

COASTAL CONSERVANCY

Staff Recommendation
September 14, 2023

EXPLORE THE COAST GRANT PROGRAM – 2023-2024

Project No. 23-044-01

Project Managers: Bryce Perog, Carol Martinez, Dario Bobeda-Padilla, & Lexi Caruthers

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Authorization to disburse up to \$968,900 to nonprofit organizations for 16 projects that facilitate and enhance the public’s opportunities to explore the California coast. Participants are drawn from throughout the State and will visit coastal locations from Del Norte County south to San Diego County.

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

EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1: [Project Location Map](#)

Exhibit 2: [Advisory Board Members](#)

Exhibit 3: [Project Letters](#)

RESOLUTION AND FINDINGS

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

Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed nine hundred and sixty-eight thousand nine hundred dollars (\$968,900) to 16 nonprofit organizations for 16 projects that facilitate and enhance the public’s opportunities to explore the California coast. The Executive Officer of the Coastal Conservancy may authorize modifications to one or more of the 16 projects if the modified projects continue to promote the goal of facilitating and enhancing the public’s opportunities to explore the California coast. The 16 grantees are as follows (presented in alphabetical order):

- Blind Sail SF Bay: Twenty thousand five hundred dollars (\$20,500) to teach approximately 84 blind and visually impaired individuals the fundamental skills of sailing with the intention of building self-confidence and friendships among the participants.

- Changing Tides Foundation, (fiscal sponsor for Un Mar de Colores): Thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) to provide a two-year scholarship program consisting of free mentorship, environmental education, and surf therapy lessons to approximately 80 BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Color) students and 160 of their family members.
- Grant African Methodist Episcopal Church: Fifty-three thousand three hundred dollars (\$53,300) to provide four daytrips to various seaside locations for approximately 80 low-income participants and their families in the Watts community.
- Greater Farallon’s Association: Thirty-six thousand two hundred dollars (\$36,200) to bring approximately 175 students from low-income schools to their local coast to encounter intertidal marine life, document their observations using real scientific techniques, and develop long-term connections with the California coast.
- Justice Outside: One hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) to bring approximately 2,000 BIPOC and low-income participants to coastal locations with the intention of bringing them joy and healing through coastal experiences.
- Literacy for Environmental Justice: Eighty-seven thousand dollars (\$87,000) to provide approximately 2,000 low-income youth with recreational, educational, and environmental stewardship experiences through kayaking and fishing in the San Francisco Bay.
- Los Angeles Academy of Arts and Enterprise: Twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) to provide two trips to the University of Southern California (USC) Wrigley Marine Center on Catalina Island for approximately 50 students in grades 9 to 12 from predominantly minority, immigrant, and socioeconomically disadvantaged populations in the West Lake and Pico Union neighborhoods of Los Angeles.
- Orange County Makapo Aquatics Project: Eighty-seven thousand dollars (\$87,000) to provide approximately 350 participants with physical and intellectual disabilities with outrigger paddling lessons.
- Outward Bound Adventures: Seventy-eight thousand three hundred dollars (\$78,300) to bring approximately 96 youth from primarily low income and systemically excluded communities of color on overnight camping expeditions.
- Redwood Parks Conservancy: Eighty-seven thousand dollars (\$87,000) to provide approximately 440 children and adolescents from Humboldt and Del Norte an inclusive lifeguard training program held at Trinidad State Beach, Stone Lagoon, and Crescent City Beaches.
- Santa Barbara Alternatives to Violence Project: Seventy-six thousand dollars (\$76,000) to provide approximately 220 youth a variety of coastal day- and overnight-trips in Central and Southern California over a two-year term.

- The Student Conservation Association: Twenty-two thousand seven hundred dollars (\$22,700) to provide two overnight trips to coastal parks and four summer outings to coastal sites to approximately 28 youth from Vallejo, Hayward, and East Oakland.
- Trybe Inc.: Eighty-seven thousand dollars (\$87,000) to provide approximately 275 low-income youth and families from inner city Oakland with coastal adventures and exploration experiences across the San Francisco Bay and Central California coastline.
- Urban Surf 4 Kids: Sixty-five thousand dollars (\$65,000) to provide surf therapy day camps at La Jolla Shores to approximately 500 youth who are victims of domestic violence, living in foster care or have experienced foster care, residing in group homes, or are low income and have experienced multiple adverse childhood experiences.
- Watsonville Wetlands Watch: Forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) to provide family kayaking trips and youth beach trips for approximately 192 participants from the Pajaro Valley.
- YES Nature to Neighborhoods: Seventy-eight thousand nine hundred dollars (\$78,900) to provide two overnight coastal trips, one cycling and one backpacking, for approximately 150 teens from the Iron Triangle and Northern Richmond neighborhoods.

Prior to commencement of the project, each 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. 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 Chapters 4.5 and 9 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding the resource and recreational goals in the San Francisco Bay Area (Chapter 4.5), and the establishment of a system of public accessways to and along the California coast (Chapter 9).
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.
3. The proposed nonprofit organizations are organized under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

PROJECT SUMMARY:

Staff recommends the Conservancy authorize \$968,900 to 16 nonprofit organizations for 16 projects that facilitate and enhance the public's opportunities to explore the coast of California under the Conservancy's Explore the Coast (ETC) grant program. Participant numbers stated in the project summaries are approximate and may vary up to 25%. Additionally, project specifics may need to be changed due to unexpected circumstances such as, for example, closures of a particular beach or unanticipated costs, so the recommended authorization includes authority for the Executive Officer to approve project changes as long as modified projects continue to promote the goal of the program.

The purpose of the ETC grant program is to provide coastal experiences for people and communities who face challenges or barriers to accessing or enjoying the coast (ETC Priority Communities). ETC Priority Communities include, but are not limited to, lower-income individuals and households, people with disabilities, people of color, indigenous communities, immigrant communities, foster youth, and other historically excluded communities who face societal challenges or barriers to accessing or enjoying the coast. ETC projects recommended for funding meet one or more of the following priorities: provides an enjoyable experience at the coast; reduces economic, physical, operational, or societal barriers to accessing or enjoying the coast; or inspires an ongoing coastal resource stewardship ethic through active learning and interactive activities.

The ETC grant program includes projects that enhance visitors' ability to learn about natural, recreational, cultural, and historic resources of the California coast and San Francisco Bay shorelines. A variety of activities and programmatic services are eligible for funding under the ETC grant program such as providing transportation, reducing the economic cost of coastal program attendance, providing coastal experiences for persons with disabilities, and overnight coastal experiences for participants. This year's ETC grant program solicitation was released in early December 2022; webinars and virtual technical assistance sessions were held in January and February to provide further guidance for potential applicants on the program, the application, and administrative requirements. Additional technical assistance was available upon request and Conservancy project staff helped several organizations prior to the application deadline.

In recommending projects to the Conservancy, staff aim to equitably distribute this funding and maximize the impact of every dollar spent. To better achieve these goals, Conservancy staff created an Explore the Coast Advisory Board in 2019. Advisory Board members serve a term of two years and can choose to continue their service for a second term. This year's Advisory Board cohort represents various regions of the State with backgrounds in environmental justice, coastal access issues, tribal advocacy, disability rights, foundation work and funding, grant program administration, and environmental education (Exhibit 2). The Advisory Board advises staff on the application process, application review, and ongoing management of the grant program. The Advisory Board's participation with staff in the review and selection of projects advances equity by giving the communities served by the program an opportunity to provide direct input on their needs and the types of projects that will best serve their needs.

This year, the Conservancy received 84 applications requesting over \$3.5 million in Conservancy funding. Applications were initially reviewed by staff and then 50 applications were forwarded to the Advisory Board based on staff reviews. Each application was reviewed by at least two Advisory Board members. In May, the Advisory Board met to discuss the applications and provide recommendations to staff. Following this meeting, staff finalized the list of 16 recommended projects with an average award size of \$60,500.

Staff estimates that the proposed 2023-2024 ETC grant program will engage over 7,500 people through the proposed project activities. Of these people, project partners estimate that the program will serve over 6,100 low-income Californians, 6,600 people of color, 1,000 homeless or foster youth, approximately 1,800 people for whom English is not their first language, and at least 2,100 people with physical, cognitive, and/or emotional disabilities.

Staff recommends funding the following 16 projects for the 2023-2024 ETC grants program. The projects are arranged alphabetically by grantee. Each individual project summary includes the grantee; project name; recommended funding amount; geographic region of the participants; a brief project description; and information on the consistency of the proposed project with the Conservancy’s proposed funding source, its enabling legislation, and its Strategic Plan. In addition, each project summary provides relevant information for project compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

BLINDSAIL SF BAY

\$20,500

BlindSail SF Bay

Bay Area

BlindSail SF Bay will introduce 84 blind and visually impaired students from the Bay Area to the fundamental skills of sailing with creative, adaptive, hands-on methods. Most participants are also low income. BlindSail will host 7 day-long sailing events for 12 participants once a month out of the Treasure Island Sailing Center. Program participants will learn how to sail in groups of three blind sailors and two sighted volunteers. This experience will build self confidence and friendships among the participants. The program curriculum also includes lessons about tidal patterns, currents, and the coastal environment. More experienced blind sailors have opportunities to participate in races and as crew members, as well as mentor less experienced blind sailors. BlindSail SF Bay provides transportation. Participants pay \$20 per day, and BlindSail SF Bay provides scholarships for those who face financial barriers.

Funding: The proposed project is consistent with the use of General Fund appropriated to the Conservancy specifically for the Explore the Coast Grant Program.

Enabling Legislation: The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 4.5: San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program, Section 31162(a) because it improves public access to the bay and coast by providing bay and/or coastal experiences as described above.

Strategic Plan: The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 1.1 Benefit Systemically Excluded Communities:** The project directly benefits one or more systemically excluded communities.

- **Goal 2.1 Explore the Coast Grants:** The project provides enjoyable coastal experiences for people and communities who face challenges or barriers to accessing or enjoying the coast.

CEQA: The proposed project is categorically exempt under Title 14 California Code of Regulations Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of San Francisco Bay locations that will be visited with no expansion of use.

CHANGING TIDES FOUNDATION, (FISCAL SPONSOR FOR UN MAR DE COLORES) \$30,000

Surf Therapy Fiestas and Eco Field Trips South Coast, Inland
Southern California

Un Mar De Colores will provide 80 students between the ages of 6-12 and 160 of their family members from BIPOC communities in the San Diego area with a two-year scholarship program where they receive free mentorship, environmental education, and surf therapy lessons. The school year consists of three phases: (1) seven Surf Therapy Fiestas in the summer which focus on creating confidence in the water by meeting on Saturday mornings at different State beaches where students will have 2 hours of surf time, a reflection circle and be provided free organic lunch; (2) twelve Eco-Field trips in the Fall and Spring where participants will engage with local nonprofit farms, aquariums, and park agencies in activities such as coastal farming and taking an Intro to Sailing class to foster the next generation of ocean stewards; and (3) the Mentorship in the Winter program will include small group mentorship opportunities and water recreational activities like kayaking, paddleboarding, or tide-pooling in Marine Protected Areas once a month during December and January. The program reduces economic and physical barriers to accessing public beaches by providing equipment, transportation, food, and professional training.

Funding: The proposed project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of Tamarack State Beach, South Carlsbad State Beach, and Silver Strand State Beach.

Enabling Legislation: The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing coastal experiences as described above.

Strategic Plan: The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 1.1:** The project directly benefits one or more systemically excluded communities.
- **Goal 2.1:** The project provides enjoyable coastal experiences for people and communities who face challenges or barriers to accessing or enjoying the coast.

CEQA: The proposed project is categorically exempt under Title 14 California Code of Regulations Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of coastal locations that will be visited with no expansion of use.

GRANT AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

\$53,300

Watts to the Water (W2W)

South Coast

The Grant African Methodist Episcopal Church’s Kirkland Academy for Excellence will pair with the Julian Natural History Museum for Watts to the Water to provide four daytrips to various seaside locations for 80 participants and their families in the Watts community. Most of the program participants are low-income. Example trips include a glass-bottom boat tour around Catalina Island, a chartered fishing trip to and around Anacapa Island to learn about marine mammals and to fish, a visit to the San Pedro tide pools and the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium, and a “fun in the sun” beach day at Dockweiler Beach. Children and their parents will learn about marine ecology with the goal of sharing the activities at home and returning to the sites for follow-up visits. After each trip, participating families will receive a packet containing additional information about the sites that will extend the value of the trip.

Funding: The proposed project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of Catalina Island, Anacapa Island, San Pedro Tide Pools, and Dockweiler Beach.

Enabling Legislation: The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing coastal experiences as described above.

Strategic Plan: The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 1.1:** The project directly benefits one or more systemically excluded communities.
- **Goal 2.1:** The project provides enjoyable coastal experiences for people and communities who face challenges or barriers to accessing or enjoying the coast.

CEQA: The proposed project is categorically exempt under Title 14 California Code of Regulations Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of coastal locations that will be visited with no expansion of use.

GREATER FARALLONES ASSOCIATION

\$36,200

Connecting Students to the Coast through Community Science

North Coast

The Greater Farallones Association (GFA) will connect 175 students from low-income middle and high schools in Sonoma and Mendocino counties to their local coast by providing them with the LiMPETS (Long-Term Monitoring Program and Experiential Training for Students) program, an immersive education and community science program established in 2002. Participants will explore the rocky intertidal sites and sandy beach shores in Sonoma and Mendocino county within the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary to encounter intertidal marine life, document their observations using real scientific techniques, and develop long-term connections to the California coast. GFA will provide a 4-hour experience to each participant consisting of a 1-hour preparatory classroom session and 3-hour field trip to a LiMPETS site. The project will provide eight to ten teachers from Sonoma and Mendocino counties an on-site

development workshop to learn species identification and how to complete a ecological survey so that they can successfully teach the program to the students.

Funding: The proposed project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of Carmet Beach, Shell Beach, Fort Ross Cove, and Gerstle Cove.

Enabling Legislation: The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing coastal experiences as described above.

Strategic Plan: The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 1.1:** The project directly benefits one or more systemically excluded communities.
- **Goal 2.1:** The project provides enjoyable coastal experiences for people and communities who face challenges or barriers to accessing or enjoying the coast.

CEQA: The proposed project is categorically exempt under Title 14 California Code of Regulations Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of coastal locations that will be visited with no expansion of use.

JUSTICE OUTSIDE

\$100,000

Liberated Paths: Explore the Coast

Bay Area, Sacramento Valley & Sierras, Central Coast, San Joaquin Valley, Inland Southern California

Justice Outside will pilot a program to subgrant Conservancy funds to 4-5 community partners, each receiving between \$20,000-\$25,000, to bring a total of 2,000 participants to coastal locations statewide for joy and healing. This pilot will be implemented under their existing Liberated Paths Grantmaking program and will be eligible to organizations throughout California that serve BIPOC communities. Justice Outside will utilize their extensive experience and cultural competency in the arena of equitable outdoor access to implement a robust outreach and selection process, consisting of webinars and flexible submission formats, to identify suitable candidates. Organizations that are selected for this program will receive technical assistance in addition to funds in order to successfully deliver their projects. Staff is recommending this pilot block grant program because it will allow the Conservancy to fund organizations that serve ETC Communities but do not currently have the capacity to apply for or manage a state grant.

Funding: The proposed project is consistent with the use of General Fund appropriated to the Conservancy specifically for the Explore the Coast Grant Program. The proposed project is also consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it will involve operation of coastal beaches and accessways.

Enabling Legislation: The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing coastal experiences as described above. The proposed project is also consistent with Chapter 4.5: San Francisco Bay

Area Conservancy Program, Section 31162(a) because it improves public access to the bay and coast by providing bay and/or coastal experiences as described above.

Strategic Plan: The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 1.1:** The project directly benefits one or more systemically excluded communities.
- **Goal 2.1:** The project provides enjoyable coastal experiences for people and communities who face challenges or barriers to accessing or enjoying the coast.

CEQA: The proposed project is categorically exempt under Title 14 California Code of Regulations Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of coastal locations that will be visited with no expansion of use.

LITERACY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

\$87,000

Eco-Adventures Program 2024-2025

Bay Area

The 2024-2025 Eco-Adventures Program will serve 2,000 low-income youth, ages 8-18 and predominantly from San Francisco’s underserved Bayview-Hunter’s Point community, which has historically lacked access to the San Francisco Bay despite being in close proximity. The program will run 4-6 sessions a month, each ranging from 3-5 hours long, that focus on providing joyful recreational, educational, and environmental stewardship experiences through kayaking and fishing in the San Francisco Bay. Additionally the students will participate in hands-on shoreline restoration efforts, nature hikes, and park scavenger hunts at Candlestick Point State Recreation Area. The students will learn about marine ecology, sea level rise, and San Francisco’s natural, cultural, and environmental justice history. The program will be free-of-charge, provide all necessary training, safety instructions, equipment, and supplies to participants, and will offer transportation stipends to partnering Title 1 schools.

Funding: The proposed project is consistent with the use of General Fund appropriated to the Conservancy specifically for the Explore the Coast Grant Program. The proposed project is also consistent with the use of California Environmental License Plate Funds because it involves environmental education as described above.

Enabling Legislation: The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 4.5: San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program, Section 31162(a) because it improves public access to the bay and coast by providing bay and/or coastal experiences as described above.

Strategic Plan: The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 1.1:** The project directly benefits one or more systemically excluded communities.
- **Goal 2.1:** The project provides enjoyable coastal experiences for people and communities who face challenges or barriers to accessing or enjoying the coast.

CEQA: The proposed project is categorically exempt under Title 14 California Code of Regulations Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of San Francisco Bay locations that will be visited with no expansion of use.

LOS ANGELES ACADEMY OF ARTS AND ENTERPRISE

\$20,000

Catalina Island Educational Exploration Trip

South Coast

The Los Angeles Academy of Arts and Enterprise will provide two trips to the USC Wrigley Marine Center on Catalina Island for 50 students total in grades 9-12 from predominantly minority, immigrant, and socioeconomically disadvantaged populations in the West Lake and Pico Union neighborhoods of Los Angeles. The first cohort trip will be in late spring 2024 and the second cohort trip will be in in early June 2024. Students will participate in activities such as hiking, snorkeling, tide pooling, kayaking, building a remote operated vehicle, and participating in the plankton tow lab. Many of the students have not had the opportunity to visit the beach before let alone participate in activities that the Wrigley Science Center has to offer. This project will give students the basic understanding of why pollution, waste, and trash disposal are important to keeping a healthy environment. Upon returning, with the coaching of their teacher, each cohort will facilitate three workshops and teach some of the material learned to their student body.

Funding: The proposed project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of USC Wrigley Marine Institute of Catalina Island.

Enabling Legislation: The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing coastal experiences as described above.

Strategic Plan: The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 1.1:** The project directly benefits one or more systemically excluded communities.
- **Goal 2.1:** The project provides enjoyable coastal experiences for people and communities who face challenges or barriers to accessing or enjoying the coast.

CEQA: The proposed project is categorically exempt under Title 14 California Code of Regulations Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of coastal locations that will be visited with no expansion of use.

ORANGE COUNTY MAKAPO AQUATICS PROJECT

\$87,000

Ohana Days Paddling Experience Program

South Coast

The Ohana Day Paddling Experience Program will provide free outdoor recreation in the form of outrigger paddling for 350 people with physical and intellectual disabilities, their families, and their caregivers over one year. Participants will learn about the sport of outrigger paddling, be given basic instruction, and be offered the chance to paddle in a double hull outrigger canoe. While one group is on the water, the other crews will participate in educational activities that cover environmental awareness, sensory stimulation, mindfulness, or other topics chosen based on input from participants and partners. Participants, additionally, can simply enjoy unstructured time on the beach. The main goal of the program is to provide a fun and enjoyable experience on the water, especially to those who have never paddled before or have never been to the coast.

Funding: The proposed project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of the Newport Aquatic Center, the adjacent beach, and the areas of Upper Newport Bay close to the center.

Enabling Legislation: The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing coastal experiences as described above.

Strategic Plan: The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 1.1:** The project directly benefits one or more systemically excluded communities.
- **Goal 2.1:** The project provides enjoyable coastal experiences for people and communities who face challenges or barriers to accessing or enjoying the coast.

CEQA: The proposed project is categorically exempt under Title 14 California Code of Regulations Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of coastal locations that will be visited with no expansion of use.

OUTWARD BOUND ADVENTURES (OBA)

\$78,300

The Crooked Path of a Marine Biologist

South Coast

Outward Bound Adventures (OBA) will take 96 youth, 8 paid interns from their Diverse Outdoor Leaders Institute, and 24 Field Instructors on overnight camping expeditions to Leo Carrillo State Park, Zuma Beach, and Sandy Dune. The program will include 8 trips total over 2 years, each with 12 youth ages 12-18 who live in low-income, systemically excluded communities of color in south Los Angeles and northwest Pasadena. Most of the participants likely have never visited the ocean before. Trip activities include mapping the route from their neighborhood to the coast, team-building and leadership exercises as they set up camp, hiking to the tide pools, sliding down sand dunes, getting surf lessons, boogie boarding, and having a beach cookout. OBA aims to change the narrative that California's coast is out of reach to these participants, provide a safe and experimental learning environment to explore marine science, and provide fun and educational recreational activities to participants.

Funding: The proposed project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of Leo Carrillo State Park, Zuma Beach, and Sandy Dune.

Enabling Legislation: The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing coastal experiences as described above.

Strategic Plan: The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 1.1:** The project directly benefits one or more systemically excluded communities.
- **Goal 2.1:** The project provides enjoyable coastal experiences for people and communities who face challenges or barriers to accessing or enjoying the coast.

CEQA: The proposed project is categorically exempt under Title 14 California Code of Regulations Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of coastal locations that will be visited with no expansion of use.

REDWOOD PARKS CONSERVANCY

\$87,000

North Coast Junior Lifeguards Aquatic Safety Programs

North Coast

Redwood Parks Conservancy’s North Coast Junior Lifeguards Aquatic Safety Program will provide 440 children and adolescents from Humboldt and Del Norte County, ages 8-17 with an inclusive lifeguard training program held at Trinidad State Beach, Stone Lagoon, and Crescent City Beaches. Most participants will be from low-income families, and about 40% are expected to be Native American. In addition, the program is designed to serve participants with a diversity of mental and physical abilities. The training program aims to develop participants’ skills through activities including buoy swims, boogie boarding, CPR, first-aid, and rescue training. Participants will also have fun learning about coastline ecology through tide-pooling, nature walks, and interactive lectures. The goal is for participants, in becoming Junior Lifeguards, to feel more welcome and secure at the coast, fostering confidence and leadership skills, and improve their mental and physical health. Grant funds will go towards providing 192 scholarships, covering the fees for approximately 50% of students during the summer portion of the program. The after-school lifeguard training and one-a-day-week training sessions will be fully subsidized for participants.

Funding: The proposed project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of Trinidad State Beach, Stone Lagoon within Humboldt Lagoons State Park, and Crescent City Beaches.

Enabling Legislation: The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing coastal experiences as described above.

Strategic Plan: The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 1.1:** The project directly benefits one or more systemically excluded communities.
- **Goal 2.1:** The project provides enjoyable coastal experiences for people and communities who face challenges or barriers to accessing or enjoying the coast.

CEQA: The proposed project is categorically exempt under Title 14 California Code of Regulations Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of coastal locations that will be visited with no expansion of use.

SANTA BARBARA ALTERNATIVES TO VIOLENCE PROJECT

\$76,000

AVP Coastal Cohorts

Central Coast

The Santa Barbara Alternatives to Violence Project’s (SBAVP) Coastal Cohorts will provide a variety of coastal trips over a two-year period for 220 youth, ages 13-18, and 25 family

members. SBAVP combines anti-violence training for at-risk youth with community based violence intervention efforts and continuing social support for participants and their families. SBAVP focuses their work on serving the most marginalized young people in the community. The vast majority of participants are underserved BIPOC youth from low-income families. SBAVP will offer a variety of day trips in the Santa Barbara/Ventura area, including kayaking in Santa Barbara marina, an all-day cruise on the tall ship Mystic Cruzar, a kayaking adventure at Santa Cruz island, and several others. Two overnight trips – one to Morro Bay State Park and one to the Long Beach Aquarium – will be offered to youth that have completed all three levels of SBAVP’s workshop program and have then gone on to serve as facilitators in the basic and advanced sessions for other youth.

Funding: The proposed project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of Santa Barbara Marina, Carpinteria Beach, Carpinteria Salt Marsh and State Park, Coal Oil Point Reserve, Ellwood Mesa, Guadalupe Dunes, Dos Pueblos Ranch, Arroyo Hondo Preserve, Gaviota Coast, Ventura Harbor, Santa Cruz Island, Channel Islands National Park, the Aquarium of the Pacific, Long Beach, and Morro Bay State Park.

Enabling Legislation: The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing coastal experiences as described above.

Strategic Plan: The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 1.1:** The project directly benefits one or more systemically excluded communities.
- **Goal 2.1:** The project provides enjoyable coastal experiences for people and communities who face challenges or barriers to accessing or enjoying the coast.

CEQA: The proposed project is categorically exempt under Title 14 California Code of Regulations Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of coastal locations that will be visited with no expansion of use.

THE STUDENT CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

\$22,700

Bay Area Climate Resiliency Corps

Bay Area

The Bay Area Climate Resiliency Corps project will bring 28 youth from Vallejo, Hayward, and East Oakland on two overnight trips to coastal parks, and four summer outings to coastal sites at no cost to the participant. The outings will take place at coastal locations such as Brannan Island Recreation Area, San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge, East Bay Regional Parks, Eden Landing Ecological Reserve, and Point Reyes National Seashore. Youth will learn how to set-up a base camp site, engage safely in an outdoor adventure, and participate in educational opportunities that support professional and personal development during overnight trips. Day trips may include hiking, geocaching, and water sports such as sustainable fishing, canoeing, and kayaking. Participants will gain personal resiliency and inspiration to continue to steward and champion the coast through these experiences.

Funding: The proposed project is consistent with the use of General Fund appropriated to the

Conservancy specifically for the Explore the Coast Grant Program.

Enabling Legislation: The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing coastal experiences as described above. The proposed project is also consistent with Chapter 4.5: San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program, Section 31162(a) because it improves public access to the bay and coast by providing bay and/or coastal experiences as described above.

Strategic Plan: The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 1.1:** The project directly benefits one or more systemically excluded communities.
- **Goal 2.1:** The project provides enjoyable coastal experiences for people and communities who face challenges or barriers to accessing or enjoying the coast.

CEQA: The proposed project is categorically exempt under Title 14 California Code of Regulations Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of coastal locations that will be visited with no expansion of use.

TRYBE INC.

\$87,000

Trybe Youth and Family Coastal Adventures

Bay Area

The Trybe Youth and Family Coastal Adventures project will provide 275 low-income youth and families from inner city Oakland with coastal adventures in San Mateo and Santa Cruz counties. Trybe Inc. will provide two types of trips through this project:

1. Four, three-day camping trips for 75 participants each at New Brighton State Beach for youth and their families. Participants will learn how to set up camp and navigate campsites. They will also make lasting memories flying kites, going on a coastal hike, and engaging in beach sports and activities.
2. Two day trips for 25 youth from Trybe Inc.'s internship program where they will visit New Brighton State Beach and a tidepool tour trip at J.V. Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. The interns will engage in various educational and recreational activities such as swimming, building sand castles, and tide pooling. Trybe's internship program prepares violence-impacted youth for college. These trips will provide peer-to-peer mentorship and leadership building, and the internship program will continue to build these relationships after the coastal programming.

Trybe Inc. exists to facilitate spaces where young people and families can gain confidence in navigating the outdoors and build relationships through mentorship and leadership building.

Funding: The proposed project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of New Brighton State Beach, Natural Bridges State Beach, and J. V. Fitzgerald Marine Reserve.

Enabling Legislation: The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing coastal experiences as described above.

Strategic Plan: The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 1.1:** The project directly benefits one or more systemically excluded communities.
- **Goal 2.1:** The project provides enjoyable coastal experiences for people and communities who face challenges or barriers to accessing or enjoying the coast.

CEQA: The proposed project is categorically exempt under Title 14 California Code of Regulations Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of coastal locations that will be visited with no expansion of use.

URBAN SURF 4 KIDS

\$65,000

Unlocking The Ocean Surf Therapy

**South Coast, Inland
Southern California**

Urban Surf 4 Kids (US4K) will serve 500 youth ages 3-18 years old who are victims of domestic violence, living in foster care or have experienced foster care, residing in group homes, or are low income and have experienced multiple adverse childhood experiences. Youth will attend bi-weekly themed surf therapy day camps, such as “Careers in the Ocean” held at La Jolla Shores. Each camp can accommodate 75 youth, their caregivers/families, and approximately 100 volunteers. The program provides surf therapy camps that include on-land surf orientation and in-water two-hour surfing sessions. At the end of the session, the camp attendees, including the families, are offered a free and healthy lunch. By providing healthy food, snacks, gear, and instruction, US4K hopes to eliminate multiple barriers to access the ocean in an equitable manner. In addition, during the lunch hour, a nonprofit guest collaborator will present on a range of topics from mental health awareness, to foster care awareness, suicide prevention awareness, ocean conservation, plastic pollution, world ocean’s day and more. Kids will learn coping skills, breathwork, healthy fitness habits for life including yoga, stretching, and physical warm-ups through surf therapy. Surf therapy interventions have been scientifically proven to reduce anxiety, depression, and risky behaviors. US4K reimburses families for gas expenses and provides transportation for geographically landlocked families as well as offers shuttles to families from public lots to help them get to crowded beaches during peak season in mid-summer.

Funding: The proposed project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of La Jolla Shores, La Jolla Shores Tide Pools, Huntington Beach, Carlsbad Lagoon, Cabrillo National Monument, Cardiff Beach, Torrey Pines State Beach, South Ponto State Beach.

Enabling Legislation: The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing coastal experiences as described above.

Strategic Plan: The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 1.1:** The project directly benefits one or more systemically excluded communities.
- **Goal 2.1:** The project provides enjoyable coastal experiences for people and

communities who face challenges or barriers to accessing or enjoying the coast.

CEQA: The proposed project is categorically exempt under Title 14 California Code of Regulations Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of coastal locations that will be visited with no expansion of use.

WATSONVILLE WETLANDS WATCH

\$40,000

Our Pajaro River, Our Monterey Bay / Nuestro Río Pájaro, Nuestra Bahía de Monterey

Central Coast

Our Pajaro River, Our Monterey Bay will provide free coastal excursions to a total of 192 participants from the Pajaro Valley, including low-income, farm-working families and children ages 9-12. This two-year program will offer two types of trips: six family kayaking trips on the Pajaro River to Palm Beach on Sunset State Beach and six Palm Beach recreation outings for local youth. To encourage family participation, the guided family kayaking trips will occur in the agricultural off-season and include a guided tour of the Pajaro River’s history and wildlife, as well as leisure time at the beach for participants to enjoy themselves with food and music provided. The beach recreation outings for children will occur in summer when their parents are busy with work. Trips will involve various beach games and activities like boogie boarding and sandcastle building, as well as food and music. High school interns will gain hands-on leadership development through the planning, outreach, and hosting of these outings. A stipend will be provided to interns with this grant. The goal of this program is to help this community overcome barriers to outdoor recreation and build connections with their local river and beach.

Funding: The proposed project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of Palm Beach on Sunset State Beach.

Enabling Legislation: The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing coastal experiences as described above.

Strategic Plan: The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 1.1:** The project directly benefits one or more systemically excluded communities.
- **Goal 2.1:** The project provides enjoyable coastal experiences for people and communities who face challenges or barriers to accessing or enjoying the coast.

CEQA: The proposed project is categorically exempt under Title 14 California Code of Regulations Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of coastal locations that will be visited with no expansion of use.

YES NATURE TO NEIGHBORHOODS

\$78,900

Coastal Exploration and Conservation Education for Richmond Youth

Bay Area

YES Nature to Neighborhoods (YES) will bring 150 teens from the Iron Triangle and Northern Richmond neighborhoods on two coastal trips as an addition to YES’s annual programming. The trips will include a 2-day cycling trip along the coast at China Camp and a 3-day backpacking trip at Point Reyes National Seashore, with opportunities for participants to learn outdoors skills and coastal stewardship, and experience nature with unstructured reflection time. Participants will have the opportunity to record their observations in a nature journal, deepening their understanding of the beach and marine environment. Youth will also gain backpacking, camping, and long-distance cycling skills. Grant funding will also support a portion of the program management for the Coastal Conservancy Corps (C3) cohort as well as guest speakers, who will bring to life issues such as the effects of the urban environment on coastal bay environments and stewardship of marine ecosystems prior to or during coastal trips. C3 is an in-depth coastal-focused engagement program for teens. C3 youth will utilize the “Each One, Teach One” model with a focus on public speaking and leading activities and games as tools for educating their peers and YES families on important topics related to coastal conservation at YES events. YES strives to break down barriers to accessing and enjoying the outdoors, deepen participants’ relationships with nature, themselves, and family, and provide pathways for BIPOC individuals to establish careers in outdoor and environmental fields.

Funding: The proposed project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of Point Reyes National Seashore. The proposed project is also consistent with the use of California Environmental License Plate Funds because it involves environmental education as described above.

Enabling Legislation: The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing coastal experiences as described above. The proposed project is also consistent with Chapter 4.5: San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program, Section 31162(a) because it improves public access to the bay and coast by providing bay and/or coastal experiences as described above.

Strategic Plan: The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 1.1:** The project directly benefits one or more systemically excluded communities.
- **Goal 2.1:** The project provides enjoyable coastal experiences for people and communities who face challenges or barriers to accessing or enjoying the coast.

CEQA: The proposed project is categorically exempt under Title 14 California Code of Regulations Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of coastal locations that will be visited with no expansion of use.

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY’S PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA:

The proposed project is consistent with the Conservancy’s Project Selection Criteria, last updated on September 23, 2021, in the following respects:

Selection Criteria

1. Extent to which the project helps the Conservancy accomplish the objectives in the Strategic Plan.

See the “Consistency with Conservancy’s Strategic Plan” section below.

2. Project is a good investment of state resources.

The projects recommended for funding under this authorization will serve an estimated 7,500 people from communities throughout the state and will provide public access to the coast for recreational, educational, and stewardship programs. The ETC projects will leverage approximately \$7.7 million in additional funding from other funding sources and hundreds of hours of support by volunteers.

The ETC grants program is consistent with the San Francisco Bay Plan (see “Consistency with Bay Plan”, below), the California Coastal Act goal to “maximize public access to and along the coast,” and the conservation priorities to expand access to nature identified in Pathways to 30x30.

3. Project includes a serious effort to engage tribes. Examples of tribal engagement include good faith, documented efforts to work with tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated to the project area.

Federally recognized Tribes and Indigenous communities are among the communities that are designated a priority under the Explore the Coast grants program. Project partners who serve these communities work with Tribes to access coastal ancestral lands for traditional stewardship and leadership development, promote inter-generational communication, and practice traditional ecological knowledge. The following proposed ETC projects will serve Tribal communities. Several other projects expect to serve some Native American participants.

- Justice Outside (Liberated Paths: Explore the Coast)
- Redwood Parks Conservancy (North Coast Junior Lifeguards Aquatic Safety Programs)

4. Project delivers multiple benefits and significant positive impact.

While the primary objective of the ETC grants program is to provide Californians joyful coastal experiences, the ETC program has several additional benefits. The projects recommended for funding will reduce economic barriers by providing participants with free or reduced-cost program fees. They will reduce geographic barriers for coastal and inland communities alike through subsidized transportation. They will reduce physical barriers by providing coastal experiences for persons with disabilities. They will reduce societal barriers by offering safe access and culturally relevant activities to coastal locations. In addition, the projects will help to protect California’s coast for future generations by inspiring a coastal stewardship ethic.

Evidence suggests that underserved and/or frontline communities are disproportionately affected by social and environmental stressors. ETC projects recommended for funding are

expected to alleviate these stressors either through direct coastal access or through a combination of access and intentional programming designed to provide mental and physical health benefits.

A subset of the projects recommended for funding will feature program elements that provide participants with leadership development and/or job training programs, preparing them for potential long-term opportunities in the environmental or sustainable land use field.

5. Project planned with meaningful community engagement and broad community support.

The projects recommended for funding are primarily led by nonprofit organizations who either have close ties with the communities they serve or are led by the communities themselves. Engagement typically involves dialogue between the communities being served and staff with relevant training and cultural competency.

The broad level of support for environmental education, resource protection and enhancement, and public access projects is indicated by the large numbers of people that will participate in the 2023-2024 ETC program. It is estimated that over 7,500 people will be served by the 16 ETC projects. In addition, this suite of proposed ETC projects is supported by elected officials, numerous community and nonprofit organizations, and local agencies (See Exhibit 3).

PROJECT FINANCING

Coastal Conservancy	\$968,900
Others (leveraged funds excluding in-kind)	\$7,779,000
Project Total	\$8,747,900

Three sources of Conservancy funding are expected to be used for the ETC grants program. The first funding source is an appropriation from the Conservancy’s Coastal Access Account, which consists of coastal development permit application fees required by the California Coastal Commission (Public Resources Code Sections 30620.1(b) & 30620.2). Coastal Access Account funds may be used for grants to public agencies and nonprofit organizations for the development, maintenance, and operation of new or existing facilities that provide public access to the coast, excluding San Francisco Bay. Use of the Coastal Access Account funds is appropriate for all of the proposed projects listed below because each will develop, maintain, or operate an existing facility that provides access to the coast. Please refer to the “Project Summary” section, above, for more information on the specific facility(ies) associated with each proposed project.

- Changing Tides Foundation, (fiscal sponsor for Un Mar de Colores) (Surf Therapy Fiestas and Eco Field Trips)
- Grant African Methodist Episcopal Church (Watts to the Water)
- Greater Farallones Association (Connecting Students to the Coast through Community Science)
- Justice Outside (Liberated Paths: Explore the Coast)

- Los Angeles Academy of Arts and Enterprise (Catalina Island Educational Exploration Trip)
- Orange County Makapo Aquatics Project (Ohana Days Paddling Experience Program)
- Outward Bound Adventures (The Crooked Path of a Marine Biologist)
- Redwood Parks Conservancy (North Coast Junior Lifeguards Aquatic Safety Programs)
- Santa Barbara Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP Coastal Cohorts)
- Trybe Inc. (Trybe Youth and Family Coastal Adventures)
- Urban Surf 4 Kids (Unlocking the Ocean Surf Therapy)
- Watsonville Wetlands Watch (Our Pajaro River, Our Monterey Bay / Nuestro Río Pájaro, Nuestra Bahía de Monterey)
- YES Nature to Neighborhoods (Coastal Exploration and Conservation Education for Richmond Youth)

The second expected funding source for the proposed projects is an appropriation from the California Environmental License Plate Fund, derived from sales and renewal of personalized license plates. Funds in the California Environmental License Plate Fund are available upon appropriation for purposes outlined in Public Resources Code Section 21190. These purposes include funding environmental education programs. Use of the Environmental License Plate Fund is appropriate for the proposed projects listed below, which include environmental education. Please refer to the “Project Summary” section, above, and the “Consistency with Conservancy’s Enabling Legislation” section, below, for more information on how each proposed project is consistent with Division 21.

- Literacy for Environmental Justice (Eco-Adventures Program 2024-2025)
- YES Nature to Neighborhoods (Coastal Exploration and Conservation Education for Richmond Youth)

The third anticipated funding source of Conservancy funding for the ETC grants is an appropriation to the Conservancy from the General Fund specifically for “the Explore the Coast Program.” These funds are expected to be used for the proposed projects listed below.

- BlindSail SF Bay (BlindSail SF Bay)
- Literacy for Environmental Justice (Eco-Adventures Program 2024-2025)
- The Student Conservation Association (Bay Area Climate Resiliency Corps)
- Justice Outside (Liberated Paths: Explore the Coast)

Project partners will leverage approximately \$7.7 million in other funds for the 2023-2024 ETC grants. The projects will also benefit from hundreds of hours of volunteer time, plus donations or price reductions on outdoor gear, clothing, equipment, and transportation services, and free site and facility usages via partnerships between organizations.

Unless specifically identified as “Required Match,” the other sources of funding and in-kind contributions described above are estimates. The Conservancy does not typically require matching funds or in-kind services, nor does it require documentation of expenditures from other funders or of in-kind services. Typical grant conditions require grantees to provide any funds needed to complete a project.

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY’S ENABLING LEGISLATION:

Staff recommends the Conservancy find that the 16 proposed projects are consistent with the Conservancy’s enabling legislation, Division 21 of the Public Resources Code as described in the “Project Summary” section, above. Below is a list of the proposed projects that staff recommends the Conservancy find consistent with the relevant section of the Conservancy’s enabling legislation.

Chapter 4.5 San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program

The proposed projects listed below will be undertaken pursuant to Chapter 4.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, Sections 31160-31165, regarding recreational and resource goals in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Pursuant to Section 31162(a), the Conservancy is authorized to award grants to projects located in the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area that will help improve public access to, within, and around the bay, coast, ridgetops and urban open spaces through completion and operation of regional bay, coast, water and ridge trail systems, and local trails connecting to population centers and public facilities. Pursuant to Section 31162(d), the Conservancy is authorized to award grants that promote, assist, and enhance projects that provide open space and natural areas that are accessible to urban populations for recreational and educational purposes. Pursuant to Section 31165, the Conservancy is authorized to award grants for activities that are compatible with the preservation, restoration, or enhancement of ocean, coastal, bay, or watershed resources, or that facilitate environmental education related to these resources. The projects listed below are consistent with these sections as they all help to achieve at least one of these goals, as more particularly described in the “Project Summary” section, above.

- BlindSail SF Bay (BlindSail SF Bay)
- Justice Outside (Liberated Paths: Explore the Coast)
- Literacy for Environmental Justice (Eco-Adventures Program 2024-2025)
- The Student Conservation Association (Bay Area Climate Resiliency Corps)
- Trybe Inc. (Trybe Youth and Family Coastal Adventures)
- YES Nature to Neighborhoods (Coastal Exploration and Conservation Education for Richmond Youth)

Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways

The proposed projects listed below will be undertaken pursuant to Chapter 9 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, Sections 31400-31410, regarding public access to and enjoyment of coastal resources.

Section 31400 states the Legislature’s intent that the Conservancy play a principal role in the implementation of a system of public accessways to and along the state’s coastline, including San Francisco Bay. Section 31400.3 authorizes the Conservancy to provide such assistance as is required to aid public agencies and nonprofit organizations in establishing a system of public coastal accessways, and related functions necessary to meet the objectives of this division. All

projects proposed listed below are consistent with these sections as more particularly described in the “Project Summary” section, above.

- Changing Tides Foundation, (fiscal sponsor for Un Mar de Colores) (Surf Therapy Fiestas and Eco Field Trips)
- Grant African Methodist Episcopal Church (Watts to the Water (W2W))
- Greater Farallones Association (Connecting Students to the Coast through Community Science)
- Justice Outside (Liberated Paths: Explore the Coast)
- Los Angeles Academy of Arts and Enterprise (Catalina Island Educational Exploration Trip)
- Orange County Makapo Aquatics Project (Ohana Days Paddling Experience Program)
- Outward Bound Adventures (OBA) (The Crooked Path of a Marine Biologist)
- Redwood Parks Conservancy (North Coast Junior Lifeguards Aquatic Safety Programs)
- Santa Barbara Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP Coastal Cohorts)
- The Student Conservation Association (Bay Area Climate Resiliency Corps)
- Trybe Inc. (Trybe Youth and Family Coastal Adventures)
- Urban Surf 4 Kids (Unlocking The Ocean Surf Therapy)
- Watsonville Wetlands Watch (Our Pajaro River, Our Monterey Bay / Nuestro Río Pájaro, Nuestra Bahía de Monterey)
- YES Nature to Neighborhoods (Coastal Exploration and Conservation Education for Richmond Youth)

CONSISTENCY WITH SAN FRANCISCO BAY PLAN

The ETC Program seeks to provide coastal and bayshore experiences for people and communities who face challenges to accessing or enjoying the coast. Some of the projects under this program are authorized pursuant to Chapter 4.5 of the Conservancy’s enabling legislation, regarding the San Francisco Bay Conservancy Program, and either (1) take place at least in part along the Bay shoreline and/or (2) provide access for people with disabilities in the Bay Area. These projects are consistent with the findings and policies of the San Francisco Bay Plan as described below:

The proposed projects are consistent with the following Bay Plan “**Part IV - Recreation**” section findings: (1) That the Bay and its shoreline provide unique recreational opportunities that can inspire an appreciation of the Bay and can motivate people to participate in responsible management and protection of the Bay; (2) there is increasing need for a variety of accessible, water-oriented recreational facilities and diverse recreational opportunities at these facilities for people of all races, cultures, ages, and income levels; (3) education, interpretation, and community service opportunities in waterfront wildlife and park areas can increase appreciation and stewardship of the Bay and improve public safety; and (4) the importance of the regional Bay, Ridge, and Water Trail systems in connecting communities to the shoreline.

The proposed projects are consistent with the Bay Plan’s “**Part IV - Public Access**” section findings: (1) The Bay provides an environment for numerous forms of public enjoyment

including viewing, photography, wildlife observation, nature study, fishing, wading, walking, bicycling, jogging, or just sitting beside the water; (2) the Bay and its shoreline can be refuges from heat and noise and can offer relief from crowded, often stressful, urban areas, thereby contributing to well-being; and (3) certain communities may be physically and/or culturally disconnected from public access areas due to land use patterns, poor public transit, lack of safe bicycle and walking paths, language barriers, economic barriers, and/or culturally inaccessible designs. In addition, Public Access Policy #10 states that diverse and interesting public access experiences should be provided that encourage users to remain in designated access areas to avoid or minimize potential adverse effects on wildlife and their habitat. All projects authorized under Chapter 4.5 will facilitate appropriate enjoyment and use of the San Francisco Bay shoreline in a manner consistent with this policy.

CEQA COMPLIANCE:

Conservancy staff reviewed the 16 proposed projects for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code Section 21000-21189 and its implementing regulations (14 California Code of Regulations, Sections 15000-15387)). All of the proposed projects are categorically exempt under Title 14 California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) which exempts the operation, maintenance, and minor alterations of existing facilities or topographic features involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use, including pedestrian trails (Section 15301(c)) and wildlife areas and stream channels to protect fish and wildlife resources (Section 15301(i)). Please see the “Project Summary” section above, for more information on each proposed project and its compliance with CEQA.

Upon approval of the projects, Conservancy staff will file Notices of Exemption.