

STATE COASTAL CONSERVANCY  
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES  
June 06, 2024

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Douglas Bosco (Public Member), Chair  
Joy Sterling (Public Member),  
Marce Gutiérrez-Graudiņš (Public Member)  
Bryan Cash (Designated, Department of Natural Resources)  
Madeline Cavalieri (Representing Coastal Commission)  
Stephen Benson (Representing Department of Finance)  
Jeremiah Hallisey (Public Member)

**OVERSIGHT MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Senator Allen (District 24) Joined meeting at 10:45 AM  
Kara Woodruff (Representative for Senator Laird, District 17)

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Amy Hutzel, Executive Officer  
Amy Roach, General Counsel

**LOCATION:**

California Natural Resource Center  
715 P St.  
Sacramento, CA 94612

**MEETING START TIME:** 10:01 AM

**1. ROLL CALL**

Douglas Bosco (Public Member), Chair  
Joy Sterling (Public Member)

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Marce Gutiérrez-Graudiņš (Public Member)

Bryan Cash (Designated, Department of Natural Resources)

Madeline Cavalieri (Representing Coastal Commission)

Stephen Benson (Representing Department of Finance)

Jeremiah Hallisey (Public Member) - joined meeting at 10:46 AM

2. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** of the Conservancy’s April 18, 2024 public meeting. Moved and seconded. Minutes were approved.

3. **CONSENT ITEMS**

Following several public comments, Chair Bosco asked the board if any member requested any consent item be removed. Hearing no such request, the following consent items were moved for approval, seconded, and approved by Cavalieri, Cash, Benson, Gutiérrez-Graudiņš, Sterling, Bosco (none opposed).

A. **SANTA CRUZ HOSTEL RENOVATIONS - AUGMENTATION**

**Resolution:**

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of one hundred sixty thousand dollars (\$160,000) to the Santa Cruz Hostel Society (“the grantee”) to augment the Conservancy funding previously authorized on September 22, 2022 for a total authorized amount of six hundred sixty-eight thousand dollars (\$668,000) to plan and implement renovations to the Santa Cruz Hostel in the City of Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz County, subject to the conditions of the September 22, 2022 authorization.

**Findings:**

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

1. The proposed authorization remains consistent with Chapter 10 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding Lower-Cost Coastal Accommodations.
2. The proposed project remains consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.

B. **SAN LUIS OBISPO LAND CONSERVANCY WILDFIRE RESILIENCE PROJECT**

**Resolution:**

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed two hundred seventy-eight thousand three hundred dollars (\$278,300) to The Land

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Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County (“the grantee”) to purchase equipment for annual wildfire fuel reduction and road maintenance work within three grantee-owned preserves in San Luis Obispo County.

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

1. A detailed work program, schedule, and budget.
2. 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 Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County is a nonprofit organization organized under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

**C. PAIRIE CREEK AT ELK MEADOW CABINS HABITAT ENHANCEMENT PROJECT**

**Resolution:**

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) to the Yurok Tribe (“the grantee”) to undertake the Prairie Creek at Elk Meadow Cabins Habitat Enhancement Project, consisting of removing invasive plants and installing large wood features in an approximately 3,000-foot reach of lower Prairie Creek 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.
3. A plan for acknowledgement of Conservancy funding and Proposition 68 as the source of that funding.
4. Evidence that all permits and approvals required to implement the project have been obtained.

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5. Evidence that the grantee has entered into agreements sufficient to enable the grantee to implement and monitor 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.

**D. CLIFFORD KAMPH MEMORIAL PARK EXPANSION FEASIBILITY STUDY: AUGMENTATION**

**Resolution:**

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes disbursement of an amount not to exceed one hundred thirty thousand dollars (\$130,000) to the County of Del Norte (“the grantee”) to augment the Conservancy grant of \$96,000 previously authorized on June 18, 2020 to assess the feasibility of expanding camping opportunities and to develop a park improvement plan for Clifford Kamph Memorial Park, the northern gateway to the California Coastal Trail, in Del Norte County; and authorization to expand the project scope to include preparation of designs, engineering, and environmental analysis of improvements identified in the park improvement plan. Prior to commencement of the expanded project scope, the grantee shall submit for the review and written approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy (Executive Officer) the following:

1. An updated work program, schedule, and budget.
2. Names and qualifications of any additional 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 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 Chapters 9 and 10 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding public access and lower cost coastal accommodations, respectively.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.

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**E. WALL PROPERTY ACQUISITION**

**Resolution:**

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) for the Town of Fairfax (“the grantee”) to acquire the approximately 100-acre Wall Property (“Property”) in Marin County (Marin County Assessor’s Parcel Nos. 001-171-51, 001-251-31, 001-150-12, and 001-160-09), depicted in Exhibit 1 to the accompanying staff recommendation, for the protection, restoration, and enhancement of natural resources, wildlife habitat, open space, California Native American tribal cultural resources, and compatible public access. This authorization is subject to the following conditions:

1. Prior to the disbursement of funds for the acquisition, the grantee shall submit for the review and approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy (Executive Officer):
  - a. All relevant acquisition documents for the acquisition including, without limitation, the appraisal, purchase and sale agreement, deed, escrow instructions, environmental 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, operated, and used for the protection, restoration, and enhancement of natural resources, wildlife habitat, open space, California Native American tribal cultural resources, and compatible 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:

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1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Chapter 4.5 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.

**4. EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT**

- A. Emely Lopez, Tribal Liaison & Equity Coordinator, presented a progress report on Justice, Equity, Diversity and inclusion at the Conservancy.
- B. The Conservancy had a presentation on Sea Level Rise in California, which explained the state's updated guidance on sea level rise planning, and two examples of Conservancy projects to adapt to sea level rise.
- C. Jessica Davenport, acting Regional Manager, presented the proposed Sea Level Rise Memorandum of Understanding for San Francisco Bay.

Approval of the MOU was moved and seconded.

Voting in favor: Cavalieri, Cash, Benson, Gutiérrez-Graudiņš, Hallisey, Sterling, Doug;

Voting against: none

Public Comment: Samuel Collins

**SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA**

**5. SAN FRANCISCO BAY RESTORATION REGULATORY INTEGRATION TEAM**

**Resolution:**

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes disbursement of up to three million four hundred thousand dollars (\$3,400,000) of grant funds from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and up to one million dollars (\$1,000,000) of grant funds from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for operation of the Bay Restoration Regulatory Integration Team ("BRRIT") for a second period of five years. The funds may be disbursed to one or more of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, and San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board. The authorization is subject to the same conditions as set forth in the Conservancy's authorization of September 6, 2018.

Prior to commencement of the second five-year period of the BRRIT, each agency receiving funds shall submit for the review and written approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy (Executive Officer) the following:

1. A detailed work program, schedule, and budget.

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2. Names and qualifications of any contractors to be retained in carrying out the project.

**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.

Moved and seconded.

Voting in favor: Cavalieri, Cash, Benson, Gutiérrez-Graudiņš, Hallisey, Sterling, Bosco; Voting against: none

Public Comment: none

**SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA**

**6. LOMA ALTA SLOUGH WETLAND ENHANCEMENT PROJECT**

**Resolution:**

The State Coastal Conservancy (Conservancy) hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed one million six hundred forty-three thousand three hundred forty four dollars (\$1,643,344) to the City of Oceanside (“the grantee”) to undertake the Loma Alta Slough Wetland Enhancement Project consisting of the enhancement of 5.8 acres of coastal wetlands in the City of Oceanside 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:**

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

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Chapter 6 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding coastal resource enhancement.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.
3. The Conservancy has independently reviewed and considered the Loma Alta Slough Wetland Enhancement Project Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration and the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, both adopted by the City of Oceanside on October 10, 2022 pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) and attached to the accompanying staff recommendation as Exhibits 4 and 5. 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: Cavaliere, Cash, Benson, Gutiérrez-Graudiņš, Hallisey, Sterling, Bosco; Voting against: none

Public Comment: none

**7. MONTEREY BAY COASTAL TRAIL – FORT ORD DUNES STATE PARK ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS**

**Resolution:**

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed eight hundred thousand dollars (\$800,000) to the City of Marina (“the grantee”) to prepare plans, environmental review documents, and permit applications for improvements to a California Coastal Trail trailhead and coastal access point at Fort Ord Dunes State Park, 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. 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 City of Marina shall incorporate the guidelines of the Conservancy’s ‘Coastal Access Project Standards’.



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**Findings:**

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

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Chapter 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.

Moved and seconded.

Voting in favor: Cavalieri, Cash, Benson, Gutiérrez-Graudiņš, Hallisey, Sterling, Bosco; Voting against: none

Public Comment: none

**8. SOUTH BEACH SEA LEVEL RISE AND CONNECTIVITY FEASIBILITY STUDY**

**Resolution:**

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed six hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$650,000) to the Elk Valley Rancheria, California (“the grantee”) to prepare the South Beach Sea Level Rise and Connectivity Feasibility Study, which will develop and evaluate alternatives for how best to prevent future flooding of a vulnerable section of Highway 101 adjacent to Crescent City, while improving public access to South Beach and protecting the Crescent City Marsh in Del Norte County.

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

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

**Findings:**

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

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Chapter 3 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.

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Voting in favor: Cavaliere, Cash, Benson, Gutiérrez-Graudiņš, Hallisey, Sterling, Bosco; Voting against: none

Public Comment: none

**9. CHICKEN RANCH BEACH WTLAND ENHANCEMENT: IMPLEMENTATION**

**Resolution:**

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes disbursement of up to nine hundred ninety-nine thousand, three hundred thirty-five dollars (\$999,335), of which seven hundred ninety two thousand five hundred seventy five dollars (\$792,575) are funds received from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, to the Tomales Bay Watershed Council Foundation (“the grantee”) to implement the Chicken Ranch Beach Wetland Enhancement Project, consisting of restoring approximately one acre of tidal wetlands to enhance water quality and improve wildlife habitat at Chicken Ranch Beach on Tomales Bay in Marin 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. Evidence that all permits and approvals required to implement the project have been obtained.

The grantee shall submit a report to the Conservancy by early 2025 regarding the grantee’s financial plan for maintaining the restored docks and the marina depths.

**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 Tomales Bay Watershed Council Foundation is a nonprofit organization organized under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

Moved and seconded.

Voting in favor: Cavaliere, Cash, Benson, Gutiérrez-Graudiņš, Hallisey, Sterling, Bosco; Voting against: none

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Public Comment: none

**10. CONSERVANCY MEMBER COMMENTS**

**11. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Eileen Boken made a comment

Walter Lamb spoke on Ballona Wetlands

**12. CLOSED SESSION**

The Conservancy did not hold a closed session.

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 12:45 P.M.