

STATE COASTAL CONSERVANCY  
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES  
February 13, 2025

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Douglas Bosco (Public Member), Chair  
Joy Sterling (Public Member),  
Bryan Cash (Designated, Department of Natural Resources)  
Michele Perrault(Department of Finance)  
Justin Cummings (Coastal Commission)  
Jeremiah Hallisey (Public Member)

**OVERSIGHT MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Kara Woodruff (Representative for Senator Laird, District 17)

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Amy Hutzler, Executive Officer  
Ryan Berghoff, General Counsel

**LOCATION:**

Elihu M Harris State building Auditorium – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
1515 Clay St.  
Oakland, CA 94612

**MEETING START TIME: 10:06 AM**

**1. ROLL CALL**

Douglas Bosco (Public Member), Chair  
Joy Sterling (Public Member)  
Bryan Cash (Designated, Department of Natural Resources)  
Michele Perrault(Department of Finance)  
Justin Cummings (Coastal Commission)

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Jeremiah Hallisey (Public Member)

**1A.** Bryan Cash and Justin Cummings announced that they needed to participate remotely due to physical disabilities. Mr. Cash and Mr. Cummings briefly described their conditions. The board voted on whether to approve an exception to having a majority in-person due to Mr. Cash and Mr. Cummings situation, as authorized by the Open Meeting Act. (Gov. Code, § 11123.2, subd. (j)(2), (3).)

Move and seconded. Voting in favor: Cummings, Cash, Perault, Hallisey, Sterling, Bosco; voting against: none.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** of the Conservancy’s February 13, 2025 public meeting. Moved and seconded.

Voting in favor: Cash, Perrault, Hallisey, Sterling, Bosco; Voting against: none; Abstained: Cummings

Minutes were approved.

**3. CONSENT ITEMS**

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

**A. Santa Ana River Trail: Orange County Phasing Plan**

**Resolution:**

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) to Orange County Parks (OC Parks) (“the grantee”) to prepare a phasing plan for a two-mile segment of the Santa Ana River Trail located in Orange County at the border with Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, and preparing designs and a construction package, and obtaining permits for future construction of a portion of the two-mile segment. 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.

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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 4.6 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding 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 Santa Ana River Parkway Extension Project Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) certified by the County of Orange on November 22, 2016, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") and attached to the accompanying staff recommendation as Exhibit 4. The Conservancy has also reviewed the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program adopted by Orange County Public Works on November 22, 20216, and attached to the accompanying recommendation as Exhibit 4. The Conservancy finds, as described further in the accompanying staff recommendation, that:
  - a. The Santa Ana River Parkway Extension Project ("Project") will have potentially significant environmental effects in the areas of Biological Resources, Air Quality, Cultural Resources, Geology and Soil, Hydrology and Water Quality. 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 environmental effects in the areas of Air Quality, 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.

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**B. Great Redwood Trail – Ukiah, Phase 4 Project**

**Resolution:**

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed three hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$350,000) to the City of Ukiah (“the grantee”) to implement Phase 4 of the Ukiah Great Redwood Trail Project, consisting of construction of a 1.9-mile portion of the Great Redwood Trail between Plant Road and Commerce Drive in the City of Ukiah, Mendocino County (“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 (“the 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:**

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 Conservancy has independently reviewed and considered the “Great Redwood Trail Ukiah Phase 4 Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration” adopted by the grantee on October 16, 2024, 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

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whole that the project may have a significant effect on the environment, as defined in 14 Cal. Code Regulations Section 15382.

**C. Prosper Ridge Prairie Restoration Project: Augmentation**

**Resolution:**

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes disbursement of up to one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) to the Mattole Restoration Council (the “grantee”) to augment the Conservancy grant authorized on September 22, 2022 for a total authorized amount of four hundred sixty-seven thousand dollars (\$467,000) to provide wildland fire-fighting training and to restore historical prairies and landscape level fuel breaks in the King Range National Conservation Area. The augmentation will enable additional use of mechanical vegetation removal in the event that prescribed burning is infeasible and provide additional training sessions. This authorization is subject to the same conditions as 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 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 and Guidelines.
3. The Mattole Restoration Council is a nonprofit organization organized under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

**D. Technical Assistance Consultant Contract Phase 2**

**Resolution:**

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes disbursement of an additional five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) to augment the contract previously authorized by the Conservancy on September 22, 2022, for a total authorized amount of one million four hundred thousand dollars (\$1,400,000), to hire a contractor who specializes in technical assistance with environmental documentation, permit applications, and project planning to support wildfire resilience project development across the Conservancy’s jurisdiction, subject to the conditions of the September 22, 2022 authorization.

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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 3 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding the Climate Ready Program.
2. The recommended authorization is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.

**E. North and Central Coast Wildfire Resilience Mapping Datasets Augmentation**

**Resolution:**

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes disbursement of: 1) an additional six hundred seventy-five thousand dollars (\$675,000) to the County of Humboldt to augment the grants previously authorized by the Conservancy on April 18, 2024 and September 5, 2024 for a total authorized amount of one million fifty seven thousand forty nine dollars (\$1,057,049) which developed lidar derivative datasets critical for wildfire resilience planning for the north coast, and which additional funds would be used to further refine said data into more usable data layers and products; and 2) an additional nine hundred seventy-two thousand six hundred dollars (\$972,600) to the Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District to augment the grant previously authorized by the Conservancy on April 18, 2024 and augmented by the Executive Officer on October 10, 2024, for a total authorized amount of one million eight hundred nine thousand four hundred fifty-five dollars (\$1,809,455) which developed lidar derivative datasets and wildfire mapping layers in the central coast, and which additional funds would be used to refine and finalize fine scale vegetation mapping. This authorization is subject to the conditions of 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 remains consistent with Chapter 3 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding the Climate Ready Program.
2. The proposed project remains consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.

**F. BADUWA'T ESTUARY PROPERTY ACQUISITION**

**Resolution:**

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed two hundred seventy seven thousand four hundred dollars (\$277,400) to the Blue Lake

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Rancheria (the “grantee”) to acquire two parcels comprising 33.8 acres at the Baduwa’t Estuary, west of McKinleyville, Humboldt County, for the purposes of the protection and enhancement of habitat, natural and cultural resources, the preservation of open space, and to enable California Native American tribal cultural access and ceremonial uses, public access, and fish, wildlife, and climate change monitoring.

The grant is authorized 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 the purposes of the protection and enhancement of habitat, protection of natural and cultural resources, preservation of open space, providing California Native American tribal cultural access and ceremonial uses, providing public access, and monitoring fish, wildlife, and climate change.
4. The property shall be permanently dedicated to those purposes by an appropriate instrument approved by the Executive Officer.
5. Conservancy funding (and Proposition 68 as the source of that 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 resources protection.

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

**G. South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project Phase 2: Mountain View Implementation - Augmentation**

**Resolution:**

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed two million seven hundred thousand dollars (\$2,700,000) to Ducks Unlimited, Inc. (the “grantee”) to augment Conservancy funding previously authorized for the restoration of tidal marsh and creation of public access at the Mountain View Ponds (Ponds A1 and A2W) (the “project”), as part of Phase 2 of the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project 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 and Proposition 68 as the source of that 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.

**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. Ducks Unlimited, Inc. is a nonprofit organization organized under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.



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**H. Disposition Plan for Bel Marin Keys South Lagoon Levee**

**Resolution:**

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby approves the Disposition Plan for the Bel Marin Keys South Lagoon Levee attached to the accompanying staff recommendation as Exhibit 3, for the purpose of transferring the South Lagoon Levee to the Bel Marin Keys Community Services District to maintain the structural integrity of the levee and to maintain the levee top trail for public access, in Marin County.

This authorization is subject to the following condition:

1. The Bel Marin Keys South Lagoon Levee shall be managed to maintain the structural integrity of the levee and to maintain the levee top trail for public access, and to support the restoration of tidal wetlands, seasonal wetlands, and other baylands habitat along the shoreline of San Pablo Bay in the County of Marin. The Property shall be permanently dedicated to those purposes through an appropriate instrument 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 restoration and enhancement of natural habitats in the San Francisco Bay Area and public access improvements to and around the Bay.
2. The proposed authorization is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.

**4. EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT**

Evyan Sloane, Deputy Executive Officer, presented the Conservancy's Strategic Plan progress report.

Amy Hutzel, Executive Officer of the State Coastal Conservancy, provided a summary of the 2024 Climate Bond and the Conservancy's role in climate adaptation given the bond funding.

Chair Bosco requested the inclusion of a reaffirmation of the Coastal Conservancy's commitment to Justice, Equity Diversity, and Inclusion. Staff drafted a resolution, which was voted on by the board members present at the meeting.

Moved and seconded.

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Ayes: Cummings, Cash, Perrault, Hallisey, Sterling, Bosco Nays: None

Public Comment: Walter Lamb, Heidi Moore Guynup

Elena Eger and Mario Sandoval of the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority reported on the impact of the Palisades Fire on Malibu Access Projects.

**SOUTH COAST**

**5. SANTA ANA RIVER: RIVER PARK**

**Resolution:**

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed two million dollars (\$2,000,000) to the City of Anaheim (“the grantee”) to construct the ‘River Park,’ a 3.3-acre nature park to restore natural habitat and provide recreational opportunities along the Santa Ana River in the City of Anaheim, Orange 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.
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 4.6 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding the Santa Ana River Conservancy Program.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.

Moved and seconded.

Ayes: Cummings, Cash, Perrault, Hallisey, Sterling, Bosco Nays: none

Public Comment: Frazier Haney

**6. GREAT REDWOOD TRAIL AUGMENTATION**

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**[Staff proposed amending the resolution to add the phrase “coordination with California Native American Tribes” after the phrase “public outreach,” as shown in underline in the following resolution. The Board voted on the amended resolution.]**

**Resolution:**

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of up to five million dollars (\$5,000,000) to the Great Redwood Trail Agency to augment funding for engineering and environmental services, planning and design, public outreach, coordination with California Native American Tribes, organizational development, advancement of the railbanking process, technical support, staffing 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 authorization is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.

Moved and seconded.

Ayes: Cummings, Cash, Perrault, Hallisey, Sterling, Bosco Nays: none

**7. GREAT REDWOOD TRAIL: WILLITS TO LONGVALE PLANNING PROJECT**

**Resolution:**

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed five hundred three thousand four hundred dollars (\$503,400) to Mendocino Land Trust (the grantee) to undertake the Great Redwood Trail Willits to Longvale Planning Project, consisting of preparing resource studies and surveys, conducting outreach, coordinating with California Native American tribes, preparing 20% designs, and preparing environmental compliance documents for a 12.7-mile segment of the Great Redwood Trail in the City of Willits and unincorporated Mendocino County (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.

**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 9 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding public accessways.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.
3. Mendocino Land Trust is a nonprofit organization organized under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

Moved and seconded.

Ayes: Cummings, Cash, Perrault, Hallisey, Sterling, Bosco Nays: none

**8. GREEN RIVER GOLF CLUB SEGMENT PHASE 1 – CONSTRUCTION**

**Resolution:**

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed four million one hundred fourteen thousand five hundred thirty-two dollars (\$4,114,532) to the San Mateo Resource Conservation District (“the grantee”) to undertake the Pedro Point Headlands Wildfire Resilience Program, consisting of 1) planning and preparing permit applications and environmental review documents for wildfire fuel reduction, including removal of mature trees, and 2) planning and implementing discrete vegetation management tasks at the Pedro Point Headlands in 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. 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 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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Ayes: Cummings, Cash, Perrault, Hallisey, Sterling, Bosco Nays: none

**9. CONSERVANCY MEMBER COMMENTS**

No Board member comments

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

Walter Lamb spoke on Ballona Wetlands

**11. CLOSED SESSION**

Meeting closed at 12:08 P.M. for a closed session.

During the closed session, the Conservancy received information and advice from counsel regarding City of Trinidad v. Tsurai Ancestral Society, et al., Humboldt County Superior Court, Case No. DR180684.

Meeting re-opened to public at 12:30 P.M.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 12:33 P.M.