

State Coastal Conservancy 2014 ANNUAL REPORT



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER

2014 was a good year for California's coast. The Coastal Conservancy supported more than 80 projects in all parts of the coast with awards totaling more than \$23 million, leveraging more than \$46 million from the federal and local governments and private organizations. The projects are protecting and improving natural lands, helping people enjoy the outdoors, and enabling communities to prepare for climate change.



November's passage of Proposition 1 by the State's voters will provide the Conservancy with \$100 million in the coming years to support water quality, water supply, and watershed protection and restoration projects—we'll put that money to good use. We're also pleased with the Legislature's passage of SB 1390, which created the Santa Ana River Conservancy Program at the Conservancy to support continued development of the Santa Ana River Parkway.



Sharon Walker

decentjoyce

In 2014 the Conservancy helped purchase and protect almost 14,000 acres of beautifully scenic natural lands from Los Angeles to Humboldt counties, all slated to be open to the public. We helped extend the California Coastal Trail—including nine miles in the Palos Verdes Peninsula and one very spectacular mile at Devil's Slide. We also helped

grow and improve the San Francisco Bay Trail and the Bay Area Ridge Trail and completed plans for neighborhood links to the San Diego River Trail.

For fish and flood control we literally moved a river, diverting the path of the Carmel River to allow removal of the obsolete and unsafe San Clemente Dam. We celebrated the 15th year of work by the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project, a Conservancy-managed coalition of 18 government agencies that has undertaken almost 300 projects to protect and improve coastal wetlands in the South Coast. In Ventura County we worked quickly to provide \$2 million for emergency shoreline stabilization at Hueneme Beach.

In San Francisco Bay we had lots to celebrate: completion of Phase I of the 15,000-acre South Bay Salt Ponds

restoration, levee breaching to begin the natural restoration process of the Hamilton Wetlands, and the beginning of construction to restore more than 2,300-acres of wetlands and neighboring wildlands at Sears Point. We also transferred the 322-acre Sonoma Baylands property to the San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge, marking the close (monitoring aside) of more than 20 years of Conservancy work on this pioneering wetlands restoration project.

2015 promises to be busy as ever, opening with a slew of new grants to help coastal communities prepare for the effects of climate change. We're looking forward to a wealth of opportunities for improving California's coast for everyone who lives in or visits this incredible part of the world.

Sam Schuchat, *Executive Officer*



Tom Gandsbery

Hamilton Wetlands



Alison Taggart-Barone

Baker Beach Community Shuttle



California American Water

San Clemente Dam

Getting Outdoors!

In 2014 the Coastal Conservancy funded more than two dozen projects to help people get to and enjoy beaches, parks, and natural lands. The projects ranged from reconstruction of the **Del Mar Shores beach stairway** in Solana Beach to improvements to **Beachfront Park** in Crescent City. In between are projects to renovate the **Cayucos Pier** in San Luis Obispo County and improve **Twin Lakes State Beach** near Santa Cruz, **Franklin Canyon** in Hercules, and the **Lost Coast Headlands** near Ferndale. The Conservancy also funded plans for a new park in San Francisco's **India Basin** and an extension of **McLaughlin Eastshore State Park** into Albany.

The Conservancy continued its long-term support for the **California Coastal Trail** by funding several projects for its extension and improvement. In 2014 nine miles of the trail were completed on the **Palos Verdes Peninsula** and new sections of the trail were opened at **Devil's Slide** and **Wavcrest** in San Mateo County. In Fort Bragg, construction began on the long-anticipated **Ka Kahleh Coastal Trail**, which will open the city's waterfront to the public for the first time in generations.

The Conservancy also funded additions and improvements to regional trail systems including the San Diego River Trail, the Trans-Catalina Trail on Santa Catalina Island, the San Francisco Bay Trail, and the Bay Area Ridge Trail. The Bay Trail grew by almost a mile between Napa and American Canyon and improvements and additions to the Ridge Trail were celebrated at El Corte de Madera Creek Open Space Preserve in San Mateo County and Sierra Vista Open Space Preserve in Santa Clara County.

More than two dozen of the 52 organizations that received Coastal Conservancy Explore the Coast grants in 2013 put that funding to work in 2014. Over 3,500 students and hundreds of adults, most from underserved

Pismo Preserve



Twin Lakes State Beach



Axisworks

communities, participated in field trips to many parts of the coast where they were treated to boat cruises, guided tours, and educational programs. Hundreds of volunteers helped restore sites along the coast and San Francisco Bay, and Humboldt County students created signs encouraging the protection of coastal lands. Several community events—including celebrations of tall ships and a kite festival—brought people to the coast and engaged them in educational activities and pure fun.

Parklands

The In 2014 the Conservancy helped acquire thousands of acres of scenic natural lands that are slated for opening to the public. The acquisitions include 700 acres of Puerco Canyon in the Santa Monica Mountains, a 29-acre addition to the Ventura River Parkway, the spectacular 878-acre Pismo Preserve above Pismo Beach, a 317-acre addition to Palo Corona Regional Park near Point Lobos, the 174-acre Loma Mar property in the Santa



Rob DeGraff



Baker Beach Community Shuttle

Alison Taggart-Barone



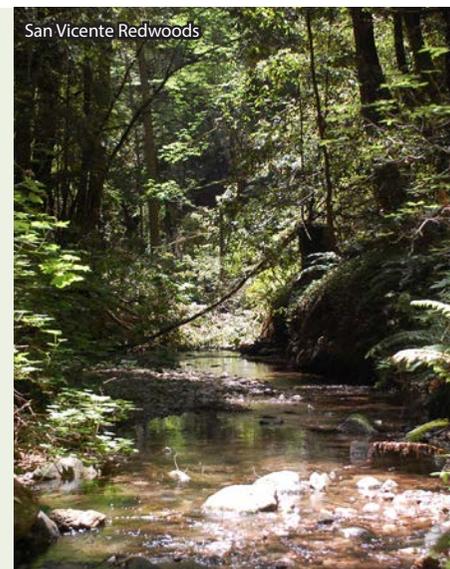
Bair Island

Jitze Couperus



Family Discovery Days at San Elijo Lagoon

Jac Flanders



San Vicente Redwoods

Stephen Slade



Otis Kite Festival at Santa Monica Pier

Allison Knight Images.com

Cruz Mountains, a 1,830-acre addition to the Coyote Ridge Open Space Preserve in Santa Clara County, the 238-acre Pole Mountain on the Sonoma Coast, the 1,005-acre McKay Community Forest in Eureka, and a conservation easement over the 8,500-acre San Vicente Redwoods near Davenport. Pending acquisitions funded in 2014 include two acres of beachfront land in Arena Cove just south of Point Arena Pier and 14 acres at the mouth of Little River south of Trinidad.

Land and Water Conservation

Several projects supported by the Conservancy in 2014 are removing barriers to fish migration in rivers and creeks so that salmon and trout can return to historic spawning and rearing habitats. The Conservancy is also helping with the purchase of more than 4,000 acres in the watershed of Blue Creek, a tributary of the

Lower Klamath River, for management as a salmon sanctuary by the Yurok Tribe.

Six Community Wetland Restoration Program projects, administered by the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project, are enlisting the help of local volunteers to restore wildlife habitats from San Diego to Santa Barbara counties. Other projects are aimed at improving a salt marsh in Seal Beach and the Aliso Creek estuary in Orange County, restoring green abalone populations in Los Angeles County, sustaining populations of California sea otters in the Central Coast, and restoring wetlands along the San Francisco Bay shoreline.

In 2014 the Conservancy completed habitat restoration projects in the Central Coast's Elkhorn Slough, along the Napa River, and at the Hamilton Wetlands in Novato. In San Francisco Bay construction began on restoration of Breuner Marsh in Contra Costa County and Sears Point in Sonoma County.

Climate Change

Twenty cities, counties, and nonprofit organizations from San Diego to Humboldt County are getting a jump on reducing risks from a warming climate and rising sea levels thanks to \$3 million from the Conservancy's Climate Ready Program awarded in 2014. The program's first grant round is supporting projects that are helping communities plan for areas vulnerable to sea level rise, reduced water availability, and increased risk of flooding, erosion, and fire. Several of the projects are promoting ways to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change and examining ways to remove those gasses from the atmosphere.



San Diego Festival of Sail

Joanna Poe



Santa Cruz Open Streets

Karen Kefauver



Carmel Beach restroom

Douglas Steakley



Garrapata State Park — Coastal Trail Work Crew

John Hiles



Mendota Students at Morro Bay

Tim Duff

The Coastal Conservancy is a State agency, established in 1976, that protects and improves natural lands and waterways, helps people get to and enjoy coastal areas, and sustains local economies along California's coast. The Conservancy works along the entire length of the coast, within the watersheds of rivers and streams that extend inland from the coast, and throughout the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area. The Conservancy is non-regulatory and achieves its goals by joining forces with local communities, nonprofit organizations, other government agencies, businesses, and private landowners.

Lost Coast Headlands — Fleener Creek Valley



Bureau of Land Management

MEMBERS OF THE COASTAL CONSERVANCY — 2014

- Douglas Bosco, Chairman, Public Member
- Marisa Moret, Public Member (to May)
- Sara Ramirez Giroux, Public Member (beginning May)
- Ann Notthoff, Public Member
- Peter Sadowski, Public Member
- John Laird, Secretary for Natural Resources; Bryan Cash (Designated)
- Steve Kinsey, Coastal Commission Chair; Susan Hansch (Designated)
- Michael Cohen, Director, Department of Finance; Karen Finn (Designated)

Contacts:

- Sam Schuchat, Executive Officer
(510) 286-0523; sam.schuchat@scc.ca.gov
- Deborah Ruddock, Legislative Liaison
(510) 286-4168; deborah.ruddock@scc.ca.gov
- Dick Wayman, Communications Director
(510) 286-4182; dick.wayman@scc.ca.gov
- 1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, California 94612-2530
(510) 286-1015
- Visit our website: <http://scc.ca.gov>



In 2014 the Conservancy helped purchase and protect almost 14,000 acres of scenic natural lands.

Rob DeGraff

