

COASTAL CONSERVANCY

Staff Recommendation

March 22, 2018

SOUTH JACOBY CREEK RESTORATION AUGMENTATION

Project No. 16-009-01

Project Manager: Joel Gerwein

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Authorization to disburse up to \$117,981 to augment the Conservancy's June 15, 2017 authorization of \$540,704 to the City of Arcata to restore floodplain wetlands adjacent to Jacoby Creek in Arcata, Humboldt County for the project.

LOCATION: Jacoby Creek, Arcata, Humboldt County

PROGRAM CATEGORY: Integrated Coastal and Marine Resources Protection

EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1: [Project Location](#)

Exhibit 2: [South Jacoby Creek Restoration staff recommendation dated June 15, 2017.](#)

RESOLUTION AND FINDINGS:

Staff recommends that the State Coastal Conservancy adopt the following resolution pursuant to Section 31220 of the Public Resources Code:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of up to eighty thousand three hundred and thirty-five dollars (\$80,335) of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) grant funds for the South Jacoby Creek Restoration Project and up to thirty seven thousand six hundred and forty six dollars (\$37,646) of Conservancy funds, for a total disbursement not to exceed one hundred seventeen thousand nine hundred and eighty-one dollars (\$117,981), to the City of Arcata (City) for the Jacoby Creek Restoration Project, within the City of Arcata in Humboldt County.

This authorization is subject to all of the conditions imposed upon the City through the June 15, 2017 Conservancy authorization for this project ((Exhibit 2).

Staff further recommends that the Conservancy adopt the following findings:

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

1. The proposed project is consistent with the current Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.
 2. The proposed project is consistent with the purposes and objectives of Chapter 5.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding integrated coastal and marine resources protection projects.”
-

PROJECT SUMMARY:

Staff recommends the Conservancy augment the existing grant to the City of Arcata for the South Jacoby Creek Restoration Project by authorizing the disbursement of up to an additional \$80,335 awarded to the Conservancy by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) National Coastal Wetlands Conservation (NCWC) grant program, and further authorize the disbursement of up to \$37,646 of Conservancy funds to the City of Arcata (City) for implementation of the South Jacoby Creek Restoration Project. The total amount of the grant augmentation would be \$117,981. The Conservancy previously granted the City \$540,074 for the project. After augmentation, the total amount of the grant would be \$658,055. The grant augmentation is needed for additional costs identified during design and planning work conducted after the June 15, 2017 authorization. The design changes refined the original design and resulted in the identification of additional costs that were not considered. Additional funding will be used for placing large wood habitat structures to enhance aquatic habitat, seeding and mulching, adaptive management associated with potential replanting, invasive plant control, a wetland delineation, and project management by the City. USFWS funds would pay for approximately 68% of these additional costs, while Conservancy funds would pay for the remaining 32%.

The project is fully described in the June 15, 2017 staff recommendation (Exhibit 2). No significant changes have been made to the project.

Site Description: The project area is described in the June 15, 2017 staff recommendation (Exhibit 2).

Project History: The project history is described in the June 15, 2017 staff recommendation (Exhibit 2).

PROJECT FINANCING

Grant Augmentation

Coastal Conservancy	\$37,646
USFWS National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant	\$80,335
Subtotal Grant Augmentation	\$117,981

June 15, 2017 Authorization

Coastal Conservancy	\$165,000
USFWS National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant	\$375,074

Subtotal June 15, 2017 Authorization	\$540,074
Overall Grant	
Coastal Conservancy	\$202,646
USFWS National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant	\$455,409
Project Total	\$658,055

The USFWS funds are part of a NCWC grant that awarded \$475,409 to the Conservancy for project implementation, contingent on compliance with the National Environmental Protection Act and other grant requirements. Approximately \$455,409 of the grant will support project implementation directly, while the remaining \$20,000 will pay for Conservancy staff costs. In addition to the capital costs of the project, in-kind contributions will be provided by the City, Humboldt State University faculty, and Humboldt Baykeeper, as described in the previous staff recommendation (Exhibit 2).

The anticipated source of funding for this project is the fiscal year 15/16 appropriation from the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Proposition 1, Water Code §§ 79700 et seq.). This is the same funding source used in the June 15, 2017 authorization and the project remains consistent with this funding source.

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY’S ENABLING LEGISLATION:

The proposed project is undertaken pursuant to Chapter 5.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code (Section 31220), and remains consistent with the purposes of this Chapter.

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY’S 2018-2022 STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS & OBJECTIVES:

Consistent with **Goal 6, Objective B** of the Conservancy’s 2018-2022 Strategic Plan, the proposed project will restore 29 acres of coastal habitat, specifically coastal wetlands and a stream corridor.

Consistent with **Goal 6, Objective E** of the Conservancy’s 2018-2022 Strategic Plan, the proposed project will implement a project to improve fish habitat by restoring off-channel high flow refugia and summer rearing habitat.

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY’S PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA & GUIDELINES:

The proposed project remains consistent with the Conservancy project selection criteria and guidelines.

CONSISTENCY WITH LOCAL COASTAL PROGRAM POLICIES:

**Refer to the June 15, 2017 staff recommendation for a discussion of local coastal program policies. CONSISTENCY WITH LOCAL WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN/
STATE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN:**

The project is consistent with the local watershed management program as discussed in the June 15, 2017 authorization.

COMPLIANCE WITH CEQA:

The previous staff recommendation (Exhibit 2) discusses CEQA compliance. The project has not substantially changed from the original authorization. Conservancy staff filed a Notice of Determination for the project on July 6, 2017.