COASTAL CONSERVANCY

Staff Recommendation

June 18, 2026

GOAT ISLAND TIDAL MARSH RESTORATION & PUBLIC ACCESS PROJECT

Project No. 26-011-01

Project Manager: Alexis Barrera

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Authorization to disburse up to $3,095,000 to Solano Land Trust to undertake the Goat Island Tidal Marsh Restoration and Public Access Project, consisting of restoration and enhancement of 89 acres of tidal marsh, transition-zone, and seasonal wetland habitat; and improvements to 1.36 miles of trails and amenities at Rush Ranch in Solano County, and adoption of findings under the California Environmental Quality Act.

LOCATION: Rush Ranch, Suisun Marsh, Solano County

EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1: Project Location Map

Exhibit 2: Site Photos

Exhibit 3: Conceptual Site Plan

Exhibit 4: Project Letters

Exhibit 5: Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration

RESOLUTION AND FINDINGS

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

Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed three million ninety-five thousand dollars ($3,095,000) to Solano Land Trust ("the grantee") to undertake the Goat Island Tidal Marsh Restoration & Public Access Project, consisting of restoration and enhancement of 89 acres of tidal marsh, transition-zone, and seasonal wetland habitat; and improvements to 1.36 miles of trails and amenities at Rush Ranch in Solano 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.
3. A plan for acknowledgement of Conservancy funding, including a plan for signage, informing the public that the project received funding from the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024.
4. Evidence that all permits and approvals required to implement the project have been obtained.
5. 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 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 Solano 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 Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) adopted by the County of Solano in August 2015 pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") and attached to the accompanying staff recommendation as Exhibit 4. The Conservancy finds that the Goat Island Tidal Marsh Restoration and Public Access 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.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

PROJECT SUMMARY

Staff recommends that the Conservancy authorize a $3,095,000 grant to Solano Land Trust (SLT) to undertake the Goat Island Tidal Marsh Restoration & Public Access Project (the "project"), consisting of restoration and enhancement of 89 acres of tidal marsh, transition-zone, and seasonal wetland habitat; and improvements to 1.36 miles of trails and amenities at Rush Ranch in Solano County (Exhibit 1). The project will support sensitive tidal marsh species, strengthen climate resilience, and expand equitable public access for nearby disadvantaged communities.

Goat Island Marsh is an 80-acre muted tidal marsh that is connected to adjacent tidal sloughs through degraded and poorly functioning tide gates. Due to the lack of full tidal connectivity, the marsh has become dominated by invasive plants that prevent the formation of tidal channels, reduce vegetation diversity, and limit the movement of sediment and nutrients (Exhibit 2). These conditions greatly reduce use of the site by native species, including many threatened and endangered species such as Dela smelt, California black rail, and salt marsh harvest mouse.

To restore natural tidal marsh conditions, the project will first replace the old, damaged water-control structures with new culverts that allow water levels to be controlled within the site. This step is necessary to implement invasive species management and earthwork activities. To rebuild the marsh's natural structure, the project will remove invasive vegetation, including the aggressive Phragmites. Through a targeted, multi-method program, the project will use a combination of burning, excavation/burial, herbicide, and creation of ponds to drown Phragmites. These actions will allow for expansion of the tidal channel network necessary for water, sediment, and nutrients to move more freely across the marsh plain. Several new areas of open water will be created by excavating overgrown vegetation, providing permanent open-water habitat. Along the western edge of the marsh, an aging levee that no longer protects habitat or safely supports public use will be lowered and reshaped into a gently sloping high-marsh bench (Exhibit 3).

The project will also breach the levee in two locations, reconnecting roughly 80 acres of diked interior marsh with Suisun Slough and the surrounding tidal wetlands. Sediment removed during channel and pond excavation will be reused on site to build small marsh mounds, creating topographic diversity and new habitat features for wildlife. In addition, the project will repair an eroding bank near the northern breach by stabilizing the slope, adding woody material, and planting native vegetation. The project will restore one acre of seasonal wetland in the Suisun Hill Hollow drainage, by planting native wetland species and stabilizing an eroded impoundment berm and cattle crossing to maintain seasonal ponding. The project also includes a revegetation plan that uses locally sourced native plants, phased installation, and long-term adaptive management to rebuild healthy marsh, seasonal wetland, and eight acres of transition-zone habitat. Together, these actions restore natural water movement, help the marsh build elevation over time, and give habitat room to move inland as sea level rises.

The project will also improve 1.36 miles of trails and amenities at Rush Ranch. Rush Ranch's northern trails and levee routes are currently in poor condition. Sections of the Goat Island Marsh levee trail are closed because the levee is eroding and unsafe, many existing earthen trails are uneven or seasonally muddy, and drainage structures have failed, making access difficult for visitors, school groups, and people with limited mobility. The area also lacks adequate seating, overlooks, and interpretive elements, and some trails run through sensitive marsh-upland transition zones.

The project addresses these issues by rebuilding a clearer, safer, and more resilient trail network. The project will relocate trails out of sensitive areas, repair deteriorated crossings, add accessible routes, and create new overlooks and wildlife viewing areas. These

improvements will expand opportunities for visitors to experience the restored marsh while reducing ecological impacts and ensuring long-term, climate-resilient public access.

Two existing trails between the Headquarters area and Overlook Hill will be raised, resurfaced with compacted aggregate, and improved for drainage so they remain passable year-round and improve accessibility (Exhibit 3, Figure 4). From there, a newly realigned and accessible trail will lead to Overlook Hill. The realignment will move the trail out of sensitive marsh-upland transition zone habitat, increase accessibility by creating a more stable trail surface and provide improved views of Goat Island Marsh. At the top, visitors will find upgraded seating, interpretive signs, and connections to both accessible and traditional trail options. Along the southern edge of the marsh, the project will raise and resurface the South Levee Trail and connect it to a new 750-foot elevated boardwalk, providing sweeping views of the restored marsh and Suisun Slough. The boardwalk will widen at key points to create outdoor classrooms, seating areas, wildlife-viewing platforms, and other gathering spaces.

To the north, the existing Marsh Trail ranch road will remain unchanged, but the severely eroded Suisun Hill Hollow crossing will be rebuilt by adding a sturdy rock base for ranch use, a raised wooden walkway for pedestrians, new fencing to keep cattle and people on separate paths, and accessible timber chicanes (two staggered barriers, also known as maze gates) that eliminate the need for gates. Further upslope, a new loop trail around Northwest Hill will replace aging trail segments near the marsh and provide a gently graded route with several scenic overlooks.

In 2024, SLT held a well-attended workshop with 22 leaders from 17 local and regional organizations to gather input on trail design, access needs, and visitor amenities. Organizations ranged from schools and park agencies to conservation groups and local businesses. Additional one-on-one conversations and outreach through SLT's Access for All, Inclusion and Belonging, and Project Committees further refined the design, ensuring the project reflects community priorities for accessible trails, water access, viewpoints, educational spaces, and habitat protection.

The project includes community engagement through volunteer participation, youth education, and coordination with the Solano County Office of Education, Solano Resource Conservation District (RCD), and San Francisco Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (SF Bay NERR) partners. Over the five-year project period, more than 15,000 K-12 students are expected to participate in field trips and science programming, alongside volunteers and community members who will help with monitoring, restoration plantings, and stewardship activities. The project also expands workforce development opportunities through annual paid high-school internships that provide training in ecological restoration, monitoring, and natural resource management.

Site Description: Goat Island Marsh is part of Rush Ranch, a 2,070-acre preserve located within Suisun Marsh, one of the largest, contiguous marshes on the West Coast, composed mostly of diked and managed wetlands. The property is owned and managed by SLT, with co-management support from the SF Bay NERR. Habitats include ancient tidal marsh, diked wetlands, seasonal wetlands, and upland grasslands, forming a diverse mosaic of habitats that

support numerous state and federally listed species. Grassland habitat also supports grazing activities.

Goat Island Marsh was diked off in the 1930s for duck hunting. Under current muted tidal conditions, the site now supports low species diversity, limited hydrologic exchange, expanding invasive plant cover, and deteriorating levees and tide gates. Currently, water levels inside the marsh rise and fall only about half a foot to one foot each day, far less than the five-foot tidal range in nearby sloughs. During a winter 2024 storm tide, high water overtopped the low sections of the levee and took a full day to drain, showing how the old levees trap water and reduce habitat quality for native plant and wildlife species such as Suisun thistle, soft bird's beak, salt marsh harvest mouse, Suisun shrew, Suisun Song Sparrow, and Ridgway's rail.

Goat Island Marsh is bordered on the east by a broad gently sloping transition zone. This broad upland buffer provides rare space for future marsh migration as sea level rises, allowing habitats to shift upslope. The marsh plain's current elevation and the gradual upland slope make the project area particularly resilient to mid-century sea level rise projections, even without accounting for sediment accretion.

Rush Ranch is also located within a short distance of disadvantaged communities in Fairfield and Suisun City, making its trails, educational facilities, and public programming an important local resource for outdoor learning, recreation, and nature access.

Grant Applicant Qualifications: SLT has extensive experience administering state, federal, and private grants and implementing complex restoration and public access projects. SLT has successfully managed multi-year, multi-partner projects across its 22,000 acres of protected lands, regularly coordinating with regulatory agencies, technical consultants, and community partners. For this project, SLT has already led the planning phase under a San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority grant, keeping the project on schedule and within budget while advancing design, permitting, and community outreach.

For long-term stewardship, SLT has committed to maintaining both the restored marsh and the improved public access features. The organization is actively planning for an endowment to support ongoing maintenance needs. Long-term ecological monitoring will be conducted in partnership with the SF Bay NERR, and the site will become a Project Monitoring Site under the Wetlands Regional Monitoring Program (WRMP), which has pledged staff time and technical support.

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA

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

Selection Criteria

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

See the "Consistency with Conservancy's Strategic Plan" section below.

2. Project is a good investment of state resources.

The project is a strong investment of state resources because it delivers significant ecological, climate, and community benefits; is highly feasible; and aligns with multiple regional and statewide priorities. The project will restore critical tidal marsh and transition-zone habitats that support numerous listed species and contribute to the ecological health of Suisun Marsh, one of the most extensive wetland systems on the West Coast. The project directly advances restoration goals identified in the Tidal Marsh Ecosystem Recovery Plan and the Suisun Marsh Habitat Management, Preservation, and Restoration Plan, both of which call for tidal restoration at Rush Ranch. The project also supports statewide climate goals, including California's 30x30 initiative, by restoring wetlands with high carbon storage potential and improving a rare intact wetland and upland transition zone.

The project is feasible, all pre-implementation activities have been funded, and the project will be ready for implementation by September 2026. Through a previous San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority grant to SLT, the project has advanced to 50 percent construction drawings, completed CEQA review, and made substantial progress in permitting through the multi-agency Bay Restoration Regulatory Integration Team process. That same grant is also supporting community engagement, preparation of final designs and engineering plans, development of an adaptive management plan, and completion of remaining permit applications. Together, these efforts significantly increase the project's readiness and make eventual construction more likely. The restoration approach, including levee breaching, tidal channel improvements, invasive plant control, and phased revegetation, is modeled after proven regional best practices, and the site's broad transition zone provides favorable conditions for long-term restoration success in the face of sea-level rise.

The project leverages significant non-state support, including monitoring commitments from the SF Bay NERR and WRMP, community volunteer engagement, and partnerships with local schools and youth programs. Over the project duration, more than 15,250 K-12 students and 38 volunteers will participate in education and stewardship activities, strengthening public connection to Suisun Marsh.

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

The Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation has been an active participant in project planning, has provided a letter of interest, and participated in an on-site walk to identify opportunities for cultural stewardship. Discussions have included tule gathering, cultural burns, interpretive storytelling, and design of culturally relevant educational elements. The project team will continue collaborating with the Tribe to ensure their perspectives are reflected in restoration and access design. This engagement demonstrates good-faith partnership and supports the Tribe's cultural and ecological priorities at Rush Ranch.

4. Project benefits will be sustainable or resilient over the project lifespan.

The project is designed to be resilient to sea level rise through mid-century and beyond. Current modeling shows that Goat Island Marsh will stay healthy and vegetated with about 0.8

feet of sea level rise expected by mid-century. The wide transition zone next to the marsh gives it room to move uphill as water levels rise, even with about 3.1 feet of rise by the end of the century. Public access features like trails will be constructed high enough to stay above the high tide levels projected for 2080 (9.4 feet NAVD88), giving them roughly 50 years of resilience under mid-range sea-level estimates. Expanded tidal channels will improve sediment distribution, so sediment can move more naturally through the marsh. This will allow the marsh to build elevation over time and maintain healthy habitat. Together, these design choices help ensure both the ecosystem and public access can continue to thrive as climate conditions change.

5. Project delivers multiple benefits and significant positive impact.

The project will provide significant benefits for the environment, the climate, and the community. It will restore tidal marsh, seasonal wetlands, and transitional zone habitat, helping protected species and improving wildlife movement across Rush Ranch and Suisun Marsh. The design also helps the marsh naturally build elevation and shift inland as sea levels rise, which supports long-term climate resilience. In addition, the restored wetlands and native plants will help store carbon and support healthier ecosystems. Altogether, these connected benefits make the project an important contributor to conservation efforts both locally and statewide.

Public access is improved through better trails, expanding nature access for nearby communities, including disadvantaged neighborhoods in Fairfield and Suisun City. The project also strengthens youth education by supporting outdoor science programs for about 10,000 K-12 students each year, offering paid summer internships for high school students, and engaging volunteers and educators across the region.

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

The project builds on extensive community engagement completed during the planning phase. In 2024, SLT convened a workshop with 22 leaders from 17 organizations, including local agencies, educators, recreation groups, conservation nonprofits, and community organizations. Participants emphasized priorities such as accessible trails, shaded rest areas, interpretive elements, and better opportunities to experience marsh wildlife—features that will be incorporated into the final design. Additional consultation with school districts, outdoor education providers, Solano RCD, SF Bay NERR partners, and inclusion-focused committees further shaped project elements.

PROJECT FINANCING

Coastal Conservancy	**$3,095,000**
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	$3,995,310
Project Total	**$7,090,310**

Conservancy funds are anticipated to come from the Fiscal Year 2025/26 appropriation from the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 (2024 Climate Bond, or Proposition 4), codified at Public Resource Code Sections 90000-

95015. These funds are available as described in Section 92010, which describes the purposes of Proposition 4 coastal resilience funds, including grants and expenditures to protect, restore, and increase the resilience of beaches, bays, coastal dunes, wetlands, coastal forests, watersheds, trails, and public access facilities. The term "protection" includes restoration, preservation, and site monitoring as well as "those actions necessary to prevent harm or damage to persons, property, or natural, cultural, and historic resources; actions to improve access to public open-space areas; or actions to allow the continued use and enjoyment of property or natural, cultural, and historic resources" (PRC Section 90100(h)). In addition, funds made available pursuant to Section 92010 may be allocated to projects for purposes of the San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program established pursuant to Chapter 4.5 (commencing with Section 31160) of Division 21 (Section 92010(1)(5)), which addresses the resource and recreational goals of the San Francisco Bay Area, as identified in Public Resource Code Section 31162, in a coordinated, comprehensive, and effective way.

The project is consistent with this funding source because it is a coastal resilience project located within the San Francisco Bay Area, addressing resource and recreational goals of the San Francisco Bay Area; namely, restoring tidal marsh, seasonal wetlands, and adjacent transition zones; enhancing habitat connectivity within Suisun Marsh; improving climate resilience by supporting marsh accretion and landward migration; and expanding equitable public access through improved trails. The project is also consistent with the goals of the San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program, as discussed in the "Consistency with Conservancy's Enabling Legislation" section, below.

Solano Land Trust is expected to provide in-kind support for the project through both volunteer participation and ongoing stewardship funded by two Rush Ranch endowments. Volunteer contributions represent the most direct form of in-kind service. Based on prior estimates, the project is expected to involve approximately 38 volunteers contributing about 16 hours per year over five years, totaling roughly 3,040 hours. Using the 2024 California volunteer rate of $40.14 per hour, this contribution is valued at approximately $122,026. In addition, Rush Ranch receives about $50,000 per year from two endowments that support facilities, maintenance, and staff time. While these funds benefit the broader Rush Ranch operation rather than the project exclusively, they provide indirect support for long-term stewardship of the site. Over five years, this endowment support is estimated at $250,000.

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

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S ENABLING LEGISLATION

The project is consistent with Chapter 4.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding the San Francisco Bay Area Program. Pursuant to Section 31162, the Conservancy is authorized to award grants in the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area that will help achieve the goals of

the San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program. These goals include: improving public access to and around the bay through completion of regional and local trail systems (Section 31162(a)); protecting, restoring, and enhancing natural habitats and connecting corridors, watersheds, scenic areas, and other open-space resources of regional importance (Section 31162(b)); assisting in the implementation of adopted plans of local governments and special districts (Section 31162(c)); and promoting, assisting, and enhancing projects that provide open space and natural areas accessible to urban populations for recreational and educational purposes (Section 31162(d)).

The project is located in Solano County, which is within the nine-county Bay Area, and is consistent with Section 31162(a) because it improves public access to the Bay by constructing new public access facilities, upgraded crossings, rest areas, and trail improvements designed to expand safe public access within Rush Ranch. These improvements enhance public enjoyment and understanding of the Suisun Marsh landscape while maintaining compatibility with habitat restoration priorities.

The project is consistent with Section 31162(b) because it will restore and enhance regionally significant tidal marsh, transition-zone, and seasonal wetland habitats within Suisun Marsh by breaching levees, expanding tidal channels, constructing marsh ponds, reducing invasive plant cover, restoring native vegetation, and improving hydrologic function across approximately 89 acres. The project will also enhance the climate resilience of these habitat zones by facilitating landward marsh migration, increasing sediment transport and elevation gain potential, and supporting numerous state and federally listed species including Suisun thistle, soft bird's beak, salt marsh harvest mouse, and the Suisun shrew.

The project is consistent with Section 31162(c) because it helps implement regional and local resource management plans, including the Rush Ranch Master Plan, the Tidal Marsh Ecosystem Recovery Plan, and the Suisun Marsh Habitat Management, Preservation, and Restoration Plan, all of which expressly call for tidal restoration at Rush Ranch and restoration of upland-marsh connectivity and transition zones to support climate resilience and species recovery. The project also helps implement the ecological goals of the San Francisco Bay Plan, by restoring degraded wetland habitat and supporting climate-resilient management.

The project is consistent with Section 31162(d) because it will provide open space and natural areas accessible to nearby urban communities through improvements to 1.36 miles of public access trails, upgraded crossings, rest areas, and viewing points designed to enhance visitor experience and support educational programming. Rush Ranch is located within 1-10 miles of the disadvantaged communities of Suisun City and Fairfield, and enhanced public access will continue to support more than 10,000 K-12 students annually, high school interns, and community visitors participating in outdoor education and stewardship programs.

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S 2023-2027 STRATEGIC PLAN

Consistent with **Goal 1.4 Incorporate Workforce Development**, the proposed project includes hands-on restoration and public access construction experience for high school interns, youth

education partners, and volunteers, providing training in ecological restoration, monitoring, and natural resource stewardship.

Consistent with **Goal 2.4 Build Trails and Goal 2.5 Recreation Facilities & Amenities**, the proposed project will improve 1.36 miles of public access trails, relocate vulnerable trail segments, and add rest areas and viewing points.

Consistent with **Goal 3.2 Restore or Enhance Habitats**, the proposed project will restore tidal marsh, seasonal wetland, and transition-zone habitats across approximately 89 acres at Rush Ranch, improving ecological function, supporting sensitive tidal marsh species, and enhancing resilience to sea-level rise.

Consistent with **Goal 4.1 Sea Level Rise Adaptation Projects**, the proposed project is designed to be resilient to mid-century and end-of-century sea-level rise projections by expanding tidal exchange, facilitating sediment accretion, and allowing tidal marsh habitat to migrate upslope. Public access facilities will be elevated or realigned to accommodate projected water levels through 2080, improving long-term shoreline resilience.

CEQA COMPLIANCE:

On January 21, 2016, the County of Solano, acting as lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), adopted the Rush Ranch Habitat Restoration, Facility Improvements, and Site Utilization Project Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) and the accompanying Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, and approved the overall Rush Ranch Habitat Restoration, Facility Improvements, and Site Utilization Project, which includes the Goat Island Marsh Tidal Restoration Project.

The proposed project is a component of the Rush Ranch Habitat Restoration, Facility Improvements, and Site Utilization Project analyzed in the IS/MND. Based on its independent review, staff concurs that there is no substantial evidence that the project, as conditioned, will have a significant effect on the environment.

The IS/MND identified potentially significant environmental effects in the areas of biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, noise, recreation, and public services. With the project's incorporated mitigation measures, summarized below, these environment effects will be less than significant.

Biological Resources

The IS/MND found that construction activities could affect special-status plant and wildlife species, sensitive habitat areas, wetlands, and tidal marsh features. The adopted mitigation measures include requirements for biological monitoring, pre-construction surveys, species-specific avoidance and relocation procedures, habitat protection measures, trail-siting constraints to protect soft bird's-beak, construction timing limits, and measures to protect sensitive marsh mammals and rare invertebrates.

Cultural Resources

An evaluation by the Archaeological Resource Service states that the potential for prehistoric settlements on the site is high. Ground-disturbing activities could affect previously unidentified archaeological or paleontological resources. The IS/MND requires either pre-construction archaeological testing or on-site monitoring during ground disturbance, along with procedures for halting work, evaluating finds, and implementing data recovery or protection measures if resources are discovered.

Geology and Soils

Construction activities associated with the project could result in soil disturbance, erosion, or exposure to geologic hazards. These impacts are avoided or reduced through required erosion control practices, adherence to site-specific geotechnical recommendations, and implementation of standard construction measures.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

Project activities involving vegetation removal, grading, and construction could involve limited use of fuels and other materials that, if improperly handled, could pose a hazard. The mitigation measures require implementation of hazardous materials management procedures, spill prevention and response measures, and compliance with state and local regulations governing handling of hazardous substances.

Hydrology and Water Quality

Potential impacts relating to hydrology and water quality could occur through erosion, sedimentation, or accidental releases during construction, as well as temporary increases in turbidity associated with levee breaching. The IS/MND requires preparation and implementation of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan, erosion and sediment control measures, construction best management practices, and restrictions on equipment staging and refueling.

Noise

Temporary increases in noise could occur during construction, including earthmoving, equipment operation, and other short-term activities. The IS/MND identifies these effects as potentially significant but mitigable through compliance with Solano County noise standards and implementation of standard construction noise controls.

Recreation

Construction activities and temporary trail closures associated with public access improvements could affect recreational use patterns. These effects are minimized through project design, scheduling, and the development of replacement or improved access facilities as restoration progresses.

Public Services

Implementation of the project could temporarily increase demand for public services such as fire protection, emergency response, and site management during construction activities. The IS/MND concludes that these effects do not exceed local service capacity and that standard

construction coordination and safety procedures will avoid or reduce impacts to a less-than-significant level.

With implementation of all mitigation measures identified in the IS/MND, environmental effects to biological resources, cultural and tribal cultural resources, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, noise, recreation, and public services will be less than significant. Staff recommends that the Conservancy find that the project as mitigated, avoids, reduces, or mitigates all potentially significant environmental effects to a level of less-than-significant and that there is no substantial evidence that the project will have a significant effect on the environment.

Upon approval of the project, Conservancy staff will file a Notice of Determination.