### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Douglas Bosco (Public Member), Chair
Joy Sterling (Public Member),
Marce Gutiérrez-Graudiņš (Public Member), Vice-Chair
Le-Quyen Nguyen (Designated, Department of Natural Resources)
Jeremiah Hallisey (Public Member)
Caryl Hart (Coastal Commission Chair)
Gayle Miller (Designated, Department of Finance)

#### **OVERSIGHT MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Laura Suddes (Representative for Senator Laird, District 17)

### **OTHERS PRESENT:**

Amy Hutzel, Executive Officer Amy Roach, General Counsel

#### **LOCATION:**

Civic Community Room 100 Civic Center Dr., Newport Beach, CA 92660

**MEETING START TIME:** 09:35A.M.

### 1. ROLL CALL

Douglas Bosco (Public Member), Chair

Joy Sterling (Public Member)

Marce Gutiérrez-Graudiņš (Public Member)

Le-Quyen Nguyen (Designated, Department of Natural Resources)

Gayle Miller (Designated, Department of Finance)

Caryl Hart (Coastal Commission Chair)

Jeremiah Hallisey (Public Member)

Chair Douglas Bosco announced that he needed to participate remotely due to a physical disability. Chair Bosco briefly described his condition. The board voted on whether to approve an exception to having a majority in person due to Chair Bosco's situation, as authorized by the Open Meeting Act.

Move and seconded. Voting in favor: Hart, Nguyen, Sterling, Miller, Hallisey, Bosco, Gutiérrez-Graudiņš; Voting Against: none

In light of Chair Bosco's remote participation, Vice-Chair Marce Gutiérrez-Graudiņš acted as Chair for the meeting.

**2.** <u>APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES</u> of the Conservancy's November 30, 2023 public meeting. Moved and seconded. Minutes were approved. Hart abstained from the vote.

### 3. CONSENT ITEMS

Following several public comments, Chair Gutiérrez-Graudiņš asked the board if any member requested any consent item be removed. After requests Item 3Q was removed from the consent calendar. The following consent items were moved for approval, seconded, and approved by Sterling, Miller, Hart, Nguyen, Gutiérrez-Graudiņš, Hallisey, Bosco (none opposed).

### A. TOPANGA LAGOON RESTORATION PLANNING

#### Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of an amount not to exceed six hundred forty-six thousand one hundred dollars (\$646,100) to the Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains ("the grantee") to augment a previously authorized Conservancy grant of \$1,629,550 for planning for the Topanga Lagoon Restoration Project ("Project") at Topanga State Park and Beach in Los Angeles County subject to the following conditions:

- 1. Prior to disbursement of the augmentation funds, the grantee shall submit for the review and written approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy the following:
  - a. A revised work program, schedule, and budget.
  - b. Names and qualifications of any additional contractors to be retained in carrying out the Project.
- 2. Evidence that California Department of Parks and Recreation and the County of Los Angeles Department of Beaches and Harbors have entered into an agreement setting forth their mutual goals for the Project and committing to cooperate on the planning process and selection of a preferred alternative 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 6 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding coastal resource enhancement.
- 2. The proposed project, as augmented, is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.

### B. PACIFIC SHORES ACQUISITION PROGRAM PHASE IV

#### Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed one million three hundred thousand (\$1,300,000) to Smith River Alliance ("the grantee"), of which five hundred thousand (\$500,000) is to conduct pre-acquisition planning activities and minor clean-up actions for beach, dune, wetland, upland, and forested parcels within and in the vicinity of the Pacific Shores Subdivision, adjacent to the Lake Earl Wildlife Area in Del Norte County, and eight hundred thousand (\$800,000) is to acquire those same parcels.

- 1. 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:
  - a. A work program, schedule, and budget for each grant.
  - b. Names and qualifications of any additional contractors to be retained in carrying out the project.
- Prior to the disbursement of funds for acquisition of each parcel, the grantee shall submit for the review and approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy (Executive Officer):
  - All relevant acquisition documents for the acquisitions including, without limitation, 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.
- 3. The grantee shall pay no more than fair market value for each parcel, as established in an appraisal approved by the Executive Officer.
- 4. Each parcel acquired under this authorization shall be managed and operated for natural resource protection; habitat preservation, restoration, and enhancement; cultural resource preservation; and public access that is compatible with those purposes. The property shall be permanently dedicated to those purposes by an appropriate instrument approved by the Executive Officer.

- 5. Conservancy funding shall be acknowledged by erecting and maintaining a sign on at least one of the acquired parcels or in a nearby publicly-viewable area, the design and location of which are to be approved by the Executive Officer.
- 6. The grantee shall acquire only those parcels for which there is a willing seller.

### Findings:

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

- 1. The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 6 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding coastal resource enhancement projects.
- 2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.
- 3. Smith River Alliance is a nonprofit organization organized under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code. 15382.

### C. MCLAUGHLIN EASTSHORE STATE PARK ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS

#### **Resolution:**

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed one hundred twenty thousand dollars (\$120,000) to East Bay Regional Park District ("the grantee") to prepare designs and environmental review documents for park improvements within McLaughlin Eastshore State Park, City of Emeryville, 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. code.
- 3. Evidence that the grantee and City of Emeryville have entered into an agreement identifying their roles and responsibilities for implementation of the project and future construction and maintenance of the park improvements.

In addition, to the extent appropriate, the grantee shall incorporate the guidelines of the Conservancy's 'Coastal Access Project Standards' and the San Francisco Bay Trail Guidelines and Standards.

### Findings:

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

### D. CAMATTA RANCH CONSERVATION EASEMENT ACQUISITION

#### Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed two million five hundred thousand dollars (\$2,500,000) to the Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County ("the grantee") to acquire a conservation easement over the 27,512-acre Camatta Ranch to protect water quality and water supply, natural resources, wildlife habitat, scenic open space, and agriculture including cattle grazing compatible with such uses, 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;
  - 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.
- The easement interest acquired under this authorization shall be managed and operated to protect water quality and water supply, natural resources, wildlife habitat, scenic open space, and agriculture including cattle grazing compatible with such uses.
- 4. The property shall be permanently dedicated to those purposes by an appropriate instrument approved by the Executive Officer.
- 5. 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 is a nonprofit organization organized under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

### E. DUTCH BILL CREEK STREAMFLOW PROJECT

### **Resolution:**

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed four hundred seventy thousand nine hundred dollars (\$470,900) to Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District ("the grantee") to construct upgrades to the potable water treatment facility and its water source for the Alliance Redwood Conference Grounds and the communities of Camp Meeker and Occidental, to reduce surface water diversions and increase dry season flows for salmonid habitat in Dutch Bill Creek 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 agreements sufficient to enable the grantee to implement, operate, and maintain the project.

### Findings:

- 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 Conservancy has independently reviewed and considered the Initial Study-Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS-MND) for the 2020 Fisheries Habitat Restoration Project and the associated Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, adopted by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife on November 16, 2020, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") and attached to the accompanying staff recommendation as Exhibit 4. The Conservancy finds that the proposed project as designed and mitigated avoids, reduces, or mitigates the potentially significant

environmental effects to a less-than-significant level, and that there is no substantial evidence based on the record as a whole that the project will have a significant effect on the environment.

### F. SANTIAGO PARK MAIN STREET CONSTRUCTION

### **Resolution:**

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed two million eight hundred and seven thousand dollars (\$2,807,000) to the City of Santa Ana ("the grantee") to enhance and restore the 2.66-acre Santiago Park Main Street entrance by constructing site amenities such as lighting, Santiago Creek viewing decks, landscape improvements, and separating the pedestrian walkway and bike trails to allow for safe recreation. Prior to commencement of the project, the grantee shall submit for the review and written approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy (Executive Officer) the following:

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

### Findings:

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

- 1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Chapter 4.6 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding the Santa Ana River Conservancy Program and funding for recreational opportunities and trails.
- 2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.

### G. SAND CITY COASTAL TRAIL PLANNING

#### **Resolution:**

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed four hundred seventy-three thousand five hundred dollars (\$473,500) to the City of Sand City ("the grantee") to prepare trail alignment and restoration plans, designs, permit applications, and environmental documentation for a 0.7-mile segment of the Coastal Trail in Sand City, County of Monterey. 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.

In addition, to the extent appropriate, the City of Sand City 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 9 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding provision of public accessways.
- 2. The accessway to be created by the proposed project will serve more than local public needs, pursuant to section 31400.1 of Chapter 9 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code.
- 3. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.

### H. CULLINAN RANCH RESTORATION PROJECT: BENFICIAL USE OF SEDIMENT

#### Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes:

- The Executive Officer to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for cost sharing the incremental cost of placing dredged sediment from the Petaluma River at Cullinan Ranch, and
- 2. Disbursement of an amount not to exceed three hundred and thirteen thousand dollars (\$313,000) to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the non-federal share of the incremental cost of placing dredged sediment from the Petaluma River at Cullinan Ranch.

### Findings:

- 1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Chapter 4.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding restoration and enhancement of natural habitats in the San Francisco Bay Area.
- 2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.

### I. MILL BEND PRESRE PUBLIC ACCESS AND RESTORATION PLANNING AND DESIGN

#### **Resolution:**

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed one million six hundred sixty thousand dollars (\$1,660,000) to the Redwood Coast Land Conservancy ("the grantee" or "RCLC") to prepare designs, environmental compliance documents, and permit applications for establishing 2.6 miles of new public access trails and related public access amenities, including .75 miles of the California Coastal Trail, and for restoring 4 acres of upland habitat for the Mill Bend Preserve at the mouth of the Gualala River in Mendocino and Sonoma counties. 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.

In addition, to the extent appropriate, RCLC 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 9 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding public access.
- 2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.
- 3. The RCLC is a nonprofit organization organized under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

#### J. Geyserville Community Plaza

### **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 the Yurok Tribe ("the grantee") to construct 0.68 miles of the California Coastal Trail and replace culverts on Libby Creek, a tributary to Prairie Creek, as part of the Redwood National and State Park Visitor Center and Restoration Project, at the former 125-acre Orick Mill A site in Humboldt 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.

- Evidence that all permits and approvals required to implement the project have been obtained.
- 4. Evidence that the grantee has entered into agreements sufficient to enable the grantee to implement, operate, and maintain the project.

To the extent appropriate, the grantee shall incorporate the guidelines of the Conservancy's "Coastal Access Project Standards".

In carrying out the project, the grantee 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.

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

### K. MOAT CREEK PUBLIC ACCESS MANAGEMENT

### **Resolution:**

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed forty-one thousand dollars (\$41,000) to the Mendocino Land Trust ("the grantee") to operate and maintain public access improvements at Moat Creek Beach and along the Moat Creek segment of the California Coastal Trail in Mendocino County. Prior to commencement of the project, the grantee shall submit for the review and written approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy (Executive Officer) the following:

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

### 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 to the coast.

- 2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.
- 3. The Mendocino Land Trust is a nonprofit organization organized under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

### L. SEAWOOD CAPE PRESERVE PUBLIC ACCESS PLANNING

#### Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed three hundred and fifteen thousand one hundred and fifty dollars (\$315,150) to The Wildlands Conservancy ("the grantee") to prepare a public access plan, preliminary designs, and environmental review for lower cost overnight accommodations and a new section of the California Coastal Trail on the Seawood Cape Preserve in Humboldt 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.

In addition, to the extent appropriate, The Wildlands Conservancy 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 9 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding a system of Public Accessways.
- 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.

### M. San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program: Land Conservation and Stewardship

#### **Resolution:**

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000) to the Noyo Center for Marine Science ("the grantee") to 1) conduct studies and preparing conceptual designs for sea level rise adaptation of their Marine Field Station building, dock, and associated infrastructure, 2) prepare 60% designs for retrofitting the Field Station building and replacing its dock, 3) prepare environmental review documents and permit applications for the dock replacement, and 3) implement

aquaculture programs to restore the nearshore kelp forest ecosystem at their Marine Field Station located at Noyo Harbor in Fort Bragg, Mendocino County

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

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

### 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 the Climate Ready Program.
- 2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.
- 3. The Noyo Center for Marine Science is a nonprofit organization organized under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

### N. GREAT REDWOOD TRAIL AUGMENTATION

### **Resolution:**

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of up to two million nine hundred sixty-three thousand fifty dollars (\$2,963,050) for engineering and environmental services, planning and design, public outreach, organizational development, advancement of the railbanking process, technical support, interim staffing support for the Great Redwood Trail Agency, and other costs and services as may be required related to the Great Redwood Trail.

### 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 is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.

### O. MATILIJA DAM ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECT: PRE-CONSTURCTION ACTIVITIES

### Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of an amount not to exceed four million six hundred thousand dollars (\$4,600,000) to the County of Ventura (the "grantee") to augment a previously authorized Conservancy grant of \$358,000 for preconstruction activities associated with the Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Project by adding additional tasks to support and inform environmental compliance and programmatic design planning, and to conduct community engagement in Ventura 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 revised 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 remains consistent with Chapter 5.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding protection and restoration of fish and wildlife habitat in coastal watersheds.
- **2.** The proposed project remains consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.

### P. MATILIJA DAM ECOSUTEM RESTORATION PROJECT: ROBLES DIVERSION DESIGN

#### Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of an amount not to exceed three million two hundred thousand dollars (\$3,200,000) to the County of Ventura (the "grantee") to (1) augment a previously authorized Conservancy grant of \$379,350 to conduct planning and to develop design criteria, preliminary design plans, and alternatives refinement for improvements to the Robles Diversion and Fish Passage Facility, and (2) conduct additional studies and modeling, develop 10% design plans for two alternatives and provide funding directly to the Casitas Municipal Water District to work on this project, in Ventura 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:

- 1. The proposed authorization remains consistent with Chapter 5.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding protection and restoration of fish and wildlife habitat in coastal watersheds.
- 2. The proposed project remains consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.
- **Q.** Moved to the regular agenda.

### R. NORTH COAST RAIL TRAIL – MONTEREY BAY SANCTUARY SCENIC TRAIL SEGMENT 5 CONSTRUCTION

#### **Resolution:**

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed six hundred thousand dollars (\$600,000) to Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission ("the grantee") for the North Coast Rail Trail – Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Segment 5 project, consisting of construction of 7.5 miles of dedicated bicycle and pedestrian trail and associated amenities between Wilder Ranch State Park and Davenport on the north coast of 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.
- 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.

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

### Findings:

- 1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Chapter 9 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding a system of public accessways.
- 2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.

- 3. The Conservancy has independently reviewed and considered the North Coast Rail Trail Final Certified Environmental Impact Report adopted by the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission on March 7, 2019, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") and attached to the accompanying staff recommendation as Exhibit
- 4. The Conservancy finds, as described further in the accompanying staff recommendation, that:
  - a. The proposed project will have potentially significant environmental effects in the areas of aesthetics, agricultural resources, biological resources, cultural resources, geology/soils, greenhouse gas emissions/climate change, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, noise, transportation/circulation, and tribal cultural resources. The Conservancy finds that the mitigation measures identified in EIR will avoid, reduce, or mitigate these possible significant environmental effects to less-than-significant levels and that these mitigation measures have been required or incorporated into the project.
  - b. The Conservancy further finds that the Project will result in significant and unavoidable cumulative traffic impacts, but environmental and other benefits of the Project as described in the accompanying staff recommendation outweigh or render acceptable these unavoidable adverse environmental effects 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.

### S. COASTAL STORIES GRANT PROGRAM AMPLIFICATION

#### **Resolution:**

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) to Public Media Group of Southern California ("the grantee") to develop multimedia content documenting the Coastal Stories Grant Program, produce and host a webpage for this project, and conduct outreach. 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:

- 1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Chapter 9 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding implementing a system of public accessways to and along the California coast.
- **2.** The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.
- **3.** Public Media Group of Southern California is a nonprofit organization organized under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

### 3Q. WAVECREST COASTAL ACCESS PROJECT PHASE 2 PRIORITY ACTION IMPLEMENTATION

#### Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed three million three hundred seventy-seven thousand, three hundred eighty-nine dollars (\$3,377,389) to the Coastside Land Trust ("the grantee") to construct priority components of Phase 2 of the Wavecrest Coastal Access Project, which are: at least 1 mile of Coastal Trail, a trailhead with a parking lot and restroom, and a beach stairway at the Wavecrest property in Half Moon Bay, San Mateo 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, 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 9 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding a System of Public Accessways.

- The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.
- 3. The Coastside Land Trust 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 Wavecrest Coastal Trail Phase 2 Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration adopted by the City of Half Moon Bay on October 10, 2023 pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") and linked to the accompanying staff recommendation as Exhibit 5. The Conservancy finds that the Wavecrest Coastal Trail Phase 2 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 will have a significant effect on the environment.

Moved and seconded.

Voting in favor: Hart, Nguyen, Sterling, Miller, Hallisey, Bosco, Gutiérrez-Graudiņš; Voting

Against: none; Abstained: none

Public Comment: none

#### 4. EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

Amy Hutzel, Executive Officer of the State Coastal Conservancy, thanked Crystal Cove Conservancy for providing a tour of the Crystal Cove Cottages. Ms. Hutzel provided an update on the Conservancy's funding for projects in light of the state's significant shortfalls in revenue. She also provided an update on the amount of federal grant funds awarded to the Conservancy and the amount of federal grant funds for which the Conservancy has submitted applications.

#### A. Recognition of North Coast Regional Manager Karyn Gear upon her Retirement

Amy Hutzel, Executive Officer of the State Coastal Conservancy, presented the "Resolution in Honor of Karyn Gear," detailing Ms. Gear's many accomplishments and thanking her for her service to the Coastal Conservancy. The Conservancy recognized Ms. Gear and adopted the resolution, which includes the following:

**Now, therefore**, the State Coastal Conservancy hereby recognizes and thanks Karyn Gear for her nearly 37 years of service to the people and environment of the North Coast of California and wishes her all the best as she embarks on her next chapter.

Moved and seconded. Motion was approved.

Voting in favor: Hart, Nguyen, Sterling, Miller, Hallisey, Bosco, Gutiérrez-Graudiņš; Voting Against: none; Abstained: none.

### B. Potential changes to 2024 Conservancy board meeting location and schedules.

Ms. Hutzel described three options for 2024 Conservancy board meeting locations and tours, including retaining the already approved schedule and two revised schedules. She recommended the Conservancy adopt Option #3: "Hybrid Option," which provides for two Board meetings to be located in coastal regions with tours before each of the meetings (the February and September meetings) while two Board meetings would take place in Oakland without tours (April and November) and one Board meeting would take place in Sacramento without a tour.

Option #3 "Hybrid Option" was moved and seconded.

Voting in favor: Hart, Nguyen, Sterling, Miller, Hallisey, Bosco, Gutiérrez-Graudiņš; Voting Against: none; Abstained: none."

#### **SOUTH COAST**

### 5. Santa Ana River Trail San Bernardino Reach IV-A

### **Resolution:**

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed six million eight hundred thousand dollars (\$6,800,000) to the County of San Bernardino ("the grantee") to prepare final designs, acquire rights-of-way, and construct a 3.9-mile segment of the Santa Ana River Trail in San Bernardino County. Prior to commencement of the project, the grantee shall submit for the review and written approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy (Executive Officer) the following:

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

### Findings:

- The proposed authorization is consistent with Chapter 4.6 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding the Santa Ana River Conservancy Program and funding for recreational opportunities and trails.
- 2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.
- 3. The Conservancy has independently reviewed and considered the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Santa Ana River Trail (SART) Phase IV, Reach A adopted by the County of San Bernardino on April 21, 2020, and subsequent Addendum prepared by the County, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") and attached to the accompanying staff recommendation as Exhibits 4 and 5, respectively. 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 will have a significant effect on the environment.

Moved and seconded.

Voting in favor: Hart, Nguyen, Sterling, Miller, Hallisey, Bosco, Gutiérrez-Graudiņš; Voting

Against: none; Abstained: none

Public Comment: none

### 6. Torrey Pines Living Shoreline Feasibility Study and Preliminary Design

### **Resolution:**

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed eight hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$850,000) to the Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Foundation ("the grantee") to develop feasible strategies, concepts, and preliminary engineering designs of nature-based solutions to build resiliency to sea level rise and coastal hazards for a 0.6-mile section of Torrey Pines State Beach , including the Torrey Pines South Beach Parking Lot, and the adjacent public parking along Highway 101 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:

- 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 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 Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Foundation is a nonprofit organization organized under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

Moved and Seconded.

Voting in favor: Hart, Nguyen, Sterling, Miller, Hallisey, Bosco, Gutiérrez-Graudinš; Voting

Against: none; Abstained: none

Public Comment: none

### 7. <u>Tijuana Estuary Tidal Restoration Program II – Phase 1 Implementation</u>

### Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed thirty million dollars (\$30,000,000) to the Southwest Wetlands Interpretive Association ("the grantee") to implement the Tijuana Estuary Tidal Restoration Program II, Phase I, consisting of restoring 85 acres of wetlands and associated habitats and enhancing public access at the Tijuana River estuary 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:

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

### Findings:

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

- 1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Chapter 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.

Moved and Seconded.

### STATE COASTAL CONSERVANCY **PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**

February 15, 2024

Voting in favor: Hart, Nguyen, Sterling, Miller, Hallisey, Bosco, Gutiérrez-Graudinš; Voting

Against: none; Abstained: none

Public Comment: none

### 8. Ormond Beach Restoration and Public Access Project: Permitting and Implementation

#### Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes: 1) disbursement of an amount not to exceed one million two hundred seventy thousand five hundred fifty one dollars (\$1,270,551) to augment a contract for preliminary design, including preparation of more detailed designs, engineering, and permitting for the Ormond Beach Restoration and Public Access Project (OBRAP), and 2) a grant of an amount not to exceed thirty five million dollars (\$35,000,000) to The Nature Conservancy ("the grantee") to complete permitting and implement the first phase of the OBRAP, which consists of restoration and public access improvements on approximately 280 acres at the eastern side of Ormond Beach and management of the wetlands.

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

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

### Findings:

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

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

Moved and seconded.

Voting in favor: Hart, Nguyen, Sterling, Miller, Hallisey, Bosco, Gutiérrez-Graudiņš; Voting

Against: none; Abstained: none

Public Comment: Susan North, Odette Moran, Vincient Kinsch, Bill Hickman, Ally Alejo,

### 9. Los Cerritos Wetlands Land Swap Project

#### Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby approves the transfer by the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority (LCWA) of its five-acre parcel known as the "OTD parcel" to Los Cerritos Wetlands, LLC (LCWLLC) in exchange for LCWA's receipt of the 150-acre parcel known as the "Synergy Oil Field" for purposes of natural resource and wetland protection and restoration, open space, and public access that is compatible with those purposes in the City of Long Beach, subject to the following conditions:

- 1. Prior to the transfer of the OTD parcel, the LCWA shall submit for the review and approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy (Executive Officer):
  - All relevant documents for the land exchange including, without limitation, the appraisal or appraisals, the independent review of the appraisal or appraisals by the California Department of General Services, Land Exchange Agreement, deeds and irrevocable offers to dedicate, escrow instructions, and title report;
  - b. Evidence that the Synergy Oil Field has either the same or greater value as the OTD parcel, or, if the Synergy Oil Field has a lesser value than the OTD parcel, evidence that LCWA will receive additional financial benefits equal to the difference between the OTD parcel and the Synergy Oil Field. The value of the Synergy Oil Field and the OTD parcel must be the fair market value as established in an appraisal or appraisals approved by the California Department of General Services.
- 2. The Synergy Oil Field shall be managed and operated for the purposes of natural resource and wetland protection and restoration, open space, and public access that is compatible with those purposes.
- 3. Prior to or concurrent with the transfer of the OTD parcel, LCWA or LCWLLC shall record a deed restriction on the OTD Parcel that serves to permanently prohibit the extraction or production of oil or gas on or from the OTD parcel. The form and content of the deed restriction shall be approved by the Executive Officer of the Conservancy, which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld.

### Findings:

- 1. The proposed land exchange is consistent with Chapter 8 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding reservation of significant coastal resource areas.
- 2. The proposed land exchange is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.
- 3. The Conservancy has independently reviewed and considered the Los Cerritos Wetlands Oil Consolidation and Restoration Project Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) certified by the City of Long Beach ("lead agency") on January 16, 2018, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") and incorporated to the accompanying staff recommendation as Exhibit 5. The Conservancy has also reviewed the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program adopted by the lead agency on January 16, 2018, and attached to the accompanying recommendation as Exhibit 6. The Conservancy finds, as described further in the accompanying staff recommendation, that:
  - a. The Los Cerritos Wetlands Oil Consolidation and Restoration Project ("Consolidation Project") will have potentially significant environmental effects in the areas of:
    - Aesthetics
    - Air Quality
    - Biological Resources
    - Cultural Resources
    - Geology, Seismicity, and Soils
    - Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions
    - Hazards and Hazardous Materials
    - Noise Public Services
    - Tribal Cultural Resources
    - Energy Consumption

The Conservancy finds that the mitigation measures identified in the Final EIR will avoid, reduce, or mitigate these possible significant environmental effects to less-thansignificant levels and that these mitigation measures have been required or incorporated into the project.

b. The Conservancy further finds that the Consolidation Project will result in significant and unavoidable environmental effects in certain areas of Air Quality, but environmental and other benefits of the Consolidation Project as described in the accompanying staff recommendation outweigh or render acceptable these unavoidable adverse environmental effects.

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: Hart, Nguyen, Sterling, Miller, Hallisey, Bosco; Voting Against: none; Abstained: Gutiérrez-Graudiņš

Public Comment: Tom Hazelleaf, Cate Swigart, Kristina Duggan, Dianne Sundstrom, Dorthy Johnson, Mark Stanley, Nick Kaspar, Abigail Mejia on behalf of Senator Lena Gonzalez, Ann Cantrell, Shuana Badheka, Jack Eidt, Leslie Purcell, John Fries, Liliana Griego

### **NORTH COAST**

### 10. North Fork Mattole Conservation and Resilience Acquisition

#### Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed eight hundred thousand dollars (\$800,000) to the Mattole Restoration Council ("the grantee") for the acquisition of the approximately 83-acre North Fork Mattole property (Humboldt County Assessor Parcels Numbers that are shown on Exhibit 2 to the accompanying staff recommendation) and preparation of baseline conditions and environmental assessment reports for the property, 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 for habitat conservation and restoration, California Native American tribal and public access and recreation, open space, and potentially a public-serving facility that will facilitate climate resilience, access to, and enjoyment of the natural resources of the property. 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 8 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding reservation of significant coastal resource areas. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.
- 2. The Mattole Restoration Council is a nonprofit organization organized under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

Moved and seconded.

Voting in favor: Hart, Nguyen, Sterling, Miller, Hallisey, Bosco, Gutiérrez-Graudiņš; Voting

Against: none; Abstained: none

Public Comment: none

### 11. Wadulh Lagoon Restoration Implementation

#### Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed one million three hundred sixty-eight thousand, six hundred and six dollars (\$1,368,606), a portion of which was granted to the Conservancy by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, to the Humboldt County Resource Conservation District (the grantee) to implement the Wadulh Lagoon Restoration Project, consisting of restoring 62.1 acres of coastal wetland and riparian habitat by lowering and removing dikes and excavating channels in Wadulh Lagoon on the Mad River Slough on Humboldt Bay in Humboldt County. Prior to commencement of the project, the grantee shall submit for the review and written approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy the following:

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

### Findings:

- 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.

Moved and Seconded.

Voting in favor: Hart, Nguyen, Sterling, Miller, Hallisey, Bosco, Gutiérrez-Graudiņš; Voting

Against: none; Abstained: none

Public Comment: none

### 12. Coyote Valley Conservation Area Master plan

#### Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed one million ninety thousand dollars (\$1,090,000) to the City of Eureka (the "grantee") to prepare the City of Eureka Coastal Access and Resilience Plan to protect and enhance existing and future uses of the Eureka waterfront for ecological, recreational and commercial purposes, and to prepare designs and environmental review for four sea level rise adaptation projects identified in the Plan (the "project"). Prior to commencement of the project, the grantee shall submit for the review and written approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy (Executive Officer) the following:

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

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 Section 31113 of Chapter 3 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding the Climate Ready Program, respectively.
- 2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.

Moved and seconded.

Voting in favor: Hart, Nguyen, Sterling, Miller, Hallisey, Bosco, Gutiérrez-Graudiņš; Voting

Against: none; Abstained: none

Public Comment: none

Miller left the meeting 12:32 PM

The meeting paused for lunch at 12:36 PM and resumed at 1:08 PM

### 13. Point Saint George Coastal Trail Implementation

#### 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 the Smith River Alliance ("the grantee") to implement cultural resource protections, and construct 1.25 miles of the California Coastal Trail, new restrooms, interpretive signage, and other improvements to the main trailhead parking area at Point Saint George in Del Norte County. Prior to commencing 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 9 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding public access.
- 2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.
- 3. The Smith River Alliance is a nonprofit organization organized under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

Moved and seconded.

Voting in favor: Hart, Nguyen, Sterling, Miller, Hallisey, Bosco, Gutiérrez-Graudinš; Voting

Against: none; Abstained: none

Public Comment: none

#### SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA

### 14. Franklin Canyon Kenneth Gerlack Preserve

### **Resolution:**

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed one million two hundred thirty thousand dollars (\$1,230,000) to John Muir Land Trust to acquire the approximately 100-acre Kenneth Gerlack Preserve Property ("Property") in Contra Costa County (Contra Costa County's Assessor's Parcel No. 367-020-022), depicted in Exhibit 1 to the accompanying staff recommendation, for the protection, restoration, and enhancement of natural and scenic resources and wildlife corridors; and, to the extent compatible with the aforementioned purposes: public access, including a segment of the Bay Area Ridge Trail, and California Native American tribal cultural uses. 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"):
  - All relevant acquisition documents for the acquisition including, without limitation, the appraisal, purchase and sale agreement, deed, escrow instructions, environmental and hazardous materials assessment, and title report;
  - b. A baseline conditions report; and
  - c. Evidence that sufficient funds are available to complete the acquisition.
- 2. The grantee shall pay no more than fair market value for the Property, as established in an appraisal approved by the Executive Officer.
- 3. The Property shall be managed, operated, and used for the protection, restoration, and enhancement of natural and scenic resources and wildlife corridors; and, to the extent compatible with the aforementioned purposes: public access, including a segment of the Bay Area Ridge Trail, and California Native American tribal cultural uses. The Property shall be permanently dedicated to those purposes through 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 Kenneth Gerlack Preserve Property.
- 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:

- 1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Chapter 3 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding addressing the impacts and potential impacts of climate change on resources within the Conservancy's jurisdiction.
- 2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.
- 3. The John Muir 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: Hart, Nguyen, Sterling, Miller, Hallisey, Bosco, Gutiérrez-Graudiņš; Voting

Against: none; Abstained: none

Public Comment: Linus Eukel

### 15. India Basin Waterfront Park Phase 3: Shoreline Park Redevelopment

### **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 City and County of San Francisco Recreation and Park Department ("the grantee") to construct the India Basin Waterfront Park Phase 3: Shoreline Park Redevelopment project, consisting of the redevelopment of India Basin Shoreline Park into a mixed-use community park with improved public access and recreation amenities, enhanced habitat, and climate resiliency in the City and County of San Francisco.

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. In addition, to the extent appropriate, the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department 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 4.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding the San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program.

- 2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.
- 3. The Conservancy has independently reviewed and considered the India Basin Mixed-Use Project Final Environmental Impact Report (Final EIR) certified by the San Francisco Planning Department on July 26, 2018, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") and attached to the accompanying staff recommendation as Exhibit 3. The Final EIR is comprised of three parts: EIR Response to Comments, Draft EIR Part 1 of 2, Draft EIR part 2 of 2. The Conservancy has also reviewed the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program adopted by the San Francsico Planning Department on July 26, 2018 and attached to the accompanying recommendation as Exhibit 4. The Conservancy finds, as described further in the accompanying staff recommendation, that:
  - a. The proposed project will have potentially significant environmental effects in the areas of Noise, Air Quality, Recreation, Utilities, Biological Resources, Hydrology and Water Quality, and Hazards and Hazardous Materials. The Conservancy finds that the mitigation measures identified in the Final EIR will avoid, reduce, or mitigate these possible significant environmental effects to less than significant levels and that these mitigation measures have been required or incorporated into the project.
  - b. The Conservancy further finds that the project will result in significant and unavoidable environmental effects to Cultural Resources, Noise, and Air Quality, but environmental and other benefits of the proposed project as described in the accompanying staff recommendation outweigh or render acceptable these unavoidable adverse environmental effects to achieve the objectives of the proposed 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: Hart, Nguyen, Sterling, Miller, Hallisey, Bosco, Gutiérrez-Graudiņš; Voting

Against: none; Abstained: none

Public Comment: none

### 16. Tolay Creek Baylands Restoration Planning Project

#### **Resolution:**

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed one million two hundred forty-one thousand two hundred dollars (\$1,241,200) to Sonoma Land Trust ("the grantee") to plan for ecological restoration of 337 acres of baylands and alluvial fan in the Tolay Creek Baylands in Sonoma County by conducting community engagement, preparing preliminary designs and environmental compliance documents, and developing a permitting strategy.

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.

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

### 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. 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: Hart, Nguyen, Sterling, Miller, Hallisey, Bosco, Gutiérrez-Graudiņš; Voting Against: none; Abstained: none

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Public Comment: none

### 17. Sonoma Schellville Trail Acquisition

### **Resolution:**

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed six hundred thousand dollars (\$600,000) to Sonoma County Regional Parks to acquire 19 parcels of non-active railway corridor totaling approximately 20-acres ("Property") in unincorporated Sonoma County (including Sonoma County's Assessor's Parcel Nos. 128-431-013, 128-381-059, 128-381-049 two portions, 128-041-015, 127-302-029, and 128-042-041 and additional undesignated tracts lying adjacent to and below Eighth Street East from East Napa Street south to SMART's holdings in Schellville) as depicted in Exhibit 1 to the accompanying staff recommendation for purposes of a public trail currently designated as the Sonoma Schellville Trail. This authorization is subject to the following conditions:

 Prior to the disbursement of funds for the acquisition, the grantee shall submit for the review and approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy ("Executive Officer"):

- a. All relevant acquisition documents for the acquisition including, without limitation, the appraisal, purchase and sale agreement, deed, escrow instructions, environmental and hazardous materials assessment, and title report;
- b. A baseline conditions report; and
- c. Evidence that sufficient funds are available to complete the acquisition.
- 2. The grantee shall pay no more than fair market value for the Property, as established in an appraisal approved by the Executive Officer.
- 3. The Property shall be managed, operated, and used for protection of open space and habitat and for providing public access, including a trail. The Property shall be permanently dedicated to those purposes through an appropriate instrument approved by the Executive Officer.
- 4. Conservancy funding shall be acknowledged by erecting and maintaining a sign on the Property or in a nearby publicly viewable area, the design and location of which are to be approved by the Executive Officer.

### Findings:

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

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

Moved and Seconded.

Voting in favor: Hart, Nguyen, Sterling, Miller, Hallisey, Bosco, Gutiérrez-Graudiņš; Voting

Against: none; Abstained: none

Public Comment: none

### 18. Lake Solano Park habitat Restoration and Public Access Project

#### Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed one million one hundred forty-three thousand and five hundred dollars (\$1,143,500) to the Solano Resource Conservation District ("the grantee") to restore 19 acres of upland habitat and install a half-acre demonstration garden, 670-foot long trail, outdoor education area, two kiosks, and interpretive signs at Lake Solano Park in Solano 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.

### 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 the Conservancy's mandate to address the resources and recreational goals of the San Francisco Bay area.
- 2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.
- 3. The Conservancy has independently reviewed and considered the "Final Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Lake Solano Habitat Restoration and Public Access Improvement Project" adopted by the Solano Resource Conservation District on June 21, 2023 pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") and attached to the accompanying staff recommendation as Exhibit 4. The Conservancy finds that the Lake Solano Habitat Restoration and Public Access Improvement 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 that the project will have a significant effect on the environment.

Moved and seconded.

Voting in favor: Hart, Nguyen, Sterling, Miller, Hallisey, Bosco, Gutiérrez-Graudiņš; Voting

Against: none; Abstained: none

Public Comment: none

### 19. Pond A4 Habitat Restoration Project

### Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed five million dollars (\$5,000,000) to Valley Water ("the grantee") for the restoration of 40 acres of mudflat and shallow water habitat in Pond A4 to benefit shorebirds, enhance recreation, and facilitate future tidal wetland restoration along the shoreline of San Francisco Bay 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.
- 3. A plan for acknowledgement of Conservancy funding.
- 4. Evidence that all permits and approvals required to implement the project have been obtained.

### Findings:

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

- 1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Chapter 4.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding the Conservancy's mandate to address the resources and recreational goals of the San Francisco Bay area.
- 2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.

Moved and seconded.

Voting in favor: Hart, Nguyen, Sterling, Miller, Hallisey, Bosco, Gutiérrez-Graudiņš; Voting

Against: none; Abstained: none

Public Comment: none

#### **CENTRAL COAST**

### 20. Diablo Canyon Land Conservation Planning

#### **Resolution:**

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of up to five million dollars (\$5,000,000) for consultant services including resource assessments, planning, public outreach, and other services as may be required related to planning for the conservation of the 12,000- acre Diablo Canyon Lands in San Luis Obispo County.

### Findings:

- 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.

Moved and seconded.

Voting in favor: Hart, Nguyen, Sterling, Miller, Hallisey, Bosco, Gutiérrez-Graudiņš; Voting

Against: none; Abstained: none

Public Comment: none

### 21. RANCHO CAÑADA FLOODPLAIN RESTORATION

### Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed sixteen million dollars (\$16,000,000) to Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District ("the grantee"), including \$10 million in grant funds from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, to implement the Rancho Cañada Floodplain Restoration Project, a multibenefit floodplain restoration project along approximately 1-mile of the lower Carmel River in the Rancho Cañada Unit of the Palo Corona Regional Park in Monterey 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.
- 4. Evidence that all permits and approvals required to implement the project have been obtained.
- 5. Evidence that the grantee has entered into an agreement sufficient to enable the grantee to implement, operate, and maintain the project on that portion of the project site not owned by the grantee.

Prior to commencement of construction, the grantee shall demonstrate that the portion of the project that will take place on land not owned by the grantee is protected by a recorded agreement sufficient to protect the public interest in the project.

#### Findings:

- 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 the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.

Moved and seconded.

Voting in favor: Hart, Nguyen, Sterling, Miller, Hallisey, Bosco, Gutiérrez-Graudiņš; Voting

Against: none; Abstained: none

**Public Comment: None** 

### 22. Santa Curz Wharf Resilience Improvement

#### Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed six million eight hundred ninety-three thousand seven hundred dollars (\$6,893,700) to the City of Santa Cruz ("the grantee") to construct improvements in the East Parking Lot and wave crash zone areas of the Santa Cruz Municipal Wharf and to further the planning for future improvements for increased resiliency to the effects of climate change (the "project").

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

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

### Findings:

- 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 Conservancy has independently reviewed and considered the "Santa Cruz Wharf Master Plan Final Environmental Impact Report Volume 2" (Final EIR) certified by the City of Santa Cruz on January 9, 2024 pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") and attached to the accompanying staff recommendation as Exhibit 5. The Conservancy has also reviewed the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program adopted by the City of Santa Cruz on January 9, 2024 and attached to the accompanying recommendation as Exhibit 5. The Conservancy finds, as described further in the accompanying staff recommendation, that:

a. The Santa Cruz Wharf Master Plan will have potentially significant environmental effects in the areas of biological resources, hydrology-water quality, and recreation. The Conservancy finds that the mitigation measures identified in the EIR will avoid, reduce, or mitigate these possible significant environmental effects to less-thansignificant levels and that these mitigation measures have been required or incorporated into the project.

The Conservancy adopts the Findings regarding Significant Effects set forth in the accompanying staff recommendation.

Moved and seconded.

Voting in favor: Hart, Nguyen, Sterling, Miller, Hallisey, Bosco, Gutiérrez-Graudiņš; Voting

Against: none; Abstained: none

Public Comment: none

### 23. Beach Ranch Acquisition for Pajaro River Estuary Climate Adaptation

#### **Resolution:**

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed eight million dollars (\$8,000,000) to the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County ("the grantee") to acquire the 247-acre Beach Ranch property at the Pajaro River Estuary in Santa Cruz County (Assessor Parcel Numbers 052-171-13, 052-171-12, 052-171-11, 052-231-03, 052-231-29, and 052-231-30) for nature-based sea level rise adaptation, natural resource protection and restoration, compatible agricultural use, California Native American tribal access, and public access, 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 for naturebased sea level rise adaptation, natural resource protection and restoration, compatible agricultural use, California Native American tribal access, 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.

### 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 Land Trust of Santa Cruz County is a nonprofit organization organized under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

Moved and seconded.

Voting in favor: Hart, Nguyen, Sterling, Miller, Hallisey, Bosco, Gutiérrez-Graudiņš; Voting

Against: none; Abstained: none
Public Comment: Alyssa Mann

### 24. CONSERVANCY MEMBER COMMENTS

### 25. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Walter Lamb spoke on Ballona Wetlands

### **26. CLOSED SESSION**

The Conservancy did not hold a closed session.

### 27. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 2:51 P.M.