

STATE COASTAL CONSERVANCY
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
June 01, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Douglas Bosco (Public Member), Chair
Joy Sterling (Public Member),
Marce Gutiérrez-Graudiņš (Public Member)
Bryan Cash (Designated, Department of Natural Resources)
Gayle Miller (Designated, Department of Finance)
Donne Brownsey (Designated, Coastal Commission)

OVERSIGHT MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Benjamin Allen (District 24)
Kara Woodruff (Representative for Senator Laird, District 17)

OTHERS PRESENT:

Amy Hutzel, Executive Officer
Amy Roach, General Counsel

LOCATION:

California Natural Resource Agency
715 P Street, Room 2 221 A-C
Sacramento, CA 95814

MEETING START TIME: 10:04 A.M.

Chair Bosco announced his appointment of Marce Gutiérrez-Graudiņš as Vice-Chair.

1. ROLL CALL

Douglas Bosco (Public Member), Chair
Joy Sterling (Public Member),
Marce Gutiérrez-Graudiņš (Public Member)
Bryan Cash (Designated, Department of Natural Resources)
Donne Brownsey (Coastal Commission Chair)
Gayle Miller (Designated, Department of Finance) joined the meeting at 10:45am

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES of the Conservancy's April 06, 2023 public meeting. Moved and seconded. Minutes were approved. Brownsey abstained from the vote.

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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 by Sterling, Brownsey, Cash, Gutiérrez-Graudiņš, Bosco (none opposed).

A. RANCHO CAÑADA FLOODPLAIN RESTORATION

Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of up to seven hundred eleven thousand dollars (\$711,000) to consultants to prepare final designs, obtain permits, and conduct project management support as an augmentation and expansion of the Conservancy's grant, previously authorized on June 18, 2020, for planning and permitting for the restoration and enhancement of floodplain habitat on the Carmel River at the Rancho Cañada unit of the Palo Corona Regional Park in Monterey County, subject to the conditions of the June 18, 2020 authorization.

Findings:

Staff further recommends that the Conservancy adopt the following findings: "Based on the accompanying staff recommendation and attached exhibits, the State Coastal Conservancy hereby finds that:

1. The proposed authorization remains consistent with Chapter 5.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding Integrated Marine and Coastal Resources.
2. The proposed authorization is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.
3. The Conservancy has independently reviewed and considered the Consolidated Final Restoration Projects Statewide General Order Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) which was certified by the California State Water Resources Control Board on August 6, 2022, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") (Exhibit 3), and the California Environmental Quality Act Analysis (CEQA Analysis) for the Rancho Canada Floodplain Restoration Project (Project) approved by the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District on April 5, 2023 (Exhibit 4). The Conservancy finds that:
 - a. The Project meets the definition of a restoration project under the General Order.
 - b. All of the effects of the Project have been covered in the PEIR and all applicable general protection measures, best management practices, and mitigation measures identified in the PEIR will be implemented.
 - c. The Project is, therefore, within the scope of the PEIR and no additional CEQA documentation is required.

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- d. The Conservancy finds that the Project will have “potentially significant” effects in the areas of Aesthetics, Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Cultural Resources, Geology and Soils, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Noise, Recreation, Transportation, Tribal Cultural Resources, and Wildfire. With regards to these impacts, the Conservancy finds that the Project, as modified by the incorporation of the mitigation measures identified in PEIR, 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 3e below.
- e. The Conservancy further finds that the Project may result in “significant and unavoidable” impacts to Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions, but environmental and other benefits of the Project as described in the accompanying staff recommendation outweigh or render acceptable these unavoidable adverse environmental impacts to achieve the objectives of the Project.
- f. The Conservancy adopts the Findings regarding Significant Effects and Statement of Overriding Considerations set forth in the accompanying staff recommendation.
- g. Mitigation measures have been adopted by MPRPD as lead agency for the Project. As landowner, implementation of these mitigation measures is within the jurisdiction of MPRPD.

B. Carmel River Floodplain Restoration and Environmental Enhancement Augmentation
Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of an additional two million dollars (\$2,000,000) to the County of Monterey to augment the grant authorized by the Conservancy on February 3, 2022, for a total authorized amount of six million two hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$6,250,000) to construct the Carmel River Floodplain Restoration and Environmental Enhancement Project (“Project”), in Monterey County, subject to the conditions of the February 3, 2022, authorization.

Findings:

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

1. The proposed authorization remains consistent with Chapter 5.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding Integrated Coastal and Marine Resources.
2. The proposed project remains consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.

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C. Ocean Ranch Restoration Project Augmentation: Augmentation

Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed four hundred twenty-six thousand seventeen dollars (\$426,017) to augment the Conservancy's previously authorized grant for construction of the Ocean Ranch Restoration Project for project modifications including installing a new culvert and access road, conducting storm damage repair and increasing project resilience to future storms, installing new fencing and gates to manage public access, and preparing and installing interpretive signage and materials, at the Ocean Ranch Unit of the Eel River Wildlife Area near Loleta in Humboldt County as described in the March 25, 2021 Staff Recommendation ("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 revised 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 3 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding the impacts of climate change.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.

D. Point Arena Lighthouse Resilience Study

Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000) to the Point Arena Lighthouse Keepers Inc. ("the grantee") to conduct a geologic study of the Point Arena Bluff underlying the Point Arena Lighthouse to assess the site's resilience to future storms and the overall safety of the Point Arena Lighthouse, 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 revised work program, schedule, and budget.
2. Names and qualifications of any contractors to be retained in carrying out 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 Section 31113 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding addressing climate change and potential climate change impacts.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.
3. 3. The Point Arena Lighthouse Keepers, Inc. is a nonprofit organization organized under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

E. Bradley (Ringer) Cachagua Creek Fish Passage Project

Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed four hundred six thousand nine hundred dollars (\$406,900) to the Resource Conservation District of Monterey County (“the grantee”) to replace a concrete ford with a bridge spanning Cachagua Creek to improve fish passage in the upper Carmel River watershed. 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; and that the grantee has recorded an agreement pursuant to Public Resources Code 31116(d) sufficient to protect the public interest in 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 integrated coastal and marine resource protection.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.

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3. The Conservancy has independently reviewed and considered the 2022 Fisheries Restoration Grant Program’s Mitigated Negative Declaration Project adopted by California Department of Fish and Wildlife on November 14, 2022 pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) and attached to the accompanying staff recommendation as Exhibit 3. 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 as a whole that the project may have a significant effect on the environment, as defined in 14 Cal. Code Regulations Section 15382.

F. Redwood National and State Park Visitor Center and Restoration Project – Phase 3 Restoration Implementation and Initial Trails Gateway Construction: Augmentation

Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes augmentation of two grants, totaling an amount not to exceed \$1,347,257 (one million three hundred forty-seven thousand, two hundred fifty-seven dollars) collectively, to the Yurok Tribe and California Trout, Inc. (“the grantees”) to construct elements of the Redwood National and State Park Visitor Center and Restoration Project at the former Orick Mill A site in Humboldt County as follows, subject to adjustment between the grantees by the Executive Officer: up to \$1,097,257 (one million ninety-seven thousand, two hundred fifty-seven dollars) to the Yurok Tribe and up to \$250,000 (two hundred fifty thousand dollars) to California Trout, Inc. for the implementation of riparian and fish habitat restoration projects on lower Prairie Creek.

This authorization is subject to all of the conditions imposed upon the grantees through the March 24, 2022 Conservancy authorization for this project (Exhibit 2).

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 enhancement of coastal resources.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.
3. California Trout, Inc. is a nonprofit organization organized under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

G. Big River/Salmon Creek Forest

Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the Executive Officer to amend the Conservancy’s revenue sharing agreement with The Conservation Fund (“TCF”) for the Big River/Salmon Creek Forests to provide that if TCF pays \$3,125,000 to the Conservancy within

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twelve months of execution of the amendment, the Conservancy's right to receive a share of any future revenues from the property will terminate.

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA

4. BERKELEY PIER PLANNING PROJECT

Mark Kalnins of the State Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed two million nine hundred sixty thousand, nine hundred dollars (\$2,960,900) to the City of Berkeley ("the grantee") to conduct technical studies, prepare preliminary engineering, and prepare a draft environmental review document for the Berkeley Pier and Water Transportation Project in Alameda 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.

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 4.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding goals of the San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.

Moved and seconded.

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

Public Comment: Robert Roy van de Hoek

5. SOUTH BAY SALT POND RESTOATION PROJECT PHASE 2: EDEN LANDING AND MOUNTAIN VIEW IMPLEMENTATION

Laura Cholodenko of the State Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation

Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed ten million nine hundred forty thousand nine hundred and eleven dollars (\$10,940,911) to Ducks Unlimited ("the grantee") which includes \$3,940,911 in funds from the U.S. Environmental

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Protection Agency, to restore tidal marsh and enhance managed pond habitat as part of Phase 2 of the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project in Alameda County and Santa Clara 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.
5. Evidence that the grantee has entered into agreements sufficient to enable the grantee to implement, operate, and maintain the project.

Prior to commencing the project, the grantee shall enter into and record an agreement pursuant to Public Resources Code 31116(d) sufficient to protect the public interest in the improvements.

In addition, to the extent appropriate, the grantee shall incorporate the guidelines of the Conservancy's Coastal Access Project Standards.

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 impacts of climate change.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.
3. Ducks Unlimited is a nonprofit organization organized under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

Moved and seconded.

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

Public Comment: Robert Roy van de Hoek

6. MCCORMICK RANCH ACQUISITION

Virgilio Cuasay of the State Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

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Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000) to Sonoma Land Trust (“the grantee”) to acquire the 654-acre “McCormick Ranch” property in the Mayacamas Mountains of Sonoma County (Assessor’s Parcel No. 030-010-011 and -012; 030-040-003, -008, -009, and -010; 051-010-090; and 030-050-019) and Napa County (Assessor’s Parcel No. 027-580-015, -016, -017, -018, and -019), depicted in Exhibit 1 to the accompanying staff recommendation, for the protection, restoration, and enhancement of natural and scenic resources, including wildlife corridors and habitat, wetland and water resources, and landscape resilience related to climate change; and providing open space, public access, recreational use, and Tribal and indigenous cultural uses compatible with natural resource protection.

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 and conservation easement, escrow instructions, environmental or 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 acquired under this authorization shall be managed and operated for the protection, restoration, and enhancement of natural and scenic resources, including wildlife corridors and habitat, wetland and water resources, and landscape resilience related to climate change; and providing open space, public access, recreational use, and Tribal and indigenous cultural uses compatible with natural resource protection. The property shall be permanently dedicated to those purposes by an appropriate instrument approved by the Executive Officer.
4. If requested by the Conservancy, the grantee shall permit designation of a segment of the Bay Area Ridge Trail on the McCormick Ranch Property.
5. The grantee shall submit any master plan for the property to the Conservancy for review for consistency with the acquisition purposes.
6. 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.

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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 4.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding San Francisco Bay Area Program.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.
3. The Sonoma Land Trust is a nonprofit organization organized under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

Moved and seconded.

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

Public Comment: Robert Roy Van De Hoek

NORTH COAST

7. ELK RIVER HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT: ACQUISITION AND PLANNING

Michael Bowen of the State Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed five million five hundred thousand dollars (\$5,500,000) to California Trout (“the grantee”) to acquire the 175-acre Prior Ranch (Assessor Parcel Numbers 302-181-008, 304-191-001, 305-021-003, and 305-181-004) and to prepare restoration designs, environmental review materials, and permit applications for the Elk River Habitat Restoration Project in Humboldt County subject to the following conditions:

For the acquisition component of the project:

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 or 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.

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3. The property acquired under this authorization shall be managed and operated for the following acquisition purposes: preservation of open space, protection and restoration of natural resources and wildlife habitat, protection of cultural resources; providing public access; and agricultural use and tribal cultural use consistent with wildlife habitat and public access. The property shall be permanently dedicated to those purposes by 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.

Prior to commencement of the planning component 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. Evidence that the grantee has entered into access agreements sufficient to enable the grantee to advance 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 regarding greenhouse gas emissions, and Chapter 5.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding enhancement of natural resources.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.
3. California Trout, Inc. is a nonprofit organization organized under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

Moved and seconded.

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

Public Comment: Robert Roy van de Hoek

8. PINE CREEK TRACT ACQUISITION

Joel Gerwein of the State Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

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Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed four million five hundred thousand dollars (\$4,500,000) to the Hoopa Valley Tribe (the “grantee”) to acquire approximately 10,300 acres of real property known as the Pine Creek Tract, Humboldt County Assessor Parcels Numbers that are shown on Exhibit 2 to the accompanying staff recommendation, 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 or 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 acquired under this authorization shall be managed and operated to protect and restore water quality, anadromous fish habitat, wildlife habitat, wildlife connectivity, and forest health, and for tribal and public access compatible with natural resource protection. The property shall be permanently dedicated to those purposes by 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 5.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding integrated coastal and marine resources protection.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.

Moved and seconded.

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

Public Comment: Robert Roy van de Hoek

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CENTRAL COAST

9. REDWOOD NATION AND STATE PARK VISITOR CENTER AND RESTORATION PROJECT – PHASE 4 RESTORATION IMPLEMENTATION

Su Corbaley of the State Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes two grants, totaling an amount not to exceed \$10,673,555 (ten million six hundred seventy-three thousand, five hundred fifty-five dollars) collectively, to the Yurok Tribe and California Trout, Inc. (“the grantees”) to construct elements of the Redwood National and State Park Visitor Center and Restoration Project at the former Orick Mill A site in Humboldt County as follows, subject to adjustment between the grantees by the Executive Officer: up to \$8,025,640 (eight million twenty-five thousand six hundred forty dollars) to the Yurok Tribe and up to \$2,177,555 (two million one hundred seventy-seven thousand five hundred fifty-five dollars) to California Trout, Inc. for the implementation of riparian and fish habitat restoration projects on lower Prairie Creek; and further authorizes a grant of up to \$470,360 (four hundred seventy thousand, three hundred sixty dollars) to the Yurok Tribe to conduct planning for additional riparian and floodplain restoration upstream in Prairie Creek and its tributaries. Prior to commencement of the project, the grantees 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.
5. Evidence that all permits and approvals required to implement the project have been obtained.
6. Evidence that the grantees have entered into agreements sufficient to enable the grantees to implement, operate, and maintain the project.

In carrying out the project, the grantees shall comply with all applicable mitigation and monitoring measures identified in the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Redwood National and State Park Visitor Center and Restoration Project and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program adopted by the Conservancy on September 3, 2020 and comply with all measures and conditions that are required by any permit or approval. The grantees shall comply with all applicable terms and conditions imposed by the grants to the Conservancy.

Findings:

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

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

Moved and seconded.

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

Public Comment: Robert Roy van de Hoek

10. BLACK LAKE ECOLOGICAL AREA HABITAT RESTORATION

Trish Chapman of the State Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed \$1,261,472, including \$696,600 in Conservancy funds and \$564,872 awarded to the Conservancy by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Program, to the Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County ("the grantee") to restore approximately 45 acres of coastal wetland and dune scrub habitat at the Black Lake Ecological Area in 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.
5. Evidence that the grantee has entered into agreements sufficient to enable the grantee to implement, operate, and maintain the project.
6. Prior to commencing the project, and as appropriate, the nonprofit grantee shall enter into and record an agreement pursuant to Public Resources Code 31116(d) sufficient to protect the public interest in the improvements.

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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 5.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding integrated coastal and marine resources protection.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.
3. The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County is a nonprofit organization organized under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

Moved and seconded.

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

Public Comment: Robert Roy van de Hoek

11. RANA CREEK RANCH ACQUISITION

Irvin Tang of the State Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed two million dollars (\$2,000,000) to the Wildlands Conservancy (“the grantee”) to acquire 11,692 acres of the Rana Creek Ranch in upper Carmel Valley to protect water quality, natural resources, wildlife habitat, scenic open space, and compatible agriculture including cattle grazing, and for public and tribal access compatible with such uses (the “project”), 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 or 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 the fair market value for the property, as established in an appraisal approved by the Executive Officer.
3. The property acquired under this authorization shall be managed and operated for the protection of water quality, natural resources, wildlife habitat, scenic open space, and compatible agriculture including cattle grazing, and for public and tribal access

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compatible with such uses. The property shall be permanently dedicated to those purposes by 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 5.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding integrated coastal and marine resource protection.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.
3. The Wildlands Conservancy is a nonprofit organization organized under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

Moved and seconded.

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

Public Comment: Robert Roy van de Hoek

12. WARREN RANCH CONSERVATION EASEMENT ACQUISITION

Trish Chapman of the State Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed nine hundred and ten thousand dollars (\$910,000) to the Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County ("the grantee") to acquire a conservation easement over the 736-acre Warren Ranch located in the upper San Simeon and Santa Rosa Creek watersheds to protect natural resources, water quality, anadromous fish habitat, wildlife habitat, scenic open space, and compatible agriculture including cattle grazing within these coastal watersheds, 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, conservation easement, escrow instructions, environmental or hazardous materials assessment, and title report;

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- 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 conservation easement, as established in an appraisal approved by the Executive Officer.
3. The easement interest acquired under this authorization shall be managed and operated to protect natural resources, water quality, anadromous fish habitat, wildlife habitat, open space, and compatible agriculture including cattle grazing. The property shall be permanently dedicated to those purposes by 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 5.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding integrated coastal and marine resource protection.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.
3. The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County is a nonprofit organization organized under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

Moved and seconded.

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

Public Comment: Robert Roy van de Hoek

13. SANTA BARBARA WATERFRONT ADAPTATION PLANNING

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

Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of up to two million six hundred eighty thousand dollars (\$2,680,000) to the City of Santa Barbara (“the grantee”) to prepare technical studies and feasibility reports and to conduct community outreach for adapting waterfront areas at-risk to sea level rise; and to prepare conceptual designs and environmental review documents for priority relocation of wastewater and water system infrastructure in the City of Santa Barbara.

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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 31113 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding addressing climate change and potential climate change impacts.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.

Moved and seconded.

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

Public Comment: Robert Roy van de Hoek

14. CASTROVILLE TO THE COAST ACQUISITION AND PLANNING

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

Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed one million ninety thousand dollars (\$1,090,000), including \$970,000 of grant funds from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, to the California Marine Sanctuary Foundation to: a) coordinate with landowners and key stakeholders and undertake other pre-acquisition activities for acquisition of a conservation easement over 24 acres of agricultural land along Tembladero Slough, between Castroville and Salinas River State Beach (“conservation easement”), b) direct the funds to a public entity or nonprofit corporation organized under section 501(c)(3) of the US Internal Revenue Code to acquire the conservation easement, and c) prepare conceptual designs for floodplain restoration and coastal access to be undertaken in the conservation easement area; subject to the following conditions:

1. Prior to the disbursement of funds for the acquisition of the conservation easement, the grantee shall submit for the review and approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy (Executive Officer):
 - a. The name and qualifications of the public agency or nonprofit organization organized under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code that will be the holder of the easements;

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- b. All relevant acquisition documents for the acquisition including, without limitation, the appraisal, purchase and sale agreement, conservation easements, escrow instructions, environmental or hazardous materials assessment, and title report;
 - c. A baseline conditions report; and
 - d. Evidence that sufficient funds are available to complete the acquisition.
2. The public entity or nonprofit organization selected to acquire the conservation easement shall enter into a grant agreement with the Conservancy prior to disbursement of funds for the acquisition.
3. The conservation easement shall be purchased for no more than fair market value as established in an appraisal approved by the Executive Officer.
4. The conservation easement shall be managed and operated for floodplain protection, wetland and natural resource restoration and conservation, and public access. The conservation easement shall be permanently dedicated to those purposes by appropriate terms approved by the Executive Officer.
5. Conservancy funding shall be acknowledged by erecting and maintaining a sign on the conservation easement property or in a nearby publicly viewable area, the design and location of which are to be approved by the Executive Officer.
6. Prior to commencement of the pre-acquisition and conceptual design components of the project, the grantee shall submit for the review and written approval of the Executive Officer the following:
 - a. A detailed work program, schedule, and budget.
 - b. Names and qualifications of any contractors to be retained in carrying out the project.
7. To the extent appropriate, the plans shall conform to the guidelines of the Conservancy's 'Coastal Access Project Standards.'

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 Integrated Marine and Coastal Resources.
2. The proposed project is consistent with applicable local watershed management plans and water quality plans.
3. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.

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4. The California Marine Sanctuary Foundation is a nonprofit organization organized under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

Moved and seconded.

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

Public Comment: Robert Roy van de Hoek

15. SCOTT CREEK COASTAL RESILIENCY PLANNING

Trish Chapman of the State Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed eight hundred sixty four thousand dollars (\$864,000) to the Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County (“the grantee”) to lead the Scotts Creek Technical Advisory Committee and provide technical assistance to Caltrans on preparation of environmental review and permit applications for the Scott Creek Coastal Resiliency project, consisting of restoration of approximately 25 acres of Scott Creek Lagoon and marsh and replacement of the Highway 1 bridge at Scott Creek Lagoon in Santa Cruz 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 3 (Section 31113) of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding the impacts of climate change.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.

Moved and seconded.

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

Public Comment: Robert Roy van de Hoek

SOUTH COAST

16. NEWLAND MARSH RESTORATION PLANNING

Katie Nichols of the State Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

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Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed five hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars (\$575,000) to the Huntington Beach Wetlands Conservancy (“the grantee”) to prepare designs, permit applications, and environmental review for restoring 44.8 acres of degraded wetlands at Newland Marsh in Huntington Beach, Orange County (“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.

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 corrective measures to enhance coastal resources.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.
3. The Huntington Beach Wetlands Conservancy is a nonprofit organization organized under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

Moved and seconded.

Voting in favor: Sterling, Brownsey, Cash, Miller, Bosco; voting against: none

Public Comment: Robert Roy van de Hoek

18. TIJUANA ESTUARY TIDAL RESTORATION PROGRAM II – PHASE 1 FINAL DESIGN AND PERMITTING

Item 18 was taken out of order and heard after Item 16. Sam Jenniches of the State Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed three million one hundred and ninety-two thousand dollars (\$3,192,500) to the Southwest Wetlands Interpretive Association to develop final design plans, to conduct pre-restoration monitoring, and to apply for permits for the first phase of the Tijuana Estuary Tidal Restoration Program II in San Diego 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:

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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 enhancement of coastal resources.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.
3. The Southwest Wetlands Interpretive Association is a nonprofit organization organized under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.
4. The Conservancy has independently evaluated the Tijuana Estuary Tidal Restoration Program II Phase 1 Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) / Environmental Impact Statement certified by California State Parks on March 24, 2023. The Conservancy finds that:
 - a. The Project will have “potentially significant” effects in the areas of Cultural Resources, Hazardous Materials and Public Safety, and Tribal Cultural Resources. With regards to these impacts, the Conservancy finds that the Project, as modified by the incorporation of the mitigation measures identified in the Final EIR, 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 4b below.
 - b. The Project may result in “significant and unavoidable” impacts to Hydrology and Water Quality (temporary), Biological Resources (temporary), Air Quality (temporary, cumulatively temporary), and Noise (cumulatively temporary), but environmental and other benefits of the Project as described in the accompanying staff recommendation outweigh or render acceptable these unavoidable adverse environmental impacts to achieve the objectives of the Project.
 - c. The Conservancy adopts the Findings regarding Significant Effects and Statement of Overriding Considerations set forth in the accompanying staff recommendation.

Moved and seconded.

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

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Public Comment: Robert Roy van de Hoek

Marce Gutiérrez-Graudiņš leaves meeting after vote at 2:05 PM

17. SUFERS POINT MANAGED RETREAT PROJECT – PHASE 2

Kara Kemmler of the State Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed sixteen million two hundred thousand dollars (\$16,200,000) to the City of San Buenaventura (“the grantee”) to construct Phase 2 of the Surfers Point Managed Retreat Project, a sea level rise adaptation project that relocates existing infrastructure landward and restores beach dune habitat, in Ventura.

Prior to commencement of construction of Phase 2, 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 installation of signage to acknowledge Conservancy funding.

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 9 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding public access.
2. The proposed project, as augmented, is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.

Moved and seconded.

Voting in favor: Sterling, Brownsey, Cash, Miller, Bosco; voting against: none

Public Comment: Robert Roy van de Hoek

WILDFIRE RESILIENCE PROGRAM

Lilly Allen of the State Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendations for the Wildfire Resilience Program.

19. WILDFIRE RESILIENCE PROGRAM 2023-2024

Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes grants in a total amount not to exceed four million nine hundred eighty-three thousand nine hundred ninety-four dollars (\$4,983,994) to

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nine entities to increase wildfire resilience of California's natural lands and reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire. The nine grantees are as follows (presented in alphabetical order):

Diablo Fire Safe Council: Three hundred seventy-four thousand eight hundred dollars (\$374,800) to conduct wildfire resilience planning and develop a process to prioritize projects in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties.

Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District: Nine hundred ninety-nine thousand one hundred thirty-six dollars (\$999,136) to expand their targeted grazing program in high fire risk public and private lands throughout Sonoma County and provide technical, educational, and financial support to public land stewards and livestock grazers.

Humboldt County Resource Conservation District: Three hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$350,000) to conduct planning for a multi-phased fuel reduction project along and adjacent to the crest of Mail Ridge in southern Humboldt and northern Mendocino counties, and to conduct associated community outreach, tribal engagement, and workforce development.

The Regents of University of California: Seven hundred and fifty-eight thousand dollars (\$758,000) to conduct wildfire resilience planning, project development, and environmental review in San Benito County.

Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County: One million one hundred thirty-one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,131,500) to conduct wildfire resilience planning, project development and permitting, implementation of demonstration projects, and education and outreach in Santa Cruz and San Mateo Counties.

Save Mount Diablo: One hundred and fourteen thousand five hundred dollars (\$114,500) for the purchase of two chippers for use by Save Mount Diablo and Mount Diablo State Park to conduct fuel reduction projects on their respective lands in Contra Costa County.

Scott River Watershed Council: One hundred and ninety-one thousand dollars (\$191,000) to treat approximately 139 acres by prescribed fire, specifically burning piles that were created in a large, shaded fuel break, in Siskiyou County.

Smith River Alliance: Four hundred and ninety-nine thousand eight hundred and fifty dollars (\$499,850) for vegetation management to enhance wildfire resilience in dense and drought-stressed forests on approximately 120 acres in Del Norte County.

Tamien Nation: Five hundred sixty-five thousand two hundred and eight dollars (\$565,208) to train and equip a crew of approximately five people to conduct fire resilience vegetation management in Santa Clara 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.

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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 agreements that the Conservancy's Executive Officer determines are necessary for 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 projects are consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.
3. The proposed grantees that are nonprofit organizations are organized under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

Moved and seconded.

Voting in favor: Sterling, Brownsey, Cash, Miller, Bosco; voting against: none

Public Comment: Robert Roy van de Hoek

20. FOREST HEALTH AND WILDFIRE RESILIENCY AT THE JENNER HEADLANDS PRESERVE

Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed four hundred nine thousand six hundred seventy-five dollars (\$449,900) to The Wildlands Conservancy ("the grantee") for fuel reduction, vegetation management, and installation of grazing infrastructure on 796 acres on and near Jenner Headlands Preserve in Jenner, Sonoma 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.

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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 Wildlands 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 California Vegetation Treatment Program (CalVTP) Statewide Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR), which was certified by the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection on December 30, 2019 pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and the Project-Specific Analysis and Addendum to the CalVTP PEIR for the Jenner Headlands Preserve Vegetation Treatment Project (PSA-Addendum) (attached to the accompanying staff recommendation as Exhibits 2 and 3), and the Conservancy finds:
 - a. The Jenner Headlands Preserve Vegetation Treatment Project (Project) includes the proposed project and is within the scope of the CalVTP, and the CalVTP PEIR adequately describes the Project for purposes of CEQA. As described in the PSAAddendum, although portions of the Project will take place outside the treatable landscape as identified in the CalVTP, the Project area landscape conditions are similar to those of the treatable landscape, and the treatment types and activities are the same as those described in the CalVTP. None of the conditions described in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 calling for preparation of a subsequent EIR have occurred.
 - b. The PEIR and the PSA-Addendum identify potentially significant impacts of the Project in the areas of Aesthetics and Visual Resources; Agricultural and Forestry Resources; Air Quality; Archaeological, Historical, and Tribal Cultural Resources; Biological Resources; Geology, Soils, and Mineral Resources; Greenhouse Gas Emissions; Energy Resources; Hazardous Materials; Hydrology and Water Quality; Land Use and Planning, Population and Housing; Noise; Recreation; Transportation; Public Services, Utilities, and Service Systems; and Wildfire as identified in the accompanying staff recommendation. With implementation of mitigation measures, impacts to the above will be mitigated to a less than significant level.

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- c. The PEIR and PSA-Addendum identify significant and unavoidable impacts of the Project in the areas of Air Quality; Archaeological, Historical, and Tribal Cultural Resources; Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions; and Transportation. The Project's air quality impacts are due to vehicles and gas-powered tools associated with the initial and maintenance treatments. The standard project requirements will reduce these impacts but will not avoid them. Prescribed burning may result in air quality impacts due to smoke potentially exposing people to toxic air contaminants and objectionable odors. The standard project requirements will reduce these impacts but will not avoid them. The project's impacts on archaeological, historical, and tribal cultural resources are due to prescribed burning and mechanical treatments using heavy equipment that could churn up the surface of the ground and result in damage to known or previously unknown archaeological resources. The standard project requirements and one mitigation measure will reduce these impacts but will not avoid them. The project's GHG impacts are due to the utilization of vehicles and equipment that emit GHGs. The standard project requirements and one mitigation measure will reduce these impacts but will not avoid them. The project's transportation impacts are due to temporarily increasing vehicle miles traveled as additional trips to transport crew and equipment to remote areas will take place. The implementation of Mitigation Measure AQ-1 will reduce this impact but will not avoid it. The Conservancy finds it is infeasible to avoid, reduce, or mitigate the possible significant environmental effects of the project in these areas but that the specific environmental and other benefits of the proposed project as described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations contained in the accompanying Conservancy staff recommendation outweigh and render acceptable the significant unavoidable effects.

Moved and seconded.

Voting in favor: Sterling, Brownsey, Cash, Miller, Bosco; voting against: none

21. HEALDBURG ARUNDO REMOVAL PROJECT

Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed nine hundred eighty-nine thousand three hundred dollars (\$989,300) to Russian Riverkeeper ("the grantee") to remove invasive *Arundo donax* along 5 miles of the Russian River to reduce fire risk to Fitch Mountain and Healdsburg in Sonoma 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.

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2. Names and qualifications of any contractors to be retained in carrying out the project.
3. A plan for acknowledgement of Conservancy
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 Russian Riverkeeper 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 California Vegetation Treatment Program (CalVTP) Statewide Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR), which was certified by the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE) on December 30, 2019 pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"), and the Project Specific Analysis and Addendum to the CalVTP for the Healdsburg Open Space and Surrounding Community Fuels Reduction Project (CalVTP Project ID 2021-14, "PSAAddendum") (attached to the accompanying staff recommendation as Exhibits 2 and 3), and the Conservancy finds:
 - a. The Healdsburg Arundo Removal Project ("Project") is within scope of the CalVTP, and the CalVTP PEIR adequately describes the Project for purposes of CEQA. As described in the PSA-Addendum, although portions of the Project will take place outside the treatable landscape as identified in the CalVTP, the Project area landscape conditions are similar to those of the treatable landscape, and the treatment types and activities are the same as those described in the CalVTP. None of the conditions described in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 calling for preparation of a subsequent EIR have occurred.
 - b. The PEIR and PSA-Addendum identify potentially significant impacts of the Project in the areas of Archaeological, Historical, Tribal Cultural Resources, and Biological Resources as identified in the accompanying staff recommendation. With implementation of mitigation measures, these impacts will be mitigated to a less than significant level.

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- c. The PEIR and PSA-Addendum identify significant and unavoidable impacts of the Project in the areas of Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions. The Project's air quality impacts are from emissions associated with treatment activities and maintenance. Standard project requirements will reduce these impacts but will not avoid them. No feasible mitigation measures exist. The greenhouse gas emissions impacts are due to the use of vehicles and equipment associated with initial and maintenance treatments. The standard project requirements and one mitigation measure will reduce this impact but will not avoid it. The Conservancy finds it is infeasible to avoid, reduce, or mitigate the possible significant environmental effects of the Project in these areas but that the specific environmental and other benefits of the Project as described in the Statements of Overriding Considerations contained in the accompanying Conservancy staff recommendation outweigh and render acceptable the significant unavoidable effects.

Moved and seconded.

Voting in favor: Sterling, Brownsey, Cash, Miller, Bosco; voting against: none

22. PEPPERWOULD STRATEGIC FUEL BREAK

Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed five hundred fifteen thousand two hundred dollars (\$515,200) to the Pepperwood Foundation ("the grantee") to reconstruct fire-damaged grazing infrastructure and conduct vegetation management, including forest thinning, prescribed burns, and grazing, to reduce wildfire risk on 1054 acres of the Pepperwood Preserve ("Pepperwood") in Sonoma 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.
5. Evidence that the grantee has entered into any agreements determined necessary for the project by the Conservancy's Executive Officer.

If the grantee uses grant funds to purchase equipment costing \$5,000 or more, the grantee shall use such equipment for wildfire-related purposes for the duration of the useful life of the equipment.

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Findings:

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

1. The project will be undertaken pursuant to Section 31113 of Chapter 3 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.
3. The Pepperwood Foundation 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 CALFIRE's 1981 Chapparral Management Program Environmental Impact Report ("PEIR") certified by CALFIRE pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") and the Vegetation Management Plan, which includes an environmental checklist, prepared for the project by CALFIRE (adopted on March 3, 2023) pursuant to its Vegetation Management Program (See Exhibits 5-6 attached to the accompanying staff recommendation). The Conservancy finds that the Pepperwood Preserve Vegetation Management Project ("Project") is within the scope of the PEIR and that the 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 as a whole that the project may have a significant effect on the environment, as defined in 14 Cal. Code Regulations Section 15382

Moved and seconded.

Voting in favor: Sterling, Brownsey, Cash, Miller, Bosco; voting against: none

23. SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS FOREST HEALTH AND BIOMASS PROCESSING PILOT

Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed one million one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$1,150,000) to the Peninsula Open Space Trust ("the grantee") to remove dead and dying trees along a ten mile stretch of road that is also a fuel break and for processing the wood into a charcoal product at the San Vicente Redwoods property, in the Santa Cruz Mountains, northern Santa Cruz 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.

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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, Section 31113, 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 Peninsula Open Space Trust is a nonprofit organization organized under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

Moved and seconded.

Voting in favor: Sterling, Brownsey, Cash, Miller, Bosco; voting against: none

24. EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

Amy Hutzal, Executive Officer of the State Coastal Conservancy, provided an update about the coastal resilience and sea level rise adaptation efforts that have been supported by the 2023 and 2024 budgets, and the May budget. Despite a temporary reduction, the "Explore the Coast" funds of 2.6 million saw 1.6 million returned. Ms. Hutzal thanked Conservancy staff for actively pursuing and managing federal grants, and expressed gratitude for funding from USEPA, NOAA, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the successful partnership with the Army Core of Engineers. Ms. Hutzal noted that as of July 1st, the Coastal Conservancy will revert to pre-pandemic Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act Rules, while still providing webcasting and Zoom options for public access. For board members, participation options include in-person attendance or joining via Zoom from a publicly accessible location that is listed in the agenda.

There were public comments on the Executive Officer's report.

25. CONSERVANCY MEMBER COMMENTS

26. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Patricia Mcpherson spoke on Ballona Wetlands

Walter Lamb spoke on Ballona Wetlands

Marcia Hanscom spoke on Ballona Wetlands

Jane Velez-Mitchell spoke on Ballona Wetlands

Susanne Cumming spoke on Ballona Wetlands

Margot Griswold spoke on Ballona Wetlands

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Robert Roy van de Hoek spoke on Ballona Wetlands

27. CLOSED SESSION

Meeting closed at 2:48 P.M. for a closed session.

During the closed session, the Conservancy received information and advice from counsel, and provided direction to counsel, regarding:

Pappas, et al. v. State Coastal Conservancy, et al., Santa Barbara County Superior Court, Case No. 1417388; and

Grassroots Coalition, et al. v. California State Coastal Conservancy, et al., Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 21STCP02237.

Session was closed to the public pursuant to Government Code Section 11126(e)(2)(A).

Meeting re-opened to public at 3:12 P.M.

28. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 3:16 P.M.