park District (District) for the acquisition of approximately 1,367 acres of property commonly known as the “Robertson property”, Alameda County Assessor’s Parcel Numbers 085A-4700-002-35, 085A-4850-001,

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085A-5000-002-03, and 096-0120-001-03, to expand the Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park, subject to the following conditions:

1. Prior to the disbursement of any Conservancy funds for acquisition, the District shall submit for the review and approval of the Executive Officer all relevant acquisition documents, including but not limited to the appraisal, environmental assessments, escrow instructions, title reports, and documents of title necessary for the purchase of the property.
2. The District shall dedicate the property for natural resource protection, open space preservation and public access by an appropriate instrument approved by the Conservancy's Executive Officer.
3. The District shall pay no more than fair market value for the property, as established in an appraisal approved by the Conservancy's Executive Officer.
4. Prior to opening the site to the public, the District shall submit for the review and approval of the Conservancy's Executive Officer a plan showing the design and placement of sign(s) acknowledging Conservancy funding."

Findings:

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 project is consistent with the current Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.
2. The proposed authorization is consistent with the purposes and objectives of the San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program, Chapter 4.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, Sections 31160-31165."

Moved and seconded. Approved by a vote of 6-0.

**14. PACIFIC CUSTOM MATERIAL**

Melanie Denninger of the Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

Speaking in favor of the Staff Recommendation: Nancy Wenninger, Assistant General Manager, East Bay Regional Park District.

Resolution:

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“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes disbursement of up to \$500,000 (five hundred thousand dollars) to the East Bay Regional Park District (the District) to acquire up to 51 acres of the Pacific Custom Materials property (the property), consisting of all or a portion of Contra Costa Assessor’s Parcel Nos. 368-100-001, 368-090-004, and 368-090-006, subject to the following conditions:

1. The District shall dedicate the property for the purposes of natural resource protection, open space preservation and public access by an appropriate instrument approved by the Executive Officer.
2. The District shall pay no more than fair market value for the property, as established in an appraisal approved by the Conservancy’s Executive Officer.
3. Prior to disbursement of the Conservancy funds for the acquisition of the property:
  - a. District shall submit for the review and approval of the Executive Officer:
    - i. All relevant acquisition documents, including but not limited to the appraisal, environmental assessments, escrow instructions, title reports, and documents of title necessary for the purchase of the property.
    - ii. A plan showing the design and placement of sign(s) acknowledging Conservancy funding.
    - iii. Evidence that the District has obtained all funds necessary to complete the acquisition.
  - b. With respect to contamination on the property, the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board, or other appropriate lead agency for site remediation, shall have indicated in writing, through a “closure letter” or similar documentation, that the property has been remediated to or meets standards adequate to at least allow for the “highest and best use” as established by the approved appraisal, and appropriate for the intended use of the property.
  - c. With respect to contamination on an adjacent property resulting in migration of contamination onto the acquisition property, the District has submitted documentation that assures that the owner of adjacent property is required by order of the appropriate regulatory body to monitor and remove any contamination on the acquisition property.
4. The District shall identify public access opportunities on the property through a planning process to be undertaken within a reasonable time following acquisition of the property.

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5. Prior to opening the property for public use, the District shall acknowledge Conservancy funding, by erecting and maintaining signs on the property, consistent with the sign plan approved by the Executive Officer.”

Findings:

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 project is consistent with the current Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.
2. The proposed authorization is consistent with the purposes and objectives of the San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program, Chapter 4.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, Sections 31160-31165.”

Moved and seconded. Approved by a vote of 5-1.

**15. MOUNT MADONNA COUNTY PARK AREA PROPERTY**

Jeff Melby of the Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

Speaking in favor of the Staff Recommendation: Gordon Clark, Peninsula Open Space Trust

Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of up to \$750,000 (seven hundred fifty thousand dollars) to Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) for acquisition of the 490-acre Mount Madonna County Park Area property (Santa Clara County Assessor’s Parcel Numbers 756-42-001, 756-47-006, 756-47-007, 756-48-013, and 756-48-011) , more particularly described in Exhibit 1, attached to the accompanying staff recommendation, for the purposes of preserving open space, scenic resources, plant and wildlife communities, and other natural resources; protecting watersheds; and enabling natural resource-compatible public access. This authorization is subject to the following conditions:

1. Prior to disbursement of any Conservancy funds, POST shall submit for review and approval by the Executive Officer of the Conservancy (“the Executive Officer”):
  - a. All relevant acquisition documents including but not limited to the appraisal, environmental assessments, agreement of purchase and sale, easements, escrow instructions, title reports and documents of title necessary for the purchase of the property.

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- b. Evidence that there is legal access to the property from a public road.
- c. Evidence that POST possesses sufficient funds to complete the acquisition.
- d. A stewardship plan, budget, and schedule describing the actions that POST will take, prior to the anticipated future transfer of the property to Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department (County Parks), to monitor and maintain existing natural resources on the property, any natural resource-compatible public access, and any grazing proposed for the property.
- e. A plan showing the design and placement of signs acknowledging Conservancy funding for the acquisition.
- f. POST shall pay no more than fair market value for the property, as established in an appraisal approved by the Executive Officer.
- g. POST shall permanently dedicate the property for the purposes of preserving open space, scenic resources, plant and wildlife communities, and other natural resources; protecting watersheds, and enabling natural resource-compatible public access in an instrument acceptable to the Executive Officer, consistent with Public Resources Code Section 31116(b).
- h. POST shall submit a written monitoring report to the Executive Officer before close of escrow for the property acquisition, and at five-year intervals thereafter for as long as it holds a property interest. The report shall state the existing property conditions with respect to preserving open space, scenic resources, plant and wildlife communities, and other natural resources, protecting watersheds, and enabling natural resource-compatible public access.”

Findings:

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 project is consistent with the current Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.
2. The proposed authorization is consistent with the purposes and objectives of Chapter 4.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding the San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program.
3. POST is a nonprofit organization existing under the provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code, and whose purposes are consistent with Division 21 of the Public Resources Code.”

Moved and seconded. Approved by a vote of 6-0.

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**17. MIRAFLORES PROJECT: BAXTER CREEK DAYLIGHTING, RESTORATION AND PUBLIC ACCESS GREENBELT**

Amy Hutzel on behalf of Anna Schneider of the Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of an amount not to exceed five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) to the City of Richmond (City) to implement the Miraflores Project: Baxter Creek Daylighting, Restoration and Public Access Greenbelt (the Project), subject to the following conditions:

1. The Project shall not commence and no Conservancy funds shall be disbursed for the project until the Executive Officer of the Conservancy has reviewed and approved in writing:
  - a. A project work program, budget, and schedule.
  - b. A sign plan that acknowledges funding from the Conservancy and the City.
  - c. Documentation that the City has obtained all permits and approvals required for the Project under federal, state, and local law.
  - d. With respect to contamination on the Project site, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control or other appropriate lead agency for site remediation shall have indicated in writing, through a “closure letter” or similar documentation, that the property has been remediated to standards appropriate for the intended use of the site.
2. The City shall carry out the project in compliance with and shall incorporate all mitigation measures required by the “Miraflores Housing Development Final Environmental Impact Report,” certified by the City of Richmond on December 15, 2009, and amended via an addendum approved by the City on July 19, 2011 (together, the EIR), attached as Exhibit 4 to the accompanying staff recommendation.”

Findings:

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 Project is consistent with Chapter 4.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding the resource goals of the San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program.
2. The proposed Project is consistent with the Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines adopted on November 10, 2011.

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3. The Conservancy has independently reviewed and considered the information contained in the EIR adopted by the City on December 15, 2009 (Exhibit 4, attached to the accompanying staff recommendation), and finds that, with one exception treated immediately below, there is no substantial evidence that the proposed Project, with the identified measures to avoid, reduce or mitigate possible significant environmental effects, will have a significant effect on the environment.
  
4. The Project will have one significant and unavoidable adverse effect on resources: while development of the Project will include the rehabilitation and reuse of up to three historic structures and the development of an interpretive display concerning the cultural and historical significance of the site, other historic facilities will be demolished. Nevertheless, the Conservancy finds (as discussed in the EIR and in the accompanying staff recommendation) that the beneficial effects of the Project, namely that the Project overall would result in significant long-term beneficial environmental, aesthetic, and recreational benefits including restoring native habitat, providing open space, restoring creek and watershed function, and improving community accessibility, at the same time as preserving some of the historic facilities and providing associated interpretation of the cultural resources of the site, and that these benefits would outweigh the unavoidable adverse impact on cultural resources. Further, mitigation is infeasible because there is no feasible way to lessen or avoid the effect on cultural resources at the same time as achieving the other specific environmental and other benefits of the Project.”

Moved and seconded. Approved by a vote of 6-0.

**CENTRAL COAST**

**19, WHISLER WILSON RANCH**

Janet Diehl of the Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

Speaking in favor of the Staff Recommendation: Jim Salentich, General Manager, Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District.

Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes disbursement of an amount not to exceed one million dollars (\$1,000,000) to the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (“the District”) to acquire 317 acres of real property commonly known as the Whisler Wilson Ranch (Monterey County Assessor Parcel Numbers 416-011-014 and 243-091-001), for open space protection and public access. This authorization is subject to the following conditions:

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1. Prior to the disbursement of Conservancy funds for acquisition of the Whisler Wilson Ranch Property (“property”), the District shall submit for the review and approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy (“the Executive Officer”):
  - a. All relevant acquisition documents, including, without limitation, the appraisal, purchase agreement, escrow instructions, environmental assessment, and title report.
  - b. Evidence that sufficient funds are available to complete the acquisition.
2. The District shall pay no more than fair market value for the property, as approved by the Conservancy, based on an appraisal of the property.
3. The District shall permanently dedicate the property for open space protection and public access through an instrument approved by the Executive Officer.
4. After acquisition of the property and as part of its general development plan for the District’s adjacent park holdings and the property, the District shall include a feasibility analysis for use of the property for camping purposes and shall consider the applicable environmental factors.
5. Conservancy funding shall be acknowledged by erecting and maintaining a sign on the property or in a nearby public staging area, the design and location of which is to be approved by the Executive Officer.”

Findings:

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 project is consistent with the current Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.
2. The proposed authorization is consistent with the purposes and objectives of Chapter 9 of Division 21(Sections 31400-31410) of the Public Resources Code, regarding the establishment of a system of public accessways to and along the California Coast.
3. The proposed project serves more than local needs.”

Moved and seconded. Approved by a vote of 6-0.

**21. PIEDRAS BLANCAS MOTEL SITE**

Tim Duff of the Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

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Resolution:

"The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of an amount not to exceed forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) to the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to prepare final design, permit, and environmental review documents for the future development of a campground at the Piedras Blancas Motel site within Hearst San Simeon State Park in San Luis Obispo County, subject to the following conditions:

1. Prior to the disbursement of funds, DPR shall submit for the review and approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy a final work program, budget, schedule, and names of any contractors to be employed for these tasks.
2. To the extent appropriate, the DPR shall ensure that the project is consistent with the Conservancy's 'Standards and Recommendations for Accessway Location and Development' and with all applicable federal and state statutes, regulations and guidelines governing barrier-free access for persons with disabilities."

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 project is consistent with the Conservancy's current Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.
2. The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9, sections 31400 *et. seq.* of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding coastal access.
3. The proposed project serves greater than local needs."

Moved and seconded. Approved by a vote of 6-0.

**SOUTH COAST**

**22. LAGUNA COAST ACQUISITION – MCGEHEE PROPERTY**

Joan Cardellino on behalf of Deborah Ruddock of the Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

Resolution:

"The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of one million five-hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000) to the City of Laguna Beach ("City") for acquisition in fee of the 56-acre McGehee property, County of Orange Assessor's Parcel Nos. 641-152-

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07, 641-152-08 and 641-163-41; and up to \$6,000 for estimated closing costs for the transaction, for the purposes of open space, public access, and habitat preservation, subject to the following conditions:

1. Prior to the disbursement of any Conservancy funds for the acquisition of the property, the City shall submit for the review and approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy (“Executive Officer”):
  - a. All relevant acquisition documents, including without limitation, an appraisal, purchase agreement, escrow instructions, environmental assessment, and title report.
  - b. Evidence that sufficient funds are available to complete the acquisition.
  - c. Evidence of commitment by the County of Orange to manage the property for public access and wildlife habitat as part of the Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park.
2. The City shall pay no more than fair market value for the property, as established in an appraisal approved by the Executive Officer.
3. The City shall permanently dedicate the property for open space, public access and habitat preservation, through an appropriate instrument approved by the Executive Officer.
4. The City shall acknowledge Conservancy and Proposition 12 funding by erecting and maintaining signs on the property, the design and location of which have been approved by the Executive Officer.”

Findings:

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 project is consistent with the current Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.
2. The proposed authorization is consistent with the purposes and objectives of Chapter 9 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code (Sections 31400-31410) with respect to public access. The proposed acquisition will preserve a link in a trail network providing public access along the Laguna Coast and to the coast from inland areas, as well as provide scenic coastal views.
3. The proposed project serves a greater-than-local need.”

Moved and seconded. Approved by a vote of 6-0.

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**STATEWIDE**

**23. CALIFORNIA COASTAL TRAIL**

Tim Duff of the Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

Speaking in favor of the Staff Recommendation: Una Glass, Director, Coastwalk.

Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of an amount not to exceed \$300,000 (three hundred thousand dollars) to Coastwalk California, Inc. (Coastwalk) to develop a Coastal Trail Association, continue the Coastal Trail signing program, and promote public use of and support for the Coastal Trail. This authorization is subject to the condition that prior to the disbursement of any funds, Coastwalk shall submit for the review and approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy a work program, budget, schedule, and the names of any contractors to be employed in carrying out the project.”

Findings:

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 the purposes and objectives of Chapter 9 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding the implementation of a system of public accessways to and along the state’s coastline.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.
3. Coastwalk California, Inc. is a nonprofit organization existing under Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code, and whose purposes are consistent with Division 21 of the Public Resources Code.”

Moved and seconded. Approved by a vote of 6-0.

**24. CONSERVANCY MEMBER COMMENTS**

There were no comments

**25. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment

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26. **CLOSED SESSION**

There was no closed session

27. **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

# State Coastal Conservancy October 2012 Legislative Report

## [AB 1656](#) **(Fong D) San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority.**

**Status:** 9/25/2012-Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 535, Statutes of 2012.

**Location:** 9/25/2012-A. CHAPTERED

**Summary:** The San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority Act establishes the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority to raise and allocate resources for the restoration, enhancement, protection, and enjoyment of wetlands and wildlife habitat in the San Francisco Bay and along its shoreline. Existing law repeals the act on January 1, 2029. This bill would revise that definition of the East Bay, for purposes of that appointment, to provide that it consists of the whole Contra Costa County, as well as that specified portion of Alameda County, excluding the Delta primary zone, as defined. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

## [SB 1066](#) **(Lieu D) Coastal resources: climate change.**

**Status:** 9/27/2012-Chaptered by the Secretary of State, Chapter Number 611, Statutes of 2012

**Location:** 9/27/2012-S. CHAPTERED

**Summary:** Existing law establishes the State Coastal Conservancy, which serves as a repository for coastal lands. Existing law authorizes the conservancy to, among other things, undertake projects and award grants for the purposes of restoration of areas of the coastal zone that are adversely affecting the coastal environment or are impeding orderly development. This bill would authorize the conservancy to address the impacts and potential impacts of climate change on resources within its jurisdiction, giving priority to projects that maximize public benefits.

## [SB 1094](#) **(Kehoe D) Land use: mitigation lands: nonprofit organizations.**

**Status:** 9/28/2012-Chaptered by the Secretary of State, Chapter Number 705, Statutes of 2012

**Location:** 9/28/2012-S. CHAPTERED

**Summary:** The Planning and Zoning Law provides that if a state or local agency requires a person to transfer to that agency an interest in real property to mitigate the environmental impact of a project or facility, that agency may authorize specified entities to hold title to, and manage that interest in, real property, as well as any accompanying funds, provided those entities meet specified requirements. Existing law requires that if accompanying funds, as defined, are conveyed at the time the property is protected, then the holder of those accompanying funds must meet specified requirements. Existing law requires a state or local agency to exercise due diligence in reviewing the qualifications of a special district or nonprofit organization to effectively manage and steward land, water, or natural resources, as well as the accompanying funds. This bill would use the term "endowment" instead of "accompanying funds." This bill would authorize an agency, in connection with the provisions described above, to also permit a governmental entity, as defined, to hold title to, and manage that interest in, real property, as well as any endowment. This bill would remove the requirement that a state or local agency exercise due diligence in reviewing the qualifications of a special district or nonprofit organization to effectively manage the endowment. This bill would also modify the requirements that the holder of an endowment must meet, and would provide that those requirements also apply to endowments that are secured at the time the property is protected. This bill would state that specified provisions of this bill relating to the requirements on a holder of an endowment do not apply to funds held for the long-term management and stewardship of property pursuant to specified acts if certain requirements are met. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

## [SB 1266](#) **(Corbett D) Resource conservation lands: appraisal process.**

**Status:** 9/19/2012-Chaptered by the Secretary of State, Chapter Number 394, Statutes of 2012

**Location:** 9/19/2012-S. CHAPTERED

**Summary:** Existing law authorizes various state agencies to acquire land for purposes related to conservation, and requires an acquisition agency, as defined, prior to any action by the acquisition agency to approve a major acquisition of conservation lands, to contract for at least one independent appraisal of the fair market value of the land. A "major acquisition" is defined as an acquisition for which an agency proposes to spend more than \$25,000,000 of state funds. This bill would redefine major acquisition as an acquisition for which one or more agencies propose to spend more than \$15,000,000 of state funds. The bill would revise the provisions requiring an appraisal to instead require that, if more than \$150,000 of state funds are proposed for expenditure or grant by an acquisition agency of any conservation lands, the acquisition agency or the project partner, as defined, shall contract for an independent appraisal, as provided. The bill would require that the appraisal, appraiser, and contract meet specified requirements. The bill would also allow the project partner or landowner to contribute to the costs of the appraisal, be identified as a user of the appraisal, and be named as the coclient of the appraiser or firm preparing the appraisal except, on and after January 1, 2015, the bill would prohibit the landowner from being named as a coclient of the appraiser or firm preparing the appraisal. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

[SCR 84](#)

**(Kehoe D) California Coastal Protection Week.**

**Status:** 8/24/2012-Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter No. 92, Statutes of 2012

**Location:** 8/24/2012-S. CHAPTERED

**Summary:** This measure would designate the week of September 8 through September 15, 2012, and the 2nd week of September every year thereafter as California Coastal Protection Week and would urge all Californians to observe that week as California Coastal Protection Week.

[SJR 17](#)

**(Corbett D) Coastal resources: San Francisco Bay.**

**Status:** 8/16/2012-Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter No. 76, Statutes of 2012

**Location:** 8/16/2012-S. CHAPTERED

**Summary:** This measure would declare the Legislature's endorsement of S. 97 and H.R. 3034, and would urge the United States Congress to enact the San Francisco Bay Restoration Act at the earliest possible time.

**Total Measures: 6**

**Total Tracking Forms: 6**



## Memo

Date: October 18, 2012  
To: State Coastal Conservancy Board  
From: Sam Schuchat, Executive Officer  
Mary Small, Deputy Executive Officer  
CC: Oversight Members  
RE: Coastal Conservancy Budget Report

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At its August meeting, the Conservancy asked staff to provide an update on the status of the agency's budget. This report was prepared in response to that request. Given the recent controversy with State Parks, this memo also describes the process by which the Conservancy reports and reconciles the Coastal Trust Fund. Since this is the first report of its kind, we are providing the Conservancy with some background information about our budget. In the future, we will provide the Conservancy with budget reports twice a year. In the fall we will provide a report with information from the new budget and new fiscal year. In the spring, we will provide an update of the longterm financial strategy and any budget changes submitted for the coming year. We also plan to post these reports on the Conservancy's website.

The Conservancy receives two types of appropriations in the Budget Act: appropriations for "capital outlay and local assistance" and "support" appropriations. The capital outlay and local assistance appropriation provides funds for our projects. Capital outlay and local assistance funds are spent through grants and contracts. Generally, the support appropriation pays for the operation of the Conservancy, including salaries, rent, travel, internet, equipment and contracts for services related to agency operation.

In addition, the California Public Resources Code Section 31012 established the Coastal Trust Fund in the State Treasury, to receive and disburse funds paid to the Conservancy in trust. The funds within the Coastal Trust Fund include mitigation funds, in-lieu fees and other funds which have been given to the Conservancy in trust for specific purpose. Because of the inherent restrictions on these funds, these funds are not subject to appropriation by the legislature as part of the annual budget process and cannot be comingled with other funds.

## Project Funding

This section provides a summary of the remaining project funds available to the Conservancy. There are three types of funding available to the Conservancy to fund projects: Bond Funds, Annual Appropriations and Coastal Trust Funds.

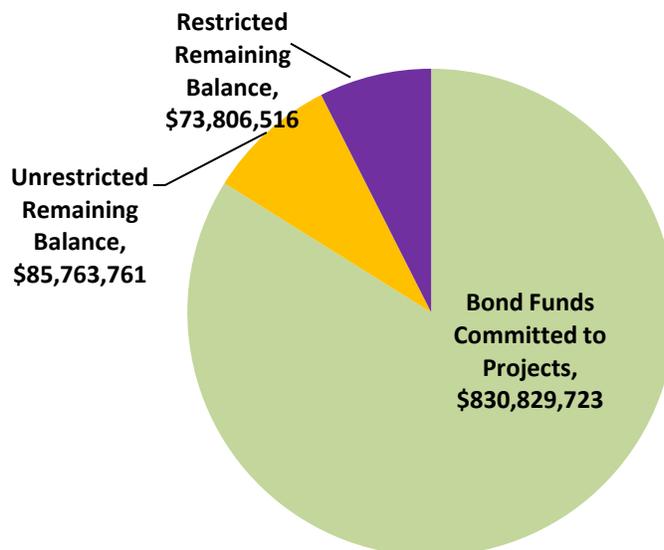
### How much money do we have?

Over the past decade, the vast majority of the funds available for Conservancy projects have come from voter approved bond measures. As shown below, the four bond measures approved by the voters since 2000 included nearly \$1 billion for Conservancy projects. The totals below are based on the balance in the bond rather than on the current appropriations; we included anticipated future appropriations from some bond funds.

Bond	Total Available to Conservancy	Remaining Balance as of 8/31/12
Prop 12	\$250,400,000	\$19,518,911
Prop 40	\$240,000,000	\$12,146,766
Prop 50	\$140,000,000	\$8,745,999
Prop 84*	\$360,000,000	\$119,158,601
<i>total</i>	\$990,400,000	\$159,570,277

\* Does not include Ocean Protection Council

Each bond act included specific language governing the use of its funds. In many cases, funds are restricted to specific geographic areas or specific projects. Almost half of the remaining funds must be used for specific purposes; the bond allocation balances are provided in detail below.



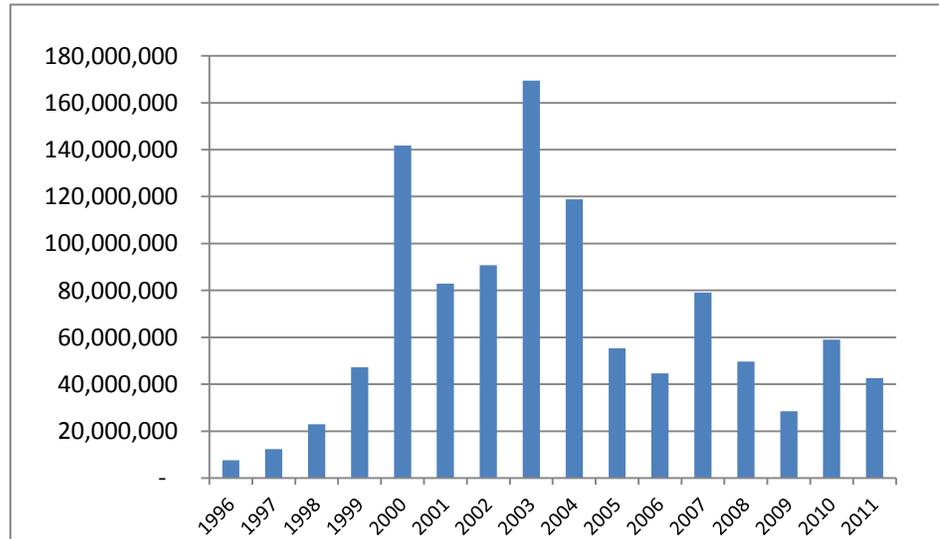
In addition to the bond funds, the Conservancy receives annual appropriations from other sources for its projects. These sources include the Habitat Conservation Fund (HCF), the Coastal Access Account, the California Beach and Coastal Enhancement Account and the Sea Otter Funds. The Conservancy receives occasional appropriations from the Violation Remediation Account which is funded by fines levied by the Coastal Commission against violators of the Coastal Act. The table below shows the uncommitted appropriations of these funds as of August 31, 2012.

	Current Unallocated Appropriation
Habitat Conservation Fund	17,436,303
Coastal Access Account	1,164,389
California Beach and Coastal Enhancement Account	994,800
Violation Remediation Account	1,531,642
Sea Otter Fund	125,821
<i>total</i>	<i>21,252,955</i>

**What is our annual spending rate?**

This chart shows the total amount that the Conservancy has authorized each fiscal year for the past 15 years. Although not included in the chart, the Conservancy authorized less than \$20 million a year in the decade between 1986 and 1996. This chart shows that the Conservancy’s total authorizations decreased last fiscal year, though we still awarded more than \$40 million for projects.

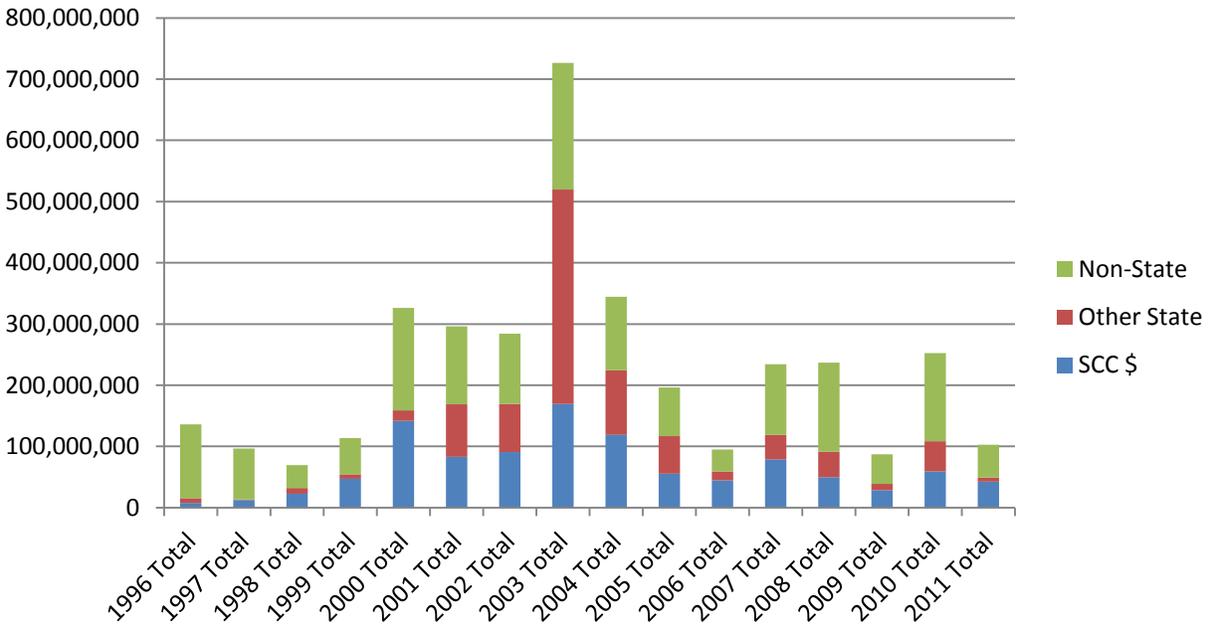
At that rate, all of the current funding would be authorized in about five years.



**How much matching funding have we leveraged?**

Over the past fifteen fiscal years (ending with FY 11), the Conservancy authorized \$1,052,521,838 for its projects. Those funds have been matched by a total of \$2,546,539,993. Matching funds came from other state sources (\$888,152,579) as well as non-state sources including local, federal and private partners (\$1,658,387,414). For every dollar the Conservancy provided, our projects received more than \$2.50 in matching funds. Over the past 25 years, Conservancy funds have been matched on average \$2.80 to \$1.

### Matching Funds - Conservancy Projects 1997-2011



### **Bond Funds**

#### **Proposition 12 (2000)**

The Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, And Coastal Protection Bond of 2000 (Proposition 12) made available a total of \$250,400,000 for appropriation by the legislature for the Coastal Conservancy. In the language of the Bond Act, funds were designated to specific purposes. The table below shows the allocations within the Bond Act and the unspent balances.

	Total in Prop 12	Uncommitted Balance
Coastal Conservancy (undesigned)	22,900,000	2,600,000
San Francisco Bay Conservancy	55,000,000	37,476
Central Coast (Santa Cruz to Santa Barbara)	25,000,000	4,000,000
Coastal Salmon	25,000,000	73,000
Ballona Wetlands	25,000,000	3,664,155
Santa Monica Bay	25,000,000	7,683,107
North of Gualala	15,000,000	558,771
Upper Newport Bay	13,000,000	0
Laguna Coast Wilderness	12,500,000	879,840
Fish and Wildlife projects	11,200,000	0
Wildlife projects north of Gualala River	10,000,000	0
Coastal Trail	5,000,000	22,562
Regional Beach Erosion	3,000,000	0
San Francisco Bay Area Ridge Trail	2,000,000	0
Steelhead - North San Diego Co.	800,000	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>250,400,000</b>	<b>19,518,911</b>

**Proposition 40 (2002)**

The California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Act of 2002 (Proposition 40) made available a total of \$240,000,000 for appropriation by the legislature for the general purposes of the Coastal Conservancy and the San Francisco Bay Conservancy.

	Total in Prop 40	Uncommitted Balance
Coastal Conservancy	200,000,000	11,376,382
San Francisco Bay Conservancy	40,000,000	770,384
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>240,000,000</b>	<b>12,146,766</b>

**Proposition 50 (2002)**

The Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002 (Proposition 50) made available a total of \$140,000,000 for appropriation by the legislature for the general purposes of the Coastal Conservancy and the San Francisco Bay Conservancy. Ten percent of the funds in each allocation were required to be spent on “acquisition and development of facilities to promote public access to and participation in the conservation of land, water, and wildlife resources.”

	Total in Prop 50	Uncommitted Balance
Coastal Conservancy	108,000,000	7,538,161
Coastal Conservancy – Public Access/Ed	12,000,000	982,985
San Francisco Bay Conservancy	18,000,000	224,691
San Francisco Bay Conservancy – Public Access/Ed	2,000,000	162
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>140,000,000</b>	<b>8,745,999</b>

**Proposition 84 (2006)**

The Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 84) made available a total of \$360,000,000 for appropriation by the legislature to the Coastal Conservancy, and an additional \$90,000,000 for the Ocean Protection Council. This report does not include the Ocean Protection Council.

	Total in Prop 84	Uncommitted Balance
Coastal Conservancy	135,000,000	39,139,831
San Francisco Bay Conservancy	108,000,000	21,131,165
Monterey Bay & Watersheds	45,000,000	17,765,410
Santa Ana River Parkway	45,000,000	31,358,250
San Diego Bay & Watersheds	27,000,000	9,763,975
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>360,000,000</b>	<b>\$119,158,601</b>

## **Annual Appropriations**

### **Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117, 1990)**

Proposition 117 of 1990 created the Habitat Conservation Fund (HCF) and requires an annual commitment of funds into the HCF for thirty years. Proposition 117 did not create a new source of funding; the money transferred into HCF come from other sources within the state budget. In recent years, the legislature has used bond acts to fund the HCF. The Legislature may appropriate up to \$4 million dollars a year to the Conservancy from HCF until 2020.

The purpose of Proposition 117 is to protect fish, wildlife and native plant resources. Allowable uses of HCF include: acquisition of habitat necessary to protect deer and mountain lions or to protect rare, endangered, threatened or fully protected species; acquisition, enhancement or restoration of wetlands, riparian habitat or aquatic habitat for anadromous fish. When bond acts are used as the source of funds for the HCF, the funds carry any additional restrictions on use from the purpose of the bond. For example, during the past few years, the Conservancy's appropriation of HCF has come for Proposition 1E bond funds. Because the purpose of Proposition 1E is flood preparedness, these HCF funds must be used to acquire or restore habitat within flood plains or flood protection corridors.

### **Coastal Access Account**

The Coastal Access Account provides funds for grants to public agencies and nonprofit organizations for development, maintenance and operation of new or existing facilities that provide public access to the shoreline of the sea. These funds come from permit fees from the Coastal Commission and cannot be used for projects along the San Francisco Bay shoreline. The Conservancy receives \$500,000 per year for this fund.

### **California Beach and Coastal Enhancement Account (Whale Tail Environmental License Plate)**

The California Beach and Coastal Enhancement Account was established under California Vehicle Code section 5067 within the California Environmental License Plate Fund to be used by the Coastal Commission and the Coastal Conservancy for various coastal programs. Funds are provided to the State Coastal Conservancy for coastal natural resource restoration and enhancement projects and for other projects consistent with the provisions of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code. The amount that the Conservancy receives from this fund depends on the revenues from the Whale Tail License Plates, which are divided between DMV, the general environmental license plate funds, the Coastal Commission and the Conservancy. The Conservancy typically receives \$400,000 per year in this fund.

### **Sea Otter Fund**

In 2006, the legislature created the California Sea Otter Fund for sea otter research through a voluntary tax donation check-off box on state tax forms. The check off appeared on tax forms for the first time in 2007 and will continue as long as enough tax payers elect to participate. Funds generated from the tax check off are divided between the Coastal Conservancy and the Department of Fish and Game.

### **Violation Remediation Account**

The Violation Remediation Account (VRA) was established to ensure that funds derived from violations of the Coastal Act are spent to implement the provisions of the Coastal Act. These funds are spent pursuant to a Memorandum of Agreement between the Coastal Conservancy and the Coastal Commission to ensure that funds are spent on priority projects that further the goals of the Coastal Act. The amount of money deposited in the VRA fluctuates depending on enforcement activity, funds deposited in the VRA are available for future appropriation to the Conservancy by the Legislature.

### **Coastal Trust Fund**

California Public Resources Code Section 31012 established the Coastal Trust Fund in the State Treasury, to receive and disburse funds paid to the Conservancy in trust. The funds within the Coastal Trust Fund include gifts, mitigation funds, in-lieu fees and other funds which have been given to the Conservancy in trust for specific purpose. Because of the inherent restrictions on these funds, these funds are not subject to appropriation by the legislature as part of the annual budget process. The Conservancy has about 50 subaccounts with a total of about \$12 million deposited in the Coastal Trust Fund. The Conservancy is required to obtain approval from the Department of Finance to create a new account within the Coastal Trust Fund. These funds can only be used for specific types of projects, and the majority of the funds are set aside to satisfy mitigation or permit conditions. Below is a list of the accounts and subaccounts and their current balance.

<b><u>Fund Name</u></b>	<b><u>Balance</u></b>
Bay Conservation and Development Commission Permits	5,863,797
Calleguas Creek In-lieu Fee Program	2,214,041
Carlsbad Agricultural Improvement Fees	801,685
Malibu Access Fund	679,432
Santa Clara River Parkway	636,838
El Nido Restoration Project Account	257,638
Santa Clara River Valley	200,305
Los Penasquitos Lagoon Enhancement Fund	159,208
San Joaquin Gnatcatcher Habitat	153,007
Malibu Beach Access Account	81,283
Humboldt Bay Watershed	55,875
Humboldt Bay Eelgrass Mitigation	51,460
Noyo River Bridge	38,304
Ventura River Watershed	24,040
Ormond Beach Armbrust Memorial	17,168
Marcia Grimm Memorial	9,348
Malibu Road	9,139
Highlands Inn Mitigation Fees	837,156.60
San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program Account	79,789.89
13 Various Accounts, each with a balance <\$3,200	8,762
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12,178,277</b>

Conservancy staff is working to develop projects so that these funds can be used consistent with their specified purpose. As an example, staff will request authorization for the Noyo River Bridge Funds at the October 2012 Conservancy meeting. Some of the funds are quite recent, such as the account from Bay Conservation and Development Commission permits. However, some of these funds, such as the Malibu Access accounts, have been held in trust by the Conservancy for decades because we have been unable to implement a project that is consistent with the conditions on the money.

### **Reporting and Reconciling Funds**

When contributions to the Coastal Trust Fund are received by the Conservancy, we deposit them in the bank which transmits them to the state treasury. The Conservancy remits the funds to the State Controller's Office, specifying the Coastal Trust Fund subaccount to receive the deposit. The State Controller sends a journal entry to the Conservancy confirming the deposit and the Conservancy posts this information onto Department of Finance's CALSTARS database. At the end of every month, our accounting office reconciles the balances in the Coastal Trust Fund between the State Controller's Office and CALSTARS and our internal record, the Fund Balance Summary. This reconciliation checks our records of deposits, interest and expenditures against the State Controller's Office and the Department of Finance's. At the end of each fiscal year, the Conservancy verifies the balances with the State Controller's Office and CALSTARS to generate a year-end report which is submitted to the State Controller.

## **Support Budget**

The support budget is the annual budget for the operation of the Conservancy including salaries, benefits, operational expenses (rent, utilities, supplies, computers) and any contracts that are related to operation (i.e. project database programming).

### **How much does it cost to operate the Conservancy?**

The table below shows the actual expenditures for the operation of the Conservancy over the past five fiscal years. The Conservancy's operational costs have been less than budgeted over the past several years primarily due to salary savings from: furloughs, vacancies and staff on unpaid leave (new parents). Last year, the Department of Finance required that agencies eliminate vacant positions to bring budgeted and actual operation costs into alignment. As part of that exercise, SCC gave up two positions.

As we have discussed previously, absent a new bond act, we expect that the SCC staff will continue to shrink over the next five years. As part of the strategic plan we are working to identify the appropriate level and organization of staff for the Agency that can be sustained for the next decade. The budget below includes the staff for the Ocean Protection Council (OPC). The Conservancy has about eight positions and a few interagency agreements related to the OPC. If we subtract the OPC from the support budget, staff costs would decrease by approximately \$800,000 and contracts would decrease by about \$400,000.

	07/08 Actual	08/09 Actual	09/10 Actual	10/11 Actual	11/12 Actual (Not Final)	12/13 Budgeted
<b>Staff</b>						
Salaries	4,737	5,138	4,595	4,674	4,892	5,241
Benefits	1,659	1,728	1,772	2,206	1,939	1,675
<i>subtotal - Staff</i>	<i>6,396</i>	<i>6,866</i>	<i>6,367</i>	<i>6,880</i>	<i>6,831</i>	<i>6,916</i>
<b>Expenses</b>						
Travel In State	370	320	288	217	231	380
Travel Out of State	14	12	10	4	4	11
Training	10	3	15	4	3	26
Facilities & Utilities	519	570	495	467	449	657
General Expense & Equipment	239	160	195	201	193	337
Printing, Commun. & Postage	216	170	161	116	110	233
Consulting interdept.	856	294	364	238	274	468
Consulting external	1,615	3,055	1,013	715	837	1,280
<i>Costs Imposed by Sacramento</i>						
Data Processing	151	114	157	165	152	145
Pro Rata	481	313	356	706	644	621
SWCAP	6	6	38	12	8	-
<i>subtotal OE&amp;E</i>	<i>4,477</i>	<i>5,016</i>	<i>3,090</i>	<i>2,846</i>	<i>2,905</i>	<i>4,157</i>
<b>Total Budget - Agency Operation</b>	<b>10,873</b>	<b>11,882</b>	<b>9,457</b>	<b>9,726</b>	<b>9,736</b>	<b>11,073</b>

**Where does the money to fund Conservancy operation come from?**

The Coastal Conservancy does not receive any money from the State General Fund to pay for its operation. Since its creation, the Conservancy has generally tried pay its support expenses from other sources although General Funds have been appropriated to the Conservancy in the past when bond funds were limited or not available. Over the past decade, the Conservancy has received substantial capital outlay funding from park and water bonds which have also included funding for administering the bonds. These administrative funds have supported the staff and overhead costs of the agency. Over the next few years, the Conservancy will receive diminishing amounts of support funding from Propositions 12, 40 and 50 and rely more heavily on Proposition 84.

If there is no new bond measure, the Conservancy will reduce its staff as it finishes administering these bonds. However, there will continue to be important work for the Coastal Conservancy and so we are working to identify new sources of funds to pay for ongoing operation of the agency. Developing sustainable funding for the agency is a major consideration in our new strategic plan and we are in the process of preparing a report to the Legislature with a ten year plan for funding the operation of the Conservancy. This plan is due to the Legislature in January 2013, we expect to present a draft of the plan to the Conservancy at its next meeting.

## I. Introduction

California is blessed with one of the most beautiful coastlines in the world. The coast is an environmental, recreational and economic asset for our state, attracting tourists and enriching our quality of life. Two out of every three Californians lives in a coastal county and millions of visitors come to our coast each year. The coast is also a major economic driver in the state: the national Ocean Economics Program found in that in 2000 the total gross state product of California's coast and ocean was approximately \$42.9 billion and supported almost 700,000 jobs. Wetlands, sand dunes, lagoons and other coastal natural resources provide important habitat for rare species, nurseries for our commercial fisheries, and flood protection for our communities. Coastal watersheds provide clean water, support important forest lands and are critical habitat for salmon and other fish.

The people of California have long recognized the value of our coast and have consistently supported stewardship of its resources. In the 1960s, environmental activists prompted legislation to protect the shoreline of San Francisco Bay, and in the 1970s, California voters enacted Proposition 20, a grass-roots initiative to preserve the natural beauty of the outer coast. Together these laws established that the coast and bay shoreline are important natural resources for the benefit and enjoyment of all of the people of California. Proposition 20 states:

*it is the policy of the State to preserve, protect, and where possible, to restore the resources of the coastal zone for the enjoyment of the current and succeeding generations*

California manages its coastal resources with two strong regulatory agencies that limit harmful impacts to coastal resources: the [California Coastal Commission](#) (Commission), which regulates development along the state's coastline; and the [San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission](#) (BCDC), which regulates development of the San Francisco Bay shoreline.

One of the strengths of California's strategy for coastal protection is that it does not rely on regulation alone. The Coastal Conservancy (Conservancy) was created in 1976 to complement the regulatory agencies by working to permanently protect coastal resources and improve public access. Appendix A lists the Conservancy's statutory authorities. The Conservancy works in partnership with others to implement projects that protect coastal resources, expand public access to the coast and enhance its natural resources. The Coastal Conservancy has played a critical role in shaping the coastal landscape that we see today. Since its creation, the Conservancy has completed more than 1,500 projects, building hundreds of miles of trails, constructing scores of public access facilities, and preserving hundreds of thousands of acres of wildlife habitat, coastal farmland, and scenic open space. Many of the most-loved scenic, natural, and recreational resources of the California coast and the San Francisco Bay Area have been protected by the work of the Conservancy and its many partners.

## Coastal Conservancy's Mission

*The Coastal Conservancy acts with others to preserve, protect, and restore the resources of the California coast, ocean, and the San Francisco Bay Area. Our vision is of a beautiful, restored, and accessible coastline, ocean and San Francisco Bay Area.*

## How We Work

The Conservancy is a problem-solving agency, emphasizing accomplishment rather than focusing on policies or processes. In order to complete successful projects, the Conservancy has led many regional and local planning efforts to engage communities in finding solutions to multi-faceted coastal resource challenges.

- The Conservancy works in cooperation with others and strives to be an agency whose involvement is sought by others.
- The Conservancy works on a range of geographic scales (including state-wide, landscape-wide and local projects that serve significant regional or statewide objectives.
- The Conservancy employs the best available science for each project, subjecting its design-critical projects to independent scientific review when appropriate.
- The Conservancy values and employs bottom-up community-based planning. The Conservancy believes that the best resource protection ensues when local citizens participate in planning the future of their own natural heritage.
- The Conservancy employs innovative techniques in resolving land use conflicts, developing plans, and implementing projects.
- The Conservancy plans and implements projects that achieve multiple objectives, such as projects that include restoration of habitats, completion of trails and recreational features, and economic enhancement of urban waterfronts.
- The Conservancy staff adds value by its combination of technical knowledge, commitment to community involvement, skill at communicating the needs of the coast and San Francisco Bay region to decision makers, and experience in helping to address coastal issues and in making the coast accessible to the public. That skill level is a resource for California and should be constantly improved and kept current.
- The Conservancy is accountable to the citizens of California, and Conservancy projects are discussed and acted upon by the board with a full opportunity for public involvement.
- The Conservancy strives to be as efficient as possible by limiting the level of bureaucratic process to what is essential to ensure adequate public involvement and to meet legal requirements.



## II. Context for this plan

### Purpose of this plan

Despite our significant accomplishments, the resources of the coast and San Francisco Bay Area continue to face enormous threats and challenges. As California grapples with impacts of climate change, continued development pressure, and new industrial uses along the coast, it will continue to need its multi-faceted coastal management program. In addition, the Conservancy's work will be critical if we want to create a future along the coast that supports smart growth, regional trails, accessible parks and open space, and resilient natural habitat areas. Based on our analysis of the issues facing the coast and Bay Area, this plan identifies specific goals and numeric objectives for the Conservancy to achieve over the next five years. The purpose of the goals and objectives is to help the Conservancy prioritize its work, allocating both its staff resources and funding to projects that achieve these objectives.

This plan is intended to serve several audiences. It is a policy reference for the Conservancy Board and its staff, providing an overall vision and identifying specific metrics to measure the effectiveness of our work. The plan provides members of the legislature with an overview of the Conservancy's priorities in the context of California's coastal management program. It is also a reference for the California Natural Resources Agency to assist in the coordination of the Conservancy's work with other agencies and departments working to conserve California's natural heritage. The plan is intended to provide control agencies such as the Department of Finance, Legislative Analyst and State Auditor with an explanation of the Conservancy's priorities and context for our projected staff and funding needs. Finally, and equally important, the plan is intended to communicate to our partners – local governments, state and federal agencies, private landowners, nonprofit conservation organizations, and private conservation funders– and to the general public the future role of the Conservancy in protecting coastal resources.

In drafting this plan the Conservancy has sought extensive input from our partners and the public. Staff has interviewed more than 130 partner organizations and stakeholders to provide input into the plan. An initial draft plan was posted on the Conservancy website in October and public comments were accepted for a 30 day period. ....*fill in when complete....The final plan will be adopted by the Conservancy at a public meeting in ...*

### Statewide Context

This is a time of dramatic change for the Conservancy. Looking ahead, different areas of our coast will face different challenges, but three fundamental issues will frame all of the future work of the Conservancy: funding, climate change, and emerging tools for communication.

### Funding

The Conservancy experienced a huge influx of project funding during the last decade. In its first 20 years, the Conservancy authorized approximately \$200 million for restoration, acquisition, and access projects. In the decade that followed, the Conservancy authorized nearly \$1 billion in bond funds from Propositions 12, 13, 40, 50 and 84. A detailed report on

the status of the Conservancy's funding for projects by fund source is provided in Appendix B. In its previous strategic plan, the Conservancy anticipated expenditure of \$600 - 650 million on projects. During the next five years, we expect that the Conservancy's funding situation will be very different.

Funding is declining for both Conservancy projects and operations and future funding will have to come from new sources. During this transition, we will need to regularly reassess our remaining funding and adjust spending rates, organizational structure, and our work priorities. Staff is actively pursuing new sources of support to sustain our work along the coast.

### *Project Funding*

About \$120 million for projects remains from the Conservancy's previous bond allocations. In addition, we anticipate that the Conservancy will have about \$5 million per year of non-bond funds, including Habitat Conservation Funds, Violation Remediation Account and Coastal Access funds. Unless the voters pass a new bond act that provides new funding for the Coastal Conservancy, project funds will become increasingly scarce. As a result, the Conservancy will focus on completing projects that we have worked on for years, and will reduce focus on initiating new large scale, long-term projects. As an example, absent new bond funds, it is unlikely that the Conservancy will enter into any more cost-sharing agreements with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for new ecosystem restoration projects.

The 2002 and 2007 Strategic Plans focused on projects that we expected to fund. This new plan assumes a broader role than grant-making for the Conservancy to achieve its mission. In meeting with stakeholders to develop this plan, we asked how the Conservancy could best work with them to conserve and enhance their coastal resources in an era of limited funding. Based on these interviews, we have identified many ways that the Conservancy can help preserve the resources of the coast and improve public access beyond granting fund for projects, including:

- Facilitating and coordinating regional collaborations to develop plans, address emerging issues, and identify and implement recommended plan priorities
- Identifying alternative sources of funding and securing grant funds to support our projects
- Providing leadership on innovative pilot projects, including climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Resolving potential permit roadblocks and coordinating agencies to support implementation of regionally important projects.

The Conservancy must continue to innovate, including creating new partnerships to leverage our resources and to broaden support for our programs. We envision working with public health advocates, the tourism industry and smart growth initiatives to leverage our resources and find new support for our projects.

### *Operational Funding*

There is no dedicated source of funding to pay for the operations of the Conservancy; it does not receive any money from the state General Fund for its support budget. The Coastal Conservancy has relied on the bond funds it administers to pay for much of the organization's

operational costs during the past decade, but these funds are running out. Given the recurring deficit in the state budget, this plan assumes that the Conservancy will be responsible for generating much of the funds needed to support the organization. There are many potential funding sources for the Conservancy's projects and programs that we are actively exploring. These sources include: carbon revenue, mitigation or in-lieu fee programs, environmental license plate funds, grants for staff, and fee-for-service arrangements. The plan supports transformation to an organization in which our staff provides a wider range of services than the predominant grant administration role appropriate when more bond funds were available. This revised strategy will inevitably prioritize staff resources toward activities that generate funding; sometimes altering what might otherwise be our highest priorities.

### Climate Change

Rapid climate change will affect human welfare and threaten critical infrastructure. Nearly every type of project that the Conservancy supports will be affected by a changing climate. Public recreational facilities, including some public trails, parklands and piers, will eventually be at risk from flooding and erosion. Similarly, urban waterfronts and critical infrastructure will be at risk, especially from extreme events. Lands that provide open space, support agriculture, and lands that provide habitat for an abundance of species will be affected by warming temperatures and altered precipitation.

The Conservancy's adopted *Climate Change Policy and Project Selection Criteria* (originally adopted in 2009, updated in November 2011) changed how we conceive, design, and implement projects that are affected by climate change. Restoration of natural resources in an era of climate change means reestablishing natural processes rather than trying to return to conditions at an historic point in time. Assessing which new lands should be prioritized for protection requires assessing the current and future conservation values under a changing climate. The cost of a public recreational trail or infrastructure projects located in a hazard zone must be weighed against the benefit to be derived for the expected duration of the project.

The Conservancy's legal authority to undertake projects and award grants for projects to address potential and existing climate change impacts was clarified in law through SB 1066 which will take effect in 2013. In addition, the Conservancy may now undertake and provide funding for projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

### *Impacts from Sea Level Rise*

The impacts of more frequent and intense storms paired with rising sea level will increase flooding, storm surge inundation, coastal erosion and shoreline retreat, and wetland loss, dramatically reshaping the coastline of California. The National Research Council's 2012 report *Sea-Level Rise for the Coasts of California, Oregon, and Washington* stated that sea-level rise will not be uniform along the coast of California due to regional factors, including ocean and atmospheric circulation patterns and tectonics along the coast. Generally, Cape Mendocino marks the point of transition where land is subsiding to the south and uplifting to the north, with respective relative sea levels rising and falling. At the mean sea level rises, extreme high-sea-level events are expected to be more common and longer in duration.

Sea-level rise will put human populations, critical infrastructure and natural resources at risk. The Conservancy will need to consider and address these risks in projects located near the coast and will implement projects to help communities plan for these changes. Low-lying coastal areas, such as sand dunes and beaches, are particularly vulnerable to rising seas and increasing wave heights and may shrink or grow several meters or more per year. Where these areas are prevented from migrating inland by coastal armor or structures, they will eventually be inundated. Marshes and mudflats buffer inland areas from inundation and high waves, but will need an adequate supply of sediment to persist late into this century.

#### *Impacts from Rising Temperatures and Changing Precipitation*

Rising temperatures are affecting terrestrial habitats by altering the seasonal timing of flowering, leaf and insect emergence, bird migration, and wildlife migration. Alteration of these and other natural processes affects aquatic and terrestrial species and the ecosystem services derived from them. Habitats and ecosystems that we depend on to sustain wildlife, provide drinking water and support agricultural production will be impacted by the more variable and extreme weather conditions predicted for coastal California and the San Francisco Bay Area.

Scientists evaluating the implications of future climate projections for biological conservation are identifying where climate change is likely to shift, shrink, expand and alter existing habitats. Areas with significant climatic heterogeneity are expected to continue to provide the greatest diversity of species. Large reserves, including protected open spaces, working lands and habitat corridors, are expected to provide the best opportunity for species to adapt to a changing climate. Management plans that focus on ecosystem processes and functions rather than particular biotic elements will be most effective in supporting biodiversity. Invasive species threaten to colonize areas in transition and will need to be addressed in management plans to make way for the migration of native biota.

Human health along the coast, particularly in urban areas, will be affected by more frequent extremely hot conditions. The greater heat absorption and retention in urban areas creates “heat islands” which can have mean temperatures of up to 5 degrees warmer than their surroundings. These higher temperatures have killed people, increased peak energy use, increased greenhouse gas emissions, and caused other adverse impacts. Planting of trees and vegetation can lead to significantly lower surface and air temperatures by providing shade and through evapotranspiration. The Conservancy can help address the heat island effect through tree planting and other means, thereby improving the quality of life for humans, while providing multiple benefits to the environment.

#### *Addressing Climate Change*

Many of the Conservancy’s projects result in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Natural lands capture carbon, the major component of greenhouse gases, and restored wetlands increase carbon sequestration. Trails and recreational amenities built near population centers can result in a reduction of vehicle miles traveled.

Effective January 2013, the Conservancy’s enabling legislation provides express authority for the agency to undertake projects and award grants to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, address extreme weather events, sea level rise, storm surge, beach and bluff

erosion, salt water intrusion, flooding, and other coastal hazards that threaten coastal communities, infrastructure, and natural resources. The Conservancy is directed to maximize public benefits, including, but not limited to, reducing emissions of greenhouse gases, reducing hazards to harbors and ports, preserving and enhancing coastal wetlands and natural lands, conserving biodiversity, and providing recreational opportunities.

The legislature expressed its intent that the Conservancy have adequate authority to work with local governments and private entities to address the effects of climate change on coastal resources, public and private, natural and built, including, but not limited to, coastal beaches, ports, urban waterfronts, infrastructure, the ocean, riparian areas and watersheds, fisheries, forests, wetlands, and public and private real property; and declared that the Conservancy's participation can contribute to the resiliency of the natural and built environments and facilitate migration of plant and animal species as they move to adapt.

### 21<sup>st</sup> Century Communication

The internet, smart phones and other portable web-based technology have revolutionized the way that the public accesses information. These changes have created exciting, dynamic opportunities to communicate about public access opportunities and environmental education. The Conservancy will continue to support traditional interpretive and educational programs, but during the next five years we will make a major focus on improving our use of internet-based communication. These new tools are creating new opportunities to reach new constituents and to expand public access to the coast, participation in coastal stewardship and support for coastal resource conservation.

In planning for the next five years, the Conservancy will continue to improve its website and to develop new websites for key project initiatives, such as the Coastal Trail, that take full advantage of mobile and web-based technology. These tools enable us to provide trail users with updated and tailored information to expand use of the trail, to improve the user's experience and to partner with local communities and businesses. There are also new approaches to providing interpretive information to park visitors through the mobile devices that are more dynamic and interactive than traditional interpretive signs.

Obviously, not everyone uses the web and there are many areas of the coast with limited coverage. The Conservancy will not replace traditional information and outreach efforts with these new approaches. However, where appropriate, we will focus on using new technology to improve our communication.

### **Regional Context**

The California coast is an incredibly diverse landscape, including big cities, small towns, wilderness areas, forests, wetlands, grazing land and agricultural fields. Reflecting the diversity of the coast, the Conservancy is organized into four geographic regions: the North Coast, the Central Coast, the South Coast and the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area. Obviously, each region has different challenges and opportunities specific to its resources and the needs of its communities. Below are brief summaries of these regions, the major coastal conservation issues they face, and the Conservancy's anticipated priorities for each region.

## **North Coast**

The Conservancy's north coast region extends from windswept beaches in Del Norte County at the Oregon border, south some 370 miles to the spectacular Marin headlands overlooking San Francisco Bay and the Golden Gate Bridge. The rainy climate in the north supports Douglas fir and coast redwood forests, where the tallest and most impressive trees in the world loom overhead. Flowing through these forests are California's largest coastal river (the Klamath), California's third largest river system (the Eel), and the longest undammed river (the Smith). Historically, the Klamath and Eel together produced much of the Pacific Coast's salmon and steelhead resources, and they are still important biological engines for salmon recovery. Endangered species found in the area include the northern spotted owl, coho salmon, and marbled murrelet. Farther south, the climate is drier and the vegetation transitions to California oak woodland in the coast ranges and coastal prairie along the craggy coast. The entire coastline is dotted with estuaries, lagoons and sheltered harbors that provide unique and critical habitats for fish, birds and other wildlife. Many estuaries and river mouths are flanked by expansive dune systems with their own unique flora and fauna.

The five-county north coast region – including the coastal draining watersheds of Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, Sonoma and Marin Counties – is one of the least populated in California, with just under one million residents. American Indian tribes have made their home within this region for thousands of years and maintain a strong presence. Small cities straddle the two transportation corridors (Highway 1 along the coast and Highway 101 inland) and include Crescent City, Eureka, Ukiah, Fort Bragg, and Santa Rosa. Family farms, dairies, vineyards and rolling grasslands with grazing sheep and cattle characterize this area.

Stunning natural beauty and abundant recreational opportunities make the north coast region a prime destination for visitors from around the world. In 2010, over two million people visited Point Reyes National Seashore; and every year, 2.9 million visit the nineteen mile stretch of coastline at Sonoma Coast State Beach. Outdoor activities, such as paddling, hiking, whale watching and birding are steadily increasing. Highlights in the region include attending Del Norte County's annual California Redwoods Bird and Nature Festival or Humboldt County's Godwit Days, touring the Point Cabrillo Lighthouse in Mendocino County, or kayaking the quiet waters of Big River or Tomales Bay.

### Major Issues in the North Coast

Dramatic social and economic changes are occurring in this region. There are four key harbors on the north coast (Crescent City, Humboldt Bay, Noyo Harbor, and Bodega Bay) and commercial fishing activity annually generates tens of millions of dollars for the region. However, many fisheries are declining and so is the number of commercial fishing vessels. Severe fluctuations in salmon fishery stocks have resulted in periodic cancellation of commercial and recreational fishing seasons for Chinook salmon. Experts are uncertain about what has caused the collapse, pointing to dozens of factors including unusual weather patterns, silt from logging, poor habitat and water quality, legal and illegal water diversions in coastal watersheds, unfavorable ocean conditions and water diversions in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

Changes are also occurring in the timber industry. Approximately half of the region's seven million acres are private forestland. The history of industrial timber management has created a pattern of very large industrial ownerships, each with many hundreds of underlying parcels. In 1994, the last of 43 large and historic lumber mills in Del Norte County closed. Several mills in other counties have also shut down. Changes in the forest economy are causing some landowners to seek other, higher returns from their investment, including selling parcels for rural development, which diminishes the timber base and the ecosystem services these lands provide. Meanwhile, a variety of factors such as reclamation of tidal marsh, the legacy of industrial logging in north coast watersheds, water diversions, riparian habitat clearing, and other factors has affected and continues to affect aquatic and terrestrial resources, especially downstream fisheries. In the southern portion of the region there are continued pressures to convert forests, grasslands and farmlands to rural residential and agricultural uses, especially vineyards. Sonoma and Mendocino Counties are dominant wine producing regions, and vineyard development has expanded west toward the coast and onto steep slopes. These water-intensive uses in water scarce areas can have serious and cumulative effects on water supply and quality and the rich biodiversity of the north coast region.

#### North Coast - Major Efforts in the Next 5 Years:

- Protect working landscapes throughout the region;
- Develop projects that sequester carbon, allowing California's natural resources to benefit from California's carbon market;
- Continue construction of the coastal trail and harbor revitalization in Crescent City;
- Focus fishery restoration efforts on the restoration of basic river processes such as barrier removal, floodplain connectivity and function, water supply, and water quality;
- Support efforts to develop low-cost visitor accommodations such as the Redwood Hostel;
- Continue implementation of the Humboldt County Coastal Trail Plan and the Humboldt Bay Water Trail;
- Implement the Arcata/Eureka Rail with Trail Project;
- Continue efforts to protect strategic properties in the 10 Mile River Estuary;
- Continue implementation of the Mendocino Coastal Trail Plan;
- Complete construction of the Fort Bragg Mill Site public access improvements;
- Assist local communities to assess risks from climate change and develop adaptation plans to address those risks;
- Secure new coastal trail rights of way in northern Sonoma County;
- Support efforts to improve public access to protected lands in Sonoma County;
- Protect sensitive habitat lands around Tomales Bay;
- Implement public access projects that connect existing trail segments.

#### **San Francisco Bay Area**

Along with being home to over seven million people and an economic engine for the State, the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area hosts a diversity of wildlife and habitats, world-

class recreational opportunities, and working farms and ranches. These are the resources that the San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program works to protect and improve, in order to support the region's economy and quality of life through protection of our natural infrastructure.

The region is defined by the San Francisco Bay, a 1,600 square mile estuary that drains 40% of California's land and connects to the Pacific Ocean at the Golden Gate. The estuary's edges are a mix of developed areas, including urban waterfronts, ports, and marinas, and wetlands used by endangered species, migratory birds, and fish and other aquatic species. The rivers that flow from the Sierra into the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta are the Estuary's primary source of freshwater; in addition, numerous creeks and rivers flow directly into San Francisco Bay and are important for steelhead trout and other wildlife.

Surrounding the Bay are mountains and ridges that separate the Bay from the central valley and the coast and form part of the Pacific Coast Range. These mountains include well-known peaks of the Bay Area: Mount Tamalpais, Mount Diablo, and Mount Hamilton. The mountain ranges and valleys of the Bay Area are home to numerous wildlife habitats, including redwood forests, oak woodlands, serpentine grasslands, sycamore groves, willow groves, and seasonal wetlands. These mountains and valleys also contain rich grazing and farming land, which cover 40% of Bay Area lands and contribute to the Bay Area's economy and to a healthy, local food supply.

### Major Issues in the Bay Area

#### *The Greenbelt*

The Bay Area is famous for its greenbelt of open space, which provides clean air, clean water, local food, recreational opportunities, and wildlife habitat. Over a quarter of the Bay Area's 4.3 million acres are protected, but additional conservation work is needed to sustain the region's unique biodiversity, particularly in the face of climate change impacts. The Conservancy will work with others to protect regionally significant habitats, connecting corridors, watersheds, scenic areas, and agricultural lands, supporting projects that build upon and connect the existing network of protected lands. Acquisition of fee title and conservation or agricultural easements from willing sellers helps protect land from development. As stewardship of public lands is becoming increasingly challenging, many conservation partners are intensifying their efforts to work with private landowners, including farmers and ranchers, to achieve multiple conservation goals.

#### *Regional Trails and Recreational Opportunities*

As the region continues to grow in population, the acreage and accessibility of open space for urban populations needs to keep pace. Access to open space plays a significant role in the Bay Area's high quality of life and opportunities for outdoor recreation contribute to healthy populations. The Conservancy is working with others to complete four regional trails in the Bay Area: the Bay Area Ridge Trail, the San Francisco Bay Trail, the California Coastal Trail, and the San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail. In addition, we work to connect regional trails to each other and to communities. Regional trails and the Bay Trail in particular, can provide

alternative transportation options, reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The Conservancy also funds educational and interpretive centers, staging areas, piers, picnic areas, campgrounds, urban waterfronts, and other recreational amenities that are accessible to urban populations and connect people to nature.

### *Bay Habitats*

Approximately 85% of the Bay's tidal wetlands have been lost since the Gold Rush. The San Francisco Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals Report called for restoration of 60,000 acres of tidal wetlands around the Bay, to benefit endangered species, migratory birds, fish and aquatic species, water quality, and local flood protection. Currently, nearly 40,000 acres have been acquired and are either being restored or planned for restoration and the Conservancy is playing a lead role in this effort.

### *Urban Waterfronts*

The Conservancy has long played a role in revitalizing urban waterfronts, assisting local communities in the planning and implementation of projects to create jobs and economic benefits through a combination of private enterprises and public facilities that attract visitors. This work continues to be necessary, but is now complicated by the fact that urban waterfronts are on the front lines as sea level rises. The Pacific Institute estimated that more than \$60 billion worth of infrastructure is at risk in the Bay Area due to sea level rise by 2100. Adaptation strategies will be a significant component of our future urban waterfront work.

### *Creeks and Rivers*

The creeks and rivers flowing into San Francisco Bay have been dramatically altered due to development, water diversions, and urban runoff. This has negatively impacted water quality and habitat for fish and other aquatic species. We have funded local watershed plans and creek and river restoration efforts. A particular focus is on removing barriers to fish migration and increasing riparian habitat, focusing on the eight "anchor watersheds" with the highest restoration potential for steelhead trout, as identified by the Center for Ecosystem Management and Restoration: Alameda Creek, San Francisquito Creek, Coyote Creek, Guadalupe River, Suisun Creek, Napa River, Corte Madera Creek, and Sonoma Creek. Restoration work on other creeks and rivers remains valuable when it achieves a variety of objectives.

### San Francisco Bay Area - Major Efforts in the Next Five Years:

- Support protection of lands identified as essential or critical to sustaining biological diversity (Conservation Lands Network) and lands identified as critical wildlife linkages between large areas of wildlife habitat (Critical Linkages);
- Support farmers and ranchers in their efforts to manage their lands for food production and other purposes, such as wildlife habitat, watersheds, and viewsheds, with a focus on southern Santa Clara County, Sonoma, Napa Valley, Solano, eastern Alameda County, and Brentwood (*Western Marin and coastsides San Mateo are managed by the North Coast and Central Coast, respectively*);

- Make significant progress towards completion of the Bay Area Ridge Trail, San Francisco Bay Trail, and San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail;
- Support public access and recreation projects that connect urban populations, especially those underserved by parks and open space, to natural areas;
- Complete the Napa Marsh and Hamilton Airfield wetland restoration projects, as well as several other wetland restoration projects. Start construction of the Bel Marin Keys portion of the Hamilton wetland restoration project and identify a strategy for long-term management of Hamilton and Bel Marin Keys;
- Make significant progress on Dutch Slough restoration and play an active role in the protection and enhancement of the Delta, within Contra Costa and Solano Counties;
- Complete construction of Phase 1 and planning for Phase 2 of the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project and start implementation of Phase 2 construction. Complete the Feasibility Study for the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Study for Ponds A9-18 and the community of Alviso;
- Support projects that protect lands that could allow for wetland migration as sea levels rise;
- Help communities with urban waterfronts develop adaptation strategies to address sea level rise;
- Transition the Invasive Spartina Project from active eradication by the Conservancy to monitoring and management by landowners and other partners;
- Complete the climate change update to the San Francisco Baylands Habitat Goals Report;
- Develop multi-objective, multi-habitat projects, such as Living Shorelines, that implement recommendations of the Subtidal Habitat Goals Report;
- Support efforts to restore the “anchor watersheds” in the Bay Area and reduce barriers to migration for steelhead trout;
- Develop and support integrated water management within watersheds and across the region;
- Support environmental education and interpretive programs for urban populations, including habitat restoration projects that involve students and community volunteers and/or provide for greening of urban communities;
- Support the work of the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority, whose goal is to develop revenue sources for restoration of bay habitats and associated public access and flood management.

### **Central Coast**

The Conservancy’s Central Coast Region extends from northern San Mateo County to southern Santa Barbara County and includes some of the most spectacular scenery on the California coast. Throughout much of this region, agriculture is a predominant land use as evidenced by the world class vegetable farms of San Mateo, Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties, as well as the expansive ranch lands of San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties. Beautiful, pristine beaches are found along the entire stretch, many of them backed by rugged coastal mountains. As a transition zone from southern to northern California flora and fauna, the

region is known for a high degree of biological diversity, and includes many threatened and endangered species, as well as plants and animals known only to this part of the state.

Due largely to its scenic beauty and accessibility, the Central Coast region attracts visitors from all over the world. Some of the more popular destinations are the urban waterfronts in cities such as Santa Cruz, Monterey, Carmel, Morro Bay, Pismo Beach and Santa Barbara that provide coastal access, recreation and fishing, excellent restaurants and other amenities. The region offers long stretches of accessible beach along the Monterey Bay and San Luis Bay shorelines, as well as secluded pocket beaches at the mouth of many coastal streams. Dunes and mountains provide a picturesque backdrop to these beaches. Other frequently visited destinations are the mountainous hiking trails of the San Mateo and Santa Cruz coasts and the spectacular Big Sur lands of Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties.

Over 2.1 million California residents live in the five counties constituting this region, most of them in cities and towns on or near the coast. Development pressure remains an ongoing threat as more and more people are drawn to the many amenities and more relaxed life-style this region has to offer compared to the more heavily developed areas of the state. This threat presents a challenge to the Conservancy and other entities attempting to preserve the natural and scenic resources found so abundantly in the Central Coast region, necessitating a constant search for new and creative measures to accomplish our conservation goals.

### Major Issues in the Central Coast

#### *Coastal Access*

Development of the Coastal Trail and public access to beaches and other protected lands remains an important goal in the Central Coast region. Demand for access continues to grow as the population of the region attracts more residents as well as visitors from other areas. There is an ongoing need to link existing trails and to open new access, as well as to construct support facilities such as restrooms and interpretive facilities. The Coastal Trail and regional trails that link communities to the coast benefit the region both by providing options for non-motorized transportation, while also expanding recreation opportunities and strengthening the tourist economy.

#### *Agricultural and Working Lands*

The Central Coast region is one of the state's most productive agricultural areas. In addition to their economic importance, agricultural lands, and in particular range lands, provide a number of other values such as groundwater recharge, wildlife linkages, flood water retention, open space and scenic views. Yet agricultural lands continue to be lost as the result of development or incompatible adjacent land uses. The Conservancy maintains an active agricultural preservation program and will continue to seek measures to protect working lands in the Central Coast. Acquisition of conservation easements and other conservation measures are critical to ensure continued protection of agricultural lands.

### *Coastal Habitat*

The Central Coast supports a broad range of habitat types from wetlands, to coastal chaparral and grasslands to redwood forests. The dunes along San Luis Bay and Monterey Bay provide a glimpse of what much of the California coast looked like historically. As elsewhere in the coast, streams and rivers and their surrounding watersheds are threatened with various types of development, as well as degraded conditions resulting from past destructive land uses or flood management actions. The Conservancy remains highly focused on preventing or repairing damage to these sensitive resources, adopting a holistic perspective that considers the needs of species, as well as overall hydrologic, geomorphic, economic and community functions. With sea level rise and other impacts of climate change, coastal habitats will experience significant stress and change. The habitat preservation and restoration efforts in the Central Coast will prioritize projects which will enhance the resiliency of the coastal environment and/or local communities.

#### Central Coast - Major Efforts in the Next Five Years:

- Complete the San Clemente Dam Removal Project;
- Continue to lead and expand the Integrated Watershed Restoration Program as a model of agency cooperation and efficient government;
- Continue construction of the California Coastal Trail in San Mateo County and develop a long-term regional management plan;
- Protect and promote sustainable forestry in the Santa Cruz Mountains;
- Continue to support the collaborative integration of agriculture, wetland restoration, education and public access in Watsonville Sloughs;
- Protect and restore coastal rivers and streams to improve water quality, retention of flood waters, and recovery of salmonid species;
- Assist local communities to assess risks from climate change and develop adaptation plans to address those risks;
- Promote economic development projects based on increased coastal access in the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes area;
- Initiate restoration of Upper Devereux Slough in Santa Barbara County;
- Secure non-traditional funding for projects that provide ecosystem services;
- Promote development of additional low-cost overnight accommodations, particularly in Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties;
- Develop the Coastal Trail in northern San Luis Obispo County;
- Investigate opportunities to implement projects that sequester carbon, allowing California's natural resources to benefit from California's carbon market

### **South Coast**

The South Coast region extends from Ventura County to the Mexican Border. It is known for its wide, sandy beaches, dramatic mountains, moderate climate and rich biodiversity. The region is defined by the coastal plains of several major rivers and is bounded by the steep transverse mountain ranges. Ventura County retains a large amount of coastal agriculture, in

contrast to the rest of the region where the coastline is either heavily urbanized or preserved as open space by state or local park districts. Outdoor recreation is a huge attraction in the South Coast where the beaches are wide and sandy and the water relatively warmer than the rest of the state. Surfing is extremely popular and surfers have become important advocates for clean water and coastal protection. In addition to its geographic diversity, the South Coast region is ethnically diverse, and the most densely populated area in the state. It is also rich with human resources in the form of universities, research organizations, nonprofit organizations, local governments (88 cities in Los Angeles County alone), port districts and state conservancies.

Industrial activities are a major land use along the South Coast. Oil extraction is an ongoing activity, both offshore and onshore, and electrical power plants and the state's largest ports are major features on the landscape. The large tidal wetland complexes that characterized much of the coastline in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century were sacrificed for the economic wealth that lay beneath them: oil, flat land easy to build upon, and river mouths conducive to harbor development. Southern California generates enormous wealth for the state's economy, and visitors come for the cultural attractions of Los Angeles and San Diego as well as for the respite and charm found in coastal communities like Ventura, Laguna Beach, La Jolla, and Imperial Beach.

With over 22 million people living in southern California (about 60% of the state's population) the demand for housing and urban services is the biggest stressor on the coastal environment. The challenge faced by the Conservancy in the South Coast region is to undo some of the damage to coastal habitats caused by previous land uses and change antiquated infrastructure to incorporate more environmentally sustainable designs.

## Major Issues in the South Coast

### *Coastal Access*

While much of the South Coast is open to the public and there are numerous state and local parks offering picnic and camping facilities, there are enclaves where public access is very limited. Parts of the Malibu coast have little or no public access and opening up public accessways in Malibu is a high priority of the Conservancy. Development of the California Coastal Trail through the region is also an important goal, as the trail can be used for alternative transportation as well as purely recreational purposes. Filling in the gaps in the trail and making connections with other trails and public transportation will continue to be priorities for our work in the region.

### *Coastal Habitat*

Historically, the South Coast was characterized by large tidal wetland complexes, wide flood plains and rich riparian corridors along coastal rivers and streams. Unfortunately, much of this habitat has been destroyed for urban development and flood control. Finding new ways to provide infrastructure that serves the needs of the urban residents while also sustaining and creating valuable wildlife habitat is critical to the Conservancy's work in the region. The Conservancy has partnered recently with the City of Los Angeles to develop a prototype for constructing residential streets using "green" infrastructure that infiltrates water into the

groundwater system, thereby improving water quality in the Los Angeles River as well as on the coast. It is likely that the Conservancy's efforts to restore and sustain coastal habitat will require continued efforts to change the way urban infrastructure is engineered so that more efficient and sustainable methods can be implemented. As concerns over climate change increase, the need for holistic approaches that can integrate a range of needs will be paramount, and will drive much of the Conservancy's efforts in the South Coast.

South Coast - Major Efforts in the Next Five Years;

- Obtain agreement among stakeholders on the preferred sediment disposal option for the Matilija Dam removal project, and secure construction funding from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers;
- Complete property acquisitions for the Santa Clara River Parkway, enabling public access and agricultural activities to coexist along the river;
- Remediate contaminants at Ormond Beach and commencement of restoration of the tidal wetland;
- Complete a comprehensive public access plan for coastal accessways in the City of Malibu and construction of the Malibu Road beach access stairway;
- Complete the environmental documentation and public review for the Ballona wetlands restoration, and commencement of first phase of the project;
- Construct multi-benefit parks such as Milton Street Park on Ballona Creek and Washington Elementary Natural Park on Compton Creek;
- Collaborate with the City and County of Los Angeles on green infrastructure projects to address water quality and supply issues;
- Complete final plans for the Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project;
- Complete the California Coastal Trail in San Diego County and closure of critical gaps in Los Angeles County;
- Resolve sediment management issues in the Tijuana River estuary;
- Assist local communities to assess risks from climate change and develop adaptation plans to address those risks;
- Implement tree planting and other multi-benefit projects which reduce the heat island effect in urban areas;
- Continue to staff the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project, a broad-based partnership to improve coordination, pool resources, and advance the recovery of wetlands in the region;
- Construction of new segments of the Santa Ana River Trail;
- Focus on urban waterfront revitalization within the region.

### III. The Next Five Years (what we want to do)

Based on our analysis of the issues facing the coast and the Bay Area, this plan identifies specific goals and numeric objectives that the Coastal Conservancy will achieve over the next five years. The purpose of the goals and objectives is to help the Conservancy prioritize its work, allocating both staff resources and funding to projects that achieve these objectives. For each of the goals, we have identified numeric objectives under two funding scenarios. The first scenario assumes that there are no new bond funds available to the Conservancy over the next five years. The second funding scenario assumes that a new statewide bond measure passes sometime in or after 2014 and provides an additional \$400 million for the Coastal Conservancy. For the purpose of this plan, we assume that the new bond funds are available for any program or region of the Conservancy, and the numeric objectives are based on statewide opportunities.<sup>1</sup>

#### Public Access Goals

Public access is one of the major programs of the Conservancy. Public access projects expand opportunities for all Californians and all visitors to California to enjoy the coast. These projects include construction of new trails, trailheads and other features (bathrooms, overlooks, etc). Coastal access projects support the tourism economy, valued at \$12 billion in 2000. The public access goals also include the Conservancy's work to revitalize working waterfronts. These projects include expanding public access but also may involve investments to maintain commercial fishing infrastructure or achieve other goals.

During the next five years, the Conservancy will focus on completing regional trails, such as the California Coastal Trail, which is both a recreational and in some areas alternative transportation amenity. The Conservancy will also continue to work to expand access to the coast by providing funding for projects that benefit disabled or disadvantaged communities. Where appropriate, the Conservancy will seek to expand its use of web-based communication to improve the ability of the public to access the coast. All access projects will need to be planned to consider climate change impacts, but we expect that a major focus of our waterfront revitalization work over the next five years will be to help communities plan for and adapt to climate change and sea level rise impacts.

#### **Goal 1: Develop the California Coastal Trail as a major recreational amenity, tourist attraction, and alternative transportation system.**

Objective 1A: Implement projects to promote awareness and use of the California Coastal Trail, including web-based technologies

Objective 1B: Place California Coastal Trail signs on existing trails.

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<sup>1</sup> Historically bond money for the Coastal Conservancy has come with geographic, and sometimes even project, restrictions. It is impossible to predict what a future bond would look like, so we have chosen to make simplifying assumption that it will be available for the full range of Conservancy programs over our entire jurisdiction.

- Objective 1C: Design new trail segments.  
 Objective 1D: Construct new trail segments.  
 Objective 1E: Assist with projects that secure real property or property interests to facilitate the development of the California Coastal Trail.  
 Objective 1F: Improve support facilities at existing coastal accessways.

	North Coast		Central Coast		South Coast	
	Existing Funds	New Bond	Existing Funds	New Bond	Existing Funds	New Bond
1A: # Projects	4	10	1	5	1	4
1B: # miles of trail signed	15	30	5	30	2	10
1C: #miles trail	12	35	8	40	8	12
1D: #miles trail	12	30	15	30	2	20
1E: # Projects	3	8	2	5	1	4
1F: # Projects	3	10	4	15	2	20

\* For purposes of this goal, the County of San Francisco is included in the Central Coast.

**Goal 2: Develop a system of coastal public accessways, open-space areas, parks and inland trails that connect to the coast.**

- Objective 2A: Develop projects that expand opportunities for barrier-free access to the coast.  
 Objective 2B: Open coastal areas that are currently inaccessible or closed to public use.  
 Objective 2C: Design facilities to increase and enhance coastal recreational opportunities.  
 Objective 2D: Fund construction of new facilities, or reconstruction of dilapidated and unsafe facilities to increase and enhance coastal recreational opportunities.  
 Objective 2E: Design new regional trails and river parkways that connect inland populations to the coast.  
 Objective 2F: Construct new regional trails and river parkways that connect inland populations to the coast.  
 Objective 2G: Acquire land to allow for development of new coastal accessways.

	North Coast		Central Coast		South Coast	
	Existing Funds	New Bond	Existing Funds	New Bond	Existing Funds	New Bond
2A: # Projects	4	10	4	12	0	5
2B: # Projects	8	18	4	10	0	3
2C: # Facilities	2	5	3	10	0	10
2D: # Facilities	4	8	5	15	1	3
2E: # Plans	1	3	1	3	1	4
2F: # Miles Trail	0	5	0	12	1	25
2G: # Projects	4	6	1	5	0	5

**Goal 3: Revitalize coastal and inland waterfronts that provide significant public benefits and promote sustainable economic development.**

Objective 3A: Develop waterfront revitalization plans that increase accessibility, create more inclusive access opportunities, support commercial and recreational fishing, encourage economic revitalization, promote excellence and innovation in urban design, enhance cultural and historic resources, and that are resilient to a changing climate.

Objective 3B: Implement waterfront revitalization projects that increase accessibility create more inclusive access opportunities, support commercial and recreational fishing, encourage economic revitalization, promote excellence and innovation in urban design, enhance cultural and historic resources and that are resilient in a changing climate.

Objective 3C: Design low cost visitor accommodations to expand access to the coast.

Objective 3D: Construct low cost visitor accommodations along the coast.

	North Coast		Central Coast		South Coast		Bay Area	
	Existing Funds	New Bond						
3A: # Plans	1	2	1	3	2	4	1	4
3B: # Projects	1	2	0	4	1	4	0	3
3C: # Plans	1	3	1	3	0	4	0	4
3D: # Projects	1	3	1	3	0	4	0	4

**Coastal Resources Conservation Goals**

Coastal resource conservation is the second major program area for the Conservancy. The overall goal is to support projects and activities that protect, enhance and educate the public about the coast's scenic, natural and agricultural resources. These goals include activities to improve wildlife habitat, preserve open space and protect working lands, including farmland,

row crops and forests. These natural and scenic resources of the coast are vital to the state's economy and quality of life.

The coastal resource conservation program also includes the Conservancy's work to assist local communities to plan for and adapt to climate change. Climate change will be a driving factor affecting all resource conservation activities in the future. Land acquisition and habitat enhancement must be planned in the context of a changing climate. Monitoring will be essential to provide indicators of stressors and to inform land managers of the need to alter management practices to increase resiliency.

Other challenges such as management costs for habitat enhancement and acquisition projects also informed our priorities in this program area. We expect that management funds will continue to be very limited and that management needs should be addressed upfront. Long-term, sustained conservation will continue to require partnerships with nongovernmental organizations to manage lands and reduce operational costs.

**Goal 4: Protect significant coastal resource properties, including cropland, rangeland and forests.**

Objective 4A: Protect significant coastal and watershed resource properties.

Objective 4B: Protect working-lands through conservation easements and other agreements.

Objective 4C: Implement projects that preserve and restore fish and wildlife corridors between core habitat areas along the coast and from coastal to inland habitat areas.

	North Coast		Central Coast		South Coast	
	Existing Funds	New Bond	Existing Funds	New Bond	Existing Funds	New Bond
4A: # Acres	21,000	35,000	2,000	6,000	580	1,000
4B: # Acres	7,000	10,000	6,000	10,000	0	40
4C: # Projects	5	15	1	5	0	6

**Goal 5: Enhance biological diversity, improve water quality, habitat, and other natural resources within coastal watersheds.**

Objective 5A: Develop plans for the restoration and enhancement of coastal habitats, including coastal wetlands and intertidal areas, stream corridors, dunes, coastal terraces, coastal sage scrub, forests, and coastal prairie.

Objective 5B: Restore or enhance coastal habitats, including coastal wetlands and intertidal areas, stream corridors, dunes, coastal sage scrub, coastal terraces, forests and coastal prairie.

Objective 5C: Develop plans to preserve and enhance coastal watersheds and floodplains.

- Objective 5D: Implement projects that preserve, enhance, coastal watersheds and floodplains.
- Objective 5E: Implement projects to improve fish habitat including projects to remove barriers to fish passage, ensure sufficient instream flow, and provide in stream habitat and favorable water temperatures.
- Objective 5F: Complete plans to improve water quality to benefit coastal and ocean resources.
- Objective 5G: Implement projects to improve water quality to benefit coastal and ocean resources.
- Objective 5H: Implement projects to support the recovery of the southern sea otter.

	North Coast		Central Coast		South Coast	
	Existing Funds	New Bond	Existing Funds	New Bond	Existing Funds	New Bond
5A: # Plans	3	15	9	30	3	8
5B: # Acres	825	1,200	140	500	0	2,700
5C: # Plans	3	10	4	12	5	12
5D: # Projects	3	8	2	10	7	19
5E: # Projects	5	20	3	15	1	6
5F: # Plans	5	15	3	15	3	14
5G: # Projects	1	5	1	8	2	20
5H: # Projects	0	0	3	3	0	0

**Goal 6: Enhance coastal working lands, including cropland, rangeland and forests.**

- Objective 6A: Develop plans for projects that foster the long-term viability of coastal working lands, including projects to assist farmers, ranchers, and timber producers to reduce impacts of their operations on wildlife habitat and water quality.
- Objective 6B: Implement projects that foster the long-term viability of coastal working lands, including projects to assist farmers, ranchers, and timber producers to reduce impacts of their operations on wildlife habitat and water quality.

	North Coast		Central Coast		South Coast	
	Existing Funds	New Bond	Existing Funds	New Bond	Existing Funds	New Bond
6A: # Plans	4	10	3	10	1	4
6B: # Projects	4	10	1	8	0	4

**Goal 7: Enhance the resiliency of coastal communities and ecosystems to the impacts of climate change.**

- Objective 7A: In cooperation with public agencies, universities and non-governmental organizations, identify significant climate-related threats and management challenges to maintaining resilient coastal communities and natural resources.
- Objective 7B: Identify and prioritize technical assistance needs for conducting local and regional climate change vulnerability assessments and adaptation planning.
- Objective 7C: Conduct site-specific, regional and landscape-level vulnerability assessments from sea level rise and extreme events, and develop adaptation plans and strategies to address threats and maximize public benefits to coastal communities, natural resources, and public infrastructure.
- Objective 7D: Conduct site-specific, regional and landscape-level vulnerability assessments, and develop adaptation plans to address predicted climate change impacts to natural resources, biodiversity, and critical habitat.
- Objective 7E: Implement adaptation pilot projects that reduce hazards from sea level rise and extreme events, or which improve the resiliency of natural resources and biodiversity.
- Objective 7F: Implement adaptation pilot projects that address climate change impacts to natural resources, biodiversity and critical habitat.
- Objectives 7G: Implement projects that reduce greenhouse gases by increasing carbon sequestration, or by supporting land uses that reduce energy consumption including vehicle miles traveled.
- Objective 7H: Implement tree and vegetation planting projects that reduce urban heat islands and provide other benefits such as reduced energy use, improved air quality, enhanced stormwater management, and improved quality of life.

	North Coast		Central Coast		South Coast		Bay Area		State-wide
	Existing Funds	New Bond							
7A: # Study									1
7B: # Studies	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	3	
7C: # Plan	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	
7D: # Plans	1	2	1	2	1	2	0	2	
7E: # Projects	1	2	1	2	0	0	0	2	
7F: # Projects	1	2	1	2	0	8	0	2	
7G: # Projects	1	2	1	2	1	8	1	3	
7H: # Projects	0	0	0	0	1	4	0	2	

**Goal 8: Provide non-regulatory alternatives to reduce conflicts among competing uses in the Coastal Zone.**

Objective 8A: Implement projects that resolve land-use conflicts stemming from local coastal programs and work toward elimination of “white holes” (areas where there is no certified local coastal program).

Objective 8B: Implement multi-benefit projects that accomplish multiple objectives and resolve longstanding conflicts.

	North Coast		Central Coast		South Coast	
	Existing Funds	New Bond	Existing Funds	New Bond	Existing Funds	New Bond
8A: # Projects	0	0	0	0	1	1
8B: # Projects	0	1	0	1	6	12

**Goal 9: Expand environmental education efforts to improve public understanding, use and stewardship of coastal resources.**

Objective 9A: Support programs and events that improve public understanding of coastal resources.

Objective 9B: Support the design and installation of interpretive or educational displays and exhibits related to coastal, watershed, and ocean-resource education, maritime history, and climate-change.

Objective 9C: Construct or improve regional environmental education centers that educate the public about environmental issues affecting the coast and inland watersheds.

	North Coast		Central Coast		South Coast	
	Existing Funds	New Bond	Existing Funds	New Bond	Existing Funds	New Bond
9A: # Programs	10	15	11	14	6	6
9B: # Exhibits	1	3	1	3	6	8
9C: # Centers	1	3	0	1	0	0

**San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program Goals**

The San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program was added to the Conservancy’s enabling legislation in October 1997 to address resource and recreational goals within the entire nine-county San Francisco Bay Area. The San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program has four major goals: 1) improving public access; 2) conserving and enhancing habitat; 3) implementing the Coastal Act, San Francisco Bay Plan and other adopted plans; and 4) providing recreational and educational opportunities in open space and natural areas to urban populations. While there is substantial overlap in the goals and objectives between the coastal

regions and the San Francisco Bay Area, the Bay Area Conservancy Program is treated as its own section within the strategic plan because of its unique legislative mandate and jurisdiction.

**Goal 10: Identify and prioritize long-term resource and recreational goals for the San Francisco Bay Area.**

Objective 10A: Identify and prioritize resource and recreational goals, including projects that protect and enhance natural habitats and other open-space lands of regional significance, such as agricultural lands, and those that improve public access to and around the bay, along the ridges and coast, and to open space and natural areas.

	San Francisco Bay	
	Existing Funds	New Bond
10A: # Plans	2	5

**Goal 11: Protect and enhance natural habitats and connecting corridors, watersheds, scenic areas, and other open-space resources of regional importance in the Bay Area.**

- Objective 11A: Protect tidal wetlands, managed wetlands, seasonal wetlands, riparian habitat, and subtidal habitat.
- Objective 11B: Protect wildlife habitat, connecting corridors, scenic areas, and other open-space resources of regional significance.
- Objective 11C: Develop plans for enhancement of tidal wetlands, managed wetlands, seasonal wetlands, upland habitat, and subtidal habitat.
- Objective 11D: Enhance tidal wetlands, managed wetlands, seasonal wetlands, upland habitat, and subtidal habitat.
- Objective 11E: Develop plans for enhancement of riparian and riverine habitat or other watershed functions and processes for the benefit of wildlife or water quality, including removal of barriers to fish passage or projects that ensure sufficient instream flow.
- Objective 11F: Enhance riparian and riverine habitat or other watershed functions and processes for the benefit of wildlife or water quality, including removal of barriers to fish passage or projects that ensure sufficient instream flow.
- Objective 11G: Develop plans to eradicate non-native invasive species that threaten important habitats in the San Francisco Bay Area.
- Objective 11H: Eradicate non-native invasive species that threaten important habitats in the San Francisco Bay Area.

	San Francisco Bay

	Existing Funds	New Bond
11A: # Acres	500	3,000
11B: # Acres	2,000	20,000
11C: # Acres	3,000	10,000
11D: # Acres	1,500	9,000
11E: # Plans	2	6
11F: # Projects	2	6
11G: # Plans	0	3
11H: # Projects	1	3

**Goal 12: Improve public access, recreation, and educational facilities and programs in and around San Francisco Bay, along the coast, the ridgelines, in urban open spaces, and natural areas.**

- Objective 12A: Develop plans for projects that provide recreational facilities such as picnic and staging areas, docks and piers, campgrounds, parking lots, interpretive signs, interpretive or educational centers, and natural play spaces.
- Objective 12B: Implement projects that provide recreational facilities such as picnic and staging areas, docks and piers, campgrounds, parking lots, interpretive signs, interpretive or educational centers, and natural play spaces.
- Objective 12C: Complete acquisition projects that increase the amount of land accessible to the public or provide corridors for trails.
- Objective 12D: Develop plans for completing segments of the San Francisco Bay Trail.
- Objective 12E: Construct segments of the San Francisco Bay Trail.
- Objective 12F: Plan segments of the Bay Area Ridge Trail.
- Objective 12G: Construct segments of the Bay Area Ridge Trail.
- Objective 12H: Develop plans for regionally significant public access trails and community connectors, including links between the Bay Trail, Ridge Trail, Water Trail, and Coastal Trail, and links between regional trails and urban communities.
- Objective 12I: Construct regionally significant public trails and community connectors, including links between the Bay Trail, Ridge Trail, Water Trail, and Coastal Trail, and links between regional trails and urban communities.
- Objective 12J: Designate launch sites for the San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail.
- Objective 12K: Enhance designated launch sites for the San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail.
- Objective 12L: Implement projects that expand opportunities for barrier-free access to natural areas.
- Objective 12M: Implement projects that create, expand, or improve environmental educational or interpretive programs, especially those that are available to urban populations.

	San Francisco Bay	
	Existing	New

	Funds	Bond
12A: # Plans	4	10
12B: # Projects	3	15
12C: # Acres	1,000	10,000
12D: # Miles	22	25
12E: # Miles	5	14
12F: # Miles	15	50
12G: # Miles	9	30
12H: # Plans	2	6
12I: # Projects	2	5
12J: # Sites	15	21
12K: # Sites	6	10
12L: # Projects	3	12
12M: # Projects	10	20

**Goal 13: Protect Bay Area working lands and support farmers and ranchers in implementing stewardship of the natural resources on their lands.**

Objective 13A: Protect working lands, including farmland, rangeland and forests.

Objective 13B: Implement projects that assist farmers and ranchers to steward the natural resources on their lands.

	San Francisco Bay	
	Existing Funds	New Bond
13A: # Acres	1,000	7,500
13B: # Projects	1	5

**Organizational/Operational Issue Goals**

To implement this strategic plan, the Conservancy will have to develop new sources of funding for our projects and our operations. We will need to structure our programs and reorganize our staff resources to match these new funding sources. The Conservancy will continue to foster a culture of entrepreneurial collaboration, innovative partnering, skill assessment and enhancement for technical assistance, and grant writing to support the staff necessary to advance the agency's mission. Where appropriate, staff will also be encouraged to develop specific skills that can help us to implement new kinds of projects, such as work in the emerging carbon markets. This revised strategy will inevitably shift staff resources toward activities that will generate funding; sometimes altering what would otherwise be the highest priority staffing assignments.

## New Sources of Funding

Clearly one of the most pressing issues facing the Conservancy is the need to identify and raise new sources of money to pay for the agency's projects and its on-going operation. Some of the most promising of these ideas are summarized below:

- **Forest Carbon Credits:** The Conservancy could fund acquisition of timber land, consistent with our goals and priorities, but with the intent of generating carbon credits through sustainable forest management. Some portion of the proceeds from the carbon credits would be returned to the Conservancy to continue its work.
- **Wetland carbon credits:** Initial studies indicate that coastal wetlands are very effective at sequestering carbon. The Conservancy is working with partners to establish a wetland carbon protocol that would allow us to generate carbon credits through wetland restoration. Some portion of the proceeds from the carbon credits would be returned to the Conservancy.
- **Other Carbon Revenues:** The Conservancy could pursue projects that use revenues from California's carbon cap and trade program, including alternative transportation projects (such as trail sections of use to commuters), sustainable infrastructure projects, sustainable agriculture, land and natural resource conservation and management (such as soil carbon sequestration), and other projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions or sequester carbon. Several steps would need to take place before these funds could be used. Some portion of the proceeds from the carbon revenue would be returned to the Conservancy.
- **San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority Local Tax Measure:** The San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority is a regional government agency created by state law. The Authority is charged with raising and distributing funds for the restoration of San Francisco Bay and its shoreline and is exploring local/regional revenue options. Many of the Conservancy's San Francisco Bay projects could be implemented using these funds.
- **In-lieu Fee Programs:** The Conservancy could create in-lieu fee programs under which it would collect and administer mitigation funds. This would allow the Conservancy to aggregate mitigation funds to implement regionally important projects rather than small acre-by-acre mitigation projects. The Conservancy is currently working with the partner agencies of the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project to explore developing a regional in-lieu fee program.
- **Mitigation Settlements:** The Conservancy could enter into an agreement with a utility or other partner to act as the implementation entity for a mitigation program decreed as part of a settlement. For example, we could implement a natural resource restoration program in conjunction with a dam relicensing settlement.
- **Ecosystem Services:** Ecosystem services are the social and economic benefits derived from ecological resources and ecosystem processes. They include a range of services such as provision of clean drinking water, flood attenuation, and nutrient cycling. Many of these services align with the Conservancy's work and it is possible there could be a role for the Conservancy to implement this kind of market.

- Environmental License Plate Funds (ELPF): All of the other state conservancies get a large part of their operating budget from ELPF. The Coastal Conservancy does not receive any ELPF for its operation and, while these funds are over-subscribed, we will continue to make the case for an allocation for the Conservancy.
- Grants for staff: The Conservancy has been very successful in applying for and being awarded grants for our projects. When we had sufficient operating funds, we preferred to direct the full amount of funding to project implementation and did not always cover our staff costs. In the future, we will increase the amount of staff costs that we recover from all incoming grants, and to use our grant writing skills to apply for grants that would fund staff to implement projects themselves.
- Fee for Service - administrative services to other state conservancies: Several other state Conservancies have approached us about providing administrative services such as human resources, information technology and fiscal services. To the extent that we can achieve efficiencies providing these services to other agencies, these agreements could help support the Conservancy to allow us to achieve our mission.
- Fee for Service - planning services: Some partners have suggested that Conservancy staff could provide assistance in managing or facilitating regional planning efforts. Staff time would be compensated on a fee for service basis.

### **Reducing Costs**

Over the past two years, we have reduced our operating budget by about 20%. This reduction was achieved through attrition associated with retirements, savings generated by voluntary reductions in staff hours, greater efficiency in use of materials, and less travel. We expect to continue to reduce these costs and are creating a staff committee to look at our operational budget to identify new ideas for how to save money.

About three quarters of the operating budget for the Conservancy is the cost of our staff. If there is no new bond act, and if we are otherwise unable to raise sufficient revenue, we expect to reduce our staff as we complete our administration of existing bond programs. We will also reorganize our staff to meet the future needs of the agency and to complete the work associated with new funding sources.

### **Goal 14: Implement a sustainable funding strategy for the Conservancy projects and programs.**

Objective 14A: Conduct annual evaluation of agency's budget against its longterm financial plan.

Objective 14B: Develop and evaluate progress towards achieving annual funding targets.

### **Goal 15: Reorganize the Conservancy's structure to align staff resources with the Conservancy's new sources of funding.**

Objective 15A: Develop and continue to adapt the organizational structure to align staff resources with the longterm funding strategy.

**Goal 16: Ensure full transparency and accountability, including external communications about the Conservancy's purposes, actions, and accomplishments.**

Objective 16A: Maintain and consistently upgrade the Conservancy project database and complete required reporting to the Legislature, Resources Agency, and control agencies.

Objective 16B: Improve and expand our web presence to improve transparency and improve external communications about the Conservancy's work.

Objective 16C: Develop better mapping tools and use them for project planning, decision making, and reporting.

Objective 16D: Prepare and disseminate compelling regional and topical summary reports of our accomplishments.

## Appendix A – Conservancy Statutory Authorities and Programs

### Coastal Access (Public Resources Code (PRC) Sections 31400 et seq.)

The California Constitution and the Coastal Act require that public access to and along the shoreline be maximized. Widespread concern about losing public access to the coast led in 1972 to passage of Proposition 20, which created the Coastal Commission, and to the enactment of the Coastal Act in 1976. PRC Section 30001.5(c), a provision of the Coastal Act, declares the state’s goal to “maximize public access to and along the coast and maximize public recreational opportunities in the Coastal Zone consistent with sound resource conservation principles and constitutionally protected rights of private property owners.”

The Coastal Conservancy is directed to “have a principal role in the implementation of a system of public accessways to and along the state’s coastline. . .” (PRC Section 31400), and the Conservancy may award grants and undertake projects to acquire and develop land for access, and provide assistance to nonprofit organizations and public agencies (PRC Sections 31400.1, 31400.2, 31400.3). The Conservancy is also charged with coordinating the development of the California Coastal Trail, in consultation with the Department of Parks and Recreation and the California Coastal Commission, and with helping to expand inland trail systems that link to the Coastal Trail (PRC Sections 31408, 31409).

In 2002, the Legislature declared that in order to prevent the potential loss of public accessways to and along the state’s coastline, it is in the best interest of the state to accept all offers to dedicate real property that protect open space or have the potential to provide access to the shoreline and view areas, or that provide a connection to other public properties or easements. These offers to dedicate frequently result from conditions specified in development permits issued by the Coastal Commission. The Legislature has mandated that the Conservancy accept any outstanding offers to dedicate public accessways that are not accepted by others within 90 days of their expiration dates (Public Resources Code 31402.2).

### Natural Resource Enhancement (PRC Sections 31251 et seq.)

The Conservancy enhances coastal resources that, because of indiscriminate dredging and filling, improper location of improvements, natural or human-induced events, or incompatible land uses, have suffered loss of natural or scenic values (PRC Sections 31251). Under this authority, the Conservancy preserves and increases fish and wildlife habitat and other resource values through public actions, including grants to acquire and restore resource degraded sites.

### Watershed Restoration (PRC Section 31220)

In order to improve and protect coastal and marine water quality and habitats, the Conservancy may undertake coastal watershed and coastal and marine habitat water quality, sediment management, and living marine resources protection and restoration projects. Projects implemented under this authority require consultation with the State Water Resources Control Board.

### Urban Waterfronts (PRC Section 31300 et seq.)

In enacting the Urban Waterfront Restoration Act of 1981 (Public Resources Code Section 31300 et seq.), the Legislature determined that many urban waterfront areas in California “are in need of restoration in order to be the vital economic and cultural component of the community which they once were,” (PRC Section 31301), and it provided the Conservancy with authority to undertake projects and award grants for restoration of urban waterfronts. The Conservancy is directed to coordinate the activities of all other state agencies and relevant federal agencies with programs affecting urban waterfronts (PRC Section 31302).

The Conservancy may support projects and activities that are compatible with the preservation, restoration, or enhancement of ocean, coastal, or watershed resources, or that facilitate environmental education related to these resources. And, the Conservancy may undertake activities and to support events or infrastructure related to coastal, watershed, or ocean resource education and maritime history (PRC Section 31316).

### Preservation of Agricultural Land (PRC Section 31150 et seq.)

The Conservancy has authority to undertake projects and award grants to prevent the loss of agricultural land and to sustain continued agricultural production (PRC Sections 31150, 31156). These projects can include acquisition of fee title or easements and agricultural improvements.

### Reservation of Significant Coastal Sites (PRC Sections 31350 et seq.)

The Conservancy may acquire, hold, protect, and use interests in coastal resource lands that would otherwise be lost to public use (PRC Sections 31350), in order to preserve them for purposes of the Conservancy’s enabling legislation, the California Coastal Act, the San Francisco Bay Plan, and other legislation (PRC Sections 31351). The Conservancy may also award a grant to a nonprofit organization or public agency for these purposes, and offer technical assistance (PRC Sections 31352).

### Solving Land-Use and Development Controversies (PRC Sections 31200 et seq.)

The Coastal Conservancy undertakes projects for the purpose of restoring areas that, because of scattered ownerships, poor lot layout, inadequate park and open space, incompatible land uses, or other conditions, are adversely affecting the coastal environment or are impeding orderly development (PRC Section 31200). The Conservancy assists local governments to direct new development to appropriate sites through public actions, including transfer of development, lot consolidation and revised subdivision, hazard mitigation, and open-space acquisition financing.

### San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program (PRC Sections 31160 et seq.)

The San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program was created to address the resource and recreational goals of the San Francisco Bay Area. The Conservancy has authority in the nine county San Francisco Bay Area to achieve the following goals (PRC Sections 31162):

- Completion of regional trails (such as the San Francisco Bay Trail, Bay Area Ridge Trail, California Coastal Trail, and San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail), consistent with the

rights of private property owners and without significant adverse impacts on agricultural operations and environmentally sensitive habitats and wildlife.

- Completion of local trails that connect population centers and public facilities, such as parks or recreational centers.
- Provision of recreational and educational facilities, such as interpretive centers, picnic areas, staging areas, and campgrounds.
- Protection of lands, through fee title acquisition, conservation or agricultural easements, or other methods) that provide wildlife habitat, connecting corridors, watersheds, scenic areas, and other regionally significant resources, such as agriculture.
- Restoration or enhancement of habitats, corridors, and watersheds, such as wetland and riparian habitat restoration and invasive species projects.
- Provision of projects that provide open space and natural areas that are accessible to urban populations for recreational and educational purposes.
- Facilitation of environmental education related to ocean, coastal, bay, or watershed resources, such as exhibits or events or the development of amenities and infrastructure (PRC Section 31165).

The Conservancy is charged with (PRC Section 31163):

- Identifying resource and recreational goals for the Bay Area, in cooperation with local and regional public agencies, the Bay Conservation and Development Commission, land trusts, and others;
- Supporting interagency actions and public/private partnerships in order to achieve the goals outlined above and generate support for the San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program; and
- Giving highest priority to projects that are supported by adopted plans, are multijurisdictional or serve a regional constituency, can be implemented in a timely way, have benefits that could be lost if not quickly implemented, and include matching funds.

#### Climate Change (PRC Section 31113)

Effective January 2013, the Conservancy's enabling legislation provides express authority to undertake projects and award grants to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, address extreme weather events, sea level rise, storm surge, beach and bluff erosion, salt water intrusion, flooding, and other coastal hazards that threaten coastal communities, infrastructure, and natural resources. The Conservancy is directed to maximize public benefits, including, but not limited to, reducing emissions of greenhouse gases, reducing hazards to harbors and ports, preserving and enhancing coastal wetlands and natural lands, conserving biodiversity, and providing recreational opportunities.

The legislature expressed its intent that the Conservancy have adequate authority to work with local governments and private entities to address the effects of climate change on coastal resources, public and private, natural and built, including, but not limited to, coastal beaches, ports, urban waterfronts, infrastructure, the ocean, riparian areas and watersheds, fisheries, forests, wetlands, and public and private real property; and declared that the Conservancy's participation can contribute to the resiliency of the natural and built environments and facilitate migration of plant and animal species as they move to adapt.

Environmental Education (PRC Section 31119)

The Conservancy may undertake or award grants for educational projects and programs for pupils in kindergarten through grade 12 that relate to the preservation, protection, enhancement, and maintenance of coastal resources.