

COASTAL CONSERVANCY

Staff Recommendation
September 14, 2023

HOLLISTER RANCH COASTAL ACCESS PROGRAM

Project No. 19-007-01
Project Manager: Trish Chapman

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Authorization to disburse up to \$500,000 to augment the Conservancy funding previously authorized on May 5, 2022, for the purpose of contracting for services to prepare environmental review documents, a cultural and tribal resource survey, and a property appraisal for the Hollister Ranch Coastal Access Program, in Santa Barbara County.

LOCATION: Gaviota Coast, Santa Barbara County (Exhibit 1)

EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1: [Project Location Map](#)

Exhibit 2: [May 5, 2022, Staff Recommendation](#)

RESOLUTION AND FINDINGS

Staff recommends that the State Coastal Conservancy adopt the following resolution and findings.

Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of an additional five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) to augment the Conservancy funding previously authorized on May 5, 2022, for a total authorized amount of two million eight hundred thousand dollars (\$2,800,000), for the purpose of contracting for services to prepare environmental review documents, a cultural and tribal resource survey, and a property appraisal for the Hollister Ranch Coastal Access Program, in Santa Barbara County, subject to the conditions of the May 5, 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 9 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding System of Public Accessways.

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

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

PROJECT SUMMARY:

Staff recommends the Conservancy authorize a \$500,000 augmentation to its May 5, 2022 authorization (Exhibit 2) for a new total authorized amount of up to \$2,800,000 for the purpose of contracting for services to prepare environmental review documents, a cultural and tribal resource survey, and a property appraisal for the Hollister Ranch Coastal Access Program (HRCAP). As described in Exhibit 2, the Conservancy has been working with the California Coastal Commission, the State Lands Commission, and the California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) (collectively the “interagency team”) to develop a contemporary Hollister Ranch Coastal Access Program (HRCAP). The interagency team has identified preparation of the documents specified above as the next steps in the planning process. Since May 2022, the interagency team has been developing and negotiating consultant contracts for this work. Based on proposals received by the Conservancy and State Lands Commission, the interagency team anticipate needing an additional \$500,000 to complete this work.

Other than the increase in anticipated costs, there are no other changes to the project as described in the May 5, 2022 staff recommendation.

Site Description: See Exhibit 2.

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY’S PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA:

The proposed project remains consistent with the Conservancy’s Project Selection Criteria, last updated on September 23, 2021, as described in the May 5, 2022, staff recommendation (Exhibit 2).

PROJECT FINANCING

Coastal Conservancy (proposed authorization)	\$500,000
Coastal Conservancy (previous authorization)	\$2,300,000
Project Total	\$2,800,000

Conservancy funds for the proposed augmentation are expected to derive from a \$10 million General Fund appropriation to the Conservancy for the public access at Hollister Ranch.

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY’S ENABLING LEGISLATION:

The proposed project remains consistent with the Conservancy’s Enabling Legislation as described in the May 5, 2022, staff recommendation (Exhibit 2).

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S [2023-2027 STRATEGIC PLAN](#):

Consistent with **Goal 1.3 Support Meaningful Engagement by Systemically Excluded Communities**, the proposed project includes stipends for a Tribal Working Group which is helping to shape the access program.

Consistent with **Goal 2.4 Build Trails**, the proposed project includes planning for a trail that will expand access along 8.5 miles of the California coast.

Consistent with **Goal 2.5 Recreation Facilities & Amenities**, the proposed project includes planning for recreational facilities and amenities that support public access including restrooms and parking facilities.

CEQA COMPLIANCE:

The project elements have not changed since the May 5, 2022, authorization, and there have been no changed circumstances or new information that triggers the requirement for additional documentation under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Therefore, no further review pursuant to CEQA is required.