

COASTAL CONSERVANCY

Staff Recommendation  
September 5, 2024

**NORTH COAST WILDFIRE RESILIENCE MAPPING DATASET PHASE II**

Project No. 24-012-01  
Project Manager: Lilly Allen

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Authorization to disburse up to \$20,000 to the County of Humboldt to augment the previously authorized grant for the North Coast Lidar Dataset Project, consisting of developing critical data layers for wildfire resilience planning concerning north coast counties of California, to expand the project to include Solano County.

**LOCATION:** Solano County

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EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1: [Project Location Maps](#)

Exhibit 2: [North and Central Coast Wildfire Resilience Mapping Datasets  
Project Staff Recommendation](#)

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**RESOLUTION AND FINDINGS**

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

Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes disbursement of an amount not to exceed twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) to the County of Humboldt to augment the grant previously authorized on April 18, 2024 for the North Coast Lidar Dataset Project, consisting of developing critical data layers for north coast wildfire resilience planning, to expand the project to include Solano County, subject to the same conditions as the April 18, 2024 authorization.

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.

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## STAFF RECOMMENDATION

### PROJECT SUMMARY:

Staff recommends that the Conservancy authorize disbursement of up to \$20,000 under the Conservancy’s Wildfire Resilience Program to the County of Humboldt to add Solano County to the scope of the North Coast Lidar Dataset Project for which the Conservancy authorized a grant on April 18, 2024, consisting of developing critical data layers for wildfire resilience planning concerning the north coast counties of California (“the project”).

As described in Exhibit 2, the project will leverage investments in lidar point cloud collection by USGS, California Natural Resources Agency, and local county partners on the north coast by processing the data point cloud data sets and creating fine scale (1-meter) derivative layers across the participating counties to provide land managers and the public with unhindered access to ‘best available’ datasets for vegetation structure (e.g., vegetation height, vegetation density, ladder fuels), topography (e.g. slope, aspect, elevation). The project also includes the development of easy-to-use data access tools, education, outreach programs, and workshops to instruct county, tribal, nonprofit, state, and federal users on incorporating the data sets into their wildfire activities. The derivative data layers will also be used to improve resource planning activities throughout the region. The datasets will be placed in the public domain and will be accessible to stakeholders and the public via a web platform.

The project as authorized for funding on April 18, 2024 consisted of development of lidar derivative data for the counties of Sonoma, Napa, Lake, Mendocino, Humboldt, Trinity, Del Norte, Siskiyou, and Modoc. The recommended augmentation covers the addition of Solano County to the project.

**Site Description:** Solano County. The proposed project will develop lidar derivative data for the entirety of Solano County.

**Grant Applicant Qualifications:** See Exhibit 2.

### CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY’S PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA:

With the addition of Solano County, the project remains consistent with the Conservancy’s Project Selection Criteria, as described in Exhibit 2.

### PROJECT FINANCING

Coastal Conservancy (previous authorization)	<b>\$362,049</b>
<b>Coastal Conservancy (this authorization)</b>	<b><u>\$20,000</u></b>
<b>Project Total</b>	<b>\$382,049</b>

The anticipated source of funding is the Fiscal Year 2023-24 appropriation from the General Fund to the Conservancy for the purpose of wildfire risk reduction. The project remains

consistent with this funding source because it will help increase the pace and scale of wildfire resilience projects and ultimately reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire.

**CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S ENABLING LEGISLATION:**

Chapter 3 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code authorizes the Conservancy to address the impacts and potential impacts of climate change on resources within the Conservancy's jurisdiction (Section 31113(a)). The project remains consistent with Chapter 3, as described in Exhibit 2, with the addition of Solano County.

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

The project remains consistent with **Goal 4.2 Wildfire Resilience**, as described in Exhibit 2.

**CEQA COMPLIANCE:**

The project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") as described in the April 18, 2024 staff recommendation. Conservancy staff filed a Notice of Exemption on April 18, 2024. The addition of Solano County to the project will not change the project activities and the project remains exempt pursuant to Cal Code of Regs. Title 14, Sections 15262 and 15306. .