

COASTAL CONSERVANCY

Staff Recommendation

March 24, 2016

EXPLORE THE COAST GRANTS PROGRAM

Project No. 15-032-01

Project Manager: Laura Cholodenko

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Authorization to disburse up to \$1,795,960 to nonprofit organizations and public agencies for 57 projects that facilitate and enhance the public's opportunities to explore the coast of California and the San Francisco Bay shoreline, various statewide counties.

LOCATION: Various locations along the coast of California and the San Francisco Bay shoreline (Exhibit 1)

PROGRAM CATEGORY: Coastal Education, Resource Enhancement, San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy, Public Accessways

EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1: [Project Locations](#)

Exhibit 2: [Explore the Coast Grant Announcement & Application](#)

Exhibit 3: [Project Letters](#)

Exhibit 4: [Lake Earl Wildlife Area Coastal Dunes Restoration Plan Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration](#)

RESOLUTION AND FINDINGS:

Staff recommends that the State Coastal Conservancy adopt the following resolution pursuant to Sections 31000 *et seq.* of the Public Resources Code:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes disbursement of up to one million, seven hundred ninety-five thousand, nine hundred sixty dollars (\$1,795,960) to nonprofit organizations and public agencies for the following 57 projects that facilitate and enhance the public's opportunities to explore the coast of California and the San Francisco Bay shoreline, (presented in alphabetical order):

- Access Northern California: Twenty-one thousand six hundred and fifty dollars (\$21,650) for the development of web-based information about coastal recreation opportunities and 3 organized hikes for people with disabilities, San Mateo County and Statewide multiple coastal counties.

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- Association of Bay Area Governments: Fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) to develop content for the San Francisco Bay Trail web application at 4 new trail locations, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Solano counties.
- Bay Area Outreach and Recreation Program: Fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) for outdoor trips and collection and dissemination of access information that helps people with physical disabilities visit coastal areas, Alameda County.
- Buena Vista Audubon Society: Five thousand five hundred dollars (\$5,500) for bus transportation of 1,500 students from low-income areas in Oceanside to Buena Vista Lagoon, San Diego County.
- California Wildlife Foundation: Seventeen thousand dollars (\$17,000) to develop and provide coastal-related climate change education in select San Diego County schools through science-based activities, art, and field trips that include bus transportation, San Diego County.
- Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria: Nine thousand nine hundred seventy-five dollars (\$9,975) to develop and implement a sustainable fishing educational program for local underserved youth at Seascape Pier in Trinidad, Humboldt County.
- Children’s Maritime Foundation: Forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) for the implementation of the Long Beach Watershed and Marine Science Program, Los Angeles County.
- City of Watsonville Public Works Conservation Academy: Twenty-seven thousand nine hundred eighty-six dollars (\$27,986) to bring approximately 3,500 Watsonville students and 500 adult family members to the coast on buses for stewardship activities, Santa Cruz County.
- Coastwalk: Fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) for a California Coastal Trail multi-media outreach campaign and content/data collection initiative, multiple coastal counties.
- Earth Island Institute: Forty-two thousand dollars (\$42,000) for bus transportation and environmental education programming for urban, underserved youth at Bay Area creek, bay, and ocean sites, Alameda and Contra Costa Counties.
- Earth Team: Twelve thousand six hundred and seventy dollars (\$12,670) for a 2-day coastal experience including bus transportation for 120 students from 8 low income high schools, San Francisco County.
- Environmental Action Committee of West Marin: Fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) for scholarships to the Point Reyes Birding and Nature Festival, Marin County.
- Environmental Justice Coalition for Water: Twenty-seven thousand dollars (\$27,000) for sponsorship of the “North Richmond Shoreline Festival” and to provide bus transportation to the event for local, underserved communities, Contra Costa County.
- Environmental Traveling Companions: Forty-five thousand dollars (\$45,000) for sea kayaking scholarships for disabled people and environmental education training for volunteer kayak guides, Marin County.
- Friends of the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve: Two thousand seven hundred seventy-five dollars (\$2,775) for bus transportation of disadvantaged Paso Robles high school students to visit the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve, Cambria, San Luis Obispo County.
- Friends of Sausal Creek: Thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000) for an outdoor, environmental education program for Oakland youth residents of lower Sausal Creek watershed, Alameda County.

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- Friends of the Dunes: Thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) for bus transportation and Tolowa Coast stewardship activities for underserved youth and families, Del Norte County.
- Golden Gate Audubon: Fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) to implement a San Francisco Bay Area wetlands, creeks, and ocean habitats environmental education program including bus transportation for urban, underserved youth, Alameda, Contra Costa, and San Francisco Counties.
- Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy: Fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) to implement Project WISE (Watersheds Inspiring Student Education), a coastal and watershed environmental science program for San Francisco public high school youth and teachers in the Presidio of San Francisco, San Francisco County.
- Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center: Forty-seven thousand five hundred and sixty-six dollars (\$47,566) for an environmental education pilot program of outreach and field trips including bus transportation for Guadalupe fifth grade students, Santa Barbara County.
- Hayward Area Recreation and Park District: Twenty seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$27,500) to create an educational web application and content and to provide shoreline environmental education, Alameda County.
- Heal the Bay: Thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) for transportation to 2 coastal education events and support of event programming, Los Angeles County.
- Living Coast Discovery Center: Twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) for transportation to 2 free public education events at the Living Coast Discovery Center and support of event programming, San Diego County.
- Malibu Foundation for Environmental Education: Twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) for buses to transport youth to Kids Ocean Day Adopt-A-Beach Clean-Up, Los Angeles County.
- Marin Link: Forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) to provide shoreline educational, recreational, and stewardship experiences for underserved residents of Marin City and San Rafael, Marin County.
- Marine Science Institute: Thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) to provide underserved students with hands-on educational experiences at San Francisco Bay and coastal sites and for bus transportation to the sites, San Mateo County.
- Maritime Museum Association of San Diego: Fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) to develop a docent and volunteer recruitment and training outreach plan for each port city hosting the ship *San Salvador*, Santa Barbara, Ventura, San Luis Obispo, Monterey, San Francisco, Solano, Alameda, and Sacramento Counties.
- Morro Bay National Estuary Program: Thirteen thousand five hundred ninety-eight dollars (\$13,598) to develop interpretive content about Morro Bay for the Explore the Coast Web Application, San Luis Obispo County.
- Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority: Fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) for overnight coastal camping trips, including bus and van transportation, targeting underserved Los Angeles youth, Los Angeles County.
- National Marine Sanctuary Foundation: Fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) to implement a bilingual Earth and ocean sciences education program at the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary and for transportation to the coastal study sites, Ventura County.
- National Park Service: Forty-six thousand six hundred and thirty-five dollars (\$46,635) for backpacking trips and van rental to take local underserved youth into Redwood National and State Parks, Del Norte County.

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- Northcoast Environmental Center: Twenty-one thousand dollars (\$21,000) for its Humboldt Bay Explorations program, Humboldt County.
- Noyo Center for Marine Science: Twelve thousand dollars (\$12,000) to produce up to 5 videos of the Mendocino Coast for the Explore the Coast web application, Mendocino County.
- O’Neill Sea Odyssey: Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for bus transportation of underserved students to and from a marine education project at Santa Cruz Harbor; Santa Cruz, Santa Clara, San Benito and Monterey Counties.
- Ocean Awareness Project: Twenty-two thousand three hundred eighty dollars (\$22,380) to plan and provide chartered bus trips during the summer from central Richmond to Point Molate Beach Park to promote shoreline access and a coastal experience, Contra Costa County.
- Ocean Discovery Institute: Forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) for fourth–sixth grade students to participate in ocean science education, field trips including bus transportation, and stewardship projects, San Diego County.
- Ocean Institute: Twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) to produce a bilingual multi-media marketing campaign to advertise free public transportation and free event admission for up to 1,500 low-income individuals to the Tall Ship Festival, Orange County.
- Ocean Riders of Marin: Eight thousand two hundred sixty dollars (\$8,260) to include disadvantaged Marin and San Francisco County residents in the environmental education program at the former Golden Gate Dairy in Muir Beach and to provide van transportation to the program site, Marin and San Francisco Counties.
- Orange County Coastkeeper: Thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000) to expand an educational program to include a new marine debris education component for elementary school kids and to provide bus transportation for coastal clean-up events, Orange County.
- Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy: Thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) for coastal environmental education and bus transportation for over 3,600 elementary school students to visit the White Point Education Center and Preserve, Los Angeles County.
- Point Reyes National Seashore Association: Thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) to implement 2 years of coastal outreach, environmental science and natural history education and provide bus transportation for San Francisco Bay Area youth, including underserved and underrepresented students to visit the Point Reyes National Seashore, Marin County.
- Redwood Community Action Agency: Thirty-nine thousand nine hundred and seventy-one dollars (\$39,971) for the creation of multi-media interpretive content for ten coastal trail points, Humboldt County.
- Regents of the University of California, Santa Barbara: Forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) for teacher training, educational materials and bus transportation for 20 fourth–sixth grade student field trips to coastal locations, Santa Barbara County.
- Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains: Forty-five thousand dollars (\$45,000) for a hands-on marine ecology field program including bus transportation and to create content for the Explore the Coast web application, Los Angeles County.
- San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy: Forty-nine thousand, nine hundred fifty dollars (\$49,950) to provide bus transportation for low-income, inland students to visit San Elijo Lagoon, and to develop content for the Explore the Coast web application, San Diego County.

- San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society: Fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) for bus transportation, interns, and public outreach to increase the number of low-income students and members of the general public who visit the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Alameda and Santa Clara Counties.
- Save our Shores: Fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) for student bus transportation, environmental education and stewardship activities at sites along the Santa Cruz shoreline and Elkhorn Slough, Santa Cruz County.
- Save the Redwoods League: Seventeen thousand one hundred fifty dollars (\$17,150) to educate Oakland elementary school students about their local watershed through field trips including bus transportation, classroom study, and hands-on experiences, Alameda County.
- Sierra Club Foundation: Fifteen thousand four hundred dollars (\$15,400) to organize and conduct 30 field trips for low income school students, parents, and teachers to visit sites along Santa Monica Bay and to provide bus transportation to the sites, Los Angeles County.
- The Bay Foundation: Forty-seven thousand dollars (\$47,000) to provide adults and youth with historical and environmental education and opportunities to restore the Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) Dunes, Los Angeles County.
- The Ocean Foundation: Twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) for 3 years of marine science education programs for underserved youth of coastal communities, San Diego County.
- The Watershed Project: Thirty-two thousand dollars (\$32,000) to develop and provide native oyster and bay ecology education programs for high school students including hands-on science activities at 3 shoreline sites and for bus transportation to visit the field sites, Contra Costa County.
- Ventana Wildlife Society: Thirty-two thousand four hundred and twenty-two dollars (\$32,422) for 8 five-day long Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary coastal ecology day camps with one overnight camp day each week including van transportation for low-income youth, Monterey County.
- Vida Verde Nature Education: Fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) for low-income urban youth to participate in a 3-day, overnight San Mateo County coast environmental education program, San Mateo County.
- West Contra Costa Unified School District: Six thousand eight hundred sixty-five dollars (\$6,865) for 3 Elkhorn Slough kayaking excursions for students in the Lovonya DeJean Middle School's ESCAPE Club, Richmond, Contra Costa County.
- Wildcoast: Thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) to provide marine-based learning and stewardship opportunities and transportation to coastal sites for underserved high school students, San Diego County.
- YMCA of San Francisco: Forty-nine thousand seven hundred and seven dollars (\$49,707) for a 3-day outdoor education trip for underserved youth to the Marin headlands, Marin County.

The authorization is subject to the following condition:

Prior to the disbursement of funds to each grantee, each grantee shall submit for the review and approval of the Conservancy's Executive Officer a final work program, schedule, budget, names of any project contractors, a plan for acknowledging Conservancy funding, and any other applicable agreements determined necessary for the project by the Conservancy's Executive Officer.

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 Chapters 3, 4.5, 7, and 9 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding undertaking educational projects for K-12 students relating to the coastal resources (Ch.3); the resource and recreational goals in the San Francisco Bay Area (Ch. 4.5); urban waterfront restoration (Ch. 7); and the establishment of a system of public accessways to and along the California coast (Ch. 9).
2. The proposed authorization is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.
3. The proposed nonprofit organization grantees are 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.
4. The Conservancy, as a responsible agency, has independently reviewed and considered the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for the *Lake Earl Wildlife Area Coastal Dune Restoration Plan*, adopted by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife on August 24, 2011 (MND) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), attached to the accompanying staff report as Exhibit 4, and finds that: (a) the portion of the Friends of the Dunes project involving removal of invasive European beachgrass and dune restoration has been appropriately analyzed in the MND; (b) the project as mitigated will avoid or reduce potential environmental effects to a level of insignificance; and (c) the project will not have a significant effect on the environment as defined by CEQA Guidelines, 14 Cal. Code Regs. §15382.”

PROJECT SUMMARY:

This authorization would provide up to \$1,795,960 to nonprofit organizations and public agencies for 57 projects that facilitate and enhance the public’s opportunities to explore the coast of California and the San Francisco Bay shoreline.

The purpose of the Conservancy’s Explore the Coast (ETC) grants program is to support activities that allow more people to visit California’s spectacular coast and/or enhance a visitor’s experience. This includes projects that enhance visitors’ ability to learn about natural, recreational, cultural, and historic resources of the California and San Francisco Bay shorelines. A wide range of activities are eligible for ETC grants including communication and outreach, development of interpretive information and educational materials, and educational events and programming.

The ETC grants program solicitation was released on September 25, 2015 and was widely distributed (See Exhibit 2). By the November 6, 2015 submission deadline, the Conservancy received 81 project proposals, requesting over \$3.1 million in Conservancy funding.

Of the 81 proposed projects submitted, 57 are recommended for funding under this grant round. In making its funding recommendation, staff considered each project’s needs, its overall benefits,

and the extent of competing demands for funds. Projects recommended for funding meet one or more of the following priorities:

- Provide a coastal experience for lower-income or other underserved populations;
- Increase the number of people visiting the coast;
- Improve barrier-free access for persons with disabilities;
- Provide a valuable recreational, environmental, cultural or historic learning experience;
- Serve a large number of people within the context of the population density of the surrounding area;
- Increase stewardship of coastal resources; and/or
- Enhance the public's coastal experience in a way that does not currently exist.

In addition, priority was given to non-capital improvement projects generally not eligible for bond funding.

The following is a list of the projects proposed for funding under the 2015 ETC grants program, in alphabetical order by region, including the location of the proposed project; the name of the grantee for the proposed project; the recommended funding amount; and a brief proposed project description. Staff estimates that the proposed projects that provide field trips will engage approximately 51,000 people; projects that support large events and development of web application content are estimated to reach approximately 130,000 people.

NORTH COAST

Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria **\$9,975**

Cher-Ae Heights will develop and implement a sustainable fishing educational program to teach young anglers, ages 5–15, the importance of becoming an ethical angler, the basics of how to fish, the history and culture of Trinidad Bay and the importance of conservation. The project will consist of 4 educational programs and 3 fishing events to be offered weekly during the fall fishing season. Local experts will share their fishing skills and knowledge; the 3 fishing events will include free use of rods and reels, bait, tackle and educational materials.

Environmental Action Committee of West Marin **\$15,000**

Environmental Action Committee will expand programming and provide teacher and student scholarships to enable more low-income individuals to attend the annual Point Reyes Birding and Nature Festival. In its 7th year, the festival brings almost 500 attendees to the Point Reyes National Seashore and West Marin at the height of spring bird migration. Each year, Environmental Action Committee receives multiple inquiries to include a wider population of attendees. Conservancy funding would increase opportunities for approximately 235 educators, students, and underserved youth to attend the festival.

Environmental Traveling Companions **\$45,000**

Environmental Traveling Companions will provide Bay Area residents with disabilities and Bay Area disadvantaged youth with a 1 to 3-day educational kayak adventure in San Francisco Bay or Tomales Bay. Trips will provide participants an opportunity to learn about the estuarine environment and some will include coastal camping. The project will also increase Environmental Traveling Companions' capacity by providing environmental education training for current and new volunteer guides.

Friends of the Dunes **\$30,000**

Tolowa Dune Stewards, using Friends of the Dunes as a fiscal sponsor, will bring underserved youth and families to the Lake Earl Wildlife Refuge and Tolowa Dunes State Park and organize several Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation multi-generational nature walks. The project will include restoration activities with Tolowa youth and the Sierra Service Project, which brings many lower-income and underserved youth and families from all over California to Del Norte County every summer for camp and community service.

National Park Service **\$46,635**

Redwood National and State Parks will provide backpacking trips for local underserved youth and their families along the Coastal Trail—from Crescent Beach to Enderts Beach—in Del Norte County. This section of the trail traverses thousands of years of history with evidence of Tolowa settlement, the earliest Euroamerican explorers, the Gold Rush, and even the original route of the Redwood Highway (U.S. 101). The trail provides vast views of a steep, dramatic coastline that is the product of one of the most tectonically active areas on Earth. Rangers will guide the trips and gear rental will be provided free of charge to the attendees.

Northcoast Environmental Center **\$21,000**

Humboldt Baykeeper, a project of the Northcoast Environmental Center, will provide coastal and water-based recreational opportunities for more than 500 people, many of whom will be low-income youth or seniors. Activities will include hiking, kayaking, and rowing tours of Humboldt Bay, marine debris cleanups, and public outreach and education. Tour participants will be informed about coastal ecosystems, natural and cultural history, opportunities for coastal recreation, and issues impacting Humboldt Bay and coastal habitats. Tours will be available in both English and Spanish.

Noyo Center for Marine Science **\$12,000**

Noyo Center for Marine Science will produce up to 5 videos featuring historical, cultural, and biological information about the Mendocino Coast for the Explore the Coast web application. The videos will provide users with a unique perspective on the Mendocino coastal community. Examples of potential video clips include: the process of marine mammal articulation, citizen scientists in action, films of live abalone and the impacts of improper harvesting methods. Videos will empower users to get involved and take action on issues such as over-fishing.

Ocean Riders of Marin **\$8,260**

Ocean Riders of Marin will expand its environmental education program at the former Golden Gate Dairy in Muir Beach and provide transportation to the program to grade school children from disadvantaged communities in Marin, and young homeless women from San Francisco. Ocean Riders of Marin will work closely with the Canal Family Support Service Kids Club, which provides educational and enrichment activities for the youth of San Rafael's Canal District and with the Homeless Prenatal Program in San Francisco, which works with poor and homeless families in San Francisco. Program participants will spend time at the Dairy, learning about its history and environment and interacting with the horses on the property, and then undertake various outdoor activities, including a hike either up the Dias Ridge Trail or out to Muir Beach to learn more about the coastal environment and the Redwood Creek wetland restoration project.

Point Reyes National Seashore Association **\$30,000**

The Point Reyes National Seashore Association will provide fourth through twelfth grade students from several Bay Area counties with hands-on in class and in-field science education in

wetlands, watersheds, and coastal beach environments. Field trip activities will include wetland habitat restoration, macro-invertebrate and fish sampling, water quality testing, wetland bird counts, plant monitoring, profiling creek cross-sections, and marine debris collection and surveys. Scientific analysis methods will be taught for each habitat: wetland, streams and ocean. Additionally, the program will provide bus scholarships to assist with transporting inner city students to Point Reyes National Seashore from San Francisco.

Redwood Community Action Agency **\$39,971**

Redwood Community Action Agency will work with local partners to develop multi-media content for 10 interpretive points along the Eureka Waterfront Trail and Hammond Coastal Trail. Partners will include Humboldt County, the Wiyot Tribe, and Eureka High School's film production class. Redwood Community Action Agency will also expand the boating opportunities at the annual "Explore the Coast" event on Hikshari Trail in Eureka.

YMCA of San Francisco **\$49,707**

Point Bonita YMCA, a branch of the YMCA of San Francisco, will provide 3-day outdoor education trips to the Marin Headlands for 200-300 low income or underserved students. School groups will participate in research, habitat restoration and monitoring projects along coastal shoreline sites and will contribute their findings to a production of a "Get to the Coast" booklet. This booklet will serve as a tool for participating youth to bring what they have learned back to their communities.

SAN FRANCISCO BAY

Association of Bay Area Governments **\$50,000**

The Association of Bay Area Governments will work with mobile application developer Canogle to develop additional content for the San Francisco Bay Trail web application. The content will be focused on four new areas of interest: 1) Crissy Field located in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, San Francisco County; 2) Bair Island located in the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, San Mateo County; 3) Moffett Field located in the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Santa Clara County; and 4) Benicia State Recreation Area, Solano County. The web application will provide users with a set of trailside tools and features including maps with a geo-locate function, audio tours, history of the site, current points of interest, and photos.

Bay Area Outreach and Recreation Program **\$50,000**

The Bay Area Outreach and Recreation Program will provide a series of accessible outdoor coastal trips on sections of the California Coastal and San Francisco Bay Trails. The project will have 3 primary components including: an outreach campaign focused on the opportunities made possible through the project; 16 accessible outdoor coastal trips (14 day trips and 2 weekend overnight trips), and 8 adaptive cycling group rides along portions of the coastal and bay trails and year round access to adaptive cycling on the San Francisco Bay Trail in the East Bay. These opportunities will make it possible for hundreds of people with disabilities and vision impairments to experience coastal trails and parks throughout the San Francisco Bay Area.

Earth Island Institute **\$42,000**

Kids for the Bay, a project of Earth Island Institute, will provide an opportunity for underserved students to learn about their watershed and how it connects with San Francisco Bay and the

Pacific Ocean. Classroom lessons and action projects will focus on understanding local watershed ecology and ways to become environmental stewards. Field trips will bring students to local creeks, San Francisco Bay, and the Pacific Ocean where they will engage in hands-on science and stewardship activities. Students will see how their actions as a watershed steward can make a difference in their own neighborhood and the greater Bay Area.

Earth Team **\$12,670**

Earth Team will provide a 2-day coastal experience for 120 students from 8 low-income, East Bay high schools. Earth Team will partner with the Camping at El Presidio program to bring the students to Rob Hill campground in San Francisco for 2 days where they will participate in trail walks along Baker Beach to learn about coastal resources and to hear coastal themed presentations from guest speakers. The students will also give presentations at the campground about their Zero Litter project, an anti-litter and marine debris education and outreach program that engages with students in underserved high schools.

Environmental Justice Coalition for Water **\$27,000**

The North Richmond Shoreline Open Space Alliance, using Environmental Justice Coalition for Water as a fiscal sponsor, will implement the “North Richmond Shoreline Festival”, a festival for the general public at Point Pinole Regional Shoreline. The goal of this festival is to provide and highlight access to the shoreline and open space and provide education about the coastal environment for local communities, which are urban and primarily low-income.

Friends of Sausal Creek **\$35,000**

Friends of Sausal Creek will give students, their families, and community members living in the lower Sausal Creek Watershed an opportunity to learn about the physical and ecological connections between the creek and San Francisco Bay. Students will participate in field trips to and along Sausal Creek, to the Creek’s outlet into the Oakland shoreline, and along the San Francisco Bay Trail. The goal of this project is to facilitate a connection between the students and their watershed and to engage in activities that promote environmental stewardship.

Golden Gate Audubon **\$50,000**

Golden Gate Audubon will bring underserved students and their families from East Oakland, North Richmond, and southeast San Francisco on field trips to a local wetland and creek, and will conclude with a family trip to Muir Beach. Students will receive a series of 4 in-class lessons building eco-literacy and watershed awareness, followed by on-site fieldtrips for science exploration and stewardship activities. The goal of the Eco-Education Program is to improve the lives and learning of both students and their families through nature discovery in areas where they live.

Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy **\$50,000**

Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy will provide curriculum-based, environmental science programming that connects public high school youth and teachers from the San Francisco area with meaningful learning experiences in watersheds and coastal habitats. The program features active participation in hands-on stewardship and restoration activities combined with small group, investigative projects presented to peers, the public, and park officials. The 3 core components of the project are: 1) a year-long environmental science program for 116 ethnically, racially, and economically diverse high school students in watershed education, enhancement, and restoration in the Presidio of San Francisco; 2) shorter-term environmental programs for San Francisco Unified School District high school classes that are unable to commit to the extensive

year-long program; and 3) intensive summer science programming, including field trips, environmental and science events, and service learning projects, that connect students with professional scientists in national parks.

Hayward Area Recreation and Park District **\$27,500**

Hayward Area Recreation and Park District will create content for an educational web application that condenses decades of information collected by the Hayward Shoreline Interpretive Center's naturalists to be used along the San Francisco Bay Trail. This project will also provide funding to the Association of Bay Area Governments for development of the web application for the District. In addition, the Hayward Shoreline Interpretive Center's naturalists will create and oversee a wetland stewardship program that will provide low-income school children with wetland-focused environmental education and opportunities to remove non-native plant species.

Marin Link **\$40,000**

Shore Up Marin, a project of Marin Link, will provide bay shoreline education, recreation, and stewardship experiences for residents living in the Canal neighborhood of San Rafael and in Marin City. Although these communities are located very close to San Francisco Bay, residents historically have had minimal access to and understanding of the Bay. Activities include boating, walking tours, and beach clean ups that provide an understanding of bay ecology and the critical vulnerabilities each community faces due to climate-change related impacts such as sea-level rise and flooding.

Marine Science Institute **\$30,000**

Marine Science Institute will provide 4,000 underserved students in fourth grade and above with an opportunity to explore a range of coastal and bayshore habitats in San Mateo County with expert guidance from Marine Science Institute's professional marine educators. Students will observe, touch, and discuss live marine animals and experience natural coastal resources through a scientific lens that is not available to the general public. Programs range from awareness-raising, single visit experiences to "multiple-exposure" programs that utilize the coastal environment as a source of environmental data to test hypotheses about human impact on the marine environment. All programs teach the importance of stewardship of marine and shoreline resources.

Ocean Awareness Project **\$22,380**

Citizen's for a Sustainable Point Molate, a project of Ocean Awareness, will plan and provide a chartered bus, on a twice daily route, from inner city Richmond to and from Point Molate Beach, Richmond on select summer days for 2 years. The goal of this project is to bring urban, underserved community members to the shoreline for recreation and shoreline appreciation. Many residents in this area have never experienced a shoreline visit and use public transportation exclusively, which does not easily access the beach.

San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society **\$50,000**

San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society will provide bus subsidy and more staffing for environmental education programs and outreach to enable the San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society to expand the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge's wetland and habitat restoration education for low-income students in Alameda and Santa Clara Counties. The project will help lower transportation costs for schools and provide additional staff to increase both

outreach and educational programming. These programs will reach many students who have never visited the marshes around San Francisco Bay.

Save the Redwoods League **\$17,150**

Save the Redwoods League will help educate Oakland elementary school students about their local watershed through field trips, classroom study, and hands-on project experience. Students will follow a visit to a redwood forest in the Oakland hills with a day-long visit to Crab Cove Regional Park along the Alameda County shoreline where they will explore the intertidal zone and learn how it is affected by activities in the upper watershed. Each field trip will be preceded by an in-class lesson and a lesson will be taught at the end of the entire program. Students will implement action projects—for example, painting a mural or writing a report on an animal seen in the field—after the field visits to reinforce the information learned.

The Watershed Project **\$32,000**

The Watershed Project will provide underserved youth in Contra Costa County with environmental education and career training through the Wild Oysters program. The program teaches students about native oysters and intertidal habitats at 3 different shoreline locations: Point Pinole in Contra Costa County, Tomales Bay in Marin County, and Pillar Point in San Mateo County. Five student interns will also participate in ongoing field studies that monitor the rocky intertidal zone and oyster reef restoration efforts at these sites, giving them training and exposure to potential careers in the environmental field.

West Contra Costa Unified School District **\$6,865**

The Lovonya DeJean Middle School’s Escape Club, using West Contra Costa Unified School District as a fiscal sponsor, will provide 3 annual kayaking trips at Elkhorn Slough. Each trip will serve approximately 32 primarily low income students from the City of Richmond. Prior to each trip, students will attend 2–3 after school meetings to learn about the natural history of Elkhorn Slough. The project will fund the cost of transportation and the kayak rentals and tours.

CENTRAL COAST

City of Watsonville Public Works Conservation Academy **\$27,986**

The City of Watsonville Public Works Conservation Academy will provide students and their adult family members an opportunity to visit the coast and participate in stewardship activities. The project will include transportation to a coastal site, a tour of the area led by an environmental educator, and a coastal clean-up effort. All students who participate will complete an “I ♥ a Healthy Coast” bilingual postcard pledge upon returning to school. The postcard will include a photo of the coast, a map marking local beaches, and a handwritten pledge by the student to make a difference in preventing litter both in town and at the beach.

Friends of the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve **\$2,775**

This project will provide field trips for 100 disadvantaged high school students from Paso Robles to the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve in Cambria. Students will participate in a docent-led walk and a restoration activity to learn more about coastal resources and how they can help protect them.

Guadalupe Nipomo Dunes Center **\$47,566**

Through an experiential environmental education and coastal access pilot program including outreach and field trips, underserved fifth grade students in Guadalupe will explore the characteristics of watersheds, coasts, and oceans and how they interconnect, discover how

human actions impact the coastal environment, and communicate ways that their community can preserve coastal habitats. The project includes classroom and outdoor activities and field trips to coastal sites along the Central Coast, and an ocean boat ride.

Morro Bay National Estuary Program **\$13,598**

The Estuary Program will develop interpretive content specific to Morro Bay and Los Osos for the Explore the Coast web application. A variety of fun activities, videos, and diagrams focused on 12 points of interest will draw people to the coast and get them excited to explore the natural world. The content will convey messages about the estuary and coastal resources and will promote environmental stewardship.

O'Neill Sea Odyssey **\$10,000**

O'Neill Sea Odyssey will provide bus transportation for 450 lower-income students to participate in the O'Neill Sea Odyssey ocean-going science and environmental education program. Fourth–sixth grade students will receive hands-on lessons about marine habitats and coastal watersheds while aboard a 65-foot catamaran sailing the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. The one-day catamaran field trip is supplemented with follow-up lessons at O'Neill Sea Odyssey's shore-side education center at the Santa Cruz Harbor. Students come from Santa Clara, San Benito, Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties, and special outreach is made to students with cognitive and/or physical disabilities.

Regents of the University of California, Santa Barbara **\$40,000**

The Kids in Nature program, operated through the Regents of the University of California, will provide 20 fourth–sixth grade classrooms in the Santa Barbara area with an educational field trip to a coastal preserve area and a follow-up classroom visit. Kids in Nature staff will work in small groups to complete specially designed activities that accompany each fieldtrip. The Kids in Nature program will engage graduate and undergraduate students to serve as mentors for the fourth–sixth grade students.

Save our Shores **\$50,000**

Save our Shores will provide hands-on activities for underserved students in Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties along state park beaches, where the Pajaro River meets the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, and along Elkhorn Slough. Shoreline education will be combined with coastal state park interpretive programs whenever possible and several coastal clean-up efforts will be included.

Ventana Wildlife Society **\$32,422**

The Ventana Wildlife Society will provide 8 week-long day camps with an overnight camp each week for lower-income youth. These camps will provide access to the coastline through meaningful and educational outdoor activities (including a coastal clean-up activity). Ventana Wildlife Society will also provide ten 3-hour weekly nature classes during the school year. These programs will be free for underserved youth and focus on coastal ecology including visits to the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary coastline.

Vida Verde Nature Education **\$50,000**

Vida Verde Nature Education will provide 3-day, overnight environmental education programs at several locations on the San Mateo County coast for low-income urban youth. The students and teachers camp in the woods for 2 nights during this hands-on experiential program that

emphasizes stewardship and personal connections to the outdoors, while reinforcing science standards through activities and lessons in coastal habitats.

SOUTH COAST

Buena Vista Audubon Society **\$5,500**

Buena Vista Audubon Society will subsidize school bus transportation costs so that local elementary schools can transport classes to the Buena Vista Audubon Society's Nature Center and coastal lagoon, where children will learn about and explore coastal ecosystems from trained volunteer nature guides. The visit includes classroom lecture and hands-on activities, followed by a guided hike along a short trail by the Buena Vista Ecological Reserve coastal lagoon.

California Wildlife Foundation **\$17,000**

California Wildlife Foundation will develop and provide a series of community level collaborative projects and classroom learning modules that engage students on climate change through action based science activities, field trips, and art. This project will expand existing program offerings to numerous Title 1 (low income) schools in San Diego County and provide transportation for coastal field trips in San Diego County. The project will also develop additional programming including a binational student summit at a coastal site in San Diego and student art shows.

Children's Maritime Foundation **\$40,000**

Children's Maritime Foundation will provide an environmental study program that includes a 30-day curriculum covering ocean-related ecosystems, food chains, human impacts, pollution, and water management. Instruction will be delivered by classroom teachers and will include a hands-on lab conducted during a sailing trip on the tallship *American Pride* docked in Rainbow Harbor in the City of Long Beach.

Heal the Bay **\$30,000**

Heal the Bay will host 2 coastal education events at beaches in Santa Monica. Nick Gabaldón Day: Celebrating Diversity, Environmentalism and Surf Culture will honor the legacy of pioneering African-American surfer, Nick Gabaldón, celebrate diversity in the greater surfing community and promote stewardship of the Santa Monica Bay coastline. Heal the Bay's Youth Education Day: Promoting Science Literacy, Experiential Learning and Environmental Stewardship will provide underserved students and their teachers an opportunity to "explore the coast" during a day of fun, hands-on learning and stewardship activities and a tour of the Santa Monica Pier Aquarium, Heal the Bay's marine education facility.

Living Coast Discovery Center **\$25,000**

Living Coast Discovery Center will provide support for Animals-on-the-Bay Day in 2016 and 2017 and increase targeted event outreach and shuttle transportation assistance for low-income and underserved people in San Diego County. Animals-on-the-Bay Day is an annual event at the Living Coast Discovery Center's campus on the San Diego Bay Wildlife Refuge. This hands-on, family friendly event educates thousands of guests about local watershed ecology and biodiversity conservation. Living Coast is fully accessible by public transportation and regularly operates a guest shuttle to the nearby trolley station. For Animals-on-the-Bay Day, the Living Coast will work with San Diego's Metropolitan Transit System to provide incentives for participants that use public transportation to attend the event.

Malibu Foundation for Environmental Education **\$25,000**

Malibu Foundation for Environmental Education will provide bus transportation to bring thousands of children to the coast to participate in Kids Ocean Day over 2 years. The event includes a beach clean-up effort and participation in a large scale art project that is photographed from the air and expresses the need to eliminate litter that negatively impacts ocean resources.

Maritime Museum Association of San Diego **\$15,000**

The Maritime Museum of San Diego is completing construction of a seaworthy replica of Cabrillo's ship *San Salvador*, the first recorded European vessel to sail along Southern California and survey the coastline. In fall 2016, *San Salvador* will voyage to a number of ports throughout California, providing residents the opportunity to engage in an educational experience about coastal history. This project will support the recruitment and training of docents and volunteers from each port city who will interpret the *San Salvador* to their local community.

Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority **\$50,000**

Mountains Recreation and Conservancy Authority will provide no-cost overnight camping trips in the Santa Monica Mountains for underserved youth from Los Angeles County. The program provides camping gear, supplies, transportation, and interpretive naturalists. The program will aim to serve youth currently or formerly enrolled in the County's foster care system.

National Marine Sanctuary Foundation **\$50,000**

The National Marine Sanctuary Foundation's MERITO program (Multicultural Education for Resource Issues Threatening Oceans) is a bilingual earth and ocean sciences education program based at the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary. The goals of MERITO are to educate and engage youth from diverse backgrounds to protect our coastal and marine resources, and to inspire students generally under-represented in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) programs and classes to pursue careers in marine or environmental profession fields. Through this project, approximately 450 fourth–eighth grade students will engage in the MERITO program, via partnerships with their class or after-school educators.

Ocean Discovery Institute **\$40,000**

The Ocean Discovery Institute will implement the "Ocean Science Explorers" program for third–sixth grade students by conducting a coastal field trip for each grade level. Students will also participate in a locally-based environmental stewardship project that applies principles learned through their field trip. Students will conduct basic field data collection on wildlife and physical features of the coastal environment to better understand geologic processes, ocean chemistry, and how animals are adapted to living in their environment.

Ocean Institute **\$25,000**

The Ocean Institute Festival of Sail is an annual 3-day event that draws people to Dana Point Harbor, where they learn about California coastal resources and the state's maritime history. This project will increase festival accessibility for up to 1,500 low-income individuals from underserved communities in Orange County by providing event admission and roundtrip public transportation. This opportunity will be promoted through development and deployment of a bilingual (English and Spanish) multi-media marketing campaign.

Orange County Coastkeeper **\$35,000**

Orange County Coastkeeper will support and expand an existing environmental education program, Watershed Heroes: Actions Linking Education to Stewardship (WHALES). Since

2005, the WHALES Program has provided hands-on environmental education to underserved junior high and high school students in Orange County at no cost to the schools or students. Through in-class activities and field experiences, students explore watershed, coastal, and ecological concepts in their own communities. To expand the program, Orange County Coastkeeper will pilot a new program, Kids Care, which will focus on educating elementary school children in third–fifth grade on marine debris issues in Orange County. The project will target underserved schools, develop age-appropriate curriculum, conduct assemblies discussing marine debris issues, and set-up at least one coastal clean-up day per school.

Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy **\$30,000**

Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy will bring elementary students on guided, hands-on science field trips to coastal sage scrub habitat overlooking the Pacific Ocean at White Point Nature Education Center and Preserve. Topics covered include local coastal environmental issues, watersheds, local marine and terrestrial plants and animals. Parents can volunteer during field trips as trained trail docents. Funds will support the participation of over 3,600 first–fifth grade students from low-income families that attend Title 1 schools during the 2016-19 school years.

Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains **\$45,000**

The Resource Conservation District will provide a hands-on marine ecology field program for fourth and fifth grade students from Title 1 schools within the Los Angeles Unified School District. Participating students will rotate through 5 activity stations designed to teach important aspects of coastal ecology. Based on their experiences, students will help develop content for the Explore the Coast web application. The content provided will be homegrown, reflecting the educational experience of an estimated 600 students who visit Malibu Lagoon and Surfrider Beach. The web application will serve as a public resource with information about Malibu Lagoon’s history, ecology and recreational opportunities.

San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy **\$49,950**

San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy will support an ongoing conservation education program that provides school and family weekend trips to the coast for lower-income populations residing inland within the Escondido Creek Watershed. The program includes a stewardship component that encourages students to take action to help protect their watershed. The project will also develop interpretive content along a 3-mile trail for the Explore the Coast web application to enhance the experiences of the thousands of individuals who visit the San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve annually.

Sierra Club Foundation **\$15,000**

Los Angeles Inspiring Connection Outdoors, an outreach program of the Sierra Club, will organize and conduct 30 outings focused on coastal areas of Santa Monica Bay. Outings will include day hikes to coastal sage scrub habitats, beach visits and barbecues, beach clean-ups, wetlands plant restoration, and/or nature education. In addition, a trip to Catalina Island over Memorial Day 2016 will take approximately 70 middle school students from 3 Title 1 Los Angeles schools to Camp Emerald Bay for a weekend of kayaking, snorkeling, swimming, and hiking.

The Bay Foundation **\$47,000**

The Bay Foundation will provide education and opportunities for hands-on restoration of the dunes adjacent to Los Angeles International Airport (LAX). Building on a partnership with Los

Angeles World Airports and Friends of the LAX Dunes, volunteers will learn about the site's historical, cultural, and environmental importance, and come to understand the dunes as part of a living shoreline, all on private property not usually publically accessible. Participants will learn about the various plants and wildlife on-site, and help remove exotic vegetation. Outreach will be conducted to target participation from diverse and underserved communities, with a special emphasis on elementary and high school-aged youth and college students.

The Ocean Foundation **\$25,000**

The Ocean Foundation will provide 3 years of continuous marine science education programming to underserved youth living in coastal communities. Programs focus on migratory marine life, are designed for the ages 9–12, and incorporate peer-to-peer learning and hands-on activities.

Wildcoast **\$30,000**

Wildcoast will directly engage high school students from underserved communities in San Diego County in experiential learning, direct stewardship and marine-based recreation activities in La Jolla's Marine Protected Area and the South San Diego County coastline. The project will inform students about local marine issues; build their appreciation for local coastal and marine resources; contribute to ongoing MPA monitoring and marine-debris science; and help remove ocean-bound trash and plastics from key conservation sites in South San Diego County.

MULTIPLE REGIONS

Access Northern California **\$21,650**

Access Northern California will provide 3 organized hikes on the coast for people with disabilities and their families. The hikes will generate accessibility data to populate a web application that will also be developed as part of the project. Access Northern California will also conduct on-site access surveys of places to hike and explore along the central and north coast including the California Coastal Trail (CCT) and post that information on their website. Reliable access information will give more people with disabilities the confidence and encouragement they need to get outside and explore natural areas.

Coastwalk **\$50,000**

Coastwalk will support a multi-media outreach campaign and content/data collection initiative focused on generating public awareness about the CCT. The project will generate approximately 100 points of interpretive content for the Explore the Coast web application, run a multi-platform social media campaign, and host community outreach and media events.

Site Description: All of the projects serve a coastal region of the state and/or are within one or more of the nine counties under the jurisdiction of the San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program. See Exhibit 1 for regional maps depicting the location of the projects.

Project History: In 2013, the Conservancy launched the Explore the Coast Grant Program with the two main goals of supporting activities that allow more people to explore California's spectacular coast and/or enhancing a visitor's experience. The latter includes projects that enhanced visitors' ability to learn about natural, recreational, cultural and historic resources of the California and San Francisco Bay shorelines. ETC grants were envisioned to support a wide

range of activities including funding transportation for coastal experience for communities less familiar with the coast, communication and outreach, economic development related to coastal tourism, and development of interpretive information and/or education materials. The program was designed as a “small grants” program with a maximum award of \$50,000.

In 2013, the Conservancy granted \$1.3 million for 52 projects that were hugely successful in meeting the ETC goals. These 52 projects included several programs to bring students from Title 1 (low-income) schools to the coast, development of interpretive content for the Explore the Coast and San Francisco Bay Trail web applications, funding for kite, tall ship, and open street festivals; and different environmental education and community stewardship projects.

In September 2015, the Conservancy released and widely-advertised the 2016 Explore the Coast call for proposals and received 81 applications, of which staff selected the subject 57 projects for potential funding under this authorization. Moving forward, staff anticipates holding an annual Explore the Coast grant round.

PROJECT FINANCING

Coastal Conservancy	\$1,795,960
Other funds (matching funds excluding in-kind)	\$2,636,962
Project Total	\$4,432,922

Two sources of Conservancy funding are expected to be used for the ETC grants program. The first funding source is an appropriation from the Conservancy’s Coastal Access Account (Public Resources Code § 30620.2) derived from permit fees from coastal development permits issued by the California Coastal Commission. Coastal Access Account funds may be used for grants to public agencies and nonprofit organizations for the development, maintenance, and operation of new or existing facilities that provide public access to the coast, except in the San Francisco Bay. Use of the Coastal Access Account funds is appropriate for the all of the following projects because each will develop, maintain, or operate a new or existing facility that provides access to the coast, as indicated below:

- Access Northern California (Expanding Coastal Opportunities for People with Disabilities): California Coastal Trail (CCT) operations.
- Bay Area Outreach and Recreation Program (Disability Outdoor Coastal Access Project): CCT operations.
- Buena Vista Audubon Society (School Bus Voucher Project): Buena Vista Audubon Society's Nature Center operations.
- Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria (Sustainable Fishing Program for Youth): Trinidad Pier operations.
- Children’s Maritime Foundation (Long Beach Watershed and Marine Science Program): Tall ship operations.
- City of Watsonville Public Works Conservation Academy (I ♥ a Healthy Coast): Sunset State Beach operations.
- Coastwalk (Great Through-Hike Expedition 2016): CCT operations.
- Earth Team (LEAF 2016): Rob Hill Campground and Baker Beach operations.

- Environmental Action Committee of West Marin (Point Reyes Birding and Nature Festival Community Education Program): Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) and Tomales Bay State Park operations making use of multiple trails, trailheads, buildings, and other facilities.
- Environmental Traveling Companions (Accessible Sea Kayak and Bay Education Program-Phase 2): GGNRA boat-in campsite facilities operations.
- Friends of the Dunes: Lake Earl Wildlife Refuge and Tolowa Dunes State Park operations.
- Friends of the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve (Exploring and Stewarding the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve): Fiscalini Ranch Preserve trail operations.
- Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center (Environmental Education for Elementary Schools): Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center, Channel Islands National Park, Rancho Guadalupe Dunes Preserve, Monterey Bay Aquarium, and CCT operations.
- Heal the Bay (Coastal Education Events): Santa Monica State Beach and Santa Monica Pier Aquarium operations.
- Living Coast Discovery Center (Animals on the Bay Day): Living Coast Discovery Center operations.
- Malibu Foundation for Environmental Education (Kids Ocean Day Adopt-A-Beach Cleanup): Dockweiler State Beach operations.
- Marine Science Institute (Discover our Bay and Coast): Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, Pillar Point Tide Pool Parking Lot and Pescadero State Beach operations.
- Maritime Museum Association of San Diego (EXPLORE: Preparing for the Voyaging of *San Salvador*): Tall ship and port operations.
- Morro Bay National Estuary Program (Explore the Coast Web App: Adventures in Morro Bay): CCT operations.
- Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (Coastal Camping at Puerco Canyon): Puerco Canyon campground operations.
- National Marine Sanctuary Foundation (Multicultural Education for Resources and Issues Threatening Oceans): CCT operations.
- National Park Service (Redwood Family Coastal Camp): CCT and Redwood National Park Nickel Creek backcountry campsite operations.
- Northcoast Environmental Center (Humboldt Bay Explorations): Humboldt Bay Aquatic Center, CCT, and Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation, and Conservation District operations.
- Noyo Center for Marine Science (Noyo Center Education and Outreach): Noyo Center development and operations.
- O'Neill Sea Odyssey (Transportation for Ocean Stewards): O'Neill Sea Odyssey Education Center operations.
- Ocean Discovery Institute (Ocean Science Explorers): Torrey Pines State Beach, Nicholson Point Park, South Bay Marine Biological Study Area, and Mission Bay Park operations.
- Ocean Institute (Tall Ships Festival 2016): Tall ship operations.
- Ocean Riders of Marin (Muir Beach Coastal Heritage Project): Muir Beach operations.
- Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy (Junior Naturalist Program): White Point Education Center and Preserve operations.
- Point Reyes National Seashore Association (Science at the Seashore): Point Reyes National Seashore's Clem Miller Environmental Education Center operations.

- Redwood Community Action Agency (Eureka Waterfront Trail and Hammond Coastal Trail Interpretive Content for Web Application): Waterfront Trail and CCT operations.
- Regents of the University of California, Santa Barbara (Kids in Nature Explore the Coast): Storke Wetlands, Coal Oil Point Reserve, Arroyo Hondo Preserve, and CCT operations.
- Resource Conservation District of the San Monica Mountains (Malibu Lagoon-Who Lives Here?): Malibu Lagoon State Beach operations.
- San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy (Our Living Watershed): San Elijo Lagoon Reserve facilities operation.
- Save our Shores (Marine Education and Outreach Program): Natural Bridges State Beach, Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, Seacliff State Beach operations.
- Sierra Club Foundation (Los Angeles Inspiring Connections Outdoors): Operations at Point Mugu State Park (Sycamore Canyon and Beach), Leo Carrillo State Park, Solstice Canyon (Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area), Malibu Lagoon State Beach, Malibu Creek State Park, Temescal Canyon Park, Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, White Point Nature Preserve, Abalone Cove Ecological Reserve, Portuguese Bend Reserve, Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve, and Catalina Island Camp Emerald Bay.
- The Bay Foundation (LAX Dune Community Stewardship Project): LAX Dunes Preserve operations.
- The Ocean Foundation (Ocean Connectors: Connecting Youth for Conservation): Living Coast Discovery Center, South San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge, and whale watching boat operations.
- Ventana Wildlife Society (Coastal Adventure Program for Underserved Youth): CCT and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary operations.
- West Contra Costa Unified School District (Escape Club (at DeJean Middle School) Kayaking Trip): Elkhorn Slough National Estuary Research Reserve operations.
- Wildcoast (San Diego Marine Protected Area Youth Education and Stewardship Project): Matlahuayl State Marine Reserve, San Diego-Scripps State Marine Conservation Area, Sweetwater Marsh National Wildlife Refuge, and Tijuana Slough National Wildlife Refuge operations.
- YMCA of San Francisco (“Get to the Coast” Program): Marin headland operations.

The expected source of funds for the remaining ETC grants program projects, and for certain elements of some of the projects listed above, is an appropriation from the California Beach and Coastal Enhancement Account of the California Environmental License Plate Fund (Vehicle Code Section 5067) which is derived from sales of the Whale Tail® License Plate, an official “specialty” license plate issued by the California Department of Motor Vehicles for cars registered in California. The Whale Tail funds may be granted for projects throughout the coast and San Francisco Bay that are consistent with the purposes of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code (Sections 31000 *et seq.*). Please refer to “Consistency with Conservancy’s Enabling Legislation” section, below, for a list of these ETC projects.

In addition to the “other funding” identified in the “Project Financing” section, there also is an estimated \$1 million of in-kind contributions towards this ETC suite of 57 projects. These contributions include staff and volunteer time and donated equipment, materials, and services.

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S ENABLING LEGISLATION:

The 57 proposed projects are consistent with the Conservancy's enabling legislation, Division 21 of the Public Resources Code (PRC) (Sections 31000-31410) as described below:

Chapter 3: Establishment and Functions (includes Coastal Education)

Pursuant to PRC Section 31119(a)(1), the Conservancy is authorized to award grants to nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, and public agencies to undertake educational projects and programs for students in kindergarten–twelfth grade, relating to the preservation, protection, enhancement and maintenance of coastal resources. Consistent with this section, the proposed authorization will award grants to nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, and public agencies to undertake the projects described below.

- California Wildlife Foundation (Climate Kids-South Coast): Consistent because the project provides classroom education and field trips for elementary school students to learn about climate change and coastal resource protection.
- City of Watsonville Public Works Conservation Academy (I ♥ a Healthy Coast): Consistent because the project provides stewardship activities that teach fourth–sixth grade students and high school students about the need for coastal resource protection.
- Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center (Environmental Education for Elementary Schools): Consistent because the project provides classroom and field trips for fifth grade students to learn about coastal preservation.
- Noyo Center for Marine Science (Noyo Center Education and Outreach): Consistent because the project facilitates education of the public about coastal resource enhancement and protection.
- Ocean Discovery Institute (Ocean Science Explorers): Consistent because the project provides education about coastal resource protection for third–sixth grade students.
- Orange County Coastkeeper (WHALES: Watershed Heros): Consistent because the project provides classroom and field activities that educate elementary school students on protection of coastal resources.
- Regents of the University of California, Santa Barbara (Kids in Nature Explore the Coast): Consistent because the project provides field trips for fourth – sixth grade students to learn about coastal resource protection.
- Resource Conservation District of the San Monica Mountains (Malibu Lagoon-Who Lives Here?): Consistent because the project provides a field program for fourth and fifth grade students to learn about marine ecology and coastal protection.
- Save our Shores (Marine Education and Outreach Program): Consistent because the project provides classroom and field trips for elementary school students to learn about protection of coastal resources.
- The Ocean Foundation (Ocean Connectors: Connecting Youth for Conservation): Consistent because the project provides marine science education and field trips for grade school students to learn about coastal resource conservation.
- Vida Verde Nature Education (Coastal Overnight Trips for Low-Income Urban Youth): Consistent because the project provides coastal educational trips for fourth–sixth grade students to learn about coastal stewardship.

- Wildcoast (San Diego Marine Protected Area Youth Education and Stewardship Project): Consistent because the project provides field education and outings focused on marine education and coastal stewardship.

Consistent with PRC Section 31119(b), the Conservancy will not be using any of the funds provided to these projects (or any of the ETC projects) for Conservancy costs to administer the projects and no general fund money is being granted to a local public educational institution.

Chapter 4.5 San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program

The projects listed below would be undertaken pursuant to Chapter 4.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code (PRC), Sections 31160-31165, regarding recreational and resource goals in the San Francisco Bay Area (all section references are to the PRC).

Pursuant to Section 31162, the Conservancy is authorized to award grants to projects located in the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area that will help achieve the following goals: a) to improve public access to, within, and around the bay, coast, ridgetops and urban open spaces... through completion and operation of regional bay, coast, water and ridge trail systems, and local trails connecting to population centers and public facilities; b) to protect, restore, and enhance natural habitats and connecting corridors, watersheds, scenic areas, and other open-space resources of regional importance; ... and d) to promote, assist, and enhance projects that provide open space and natural areas that are accessible to urban populations for recreational and educational purposes. All of the projects listed below are consistent with this section as they all help to achieve at least one of these goals, as indicated after the specific project, below.

Pursuant to Section 31165, the Conservancy is authorized to award grants for activities that are compatible with the preservation, restoration, or enhancement of ocean, coastal, bay, or watershed resources, or that facilitate environmental education related to these resources. All of the projects listed below are consistent with this section as the projects are for compatible activities, as indicated after the specific project, below.

In addition, all of the proposed projects listed below meet the criteria established in Section 31163(c) as the projects serve a regional constituency, can be implemented in a timely way, provide opportunities for education, access, and restoration that would be lost if not quickly implemented, and include matching funds.

- Association of Bay Area Governments (San Francisco Bay Trail Mobile Application): Sections 31162(a), 31162(d), and 31165: provides information about trail locations, access facilities, and environmental education about Bay Trail locations around San Francisco Bay.
- Earth Island Institute (Watershed Action Program –Coastal Connections): Consistent with Sections 31162(b), 31162(d), and 31165 because the project provides environmental education and field trips to the San Francisco Bay shoreline for underserved K-12 students in Alameda and Contra Costa counties.
- Earth Team (LEAF 2016): Consistent with Section 31162(a) and 31162(d) because the project improves access to coastal areas as well access to a campground, for students from underserved high schools, for recreational and educational purposes.

- Environmental Justice Coalition for Water (North Richmond Shoreline Festival): Consistent with Sections 31162(b), 31162(d), and 31165 because the project facilitates a bay/coastal experience and education through the North Richmond Shoreline Festival held at the Point Pinole shoreline.
- Friends of Sausal Creek (Follow Your Creek): Consistent with Sections 31162(b), 31162(d), and 31165 because the project provides environmental education and field trips to underserved students and community residents about the Sausal Creek watershed and San Francisco Bay.
- Golden Gate Audubon (Eco-Education Program): Consistent with Sections 31162(b), 31162(d), and 31165 because the project provides environmental education and field trips to underserved students and community residents in Richmond, Oakland, and San Francisco.
- Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy (Project WISE): Consistent with Sections 31162(b), 31162(d), and 31165 because the project provides hands-on stewardship and restoration activities and small group, investigative projects along San Francisco Bay shoreline.
- Hayward Area Recreation and Park District (Bay Shore Exploration Program): Consistent with Sections 31162(a), 31162(d), and 31165 because the project provides environmental education and stewardship opportunities at the Hayward Shoreline Interpretive Center for local, underserved students as well as creating content for an environmental education application about this area.
- Marin Link (Exploring Marin's Bay shoreline): Consistent with Sections 31162(b), 31162(d), and 31165 because the project provides local, underserved communities with boating and walking tours, as well as beach clean up opportunities.
- Marine Science Institute (Discover our Bay and Coast): Consistent with Sections 31162(a), 31162(d), and 31165 because the project provides environmental education about coastal and bayshore habitats in San Mateo County to local students.
- Ocean Awareness Project (Vaya al Playa): Consistent with Section 31162(d) because the project facilitates bay-shoreline access and appreciation through provision of bus transportation to local, underserved, urban populations.
- San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society (Inclusive Environmental Education at Don Edwards SF Bay Refuge): Consistent with Sections 31162(a), 31162(d), and 31165 because the project provides bus transportation and environmental education at the Refuge to local, underserved K-12 students.
- Save the Redwoods League (Explore Your Watershed Elementary School Program): Consistent with Sections 31162(b), 31162(d), and 31165 because the project educates K-5 students in Oakland about their local watershed through field trips, classroom study, and hands-on project experiences.
- The Watershed Project (Wild Oysters: Youth Leadership in the East Bay): Consistent with Sections 31162(b), 31162(d), and 31165 because the project provides local students at 3 Contra Costa County high schools with education about native oysters and bay ecology as well as field trips to oyster restoration sites.

Chapter 7: Urban Waterfront Restoration

The projects listed below would be undertaken pursuant to Chapter 7 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, Sections 31300–31316, regarding urban waterfront restoration.

Pursuant to Section 31301, the Legislature found the “encouragement of tourism, public access to the coast, and planned private sector development to be a benefit to the citizens of the state, as well as the local citizenry in affected urban waterfront areas.” The projects below are all consistent with this Section, as specifically indicated below.

Under Section 31316, the Conservancy is authorized to “undertake projects and award grants for 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. These projects or activities may include, but are not limited to, exhibits or events emphasizing coastal, watershed, or ocean resource education, or maritime history...” The projects listed below are all consistent with this Section, as specifically indicated below.

- Heal the Bay (Coastal Education Events): Consistent with these sections because the project supports events that emphasize coastal stewardship.
- Living Coast Discovery Center (Animals on the Bay Day): Consistent with these sections because the project supports events focused on coastal ecology.
- Malibu Foundation for Environmental Education (Kids Ocean Day Adopt-A-Beach Clean-up): Consistent with these sections because the project provides transportation to events that emphasize coastal stewardship.
- Maritime Museum Association of San Diego (EXPLORE: Preparing for the Voyaging of *San Salvador*): Consistent with these sections because the project supports events focused on maritime history.
- Ocean Institute (Tall Ships Festival 2016): Consistent with these sections because the project supports events focused on maritime history.

Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways

The projects listed below would be undertaken pursuant to Chapter 9 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, Section 31400, regarding public access to and enjoyment of coastal resources:

Section 31400 states the Legislature’s intent that the Conservancy play a principal role in the implementation of a system of public accessways to and along the state’s coastline, including San Francisco Bay. All of the projects listed below would be funded by the Conservancy to implement public access objectives, as more specifically described below.

Section 31400.1 authorizes the Conservancy to award grants to public agencies and nonprofit organizations to develop, operate, or manage lands for public access purposes to and along the coast, provided the accessway serve more than local public needs. Section 31400.3, authorizes the Conservancy to provide such assistance as is required to aid public agencies and nonprofit organizations in establishing a system of public coastal accessways, and related functions necessary to meet the objectives of this division. All of the projects listed below are consistent with these Sections, as more specifically described below.

Consistent with Sections 31400.1 and 31400.3, the proposed authorization would award grants to nonprofit organizations and public agencies to undertake the projects listed below and as more particularly described in the “Project Summary” section, above.

Consistent with Section 31400.2, staff recommends approval of the projects below after evaluating the amount of funding provided by the Conservancy in light of the total amount of available funds for coastal access projects, the fiscal resources of the grantees, the urgency of the projects relative to other eligible projects, and the Conservancy's Project Selection Criteria & Guidelines.

- Access Northern California (Expanding Coastal Opportunities for People with Disabilities): Consistent with these sections because the project expands coastal access and enjoyment for people with disabilities by conducting on-site disabled access surveys and making survey findings available on the internet.
- Bay Area Outreach and Recreation (Disability Outdoor Coastal Access Project): Consistent with these sections because the project expands coastal access and enjoyment for people with disabilities by providing accessible outdoor coastal trips, adaptive cycling trips and year round access to adaptive cycling on the San Francisco Bay Trail.
- Buena Vista Audubon Society (School Bus Voucher Project): Consistent with these sections because the project expands coastal access and enjoyment for low-income students by subsidizing school bus transportation costs so that local elementary schools can transport classes to the Buena Vista Audubon Society's Nature Center and the Buena Vista coastal lagoon to attend education programs.
- Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria (Sustainable Fishing Program for Youth): Consistent with these sections because the project expands coastal enjoyment for youth by teaching children fishing skills and ethics and the history and culture of Trinidad Bay.
- Children's Maritime Foundation (Long Beach Watershed and Marine Science Program): Consistent with these sections because the project expands coastal enjoyment for low-income elementary students by providing a 30-day marine environmental study program including a hands-on lab conducted during a sailing trip on the tallship *American Pride*.
- Coastwalk (Great Through-Hike Expedition 2016): Consistent with these sections because the project expands coastal access and enjoyment for the public by providing information and events associated with the California Coastal Trail, including accurate online maps of the entire trail, interpretive content for the Explore the Coast web application, and community outreach events.
- Environmental Action Committee of West Marin (Point Reyes Birding and Nature Festival Community Education Program): Consistent with these sections because the project expands coastal enjoyment for low-income students, teachers, and youth by providing scholarships for students and teachers to attend the Point Reyes Birding and Nature Festival and providing programming targeted to youth groups and low-income individuals.
- Environmental Traveling Companions (Accessible Sea Kayak and Bay Education Program-Phase 2): Consistent with these sections because the project expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing scholarships to disadvantaged youth and people with disabilities for 1 to 3-day accessible and educational bay kayak adventures and providing environmental education training for current and new volunteer guides.
- Friends of the Dunes (Developing Youth, Tribal and Community Leaders for Tolowa Coast Stewardship): Consistent with these sections because the project expands coastal access and

enjoyment by offering coastal education and stewardship programs to children, youth and families.

- Friends of the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve (Exploring and Stewarding the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve): Consistent with these sections because the project expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing a field trip to the coast for 30 disadvantaged high school students.
- Morro Bay National Estuary Program (Explore the Coast Web App: Adventures in Morro Bay): Consistent with these sections because the project expands coastal enjoyment by developing interpretive content for the Explore the Coast web application to draw people to the coast and get them excited to explore the natural world.
- Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (Coastal Camping at Puerco Canyon): Consistent with these sections because the project expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing no-cost overnight camping trips in the Santa Monica Mountains for underserved youth.
- National Marine Sanctuary Foundation (Multicultural Education for Resources and Issues Threatening Oceans): Consistent with these sections because the project expands coastal access and enjoyment by educating and engaging diverse youth to protect coastal and marine resources through partnerships with in-class or afterschool educators.
- National Park Service (Redwood Family Coastal Camp): Consistent with these sections because the project expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing free backpacking trips for local underserved youth and their families along the Coastal Trail.
- Northcoast Environmental Center (Humboldt Bay Explorations): Consistent with these sections because the project expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing coastal and water-based recreational opportunities for more than 500 people, including many low-income youth and seniors.
- O’Neill Sea Odyssey (Transportation for Ocean Stewards): Consistent with these sections because the project expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing bus transportation for lower-income students to participate in an ocean-going science and environmental education program.
- Ocean Riders of Marin (Muir Beach Coastal Heritage Project): Consistent with these sections because the project expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing an environmental education program at the former Golden Gate Dairy in Muir Beach to grade school children from disadvantaged communities, and young homeless women.
- Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy (Junior Naturalist Program): Consistent with these sections because the project expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing field trips to coastal sage scrub habitat.
- Point Reyes National Seashore Association (Science at the Seashore): Consistent with these sections because the project expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing fourth–twelfth grade students with classroom and field education programs on wetlands, watersheds, and beach environments, as well as bus scholarships to assist with transporting inner city students to the coast.
- Redwood Community Action Agency (Eureka Waterfront Trail and Hammond Coastal Trail Interpretive Content for Web Application): Consistent with these sections because the project expands coastal access and enjoyment by expanding the boating opportunities at the annual “Explore the Coast” event in Eureka and developing multi-media content for 10 interpretive points along the Eureka Waterfront Trail and Hammond Coastal Trail.

- San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy (Our Living Watershed): Consistent with these sections because the project expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing school and family weekend trips to the coast for lower-income populations residing inland, and by developing interpretive content for the Explore the Coast web application.
- Sierra Club Foundation (Los Angeles Inspiring Connections Outdoors): Consistent with these sections because the project expands coastal access and enjoyment by conducting outings to coastal areas of Santa Monica Bay and a 3-day trip to Catalina Island for 70 middle school students from Title 1 Los Angeles schools.
- The Bay Foundation (LAX Dune Community Stewardship Project): Consistent with these sections because the project expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing coastal education and stewardship programs to diverse and underserved communities.
- Ventana Wildlife Society (Coastal Adventure Program for Underserved Youth): Consistent with these sections because the project expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing 8 week-long day camps at Monterey Bay for lower-income youth.
- West Contra Costa Unified School District (Escape Club (at DeJean Middle School) Kayaking Trip): Consistent with these sections because the project expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing environmental education and kayaking trips at Elkhorn Slough for approximately 95 low-income middle school students.
- YMCA of San Francisco (“Get to the Coast” Program): Consistent with these sections because the project expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing a 3-day outdoor education trip to the coast.

**CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY’S 2013 STRATEGIC PLAN
GOAL(S) & OBJECTIVE(S), AS REVISED JUNE 25, 2015:**

The 57 projects proposed for funding and described in the “Project Summary” section assist the Conservancy in meeting a number of its Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives. Relevant Goals and Objectives are listed below, along with the names of the projects that meet each goal.

Consistent with **Goal 1, Objective A** of the Conservancy’s 2013-2018 Strategic Plan, which seeks to implement projects to promote awareness and use of the California Coastal Trail (CCT), including web-based technologies, the following projects will contribute to this goal:

- Access Northern California (Expanding Coastal Opportunities for People with Disabilities): Consistent because the project increases use of the CCT by people with disabilities.
- Coastwalk (Great Through-Hike Expedition 2016): Consistent because the project increases awareness of the CCT through a media campaign.
- Friends of the Dunes (Developing Youth, Tribal and Community Leaders for Tolowa Coast Stewardship): Consistent because the project brings youth to the CCT for a multi-generational nature walk.
- Friends of the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve (Exploring and Stewarding the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve): Consistent because the project brings youth to the CCT for a docent-led walk.
- Morro Bay National Estuary Program (Explore the Coast Web App: Adventures in Morro Bay): Consistent because the project promotes awareness about the CCT through development of web application content.

- San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy (Our Living Watershed): Consistent because the project creates web application content about natural resources adjacent to the CCT which promotes awareness and use of the trail.
- Ventana Wildlife Society (Coastal Adventure Program for Underserved Youth): Consistent because the project brings students to camp along areas near the CCT.
- Vida Verde Nature Education (Multi Day Coastal Environmental Education for Low Income, Urban Youth): Consistent because the project brings students to camp along areas near the CCT.

Consistent with **Goal 2, Objective A**, which seeks to develop projects that expand opportunities for barrier-free access to and along the coast and coastal trails, the following projects will contribute to this goal:

- Access Northern California (Expanding Coastal Opportunities for People with Disabilities): Consistent because the project brings people with disabilities to the coast for camping and conducts accessibility surveys to help people explore areas around the coast.
- Environmental Traveling Companions (Accessible Sea Kayak and Bay Education Program-Phase 2): Consistent because the project provides kayaking and stewardship activities for people with disabilities.
- Malibu Foundation for Environmental Education (Kids Ocean Day Adopt-A-Beach Clean-up): Consistent because the project provides wheelchairs for students to participate in coastal clean-up activities.
- O'Neill Sea Odyssey (Transportation for Ocean Stewards): Consistent because the project includes environmental education for children with disabilities at a coastal area.
- Orange County Coastkeeper (WHALES: Watershed Heros): Consistent because the project provides environmental education for children with disabilities at a coastal area.

Consistent with **Goal 3, Objective B**, which seeks to implement waterfront revitalization projects that increase accessibility, create more inclusive access opportunities, and enhance cultural and historic resources, the following projects will contribute to this goal:

- Maritime Museum of San Diego (EXPLORE: Preparing for the Voyaging of *San Salvador*): Consistent because it supports an historic ship festival at multiple ports.
- Ocean Institute (Tall Ships Festival): Consistent because it supports a maritime harbor festival.

Consistent with **Goal 5, Objective B**, which seeks to develop projects that restore or enhance coastal habitats, including coastal wetlands and intertidal areas, stream corridors, dunes, coastal sage scrub, coastal terraces, forests and coastal prairie, the following projects will contribute to this goal:

- Friends of the Dunes (Developing Youth, Tribal and Community Leaders for Tolowa Coast Stewardship): Consistent because the project removes invasive plants from a coastal preserve.

- Friends of the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve (Exploring and Stewarding the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve): Consistent because the project will remove invasive plants from a coastal preserve.
- Point Reyes National Seashore (Science at the Seashore): Consistent because the project will install native plants or remove invasive plants along a coastal area.
- Sierra Club Foundation (Los Angeles Inspiring Connections Outdoors): Consistent because the project will install native plants or remove invasive plants habitat along a coastal area.
- The Bay Foundation (LAX Dune Community Stewardship Project): Consistent because the project will remove invasive plants from coastal dune habitat.
- YMCA of San Francisco (“Get to the Coast” Program): Consistent because the project will restore coastal habitat.

Consistent with **Goal 9, Objective A**, which seeks to support programs and events that improve public understanding of coastal resources, the following projects will contribute to this goal:

- Buena Vista Audubon Society (School Bus Voucher Project): Consistent because the project provides classroom and field activities for schools that helps students learn about coastal ecosystems.
- Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria (Sustainable Fishing Program for Youth): Consistent because the project teaches young anglers about sustainable fishing practices.
- Children’s Maritime Foundation (Long Beach Watershed and Marine Science Program): Consistent because the project is an environmental study program that enhances understanding of ocean ecosystems.
- City of Watsonville Public Works Conservation Academy (I ♥ a Healthy Coast): Consistent because the project supports a program that includes stewardship activities.
- Earth Island Institute (Watershed Action Program –Coastal Connections): Consistent because the project provides field trips that include stewardship.
- Environmental Action Committee of West Marin (Point Reyes Birding and Nature Festival Community Education Program): Consistent because the project is an annual birding festival that increases understanding of coastal ecology.
- Environmental Justice Coalition for Water (North Richmond Shoreline Festival): Consistent because the project is a shoreline festival that provides opportunities to learn about the coastal environment.
- Friends of the Dunes (Developing Youth, Tribal and Community Leaders for Tolowa Coast Stewardship): Consistent because the project teaches stewardship through habitat restoration activities.
- Golden Gate Audubon (Eco-Education Program): Consistent because the project includes field trips and classroom lessons on coastal ecology.
- Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center (Environmental Education for Elementary Schools): Consistent because the project includes field trips and classroom lessons on coastal ecology.
- Heal the Bay (Coastal Education Events): Consistent because the project supports coastal events that provide environmental education and stewardship activities.

- Living Coast Discovery Center (Animals on the Bay Day): Consistent because the project supports an annual event that educates participants about watershed ecology and conservation.
- Maritime Museum Association of San Diego (EXPLORE: Preparing for the Voyaging of *San Salvador*): Consistent because the project supports events that provide education about maritime history.
- Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (Coastal Camping at Puerco Canyon): Consistent because the project supports coastal camping with youth that improves understanding of wildlife that exist near urban areas.
- National Marine Sanctuary Foundation (Multicultural Education for Resources and Issues Threatening Oceans): Consistent because the project is a bilingual ocean sciences education program.
- National Park Service (Redwood Family Coastal Camp): Consistent because the project provides coastal backpacking trips which include opportunities to learn about coastal history.
- Northcoast Environmental Center (Humboldt Bay Explorations): Consistent because the project provides coastal-oriented recreation and education.
- O'Neill Sea Odyssey (Transportation for Ocean Stewards): Consistent because the project is an ocean-going science and environmental education program.
- Ocean Discovery Institute (Ocean Science Explorers): Consistent because the project includes field trips to study the coastal environment.
- Ocean Institute (Tall Ships Festival 2016): Consistent because the project is an annual event that provides education on maritime history.
- Ocean Riders of Marin (Muir Beach Coastal Heritage Project): Consistent because the project provides education about coastal wetland ecology and restoration at Muir Beach.
- Orange County Coastkeeper (WHALES: Watershed Heros): Consistent because the project provides education about coastal ecology.
- Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy (Junior Naturalist Program): Consistent because the project provides field trips to a coastal preserve that includes education about coastal watersheds and wildlife.
- Point Reyes National Seashore Association (Science at the Seashore): Consistent because the project supports classroom and field activities that provide science education focused on wetlands, watersheds, and beach environments.
- Regents of the University of California, Santa Barbara (Kids in Nature Explore the Coast): Consistent because the project provides classroom and field trips to learn about coastal wildlife, wetlands, and history.
- Resource Conservation District of the San Monica Mountains (Malibu Lagoon-Who Lives Here?): Consistent because the project is a hands-on marine environmental education program that teaches students about marine resources.
- San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy (Our Living Watershed): Consistent because the project is an ongoing education program that teaches students about stewardship and conservation of a coastal lagoon.
- Save our Shores (Marine Education and Outreach Program): Consistent because the project provides field and classroom environmental education focused on the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

- Sierra Club Foundation (Los Angeles Inspiring Connections Outdoors): Consistent because the project includes coastal day hikes and activities that provide environmental education about coastal wildlife and habitats and the need for stewardship of coastal resources.
- The Bay Foundation (LAX Dune Community Stewardship Project): Consistent because the project includes activities that educates people about dune habitat restoration and stewardship.
- The Ocean Foundation (Ocean Connectors: Connecting Youth for Conservation): Consistent because the project provides marine science education.
- West Contra Costa Unified School District (Escape Club (at DeJean Middle School) Kayaking Trip): Consistent because the project supports a program that provides classroom and outdoor recreation that teaches underserved middle school students about coastal wetland habitats.
- Wildcoast (San Diego Marine Protected Area Youth Education and Stewardship Project): Consistent because the project supports a program that informs students about coastal and marine resources and marine-debris.
- YMCA of San Francisco (“Get to the Coast” Program): Consistent because the project provides field trips to the Marin Headlands and for participation in a coastal research project.

Consistent with **Goal 9, Objective B**, which seeks to 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, the following projects will contribute to this goal:

- Morro Bay National Estuary Program (Explore the Coast Web App: Adventures in Morro Bay): Consistent because the project will create content for the Explore the Coast web application that will provide information about wildlife, watersheds, and commercial fishing.
- Noyo Center for Marine Science (Noyo Center Education and Outreach): Consistent because the project creates web application content to provide education about the Mendocino coast.
- Redwood Community Action Agency (Eureka Waterfront Trail and Hammond Coastal Trail): Consistent because the project will create multi-media content for the California Coastal Trail that will educate visitors about maritime history, the marine economy and coastal wildlife.
- Resource Conservation District of the San Monica Mountains (Malibu Lagoon-Who Lives Here?): Consistent because the project will create content for the Explore the Coast Web application that educates visitors about Malibu Lagoon’s history, ecology and recreational opportunities.
- San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy (Our Living Watershed): Consistent because the project will develop interpretive content to enhance the experience of those who visit the San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve.

Consistent with **Goal 12, Objective L**, which seeks to implement projects that expand opportunities for barrier-free access to natural areas, the following projects will contribute to this goal:

- Bay Area Outreach and Recreation Program (Disability Outdoor Coastal Access Project): Consistent because the project provides outdoor recreational opportunities for people with disabilities.
- Ocean Awareness Project (Vaya al Playa): Consistent because the project provides opportunities to visit a coastal park for people without private transportation.

Consistent with **Goal 12, Objective M**, which seeks to implement projects that create, expand, or improve environmental educational or interpretive programs, especially those that are available to urban populations, the following projects will contribute to this goal:

- Association of Bay Area Governments (San Francisco Bay Trail Mobile Application): Consistent because the project creates content for the Bay Trail web application that provides environmental education about 4 points of interest along the trail.
- Earth Island Institute (Watershed Action Program–Coastal Connections): Consistent because the project provides field trips for low income students to learn about coastal resources.
- Earth Team (LEAF 2016): Consistent because the project will provide coastal camping and environmental education for Title 1 high school students that don't typically have environmental education and camping opportunities.
- Environmental Justice Coalition for Water (North Richmond Shoreline Festival): Consistent because the project supports expanding a shoreline environmental education festival to more local residents within an urban area.
- Friends of Sausal Creek (Follow Your Creek): Consistent because the project will expand opportunities for underserved communities in the lower Sausal Creek watershed to engage in field activities and urban watershed education.
- Golden Gate Audubon (Eco-Education Program): Consistent because the project provides classroom and field education that increases understanding about watersheds and coastal stewardship.
- Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy (Project WISE): Consistent because the project provides science learning experiences in coastal environments that increases understanding of coastal habitats and stewardship.
- Hayward Area Recreation and Park District (Bay Shore Exploration Program): Consistent because the project will create content for the Bay Trail web application that increases understanding of the shore environment along an urban area.
- Marin Link (Exploring Marin's Bay Shoreline): Consistent because the project provides recreational and educational opportunities for residents in low income communities.
- Marine Science Institute (Discover our Bay and Coast): Consistent because the project provides marine science education for urban students.
- San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society (Inclusive Environmental Education at Don Edwards SF Bay Refuge): Consistent because the project expands the Refuge's wetland and habitat restoration education for low-income students.
- Save the Redwoods League (Explore Your Watershed Elementary School Program): Consistent because the project expands outdoor education on watershed health to new schools.
- The Watershed Project (Wild Oysters: Youth Leadership in the East Bay): Consistent because the project provides field opportunities to engage in environmental restoration

monitoring and will expand the classroom educational opportunities for students with disabilities.

- West Contra Costa Unified School District (Escape Club (at DeJean Middle School) Kayaking Trip): Consistent because the project expands an existing outdoor education program to include kayaking at Elkhorn Slough for Richmond middle school students.

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA & GUIDELINES:

The proposed projects are consistent with the Conservancy's Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines, last updated on October 2, 2014, in the following respects:

Required Criteria

1. **Promotion of the Conservancy's statutory programs and purposes:** See "Consistency with Conservancy's Enabling Legislation", above.
2. **Consistency with purposes of the funding source:** See "Project Financing", above.
3. **Promotion and implementation of state plans and policies:** The ETC grants program is consistent with the San Francisco Bay Plan (see "Consistency with Bay Plan", below) as well as the California Coastal Act (Public Resources Code Sections 30000 *et seq*) ("Coastal Act").

The Coastal Act indicates in Section 30001.5(c) that it is the state's goal to "maximize public access to and along the coast..." Section 30210 requires that "maximum access, which shall be conspicuously posted, and recreational opportunities shall be provided for all the people." Section 30530 expresses the intent of the Legislature that a program to maximize public access to and along the coastline be prepared and implemented "consistent with the provisions of Chapter 9 of Division 21." (See "Consistency with Enabling Legislation," above).

Similarly, the Coastal Act includes several references to the need to increase public knowledge of access opportunities and to involve community organizations in such efforts. Section 30214(c) directs the Coastal Commission and other public agencies to "... encourage the utilization of innovative access management techniques including, but not limited to, agreements with private organizations which would minimize management costs and encourage the use of volunteer programs." Section 30012 includes the Legislative finding that "an educated and informed citizenry ... is necessary to protect California's finite natural resources [and] ... through education, individuals can be made aware of and encouraged to accept their share of responsibility for protecting and improving the natural environment."

The ETC grants program is consistent with and promotes the priorities of the Coastal Act for project selection (see "Project Summary," above) and the ETC program's individual projects are consistent with the Coastal Act because all of the proposed projects involve maximizing access to the coast for coastal resource education and recreation.

4. **Support of the public:** The broad level of support for environmental education, resource protection and enhancement, and public access projects is indicated by the large numbers of people that will participate in the ETC program. It is estimated that over 180,000 people will

be served by the 57 ETC projects. In addition, this suite of proposed ETC projects is supported by elected officials, numerous community and nonprofit organizations, and local agencies (See Exhibit 3).

5. **Location:** All of the proposed ETC projects bring people to the coast, or to the San Francisco Bay shoreline. Some of the proposed projects also involve transportation from an area outside of the coastal zone to a location within the coastal zone, which is consistent with the intent of the ETC grants program to support activities that facilitate bringing more people to explore California's coast. Similarly, some of the projects involve classroom education at inland locations, which is also consistent with the intent of supporting activities that enhance a coastal experience.
6. **Need:** Without Conservancy funding, the proposed projects will either not proceed or have to be scaled back.
7. **Greater-than-local interest:** The proposed projects to be funded under this authorization will enhance the coastal experience of over 180,000 people throughout coastal regions of the state and the San Francisco Bay Area; therefore, the proposed ETC projects serve more than local interests.
8. **Sea level rise vulnerability:** Most of the proposed ETC projects do not entail physical improvements that could be vulnerable to sea level rise impacts, except for small restoration activities which are primarily for public education objectives. Of the ETC projects that include coastal restoration components that may be susceptible to flooding and storm water surge, especially under future sea level rise projections, restoration of these project areas will enhance native biodiversity and abundance, resulting in larger and likely more genetically diverse populations of native species that have greater potential to adapt to future changes in habitat due to sea level rise.

Additional Criteria

9. **Leverage:** See the "Project Financing" section, above.
10. **Readiness:** All of the projects described in the "Project Summary" section, above, are ready to implement and will be completed within 1 to 3 years.
11. **Realization of prior Conservancy goals:** See "Project History," above.
12. **Minimization of greenhouse gas emissions:** Implementation of the following proposed projects that have transportation components may generate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, predominately in the form of carbon dioxide from exhaust associated with transportation equipment and motor vehicle operation by transportation companies. While the transportation provided may generate GHG emissions, all of the transportation programs would be temporal in nature and would not generate substantial GHG emissions over prolonged periods. Additionally, all of the proposed projects will utilize maximum occupancy per vehicle (i.e., school buses, vans, carpools, etc.) to serve many more program participants with fewer GHG emissions than the GHG emissions associated with the same number of program participants making individual trips to the same location. By providing public access to coastal and bay locations in the most efficient manner possible, the projects will not increase and may even reduce emissions. The New York Metropolitan Transit Authority (2013) estimated that in

2011, each trip on a train or bus within their service area prevented the emission of 10 pounds of greenhouse gases, on average, compared with making that trip by car.

- Bay Area Outreach and Recreation Program (Disability Outdoor Coastal Access Project)
- Buena Vista Audubon Society (School Bus Voucher Project)
- California Wildlife Foundation (Climate Kids-South Coast)
- City of Watsonville Public Works Conservation Academy (I ♥ a Healthy Coast)
- Coastwalk (Great Through-Hike Expedition 2016)
- Earth Island Institute (Watershed Action Program–Coastal Connections)
- Earth Team (LEAF 2016)
- Environmental Justice Coalition for Water (North Richmond Shoreline Festival)
- Friends of the Dunes (Developing Youth, Tribal and Community Leaders for Tolowa Coast Stewardship)
- Friends of the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve (Exploring and Stewarding the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve)
- Golden Gate Audubon (Eco-Education Program)
- Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center (Environmental Education for Elementary Schools)
- Heal the Bay (Coastal Education Events)
- Malibu Foundation for Environmental Education (Kids Ocean Day Adopt-A-Beach Clean-up)
- Marine Science Institute (Discover our Bay and Coast)
- Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (Coastal Camping at Puerco Canyon)
- National Marine Sanctuary Foundation (Multicultural Education for Resources and Issues Threatening Oceans)
- Ocean Awareness Project (Vaya al Playa)
- Ocean Discovery Institute (Ocean Science Explorers)
- Ocean Institute (Tall Ships Festival 2016)
- Ocean Riders of Marin (Muir Beach Coastal Heritage Project)
- O’Neill Sea Odyssey (Transportation for Ocean Stewards)
- Orange County Coast Keeper (WHALES: Watershed Heros)
- Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy (Junior Naturalist Program)
- Point Reyes National Seashore Association (Science at the Seashore)
- Regents of the University of California, Santa Barbara (Kids in Nature Explore the Coast)
- Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains (Malibu Lagoon-Who Lives Here?)
- San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy (Our Living Watershed)
- San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society (Inclusive Environmental Education at Don Edwards San Francisco Bay Refuge)
- Save our Shores (Marine Education and Outreach Program)
- Save the Redwoods League (Explore Your Watershed Elementary School Program)
- Sierra Club Foundation (Los Angeles Inspiring Connections Outdoors)
- The Watershed Project (Wild Oysters: Youth Leadership in the East Bay)

- West Contra Costa Unified School District (Escape Club (at DeJean Middle School) Kayaking Trip)
- Wildcoast (San Diego Marine Protected Area Youth Education and Stewardship Project)
- YMCA of San Francisco (“Get to the Coast” Program)

Additionally, the following 8 ETC projects with restoration components will be implemented by people pulling invasive plants and planting natives; these activities will not create additional GHG emissions.

- Friends of the Dunes (Developing Youth, Tribal and Community Leaders for Tolowa Coast Stewardship)
- Friends of the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve (Exploring and Stewarding the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve)
- Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy (Project WISE)
- Hayward Area Recreation and Park District (Bay Shore Exploration Program)
- Point Reyes National Seashore Association (Science at the Seashore)
- Sierra Club Foundation (Los Angeles Inspiring Connections Outdoors)
- The Bay Foundation (LAX Dune Community Stewardship Project)
- YMCA of San Francisco (“Get to the Coast” Program)

Lastly, 3 ETC projects will promote use of public transportation, thereby minimizing GHG emissions. Specifically, the Ocean Institute (Tall Ships Festival 2016) will increase opportunities for the participants to learn about and use public transportation that services areas close to Dana Point Harbor; the Watershed Project (Wild Oysters) will use public transit for project-related training; and the Living Coast Discovery Center (Animals-on-the-Bay Day) will provide incentives to encourage participants to use public transportation to attend the event.

CONSISTENCY WITH SAN FRANCISCO BAY PLAN:

The 14 proposed ETC projects that are authorized pursuant to Chapter 4.5 of the Conservancy’s enabling legislation, regarding the San Francisco Bay Conservancy Program, are consistent with the San Francisco Bay Plan, as described below. (See “Consistency with Conservancy Enabling Legislation, San Francisco Bay Program,” above, for a list of the 14 projects). (See also “Project Summary,” above, for more project details for each of the proposed projects listed below).

Consistent with Public Access, Policy 9, access to and along the waterfront should be provided by walkways, trails, or other appropriate means and connect to the nearest public thoroughfare where convenient parking or public transportation may be available. Diverse and interesting public access experiences should be provided which would encourage users to remain in the designated access areas to avoid or minimize potential adverse effects on wildlife and their habitat. The following two proposed projects will facilitate appropriate enjoyment and use of the San Francisco Bay shoreline in a manner consistent with this policy:

- Association of Bay Area Governments (San Francisco Bay Trail Mobile Application):
- Bay Area Outreach and Recreation Program (Disability Outdoor Coastal Access Project)

Consistent with Part IV, Recreation, Policy 1, the following proposed two projects will provide diverse and accessible water-oriented recreational activities for underserved populations:

- Marin Link (Exploring Marin’s Bay Shoreline)
- West Contra Costa Unified School District (Escape Club (at DeJean Middle School) Kayaking Trip)

Consistent with Part IV, Public Access, the following proposed ETC projects will provide for nature study to orient people to the various parts of the San Francisco Bay and will provide access to the Bay to allow the public to discover, experience, and appreciate the Bay’s natural resources. The projects are supported by Public Access, Policy 3, which states that “public access to some natural areas should be provided to permit study and enjoyment of these areas.” These projects will provide environmental education and encourage stewardship of Bay and marine resources by providing hands-on, onsite experiences at the Bay:

- Earth Team (LEAF 2016)
- Environmental Justice Coalition for Water (North Richmond Shoreline Festival)
- Friends of Sausal Creek (Follow Your Creek)
- Golden Gate Audubon (Eco-Education Program)
- Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy (ProjectWISE)
- Hayward Area Recreation and Park District (Bay Shore Exploration Program)
- Kids for the Bay (Watershed Action Program–Coastal Connections)
- Marine Science Institute (Discover our Bay and Coast)
- San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society (Inclusive Environmental Education at Don Edwards SF Bay Refuge)
- Save the Redwoods League (Explore your Watershed Elementary School Program)
- The Watershed Project (Wild Oysters: Youth Leadership in the East Bay)

Consistent with Part IV, Recreation, the following proposed project will increase access to natural areas in and near the shoreline of San Francisco Bay. The Recreation section finds that “the Bay is the most important open space in the Bay region. The Bay and its shoreline provide unique recreational opportunities. Participating in recreation activities on the Bay and along its shoreline can inspire an appreciation of the Bay and can motivate people to participate in the responsible management and protection of the Bay.”

- Ocean Awareness Project (Vaya al Playa)

COMPLIANCE WITH CEQA:

Conservancy staff reviewed the 57 proposed projects for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (14 California Code of Regulations, Sections 15000 *et seq*). This compliance is provided as follows:

I. Proposed projects that are categorically exempt under CEQA:

Section 15301 (Existing Facilities): The Bay Foundation (LAX Dune Community Stewardship Project) is categorically exempt under Section 15301, which exempts minor alterations of

existing topographical features where there is no expansion of use. The project is exempt under Section 15301(i), which exempts the maintenance of wildlife areas and stream channels to protect fish and wildlife resources. The restoration undertaken through the project will remove invasive plants to maintain wildlife habitat.

Section 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land): The Bay Foundation (LAX Dune Community Stewardship Project) is categorically exempt under Section 15304, which exempts alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation that do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees. The project is exempt under 15304(d), which exempts minor alteration in land, water, and vegetation on officially designated wildlife management areas. The restoration undertaken through the project will remove invasive plants at an established wildlife preserve.

Section 15306 (Information Collection): The following proposed ETC projects include science and monitoring activities that are categorically exempt under Section 15306, which exempts basic data collection and resource evaluation activities that do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. The proposed science and monitoring activities will not result in serious or major disturbances.

- Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy (Project WISE): Exempt activities are data collection on water quality and riparian and wetland habitat.
- Ocean Discovery Institute (Ocean Science Explorers): Exempt activities are data collection on wildlife and physical features of the coastal environment.
- Marine Science Institute (Discover our Bay and Coast): Exempt activities are collection of invertebrates and fish along the bay shoreline for examination.
- Point Reyes National Seashore Association (Science at the Seashore): Exempt activities are macro-invertebrate sampling, water quality testing, profiling creek cross-sections, and monitoring marine debris.
- The Watershed Project (Wild Oysters: Youth Leadership in the East Bay): Exempt activities are monitoring of rocky intertidal and oyster reef restoration efforts.
- YMCA of San Francisco (“Get to the Coast” Program): Exempt because the project includes monitoring of coastal resources.

Section 15322 (Educational or Training Programs Involving No Physical Changes): The following projects are categorically exempt under Section 13322, which applies to the adoption, alteration, or termination of educational or training programs that involve no physical alteration in the area affected or that involve physical changes only in the interior of existing school or training structures. These projects provide financial support of new and expanded (altered) environmental education or training programs without any physical changes in any structures for these programs.

- Bay Area Outreach and Recreation Program (Disability Outdoor Coastal Access Project): Exempt because the project supports an outdoor recreational program that educates disabled participants about opportunities to explore coastal areas.
- Buena Vista Audubon Society (School Bus Voucher Project): Exempt because the project is an environmental education program.
- California Wildlife Foundation (Climate Kids-South Coast): Exempt because the project supports an environmental education program focused on climate change.

- Children’s Maritime Foundation (Long Beach Watershed and Marine Science Program): Exempt because the project is a watershed and marine science program.
- City of Watsonville Public Works Conservation Academy (I ♥ a Healthy Coast): Exempt because the project is an outdoor field trip program that educates students about coastal stewardship.
- Coastwalk (Great Through-Hike Expedition 2016): Exempt because the project supports coastal education of access opportunities through the California Coastal Trail web application.
- Earth Island Institute (Watershed Action Program–Coastal Connections): Exempt because the project supports a watershed ecology and stewardship program.
- Earth Team (LEAF 2016): Exempt because the project supports a coastal camping program that provides coastal stewardship education.
- Friends of the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve (Exploring and Stewarding the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve): Exempt because the project supports activities that provide environmental education.
- Friends of Sausal Creek (Follow Your Creek): Exempt because the project supports a watershed education program.
- Golden Gate Audubon (Eco-Education Program): Exempt because the project is a watershed education and stewardship program.
- Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center (Environmental Education for Elementary Schools): Exempt because the project expands environmental education programming.
- Marine Science Institute (Discover our Bay and Coast): Exempt because the project is a marine science education and stewardship program.
- Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (Coastal Camping at Puerco Canyon): Exempt because the project is a coastal camping program for youth from underserved areas.
- National Marine Sanctuary Foundation (Multicultural Education for Resources and Issues Threatening Oceans): Exempt because the project is a marine science education and stewardship program.
- Ocean Awareness Project (Vaya al Playa): Exempt because the project educates the public about recreational opportunities at the shoreline.
- Ocean Foundation (Ocean Connectors: Connecting Youth for Conservation): Exempt because the project is a marine science and conservation program.
- Ocean Riders of Marin (Muir Beach Coastal Heritage Project): Exempt because the project will expand a coastal education program.
- O’Neill Sea Odyssey (Transportation for Ocean Stewards): Exempt because the project is an ocean going science and education program.
- Orange County Coastkeeper (WHALES: Watershed Heros): Exempt because the project expands environmental education program to include education on marine debris for third–fifth grade students.
- Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy (Junior Naturalist Program): Exempt because the project supports a program that provides environmental education.
- Regents of the University of California, Santa Barbara (Kids in Nature Explore the Coast): Exempt because the project is an environmental education program.

- Resource Conservation District of the San Monica Mountains (Malibu Lagoon-Who Lives Here?): Exempt because the project supports programming at a coastal education center.
- San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy (Our Living Watershed): Exempt because the project is a watershed stewardship program.
- San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society (Inclusive Environmental Education at Don Edwards SF Bay Refuge): Exempt because the project is an environmental education program focused on watershed stewardship and conservation.
- Save our Shores (Marine Education and Outreach Program): Exempt because the project is a coastal education program.
- Save the Redwoods League (Explore Your Watershed Elementary School Program): Exempt because the project is a watershed education program.
- Sierra Club Foundation (Los Angeles Inspiring Connections Outdoors): Exempt because the project is an environmental stewardship and education program.
- The Watershed Project (Wild Oysters: Youth Leadership in the East Bay): Exempt because the project is an environmental education and work skills training program.
- West Contra Costa Unified School District (Escape Club (at DeJean Middle School) Kayaking Trip): Exempt because the project is an outdoor education program for youth.
- Wildcoast (San Diego Marine Protected Area Youth Education and Stewardship Project): Exempt because the project is a coastal stewardship and education program.

Section 15323 (Normal Operations of Facilities for Public Gatherings): The following projects are categorically exempt under Section 15323, which applies to the normal operations of existing facilities for public gatherings for which the facilities were designed, where there is a past history of the facility being used for the same or similar kind of purpose.

- Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria (Sustainable Fishing Program for Youth): Exempt because the project supports an event that happens at Seascap Pier where previous youth fishing events have been held.
- Environmental Action Committee of West Marin (Point Reyes Birding and Nature Festival): Exempt because the project supports an annual birding festival at the National Seashore and will use Education Center facilities.
- Environmental Justice Coalition for Water (North Richmond Shoreline Festival): Exempt because the project supports a shoreline festival that has been conducted at Pt. Pinole Park for more than a decade.
- Heal the Bay (Coastal Education Events): Exempt because the project supports annual environmental education events at the Santa Monica Pier and State Beach.
- Living Coast Discovery Center (Animals on the Bay Day): Exempt because the project supports an annual event held in October at the Living Coast Discovery Center on San Diego Bay.
- Malibu Foundation for Environmental Education (Kids Ocean Day Adopt-A-Beach Clean-up): Exempt because the project supports an annual beach clean-up event at Dockweiler State Beach.

- Ocean Institute (Tall Ships Festival 2016): Exempt because the Tall Ship Festival is part of the normal operation of the existing facility at Dana Point Harbor where there is a history of such gatherings.

Section 15333 (Small Habitat Restoration Projects): The following projects include activities that are categorically exempt under Section 15333 in that the activities include small-scale stewardship and habitat restoration activities that involve planting native plants and/or removing invasive plants. These activities satisfy all of the criteria under Section 15333 as follows: 1) restoration does not exceed 5 acres in size; 2) there will be no significant adverse impact on endangered, rare, or threatened species or their habitat; 3) there are no hazardous materials at or around the project sites that may be disturbed or removed; and 4) the activities will not result in impacts that are significant when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.

- Hayward Area Recreation and Park District (Bay Shore Exploration Program): Exempt activities are a small restoration effort that meets all exemption criteria.
- Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy (Project WISE): Exempt activities are a small restoration effort that meets all exemption criteria.
- Point Reyes National Seashore Association (Science at the Seashore): Exempt activities are a small restoration effort that meets all exemption criteria.
- YMCA of San Francisco (“Get to the Coast” Program) Point Reyes National Seashore Association (Science at the Seashore): Exempt activities are a small restoration effort that meets all exemption criteria.

Upon approval, staff will file a Notice of Exemption for each proposed project, above.

II. Proposed Projects Not Considered “A Project” under CEQA:

The following proposed ETC projects or some of their components do not meet the definition of “project” in Section 15378 as they do not have the potential for a direct physical change or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change on the environment. Accordingly, these ETC projects or some of their components are not subject to CEQA.

- Access Northern California (Expanding Coastal Opportunities for People with Disabilities)
- Association of Bay Area Governments (San Francisco Bay Trail Mobile Application)
- Environmental Traveling Companions (Accessible Sea Kayak and Bay Education Program- Phase 2)
- Friends of the Dunes (Developing Youth, Tribal and Community Leaders for Tolowa Coast Stewardship)(except as provided in discussion of Mitigated Negative Declaration below)
- Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy (Project WISE) (except as provided in the categorical exemptions, above)

- Hayward Area Recreation and Park District (Bay Shore Exploration Program)(except as provided in the categorical exemption, above)
- Marin Link (Exploring Marin’s Bay Shoreline)
- Maritime Museum Association of San Diego (EXPLORE: Preparing for the Voyaging of *San Salvador*)
- Morro Bay National Estuary Program (Explore the Coast Web App: Adventures in Morro Bay)
- National Park Service (Redwood Family Coastal Camp)
- Northcoast Environmental Center (Humboldt Bay Explorations)
- Noyo Center for Marine Science (Noyo Center Education and Outreach)
- Ocean Discovery Institute (Ocean Science Explorers) (except as provided in the categorical exemption, above)
- Point Reyes National Seashore Association (Science at the Seashore)(except as provided in the categorical exemption, above)
- Redwood Community Action Agency (Eureka Waterfront Trail and Hammond Coastal Trail Interpretive Content for Web Application)
- Sierra Club Foundation (Los Angeles Inspiring Connections Outdoors)(except as provided in the categorical exemption, above)
- Ventana Wildlife Society (Coastal Adventure Program for Underserved Youth)
- Vida Verde Nature Education (Multi Day Coastal Environmental Education for Low Income, Urban Youth)
- YMCA of San Francisco (“Get to the Coast” Program)(except as provided in the categorical exemption, above)

III. Review and Consideration of the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Friends of the Dunes project:

The project proposed by Friends of the Dunes (Developing Youth, Tribal and Community Leaders for Tolowa Coast Stewardship) includes the removal by volunteers and staff of Tolowa Dune Stewards of invasive European beach grass from dunes within Lake Earl Wildlife Area. This removal work has been analyzed under environmental documentation prepared for a larger project—the Lake Earl Wildlife Area Coastal Dune Restoration Project (“LEWA Project”).

In 2011, The California Department of Fish and Game, now referred to as the Department of Fish and Wildlife (“CDFW”), proposed undertaking the LEWA Project, which included the removal of invasive European beachgrass from approximately 34 acres of foredunes on either side of the mouth of Lake Tolowa lagoon with the Lake Earl Wildlife Area, using a combination of manual and mechanical removal techniques. The LEWA Project anticipated that heavy equipment would be used to scrape or excavate deep rooted beachgrass from the foredunes adjacent to the open beach and that crews using hand-shovels in areas adjacent to wetlands and sensitive dune mat vegetation would remove beachgrass manually.

CDFW analyzed the potential environmental impacts of the LEWA Project through an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration, and associated Monitoring Plan, establishing mitigation monitoring and reporting obligations (See Exhibit 4, MND, p. 44) which, following public review and comment, CDFW adopted on August 24, 2011 (See Exhibit 4, MND). A Notice of

Determination for the LEWA Project was filed by CDFW for the MND on August 24, 2011. No challenges were made to the adopted MND during the statutory period for filing a challenge.

The removal of invasive European beachgrass at the Lake Earl Wildlife Area under the proposed Friends of the Dunes project will occur within the area covered by and as part of the far larger LEWA Project. The Friends of the Dunes project work will be accomplished using only manual removal techniques, will involve no use of machinery and is very small in scale, involving only a fraction of the total 34 acres under the LEWA Project. Moreover, the focus of the Friends of the Dunes project is to provide an educational opportunity for its volunteers (local youth from the adjoining community) to experience firsthand on-the-ground environmental stewardship and science, rather than to effectuate the removal of large swaths of invasive beachgrass.

As relevant to the work under the Friends of the Dunes project and excluding those effects that are solely related to the use of heavy machinery and mechanical removal methods, the MND determined that the LEWA Project could have potentially significant impacts to Biological Resources and Cultural Resources. The MND concluded, however, that those impacts would be avoided or reduced to a less than significant level by the incorporation of specified mitigation measures. The potential impacts and the proposed mitigation measures are described below.

Cultural Resources

As part of the MND process, a cultural resources survey was conducted of the LEWA Project area and one site was identified as having cultural resources. In order to protect this site, the MND recommended that a 30 meter heavy equipment exclusion zone be established and that a professional archeologist be present on-site when work takes place within 100 meters of the site. The Friends of the Dunes project will not involve any restoration activity at or around the known archeological site and all work will be substantially greater than 100 meters from that site.

In addition, to avoid impacts to unknown cultural resources that may be encountered, the MND also required that established protocols, detailed in Appendix 3 to the MND (see Exhibit 4), be followed if any new cultural artifacts or human remains are inadvertently found during project actions. These mitigation measures are applicable to the proposed Friends of the Dunes' project and should avoid or reduce any potential impacts.

Biological Resources

The Initial Study identified potential impacts to biological resources, including impacts to rare plants, the federally threatened western snowy plover, nesting birds, and wetlands from the project. Mitigation measures were incorporated into the LEWA Project so as to avoid any of these impacts.

As required by the MND, to protect rare plants, all rare plants will be flagged before beachgrass removal begins so that they can be avoided. Manual removal can be conducted carefully and is therefore unlikely to disturb rare plants or coastal dune habitat.

To date, there is no current known nesting site for the Snowy Plover in the project area, although the plover may be found there. As a result, with guidance from United States Fish and Wildlife Service, mitigation measures were incorporated to avoid any potential impacts to this species and other nesting birds. The California Department of Parks and Recreation conducts weekly surveys for Snowy Plover and nesting birds and will notify the proposed project grantee if any are found

near the project area. If any are located, a buffer area of 100 meters will be established and no project activities will occur within that buffer area. In addition, to the extent possible, any proposed project activity shall occur outside of the breeding season (February 15th to September 15th).

Wetlands are also within the project area and contain potential sensitive habitat. However, European beachgrass does not typically grow in wet areas and wetland areas will be delineated and those areas avoided when walking to and from the removal sites.

CDFW concluded that with application of identified mitigation measures, all impacts of the LEWA Project would be less than significant. Conservancy staff has reviewed the MND, and concurs that the portion of the LEWA Project to be funded by the Conservancy through the Friends of the Dunes project does not have the potential for a significant adverse effect on the environment. Thus, staff recommends that the Conservancy find that there is no evidence that the project has the potential for a significant effect on the environment as defined in 14 Cal. Code of Regulations Section 15382.

Staff will file a Notice of Determination upon the Conservancy's approval of the project.