

**STATE COASTAL CONSERVANCY
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**

25 March 2004
10:00 a.m.

Council Chambers
City Hall
505 Forest Avenue
Laguna Beach, California

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Douglas Bosco (Public Member), Acting Chairman
Jeremy M. Hallisey (Public Member)
Gary Hernandez (Public Member)
Fred Klass (Designated Representative, Department of Finance)
Mike Reilly (Chairman, Coastal Commission)
Karen Scarborough (Designated Representative, Resources Agency)

OVERSIGHT LEGISLATORS PRESENT:

There were no Oversight Legislators present.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Sam Schuchat, Executive Officer
Pat Peterson, Deputy Attorney General

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The Minutes of the February 19, 2004 Public Meeting were approved without change (Mr. Hernandez was not present).

3. LAGUNA COAST ACQUISITIONS:

Deborah Ruddock of the Conservancy staff presented the Staff Recommendation.

Speaking in favor of the Staff Recommendation: Michael Pinto, representing the Laguna Canyon Foundation; and Eric Jessen, Chief, Orange County Regional Harbors, Beaches, and Parks.

Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes:

1. The disbursement of an amount not to exceed eight hundred thousand dollars (\$800,000) to the City of Laguna Beach (“City”) for the acquisition of two properties adjacent to the Laguna Coast Wilderness Park (“LCWP”) commonly known

as the Trinity and Wainwright properties, County of Orange Assessors Parcels Nos. 641-411-01, -09, -10, -11 (Trinity), and 632-081-11 (Wainwright), consisting of approximately 36 and 34 acres, respectively.

2. The disbursement of an amount not to exceed one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) to the Laguna Canyon Foundation for acquisition expenses associated with future acquisition of properties near the LCWP.

The following conditions apply to the disbursement of funds for property acquisition:

1. Prior to the disbursement of any Conservancy funds for the acquisition of each of the respective properties, the City shall submit for the review and approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy ("the Executive Officer"):
 - a. All relevant acquisition documents, including without limitation, an appraisal, purchase agreement, escrow instructions, environmental assessment, and title report.
 - b. Evidence that sufficient funds are available to complete the acquisition.
 - c. Evidence of commitment by the County of Orange to manage the properties as part of the Laguna Coast Wilderness Park for public access and for wildlife habitat.
2. The City shall pay no more than fair market value for each property, as established in appraisals approved by the Executive Officer.
3. The City shall permanently dedicate the property for open space, public access and habitat preservation, through an appropriate instrument approved by the Executive Officer.
4. The City shall acknowledge Conservancy and Proposition 12 funding by erecting and maintaining signs on the properties, the design and location of which have been approved by the Executive Officer.

No funds shall be disbursed to the Laguna Canyon Foundation under this authorization until the Executive Officer has approved in writing a work program, including a final budget and timeline; and any contractors that the grantee intends to use."

Findings:

"Based on the accompanying staff report and attached exhibits, the State Coastal Conservancy hereby finds that:

1. The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code (Sections 31400-31409) with respect to public access. The proposed acquisitions will connect important coastal watershed and scenic areas in the Laguna Coast Wilderness Park area.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines adopted by the Conservancy on January 21, 2001.

3. The Laguna Canyon Foundation is a nonprofit organization existing under the provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code, and whose purposes are consistent with Division 21 of the Public Resources Code.
4. The proposed project would serve a greater-than-local need.”

Motion passed by a vote of 5-0 (Mr. Hernandez was not present for the vote).

4. BOLSA CHICA LOWLANDS RESTORATION:

Peter S. Brand of the Conservancy staff presented the Staff Recommendation.

Speaking in favor of the Staff Recommendation: Jim Trout, representing the Bolsa Chica Wetlands Steering Committee.

Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes disbursement of an amount not to exceed ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) to the State Lands Commission for the restoration of approximately 566 acres of the Bolsa Chica lowlands. This authorization is subject to the following conditions:

1. Prior to the disbursement of any funds, the State Lands Commission shall submit for the review and approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy a work program, schedule, budget and the names of any subcontractors to be employed in implementation of the restoration plan.
2. The expenditure of Conservancy funds shall be for the design, construction and management of the muted tidal basin, pocket muted tidal basin, nesting islands and groundwater barrier.”

Findings:

“Based on the accompanying staff report and attached exhibits, the State Coastal Conservancy hereby finds that:

1. The proposed project is consistent with Public Resources Code Section 31220 regarding the Conservancy’s mandate to improve and protect coastal and marine water quality and habitats.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines adopted by the Conservancy on January 24, 2001.
3. The proposed project is consistent with the purposes of the Integrated Watershed Management Program, as well as the Watershed Management Initiative for the Bolsa Chica Watershed Management Area and the Water Quality Control Plan, Santa Ana River Basin. The project includes a monitoring and evaluation component.
4. The Conservancy has independently reviewed the joint final Environmental Impact Report (“EIR”) adopted on January 30, 2002, by the California State Lands Commission as the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act

and final Environmental Impact Statement (“EIS”) adopted in 2002 by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as lead agencies under the National Environmental Policy Act for the Bolsa Chica restoration project. The final EIR/EIS and State Lands Commission’s Statement of Overriding Considerations are attached to the accompanying staff recommendation as Exhibit 4. The Conservancy finds that, with several exceptions, the project as modified avoids, reduces or mitigates the possible significant environmental effects to a level of insignificance. Further, with respect to the muted tidal basin, pocket muted tidal basin, nesting islands to be funded by the Conservancy grant, the Conservancy finds that the mitigation measures adopted by the lead agencies are sufficient to reduce to a level below significance environmental impacts from the proposed project. To the extent that environmental impacts could not be avoided or mitigated, the Conservancy adopts the California State Lands Commission Statement of Overriding Considerations.”

Motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

5. NCCP PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION: SAN DIEGO RIVER–CALMAT PROPERTY PHASE 2:

Marc Beyeler of the Conservancy staff presented the Staff Recommendation.

Speaking in favor of the Staff Recommendation: David Younkman, representing the San Diego River-Lakeside Conservancy.

Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of an amount not to exceed one million eight hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$1,850,000) to the San Diego River Park-Lakeside Conservancy (“SDRPLC”) for acquisition of property described the accompanying staff recommendation to implement the San Diego River Park: Lakeside Natural Communities Conservation Planning (“NCCP”) Enhancement Plan approved by the Conservancy on June 25, 2001; and to implement the Multiple Species Conservation Program, approved by the Conservancy on June 25, 1998, subject to the following conditions:

1. Prior to the disbursement of any funds, the Executive Officer of the Conservancy (“Executive Officer”) shall review and approve all relevant acquisition documents, including but not limited to an appraisal, agreement of purchase and sale and documents of title; and all other funds necessary to carry out the acquisition shall be provided.
2. The SDRPLC shall pay no more than fair market value for the property as established in an appraisal approved by the California Department of General Services.
3. The SDRPLC shall dedicate the property for natural resource protection, open space preservation and public access in an appropriate instrument approved by the Executive Officer.

4. Conservancy and Wildlife Conservation Board funding shall be acknowledged by erecting and maintaining a sign on the property, the design and location of which has been reviewed and approved by the Executive Officer.
5. All funds disbursed for this acquisition shall be paid from the Wildlife Conservation Board's NCCP grant to the Conservancy."

Findings:

"Based on the accompanying staff report and attached exhibits, the State Coastal Conservancy hereby finds that:

1. The proposed acquisition is consistent with and will help to carry out The Lakeside NCCP Enhancement Plan adopted by the Conservancy on June 25, 2001, pursuant to its authority under Public Resources Code Sections 31251-31270 regarding enhancement of coastal resources.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines adopted by the Conservancy on January 24, 2001.
3. The San Diego River Park-Lakeside Conservancy is a nonprofit organization existing under Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code, and whose purposes are consistent with Division 21 of the Public Resources Code"

Motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

6. GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS (GIS) MAPPING:

Marc Beyeler of the Conservancy staff presented the Staff Recommendation.

Resolution:

"The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of an amount not to exceed two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) to GreenInfo Network to assist the Coastal Conservancy in developing data layers, maps and related products using Geographic Information Systems, as described in the accompanying staff recommendation, subject to the condition that prior to the disbursement of any Conservancy funds, GreenInfo Network shall submit for review and approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy a work program, schedule and budget."

Findings:

"Based on the accompanying staff report and attached exhibits, the State Coastal Conservancy hereby finds that:

1. The proposed project is consistent with Section 31111 of the Public Resources Code, which authorizes the Conservancy to provide grant funding for plans and feasibility studies that implement the purposes of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, Sections 31000 *et seq.*

2. The proposed project is consistent with the Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines adopted by the Conservancy on January 24, 2001.
3. GreenInfo Network is a nonprofit organization existing under Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code, and whose purposes are consistent with Division 21 of the Public Resources Code.”

Motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

7. DEFOREST & DOMINGUEZ GAP WETLANDS: PRELIMINARY DESIGN:

Karen C. Bane of the Conservancy staff presented the Staff Recommendation.

Speaking in favor of the Staff Recommendation: Vic Bapna, representing the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works; and Dennis Eschen, representing the City of Long Beach.

Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes disbursement of an amount not to exceed four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000) to the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (DPW) to prepare the preliminary design and conduct environmental review for the DeForest and Dominguez Gap Wetlands project, subject to the condition that, prior to the disbursement of any funds, the DPW shall submit for the review and written approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy a work program, including scope of work, budget and schedule, and the names of any contractors it intends to use to conduct the project.”

Findings:

“Based on the accompanying staff report and attached exhibits, the State Coastal Conservancy hereby finds that:

1. The proposed project is consistent with the purposes and criteria set forth in Chapter 6 of the Public Resources Code (31251-31270) regarding enhancement of coastal resources.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines adopted by the Conservancy on January 24, 2001.”

Motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

8. HUNTINGTON BEACH WETLANDS RESTORATION PLAN:

Trish Chapman of the Conservancy staff presented the Staff Recommendation.

Speaking in favor of the Staff Recommendation: Gary Gorman, representing the Huntington Beach Wetlands Conservancy.

Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of an amount not to exceed three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) to the Huntington Beach Wetlands Conservancy (HBWC) to prepare a conceptual restoration plan for the Huntington Beach wetlands ecosystem from Beach Boulevard to the Santa Ana River, subject to the condition that prior to the disbursement of any funds, HBWC shall submit for the review and approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy a work program, budget, schedule and the names and qualifications of any contractors or subcontractors to be employed for these tasks.”

Findings:

“Based on the accompanying staff report and attached exhibits, the State Coastal Conservancy hereby finds that:

1. The proposed project is consistent with the purposes and criteria set forth in Chapter 6 of the Public Resources Code (31251-31270) regarding enhancement of coastal resources.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines adopted by the Conservancy on January 24, 2001.
3. The Huntington Beach wetlands have been identified in the City of Huntington Beach’s Local Coastal Plan as an environmentally sensitive habitat area which should be preserved and restored.
4. The Huntington Beach Wetlands Conservancy is a nonprofit organization existing under Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code, and whose purposes are consistent with Division 21 of the Public Resources Code.”

Motion passed by a vote of 5-0 (Mr. Klass was not present for the vote).

9. SOUTH BAY SALT POND RESTORATION PLANNING:

Amy Hutzel of the Conservancy staff presented the Staff Recommendation.

Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes disbursement of an amount not to exceed three million dollars (\$3,000,000) for technical studies, planning, data collection, and other work associated with the South San Francisco Bay Salt Pond Restoration planning. Prior to entering into each agreement for the disbursement of funds pursuant to this authorization, the Executive Officer shall enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Wildlife Conservation Board describing the relevant budget and work to be performed and providing for reimbursement of the Conservancy’s expenditures.”

Findings:

“Based on the accompanying staff report and attached exhibits, the State Coastal Conservancy hereby finds that:

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Public Resources Code Sections 31160 *et seq.*, regarding the Conservancy's mandate to address the resource and recreational goals of San Francisco Bay Area and with its authority under Public Resources Code Section 31104 to accept financial support from public and private sources.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines adopted by the Conservancy on January 24, 2001."

Motion passed by a vote of 5-0 (Mr. Hernandez was not present for the vote).

10. MONTINI ACQUISITION:

Maxene Spellman of the Conservancy staff presented the Staff Recommendation.

Speaking in favor of the Staff Recommendation: Kathleen Brennan Hunter, representing Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District.

Resolution:

"The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes disbursement of an amount not to exceed one million two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$1,250,000) to the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District ("the District") to acquire a 63-acre portion of the contiguous 152-acre Montini property in Sonoma County, Assessor Parcel Number 127-051-001, as shown on Exhibit 1 to the accompanying staff recommendation. This authorization is subject to the following conditions:

1. Prior to the disbursement of funds for acquisition, the District shall submit for the review and approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy all relevant acquisition documents, including but not limited to the appraisal, environmental assessments, agreement of purchase and sale, escrow instructions, title reports and documents of title necessary to the acquisition of the Montini property.
2. The District shall pay no more than fair market value for the Montini property as established in an appraisal approved by the Executive Officer.
3. The District shall permanently dedicate the portion of the Montini property acquired in fee title (Assessor Parcel Numbers 127-051-001 lower 63 acres, 018-011-015, 018-031-001, 018-071-007, 018-011-015) for open space, viewshed and public access, in a manner acceptable to the Executive Officer.
4. The District shall permanently dedicate through a Conservation Easement the portion of the Montini property defined by the upper 53 acres of Assessor Parcel Number 127-051-001, for open space, viewshed and agricultural preservation, in a manner acceptable to the Executive Officer.
5. The District shall acknowledge Conservancy funding by erecting and maintaining on the Montini property a sign that has been reviewed and approved by the Executive Officer."

Findings:

“Based on the accompanying staff report and attached exhibits, the State Coastal Conservancy hereby finds that:

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with the purposes and objectives of the San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program, Chapter 4.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code 31160-31164.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines adopted by the Conservancy on January 24, 2001.”

Motion passed by a vote of 4-0. Mr. Reilly recused himself from consideration of this item, and Mr. Hernandez was not present for the vote.

Mr. Bosco left the meeting. Mr. Hernandez became Acting Chairman.

11. PETALUMA MARSH RESTORATION EXPANSION:

Tom Gandesbery of the Conservancy staff presented the Staff Recommendation.

Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of an amount not to exceed one million six hundred fifty-nine thousand, three hundred one dollars (\$1,659,301) to Marin Audubon Society for implementation of Petaluma Marsh Expansion Project, subject to the following conditions:

1. Prior to the disbursement of any funds under this authorization, the Executive Officer shall review and approve in writing a work program and the names and qualifications of all contractors to be employed for the project.
2. Funds disbursed pursuant to this authorization shall be reimbursed by the California Department of Transportation, in the amount of one million, three hundred twenty thousand, three hundred one dollars (\$1,320,301), pursuant to an Interagency Agreement among the Conservancy, the Department of Transportation, and the Department of Fish and Game, providing for the restoration of 50 acres of tidal marsh by the Department of Transportation as mitigation for the unavoidable impacts of its Sonoma Creek Bridge Project; and in the amount of three hundred thirty-nine thousand dollars (\$339,000) by the Wildlife Conservation Board pursuant to a Memorandum of Understanding. The Executive Officer is authorized to enter into necessary amendments, memoranda or other agreements to carry out this authorization.
3. Marin Audubon Society shall erect signs on the property acknowledging the funding assistance of the Conservancy and its project partners, in a manner approved by the Executive Officer.”

Findings:

“Based on the accompanying staff report and attached exhibits, the State Coastal Conservancy hereby finds that:

1. The Petaluma River Marsh Expansion Project is consistent with the Conservancy’s authorization of June 25, 1988, accepting Caltrans mitigation funds and authorizing the preparation of a resource enhancement plan for the restoration of wetlands at the Redwood Landfill property; and with the purposes and goals set forth in Chapters 4.5 and 6 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines adopted by the Conservancy on January 24, 2001.
3. Marin Audubon Society is a nonprofit organization existing under Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code, and whose purposes are consistent with Division 21 of the Public Resources Code.
4. The Conservancy has reviewed the Initial Study and Negative Declaration for the project adopted by the Department of Transportation on August 8, 2000, and attached to the accompanying staff recommendation as its Exhibit 4, and concurs that there is no substantial evidence that the project will have a significant impact on the environment, as defined in 14 California Code of Regulations Section 15382.”

Motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

12. SONOMA LAND TRUST: BAYLANDS RESTORATION PROGRAM:

Tom Gandesbery of the Conservancy staff presented the Staff Recommendation.

Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of an amount not to exceed two hundred forty thousand dollars (\$240,000) to the Sonoma Land Trust to carry out planning, feasibility studies and public outreach for the acquisition and restoration of wetlands, in conjunction with the Army Corps of Engineers’ San Pablo Bay Watershed Restoration Program, subject to the condition that no Conservancy funds shall be disbursed until the Executive Officer has approved the work program, including detailed schedule and budget, for the project.”

Findings:

“Based on the accompanying staff report and attached exhibits, the State Coastal Conservancy hereby finds that:

1. The proposed project, including participation in the San Pablo Bay Watershed Restoration Program, remains consistent with the Conservancy’s authorization of April 22, 1999, and with the purposes and goals set forth in Chapter 4.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code.

2. The proposed project is consistent with the Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines adopted on January 24, 2001.
3. The Sonoma Land Trust is a nonprofit organization existing under Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code, and whose purposes are consistent with Division 21 of the Public Resources Code."

Motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

13. MCLAUGHLIN RESERVE ACQUISITION:

Tom Gandesbery of the Conservancy staff presented the Staff Recommendation.

Mr. Reilly raised a concern about the adequacy of public access to the property, and condition 1(d) was added to the recommended resolution to address the concern.

Resolution:

"The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of an amount not to exceed one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) to the University of California Natural Reserve System ("UCNRS") for the acquisition of fee title the Aikawa and Escobito Properties (Assessor's Parcel Numbers: 015-010-014; 015-010-013; and 015-010-012) located in Napa County, more particularly described on Exhibit 2 of the accompanying staff recommendation, subject to the following conditions:

1. Prior to the disbursement of funds UCNRS shall submit for the review and approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy ("Executive Officer"):
 - a. All relevant acquisition documents, including but not limited to, appraisals, agreements of purchase and sale, hazardous materials assessments and documents of title.
 - b. Evidence that UCNRS has paid no more than fair market value for the property acquired, as established in an appraisal approved by the Executive Officer.
 - c. A signing plan for the project acknowledging Conservancy participation.
 - d. A plan for public access that adequately protects sensitive natural resources on the site.
2. UCNRS shall agree in writing to maintain and operate the property in a manner consistent with the purposes of natural resources, open space and agricultural protection and public access, for the lesser of twenty years or the date that the property is transferred to another public entity approved by the Executive Officer."

Findings:

"Based on the accompanying staff report and attached exhibits, the State Coastal Conservancy hereby finds that:

1. The proposed project authorization is consistent with Public Resources Code Sections 31160-31164, regarding the Conservancy's mandate to address the resource and recreational goals of the San Francisco Area.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines adopted by the Conservancy on January 24, 2001."

Motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

14. SONOMA COUNTY COASTAL TRAIL, PHASE I:

Richard Retecki of the Conservancy staff presented the Staff Recommendation.

Resolution:

"The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of an amount not to exceed four hundred fifty-five thousand dollars (\$455,000) to the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) for trail planning, environmental analysis and minor trail construction projects on public land for the California Coastal Trail in Sonoma County, subject to the following conditions:

1. Prior to the disbursement of any funds, DPR shall submit for the review and approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy ("Executive Officer") a work program, budget and schedule, and the names of any contractors and subcontractors to be employed.
2. Prior to any trail construction, DPR shall submit evidence to the Executive Officer that all necessary permits and approvals have been obtained.
3. In connection with trail construction, Conservancy and Proposition 12 funding shall be acknowledged by erecting and maintaining a sign or signs, the design and placement of which has been reviewed and approved by the Executive Officer.
4. DPR shall incorporate the guidelines of the Conservancy's 'Standards and Recommendations for Accessway Location and Development' into trail planning and trail construction, as appropriate."

Findings:

"Based on the accompanying staff report and attached exhibits, the State Coastal Conservancy hereby finds that:

1. The proposed project is consistent with the purposes and objectives of Chapter 9 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, Sections 31400 *et seq.*
2. The proposed project is consistent with the Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines adopted by the Conservancy on January 24, 2001."

Motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

15. CONSENT ITEMS:

A: SAN ELIJO LAGOON ACQUISITION: RANCHO SANTA FE FOUNDATION PROPERTY:

Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy to acquire the Rancho Santa Fe Foundation Property (San Diego County Assessor Parcel Nos. 259-191-27, 28, 29 and 259-221-13), located in an unincorporated part of San Diego County immediately south of the City of Encinitas, as more specifically described in Exhibit 1 to the accompanying staff recommendation, to implement the San Elijo Lagoon Acquisition Program, approved by the Conservancy on June 25, 2001, subject to the Conservancy’s June 25, 2001 conditions.”

Findings:

“Based on the accompanying staff report and attached exhibits, the State Coastal Conservancy hereby finds that:

1. Acquisition of the Rancho Santa Fe Foundation (RSFF) Property is consistent with the guidelines and criteria set forth in Chapter 6 of the Public Resources Code (Sections 31251-31270) regarding the enhancement of coastal resources.
2. Acquisition of the RSFF Property is consistent with the guidelines and criteria set forth in the Conservancy’s Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines adopted on January 24, 2001.
3. San Elijo Lagoon is identified in the City of Encinitas Local Coastal Plan as an environmentally sensitive habitat area which should be preserved and restored.
4. The San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy is a nonprofit organization existing under Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code, and whose purposes are consistent with Division 21 of the Public Resources Code.”

B: LOS ANGELES GREEN VISION PLAN:

Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement to the University of Southern California of an amount not to exceed fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) to develop a plan for coastal land conservation within coastal draining watersheds from the Santa Clara River to the San Gabriel River focused on wetland, riparian resources and related coastal habitat and open space lands, as described in the accompanying staff recommendation, subject to the condition that prior to the disbursement of any Conservancy funds, the University of Southern California shall submit for review and approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy a work program, schedule and budget, and the names and qualifications of any subcontractors that it intends to employ.”

Findings:

“Based on the accompanying staff report and attached exhibits, the State Coastal Conservancy hereby finds that:

1. The proposed project is consistent with Section 31111 of the Public Resources Code which authorizes the Conservancy to provide grant funding for plans and feasibility studies that implement the purposes of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, Sections 31000 et seq.;
2. The proposed project is consistent with the Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines adopted by the Conservancy on January 24, 2001; and
3. The University of Southern California is a nonprofit organization existing under Section 501(c)(3) of the U. S. Internal Revenue Code, and whose purposes are consistent with Division 21 of the Public Resources Code.”

C: SAN FRANCISCO BAY TRAIL BLOCK GRANT APPROVAL:

Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the Association of Bay Area Governments (“ABAG”) to disburse an amount not to exceed three hundred ninety-seven thousand fifty-eight dollars (\$397,058) of the total Conservancy funds authorized on September 22, 1999 and December 7, 2000, for two San Francisco Bay Trail projects, as follows:

\$205,700 to the Town of Tiburon for final construction drawings and construction of pedestrian improvements along Trestle Glen Boulevard.

\$191,358 to the City of El Cerrito to construct a connector trail between the Ohlone Greenway and the City’s western border.

This authorization is subject to the following conditions:

1. Prior to the disbursement of funds for each project, ABAG shall submit for the review and approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy a final work program, schedule and budget, and an agreement between ABAG and the project proponent.
2. Publications and posted signs resulting from these projects shall, where deemed appropriate by the Executive Officer, recognize the contribution of the Conservancy and display its logo and comply with the signage requirements of Proposition 12, the Clean Air, Clean Water, Safe Parks and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2000.
3. With respect to the access improvements along Trestle Glen Boulevard in Tiburon, and the improvements proposed for pedestrian and bicycle access in the Cerrito Creek Connector Trail, ABAG shall require the Town of Tiburon and the City of El Cerrito to assure implementation of the relevant mitigation measures and the relevant portion of the mitigation monitoring and reporting program contained in the Mitigated Negative Declarations (attached as Exhibits 3 and 4, re-

spectively, to the accompanying staff recommendation) for the Trestle Glen Bikeway Project and the Cerrito Creek Connector Trail, adopted by the Town of Tiburon on January 21, 2004, and by the City of El Cerrito on March 3, 2004 pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act."

Findings:

"Based on the accompanying staff report and attached exhibits, the State Coastal Conservancy hereby finds that:

1. The proposed San Francisco Bay Trail project authorizations are consistent with the purposes and objectives of Public Resources Code Sections 31400-31409, regarding public access to the coast.
2. The proposed authorizations are consistent with the Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines adopted by the Conservancy on January 24, 2001.
3. Each of the proposed authorizations will serve greater than local needs for public access to the shoreline.
4. The Conservancy has independently reviewed the Mitigated Negative Declaration adopted on January 21, 2004 by the Town of Tiburon for the Trestle Glen Bikeway Project, attached to the accompanying staff recommendation as Exhibit 3, and finds that there is no substantial evidence that the project, as mitigated, will have a significant effect on the environment, as defined in 14 California Code of Regulations Section 15382.
5. The Conservancy has independently reviewed the Mitigated Negative Declaration adopted on March 3, 2004 by the City of El Cerrito for the Cerrito Creek Connector Trail, attached to the accompanying staff recommendation as Exhibit 4, and finds that there is no substantial evidence that the project, as mitigated, will have a significant effect on the environment, as defined in 14 California Code of Regulations Section 15382."

D: TRIANGLE MARSH RESTORATION:

Resolution:

"The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes disbursement of an amount not to exceed ninety thousand dollars (\$90,000) to the Marin Audubon Society (MAS) toward the restoration of Triangle Marsh. Prior to disbursement of funds the grantee shall submit the following for review and approval by the Executive Officer of the Conservancy:

1. A work program, project schedule and detailed budget;
2. The names and qualifications of all contractors to be employed in the project; and
3. Evidence that all other funds necessary to complete the work are in place.

The Conservancy further authorizes the acceptance of funds from the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission that have been received pursuant to its permits to reimburse or defray these costs.”

Findings:

“Based on the accompanying staff report and attached exhibits, the State Coastal Conservancy hereby finds that:

1. The proposed Triangle Marsh restoration project is consistent with Public Resources Code Sections 31160 *et seq.*, regarding the Conservancy’s mandate to address the resource goals of the San Francisco Bay Area and with its authority under Section 31104 to accept financial support from public and private sources.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines adopted by the Conservancy on January 24, 2001.
3. The Marin Audubon Society is a nonprofit organization existing under Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code, and whose purposes are consistent with Division 21 of the Public Resources Code.
4. The Conservancy has reviewed the mitigated Negative Declaration filed by the Town of Corte Madera, attached to the accompanying staff recommendation as its Exhibit 2, and concurs that there is no substantial evidence that the Triangle Marsh restoration project, with the incorporation of dust control measures described in the initial Study and Negative Declaration, will have significant effect on the environment within the meaning of 14 California Code of Regulations Section 15382.”

E: MARSH CREEK STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM:

Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes:

1. Disbursement of an amount not to exceed seventy thousand dollars (\$70,000) to the Contra Costa County Resource Conservation District for implementation of a watershed outreach program in the Marsh Creek watershed in Contra Costa County.
2. Disbursement of an amount not to exceed sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000) to the Delta Science Center for implementation of the educational components of the Marsh Creek Watershed outreach program in Contra Costa County.

Prior to the disbursement of any funds to either grantee, the grantee shall submit for the review and approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy a work program, schedule, budget and any contractors to be employed in implementation of the project.”

Findings:

“Based on the accompanying staff report and attached exhibits, the State Coastal Conservancy hereby finds that:

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Public Resources Code Sections 31160–31164, regarding the Conservancy’s mandate to address the resource and recreational goals of the San Francisco Bay Area.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines adopted by the Conservancy on January 24, 2001.
3. The Delta Science Center is a nonprofit organization existing under Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code, and whose purposes are consistent with Division 21 of the California Public Resources Code.”

F: RICHMOND SCENIC OVERLOOKS:

Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes acceptance of forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) from the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission to assist the Commission with implementation of the San Francisco Bay Plan, in accordance with a permit, which was the mechanism for obtaining these funds; and further authorizes disbursement of these funds to the City of Richmond for shoreline overlook and beach access as described in the Conservancy staff recommendation of October 31, 2002.”

Findings:

“Based on the accompanying staff report and attached exhibits, the State Coastal Conservancy hereby finds that the Richmond Scenic Overlooks project remains consistent with Public Resources Code Sections 31160-31164, and with the Conservancy’s Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines, as described in the staff recommendation and Conservancy action of October 31, 2002.”

G: HAMMOND COASTAL TRAIL: WIDOW WHITE CREEK TRAIL AND BYPASS:

Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes disbursement of an amount not to exceed one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) to the Redwood Community Action Agency to design a segment of the Hammond Coastal Trail to include the Widow White Creek pedestrian interpretive corridor trail and bypass trail for the purpose of connecting its northern and southern segments and creating 5.5 miles of continuous trail from Clam Beach County Park to the Mad River. Prior to disbursement of any funds, the Executive Officer shall approve in writing a work plan, budget and schedule, and any contractors to be employed in these tasks.”

Findings:

“Based on the accompanying staff report and attached exhibits, the State Coastal Conservancy hereby finds that:

1. The proposed Hammond Trail project is consistent with the purposes and criteria set forth in Chapter 9 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines adopted by the Conservancy on January 24, 2001.
3. The Redwood Community Action Agency is a private nonprofit organization existing under Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code, and whose purposes are consistent with Division 21 of the Public Resources Code.
4. The proposed project will serve greater than local needs.”

Motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

16. EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT:

Mr. Schuchat presented a report on accomplishment of Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives.

Julia McIver, the Conservancy’s legislative liaison, presented a report on proposed legislation affecting the Conservancy.

Raymond Ashley, Executive Director of the Maritime Museum of San Diego, presented a report on the work of the Museum.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 27, 2004 in Santa Barbara.

17. DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL’S REPORT:

There was no Deputy Attorney General’s report.

18. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

There were no other comments by Board Members.

19. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Eugene Atherton requested that the Conservancy consider funding the acquisition of property at the Dana Point Headlands Nature Reserve and Resource Center in Orange County. Mr. Schuchat indicated that staff would examine the matter.

22. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

—TDS