

COASTAL CONSERVANCY

Staff Recommendation

September 17, 2026

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT WILDFIRE RESILIENCE AUGMENTATION

Project No. 24-027-01

Project Manager: Kostoula Vallianos

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Authorization to disburse up to \$100,000 to the East Bay Regional Park District (Park District) to augment the grant of \$2,075,000 authorized by the Conservancy on September 5, 2024 for wildfire resilience fuel reduction treatments, shaded fuel break development, and equipment purchases, and to expand the project to include developing a wildfire treatment prioritization framework and related management tools for all Park District land and to conduct a prioritization planning workshop for local public entities and nonprofit organizations.

LOCATION: Alameda and Contra Costa Counties

EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1: [Project Location Map](#)

Exhibit 2: [September 5, 2024 Staff Recommendation](#)

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 one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) to the East Bay Regional Park District (the “grantee”) to augment the grant of \$2,075,000 authorized by the Conservancy on September 5, 2024, for a total authorization of two million one hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars (\$2,175,000) for wildfire fuel reduction treatments, shaded fuel break development, and equipment purchases (the “project”); and to expand the project to include developing a wildfire treatment prioritization framework and related management tools for all of grantee’s lands and conducting a workshop on prioritization planning for other local public entities and nonprofit organizations. This authorization is subject to the same conditions as set forth in the Conservancy’s September 5, 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 remains consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

PROJECT SUMMARY

Staff recommends the Conservancy authorize disbursement of \$100,000 to the East Bay Regional Park District (Park District) to augment the grant authorized by the Conservancy on September 5, 2024 for wildfire resilience fuel reduction treatments, shaded fuel break development, and equipment purchases (the project), and to expand the project to include developing a wildfire treatment prioritization framework and related management tools for all Park District lands and to conduct a workshop on prioritization planning for other local public entities and nonprofit organizations.

The project as originally authorized is ongoing and on track to be completed with the grant amount as originally authorized. The proposed augmentation will enable expansion of the project scope to develop a GIS-based vegetation management prioritization framework that will inform and drive all future wildfire fuel reduction work for the 126,000 acres of regional parklands managed by the Park District, including maintenance of the fuel reduction treatments and shaded fuel break that were funded by the September 5, 2024 authorization. This framework will emphasize natural and special status resources, incorporate the objectives of multiple Park District departments, and integrate datasets, such as fine scale vegetation data, wildfire hazard modeling and historic data, weather, topography, Park District infrastructure, and critical fire routes. As part of the project, the Park District will also develop an ArcGIS-based online web map and web app to support the Park District's planning, prioritization, and future field work and implementation. Such future field work and implementation are not included in the project.

The California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force has prioritized the development of regional wildfire resilience priority plans across the state. Conservancy partners spearheading regional priority planning include groups, such as resource conservation districts, fire safe councils and regional collaboratives. Many of these partners working on these plans have access to similar datasets as the Park District's. The consultants creating the Park District's framework will also conduct a virtual workshop for partners and offer limited technical assistance as part of the workshop for applying similar approaches to their regional priority plan areas.

Site Description: The East Bay Regional Park District manages over 126,000 acres of regional parklands across 73 parks in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. Parklands include 1,330 miles

of trails for walking, biking and horseback riding, as well as picnic areas, campgrounds, swim facilities, golf courses, and other recreation. Ecosystems across these parklands are biodiverse and include common and rare habitats of the Diablo and Coastal Range, such as grazed rangelands, oak woodlands and savanna, coastal and lowland marsh, upland meadowlands and rare native grasslands, serpentine prairie, coastal redwood, coastal sage scrub, many rare shrub alliances, and various riparian habitats. Parklands often abut development, particularly in the East Bay hills, creating the wildland urban interface.

Grant Applicant Qualifications: See Exhibit 2

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY’S PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA

The proposed project remains consistent with the Conservancy’s Project Selection Criteria, last updated on September 23, 2021, as described in the September 5, 2024 staff recommendation (Exhibit 2).

PROJECT FINANCING

Coastal Conservancy	\$100,000
Coastal Conservancy (previous authorization)	\$2,075,000
East Bay Regional Park District	\$376,965
Project Total	\$2,551,965

The anticipated source of funding comes from a \$20 million block grant to the Coastal Conservancy from the California Department of Conservation under its Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program (RFFCP). The goal of the RFFCP is to increase regional capacity to prioritize, develop, and implement projects that improve forest health and fire resiliency. The Conservancy’s block grant can fund projects from Marin County south to Ventura County. The project is consistent with the RFFCP block grant because it includes mapping out and prioritizing strategic fuel treatment areas across regional parklands and providing Conservancy partners with a virtual workshop to support future fuel management projects.

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 proposed project remains consistent with the Conservancy’s Enabling Legislation as described in the September 5, 2024 staff recommendation (Exhibit 2).

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

The proposed project remains consistent with the Conservancy's Strategic Plan as described in the September 5, 2024 staff recommendation (Exhibit 2).

CEQA COMPLIANCE

The proposed scope augmentation is statutorily exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Section 15262 (Feasibility and Planning Studies), which exempts planning and feasibility studies for possible future actions that have not been approved, adopted, or funded and that consider environmental factors. The project is consistent with this section because it includes compiling data and mapping out potential treatment areas for possible future actions that have not been approved, adopted, or funded and it will consider environmental factors.

The project is also categorically exempt from review under CEQA, pursuant to Title 14 of the CCR, Section 15306 (Information Collection), which exempts basic data collection, research, and resource evaluation activities that do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. The project is consistent with this section because it includes gathering and organizing information, and it will not result in disturbance to environmental resources.

The project is also exempt from review under the CEQA, pursuant to Title 14 of the CCR, Section 15061(b)(3), which exempts projects that can be seen with certainty as having no possibility of having a significant effect on the environment. The project includes conducting a virtual workshop on the information gathered and mapping developed. Thus, the project can be seen with certainty as having no possibility of having a significant effect on the environment.

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