

COASTAL CONSERVANCY

Staff Recommendation
January 29, 2004

SEASIDE BEACH AND MEADOW: MANAGEMENT PLANNING & DESIGN

File No. 03-159
Project Manager: Moira McEnespy

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Redirect up to \$8,016 that the Conservancy previously authorized to Coastal Land Trust in June 2001 to acquire an additional parcel at Seaside Beach (Seaside Meadow), to conduct management planning and design tasks for Seaside Beach and Meadow.

LOCATION: Seaside Beach and Meadow, north of the City of Fort Bragg, just north of Ten Mile River, Mendocino County (Exhibits 1 and 2)

PROGRAM CATEGORY: Public Access

EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1: Location Map

Exhibit 2: Site Map

Exhibit 3: August 2, 2001 staff recommendation

RESOLUTION AND FINDINGS:

Staff recommends that the State Coastal Conservancy adopt the following resolution pursuant to Sections 31000 *et seq.* of the Public Resources Code:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby redirects disbursement of up to eight thousand sixteen dollars (\$8,016) previously granted by the Conservancy in June 2001 to the Coastal Land Trust to acquire an additional parcel at Seaside Beach (known as Seaside Meadow), to conduct management planning and design tasks for the Seaside Beach and Meadow property.”

Staff further recommends that the Conservancy adopt the following finding:

“Based on the accompanying staff report and attached exhibits, the State Coastal Conservancy hereby finds that the proposed project remains consistent with Chapter 9 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding a system of public accessways to and along the coast, and with the Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines adopted by the Conservancy on January 24, 2001.”

PROJECT SUMMARY:

Staff recommends that the Conservancy redirect up to \$8,016 that the Conservancy previously authorized to Coastal Land Trust (CoLT) in June 2001 to acquire an additional parcel at Seaside Beach (known as Seaside Meadow), to conduct management planning and design tasks for Seaside Beach and Meadow.

CoLT acquired the Seaside Meadow parcel in February 2002 with Conservancy funding. The \$8,016 remaining from the original acquisition grant would, pursuant to this authorization, enable CoLT to draft a management plan for the Meadow parcel. The plan will address removal of exotic vegetation, restoration and enhancement of native plants, wetlands protection, fencing, drainage, trails, and feasibility of restrooms and parking. The plan will also contain recommendations for the Beach parcel, including a barrier to prevent vehicular beach access, and parking. In addition, CoLT will prepare a Request for Proposals for the parking lots, the vehicular access barrier, and restroom design.

At the time of the acquisition grant, staff anticipated that CoLT would return to the Conservancy with a request for additional funding for design and construction of access-related facilities at Seaside Beach and Meadow. As there are additional funds remaining in CoLT's existing acquisition grant, staff is recommending that they be redirected to cover these management planning and design costs.

Site Description: The 6.5-acre Seaside Meadow property contains a coastal stream, seasonal wetland area, and coastal grasslands on the eastern side of Highway 1, and a narrow strip of beach sand on the western side (abutting the Seaside Beach property). Seaside Meadow supports a diverse population of plant and animal species in and along the stream and surrounding environment. The property offers extensive coastal and inland views. Nearby land uses include agriculture and recreation, with a large-lot residential development on bluffs to the north and south of the low-lying beach area.

Project History: In 1999, CoLT acquired the eight-acre Seaside Beach via donation. In December of that year, the Conservancy authorized funds to CoLT to conduct management planning tasks for Seaside Beach. In February 2002, the Conservancy authorized additional funds to CoLT to acquire the adjacent 6.5-acre Seaside Meadow parcel, as an addition to Seaside Beach. Seaside Meadow offers scenic views, coastal stream habitat, and developable space for access amenities and parking.

PROJECT FINANCING:

No additional funds are being authorized through this staff recommendation. Previous funding authorizations are as follows:

Coastal Conservancy	<u>\$180,000</u>
Total Project Cost	\$180,000

Funds currently encumbered are from Proposition 12, the "Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2000," specifically appropriated for Mendocino County coast projects.

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S ENABLING LEGISLATION:

In its previous authorization, the Conservancy found the project to be consistent with Chapter 9 of Division 21 of the Conservancy's enabling legislation (Public Resources Code Sections 31400 *et seq.*), and those findings apply equally to use of Conservancy funding pursuant to the recommended action. (See Exhibit 3.)

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL(S) & OBJECTIVE(S):

Consistent with **Goal 2 Objective A**, the proposed authorization will enable CoLT to improve public access amenities at Seaside Beach and Meadow.

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA & GUIDELINES:

In its previous authorization, the Conservancy determined that the project is consistent with the Conservancy's Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines adopted January 24, 2001. These determinations apply equally to the management planning and design tasks which comprise this project. (See Exhibit 3.)

CONSISTENCY WITH LOCAL COASTAL PROGRAM POLICIES:

The project remains consistent with the Mendocino County Local Coastal Program (LCP), certified by the Coastal Commission on September 10, 1992. (See Exhibit 3.)

COMPLIANCE WITH CEQA:

The proposed project is statutorily and categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to 14 Cal. Code of Regulations (1) Section 15262 in that it involves only feasibility or planning studies for possible future actions which the Conservancy has not approved, adopted, or funded; and (2) §15306 in that it involves basic data collection, research, and resource evaluation activities which will not result in any disturbance to an environmental resource, and which will be undertaken as part of a study leading to an action which the Conservancy has not yet approved, adopted, or funded. Staff will file a Notice of Exemption upon approval of the project.