

STATE COASTAL CONSERVANCY
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
February 02, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Douglas Bosco (Public Member), Chair
Ann Notthoff (Public Member), Vice Chair
Marce Gutiérrez-Graudiņš (Public Member)(Leaves at 12:58 pm)
Joseph Alioto Jr. (Public Member)
Bryan Cash (Designated, Department of Natural Resources)(Leaves at 2:05 pm)
Gayle Miller (Designated, Department of Finance)(Leaves at 11:55 am)
Donne Brownsey (Coastal Commission)

OVERSIGHT MEMBERS PRESENT:

Assemblymember Christopher Ward
Kara Woodruff (Representative for Senator Laird, District 17)

OTHERS PRESENT:

Amy Hutzal, Executive Officer
Amy Roach, General Counsel

LOCATION:

YMCA Camp Surf
560 Silver Strand Blvd.,
Imperial Beach, CA 91932

MEETING START TIME: 09:32 A.M.

1. ROLL CALL

Douglas Bosco (Public Member), Chair
Ann Notthoff (Public Member), Vice Chair
Marce Gutiérrez-Graudiņš (Public Member)
Bryan Cash (Designated, Department of Natural Resources)
Donne Brownsey (Coastal Commission)
Gayle Miller (Designated, Department of Finance)
Joseph Alioto Jr. (Public Member)

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2. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** of the Conservancy's September 22, 2022 and December 01, 2022 public meetings. Moved and seconded. Minutes were approved.

3. **CONSENT ITEMS**

Chair Bosco asked the board if any member requested any consent item be removed. Hearing no such request, the following consent items were moved for approval, seconded, and approved unanimously by Notthoff, Brownsey, Cash, Miller, Gutiérrez-Graudiņš, Alioto, Bosco (none opposed).

A. **Sweet Springs Nature Preserve Property**

Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) to the Morro Coast Audubon Society ("the grantee") to restore two acres of coastal dune habitat in its Sweet Springs Nature Preserve property on the south Morro Bay shoreline, San Luis Obispo County. Prior to commencement of the project, the grantee shall submit for the review and written approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy (Executive Officer) the following:

1. A detailed work program, schedule, and budget.
2. Names and qualifications of any contractors to be retained in carrying out the project.
3. A plan for acknowledgement of Conservancy funding.
4. Evidence that all permits and approvals required to implement the project have been obtained.

Findings:

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

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Chapter 6 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding Coastal Resource Enhancement.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.
3. The Morro Coast Audubon Society is a nonprofit organization organized under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

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B. Jug Handle Creek Farm and Nature Center

Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed thirtythree thousand three hundred dollars (\$33,300) to Jug Handle Creek Farm and Nature Center (JCFNC) (“the grantee”) to remove a minimum of 95 high-fire-risk invasive trees, plant a minimum of 30 new redwood trees and native shrubs, and install interpretive signage at the JCFNC property adjacent to the Jug Handle State Reserve in Mendocino County. Prior to commencement of the project, the grantee shall submit for the review and written approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy (Executive Officer) the following:

1. A detailed work program, schedule, and budget.
2. Names and qualifications of any contractors to be retained in carrying out the project.
3. A plan for acknowledgement of Conservancy funding.
4. Evidence that all permits and approvals required to implement the project have been obtained.

Findings:

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

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Chapter 3 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding the Climate Ready Program.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.
3. The JCFNC is a nonprofit organization organized under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

C. BAY RESTORATION REGULATORY INTEGRATION TEAM

Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed one hundred forty-three thousand one hundred twenty dollars (\$143,120) to Orange County Coastkeeper (“OC Coastkeeper”) to augment a previously authorized Conservancy grant of \$35,780 for monitoring and outreach to protect endangered bird species and associated habitat near the Santa Ana River Mouth in Orange County to expand outreach activities and conduct an additional four years of the project.

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Findings:

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

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Chapter 6 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding coastal resource enhancement.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.
3. The Orange County Coastkeeper is a nonprofit organization organized under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

4. EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

Mary Small, Deputy Executive Officer, presented the Conservancy's annual financial report.

Dr. Patrick Barnard of USGS, presented on Sea Level Rise and its impact on California, and Mary Small described the Coastal Conservancy's work to address sea level rise.

Several members of the public provided comments.

SOUTH COAST

5. Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy

Dario Bobeda-Padilla of the State Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

Speaking against the Staff Recommendation: Robert Roy Van De Hoek

Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed two hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars (\$275,000) to the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy ("the grantee") to carry out the Palos Verdes Nature Preserve Fuel Load Reduction Project consisting of enhancement of 46.8 acres of habitat within the Palos Verdes Nature Preserve in the City of Rancho Palos Verdes through removal of invasive plants and planting of native plants to increase wildfire resilience and benefit federally protected butterflies and other native species. Prior to commencement of the project, the grantee shall submit for the review and written approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy the following:

1. A detailed work program, schedule, and budget.
2. Names and qualifications of any contractors to be retained in carrying out the project.
3. A plan for acknowledgement of Conservancy funding.
4. Evidence that all permits and approvals required to implement the project have been obtained.
5. Evidence that the grantee has entered into agreements sufficient to enable the grantee to implement, operate, and maintain the project.

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Findings:

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

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Chapter 3 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding the Climate Ready Program.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.
3. The Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy is a nonprofit organization organized under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.
4. The Conservancy has independently reviewed and considered the two Environmental Impact Reports listed below that were certified by the City of Rancho Palos Verdes pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") and are attached to the accompanying staff recommendation as Exhibit 4. The Conservancy finds that the proposed project as designed and mitigated avoids, reduces, or mitigates the potentially significant environmental effects to a less-than-significant level, and that there is no substantial evidence based on the record that the project may have a significant effect on the environment, as defined in 14 Cal. Code Regulations Section 15382.

The two applicable CEQA documents are:

- a. Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) for the Rancho Palos Verdes Natural Communities Conservation Planning Subarea Plan (Project No. /SCH No. 2003071008). Certified July 2004.
- b. FEIR Addendum for the Rancho Palos Verdes Natural Community Conservation Plan and Habitat Conservation Plan (SCH No. 2003071008). Certified March 2018.

Moved and seconded. Motion was approved.

Voting in favor: Notthoff, Brownsey, Cash, Miller, Gutiérrez-Graudiņš, Alioto, Bosco; voting against: none.

6. County of Ventura

Sam Jenniches of the State Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

Speaking in favor of the Staff Recommendation: Kurt Norman

Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed three hundred fifty-eight thousand dollars (\$358,000) to the County of Ventura ("the grantee") to conduct pre-construction activities associated with the Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Project, including hydraulic and sediment modeling, environmental compliance, and design planning in Ventura County (the project). Prior to commencement of the project, the grantee

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shall submit for the review and written approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy (Executive Officer) the following:

1. A detailed work program, schedule, and budget.
2. Names and qualifications of any contractors to be retained in carrying out the project.

Findings:

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

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Chapter 5.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding protection and restoration of fish and wildlife habitat in coastal watersheds.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.

Moved and seconded. Motion was approved

Voting in favor: Notthoff, Brownsey, Cash, Miller, Gutiérrez-Graudiņš, Bosco; voting against: none.

Chair Bosco called lunch 11:55am – 12:30pm. Gayle Miller left the meeting during lunch.

7. The City of Santa Ana

Danh Lai of the State Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

Speaking in favor of Staff Recommendation: Margo Grizwal

Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000) to the City of Santa Ana (“the grantee”) to prepare designs and environmental review for restoration of 4.28 acres of pedestrian hiking trail and riparian habitat in Santiago Park within the City of Santa Ana, Orange County. Prior to commencement of the project, the grantee shall submit for the review and written approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy (Executive Officer) the following:

1. A detailed work program, schedule, and budget.
2. Names and qualifications of any contractors to be retained in carrying out the project.

Findings:

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

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Chapter 4.6 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding the Santa Ana River Conservancy Program and funding for recreational opportunities and trails within the Santa Ana River region.

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2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.

Moved and seconded. Motion was approved.

Voting in favor: Notthoff, Brownsey, Cash, Gutiérrez-Graudiņš, Alioto, Bosco; voting against: none

8. Discovery Cube

Danh Lai of the State Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

Speaking in favor of Staff Recommendation: Jo Adams

Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed three hundred and eight thousand, seven hundred dollars (\$308,700) to the Discovery Cube of Orange County (“the grantee”) to design an outdoor science park along Santiago Creek in the City of Santa Ana in Orange County. Prior to commencement of the project, the grantee shall submit for the review and written approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy (Executive Officer) the following:

1. A detailed work program, schedule, and budget.
2. Names and qualifications of any contractors to be retained in carrying out the project.
3. A plan for acknowledgement of Conservancy funding.

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 Chapter 4.6 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding the Santa Ana River Conservancy Program and funding for public access to, enjoyment of, and enhancement of the recreational and educational experience on program lands in a manner consistent with the protection of land and natural resources and economic resources in the Santa Ana River area and its tributaries.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.
3. The Discovery Cube is a nonprofit organization organized under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

Moved and seconded. Motion was approved.

Voting in favor: Notthoff, Brownsey, Cash, Gutiérrez-Graudiņš, Alioto, Bosco; voting against: None

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9. Frank and Joan Randall Preserve/Genga Property

Emely Lopez of the State Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

Speaking in favor of Staff Recommendation: Sarah Rascon

Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed six hundred eighty-five thousand five hundred forty-six dollars (\$685,546) to Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority ("the grantee") to develop a Tribal Access and Engagement Plan and conduct cultural resource assessments for the Frank and Joan Randall Preserve/Genga property (formerly known as Banning Ranch) in Newport Beach and unincorporated Orange County. Prior to commencement of the project, the grantee shall submit for the review and written approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy (Executive Officer) the following:

1. A detailed work program, schedule, and budget.
2. Names and qualifications of any contractors to be retained in carrying out the project.

Findings:

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

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Chapter 6 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding coastal resource enhancement.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.

Move and seconded. Motion was approved.

Voting in favor: Notthoff, Brownsey, Cash, Gutiérrez-Graudiņš, Alioto, Bosco; voting against: none

Marce Gutiérrez-Graudiņš left the meeting immediately after this item.

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA

10. East Bay Regional Park District

Erica Johnson of the State Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

Speaking in favor of Staff Recommendation: Michael Reeves

Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed seven million dollars (\$7,000,000) to East Bay Regional Park District to acquire the 768-acre Finley Road Ranch Property ("Property") in Contra Costa County (Contra Costa County's Assessor's Parcel Nos. 220-040-002-2, 220-100-002-9, 204-030-003-6 (portion), 204-050-002-3 (portion))

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depicted in Exhibit 1 to the accompanying staff recommendation for purposes of protecting, restoring, and enhancing natural and scenic resources, including wildlife corridors and habitat; improving landscape resilience related to climate change; preserving open space; providing public access and recreational use compatible with the protection, restoration, and enhancement of natural and scenic resources; and providing a public entry staging area for parks on the southern side of Mount Diablo. This authorization is subject to the following conditions:

1. Prior to the disbursement of funds for the acquisition, the grantee shall submit for the review and approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy (“Executive Officer”):
 - a. All relevant acquisition documents for the acquisition including, without limitation, the appraisal, purchase and sale agreement, deed, escrow instructions, environmental and hazardous materials assessment, and title report;
 - b. A baseline conditions report; and
 - c. Evidence that sufficient funds are available to complete the acquisition.
2. The grantee shall pay no more than fair market value for the Property, as established in an appraisal approved by the Executive Officer.
3. The Property shall be managed, operated, and used for the protection, restoration, and enhancement of natural and scenic resources, including wildlife corridors and habitat; landscape resilience related to climate change; open space; and public access and recreational use compatible with the protection, restoration, and enhancement of natural and scenic resources. The Property shall be permanently dedicated to those purposes through an appropriate instrument approved by the Executive Officer.
4. Conservancy funding shall be acknowledged by erecting and maintaining a sign on the Property or in a nearby publicly viewable area, the design and location of which are to be approved by the Executive Officer.

Findings:

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

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Chapter 3 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding addressing the impacts and potential impacts of climate change on resources within the Conservancy’s jurisdiction.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.

Move and seconded. Motion was approved.

Voting in favor: Notthoff, Brownsey, Cash, Alioto, Bosco; voting against: none

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11. California Invasive Plant Council

Erica Johnson of the State Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

Speaking in favor of Staff Recommendation: Matthew Brown, Joy Alberton, Doug Johnson, Tobias Roemer

Speaking against the Staff Recommendation: Robert Van De Hoek

Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of up to \$5,400,000, including a \$400,000 grant from the Santa Clara Valley Water District, to the California Invasive Plant Council for the planning, management, treatment, monitoring, and restoration activities of the San Francisco Estuary Invasive Spartina Project from 2023-2024. Prior to commencement of the project, the grantee shall submit for the review and written approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy (Executive Officer) the following:

1. A work plan, schedule and budget.
2. A list of identified mitigation measures.
3. Evidence that all necessary permits and approvals for the project have been obtained.
4. Names and qualifications of any contractors to be retained in carrying out the project.
5. A plan for acknowledgement of Conservancy funding.

In carrying out any treatment or enhancement project, Cal-IPC shall comply with all applicable mitigation and monitoring measures that are set forth in the approved site-specific plans; that are required by any permit, the applicable U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Biological Opinion or any other approval for the project; or that are identified in the "Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report, San Francisco Estuary Invasive Spartina Project: Spartina Control Program" (EIS/R), adopted by the Conservancy on June 16, 2005.

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 Chapter 3 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding the Climate Ready Program.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.
3. The California Invasive Plant Council is a nonprofit organization existing under Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code.

Moved and seconded. Motion was approved.

Voting in favor: Notthoff, Brownsey, Cash, Alioto, Bosco; voting against: none

12. City of Santa Barbara

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Rachel Couch of the State Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

Speaking in Favor of Staff Recommendation: Mark Von Tillow

Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed five hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars (\$525,000) to the City of Santa Barbara to reduce wildland vegetation fuels on approximately 283 acres in up to seven high fire hazard areas in Santa Barbara, purchase equipment needed for the project, prepare planning and biological resource documents, conduct community outreach and education activities, and build capacity to implement their Community Wildfire Protection Plan through hiring additional staff.

Prior to commencement of the project, the grantee shall submit for the review and written approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy (Executive Officer) the following:

1. A detailed work program, schedule, and budget.
2. Names and qualifications of any contractors to be retained in carrying out the project.
3. A plan for acknowledgement of Conservancy funding.
4. Evidence that all permits and approvals required to implement the project have been obtained.
5. Evidence that the grantee has entered into agreements sufficient to enable the grantee to implement, operate, and maintain the project.

Findings:

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

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Chapter 3 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding the Climate Ready Program.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.
3. The Conservancy has independently reviewed and considered the “Community Wildfire Protection Plan Program Environmental Impact Report” (PEIR) attached as Exhibit 5 to the accompanying staff recommendation, which was certified by the City of Santa Barbara on February 9, 2021, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The proposed project is part of the City’s larger Community Wildfire Protection Plan (Plan or CWPP).
 - a. The Conservancy finds that the project will have “potentially significant” effects in the areas of Aesthetics/Visual Resources, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources; Geology and Soils; Hazards, Hazardous Materials, and Wildfire; Hydrology and Water Quality; Noise; and Recreation. With regards to these impacts, the Conservancy finds that the project, as modified by the incorporation of the mitigation measures identified in the PEIR,

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avoids, reduces, or mitigates all possible significant environmental effects of the project to less-than-significant levels except for the potentially significant impacts identified in finding 3b below.

- b. The Conservancy further finds that the project may result in “significant and unavoidable” cumulative impacts to Aesthetics/Visual Resources, Air Quality, and Biological Resources, but environmental and other benefits of the proposed project as described in the accompanying staff recommendation outweigh or render acceptable these unavoidable adverse environmental impacts.

Moved and seconded. Motion was approved.

Voting in favor: Notthoff, Brownsey, Cash, Alioto, Bosco; voting against: none

Donne Brownsey left the meeting immediately after this item.

13. Wildfire Mitigation Training Program

Tom Gandesbery of the State Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy (Conservancy) hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed seven hundred fifty two thousand five hundred ten dollars (\$752,510) to the Santa Lucia Conservancy (“the grantee”) to develop and implement a wildfire mitigation training program that will train a wildfire workforce and reduce fuels on approximately 675 acres of coastal habitat and to plan four prescribed burn projects (the “project”).

Prior to commencement of the project, the grantee shall submit for the review and written approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy (Executive Officer) the following:

1. A detailed work program, schedule, and budget.
2. Names and qualifications of any contractors to be retained in carrying out the project.
3. A plan for acknowledgement of Conservancy funding.
4. Evidence that all permits, and approvals required to implement the project have been obtained.
5. Any other applicable agreements determined necessary for the project by the Conservancy’s Executive Officer.

Findings:

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

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Chapter 3 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding the Climate Ready Program.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.

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3. The Santa Lucia Conservancy is a nonprofit organization organized under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

Moved and seconded. Motion was approved.

Voting in favor: Notthoff, Cash, Alioto, Bosco; voting against: none

Bryan Cash left the meeting immediately after this item.

14. CONSERVANCY MEMBER COMMENTS

15. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Walter Lamb spoke on Ballona Wetlands

Jane Velez Mitchell spoke on Ballona Wetlands

Patricia McPherson spoke on Ballona Wetlands

Marcia Hanscom spoke on Ballona Wetlands

Margot Griswold spoke on Ballona Wetlands

Robert Roy Van De Hoek spoke on Ballona Wetlands

Mary Beth Trautlin spoke on Ballona Wetlands

Chris K. spoke on Ballona Wetlands

16. CLOSED SESSION

The Conservancy did not hold a closed session.

17. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 2:35 P.M.