

COASTAL CONSERVANCY

Staff Recommendation
January 18, 2007

EEL RIVER SALMONID RESOURCES PROJECT: PROJECT AUGMENTATION

File No. 06-071-02
Project Manager: Michael Bowen

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Authorization to accept a grant of \$100,000 from the Sonoma County Water Agency and disburse those funds to the Center for Ecosystem Management and Restoration for the previously authorized Eel River Salmonid Resources Project, an enhancement planning effort in the counties of Humboldt, Trinity, Mendocino, and Lake.

LOCATION: Eel River watershed, counties of Humboldt, Trinity, Mendocino and Lake.

PROGRAM CATEGORY: Resource Enhancement

EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1: October 5, 2006 Staff Recommendation

RESOLUTION AND FINDINGS:

Staff recommends that the State Coastal Conservancy adopt the following Resolution pursuant to Sections 31251-31270 of the Public Resources Code:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the acceptance of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) from the Sonoma County Water Agency (“SCWA”) and the disbursement of those funds to the Center for Ecosystem Management and Restoration in addition to the funds previously approved by the Conservancy for the Eel River Salmonid Resources Project, as described in the accompanying staff recommendation. Disbursement of the additional funds shall be subject to the same conditions specified for disbursement of the funds authorized for the project by the Conservancy on October 3, 2006 (see Exhibit 1 attached to the accompanying staff recommendation).”

Staff further recommends that the Conservancy adopt the following findings:

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

1. The proposed project remains consistent with the purposes and criteria set forth in Chapter 6 (Sections 31251-31270) of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code regarding the enhancement of coastal resources.

2. The proposed project remains consistent with the Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines adopted by the Conservancy on January 25, 2001.
 3. The Center for Ecosystem Management and Restoration is a nonprofit organization existing under Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Service Code, and whose purposes are consistent with Division 21 of the Public Resources Code.”
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PROJECT SUMMARY:

Staff is recommending that the Conservancy authorize the acceptance of a grant from the Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA) in the amount of \$100,000 and the disbursement of those funds to the Center for Ecosystem Management and Restoration (CEMAR) for a previously authorized project to inventory, scan, and convert to readily accessible, electronic format information pertaining to stream habitat conditions, presence of barriers to fish passage, and other data critical to the development of strategic salmonid recovery projects throughout the Eel River watershed, including the counties of Humboldt, Trinity, Mendocino, and Lake. The end result of this process will be the Eel River Salmonid Resources Project, an organized compilation and analysis of existing data from federal, state, and local sources.

The project was originally authorized by the Conservancy at its October 3, 2006 meeting. As described in detail in the October 3, 2006 staff recommendation (Exhibit 1), the completed project will enable public agency and nonprofit organizations involved in salmonid habitat restoration to identify where land use practices have significantly degraded salmonid habitat and to have ready access to all known stream surveys, habitat typing reports, barrier inventories, and other sources of information critical to habitat improvement projects.

The project remains unchanged, as does the anticipated total project cost of \$200,000. The Conservancy authorized the expenditure of \$100,000 of the total project cost of \$200,000 at its October 3, 2006 meeting. At the time, the SCWA had indicated its desire and willingness to fund the balance of the project cost, but had not yet officially committed funds. SCWA has now officially committed the funding. However, both SCWA and the Conservancy agree that it would be a better use of resources to have the Conservancy administer the entire grant of funds for the project rather than have two separate agencies each administering the project. In order to achieve this, SCWA has proposed to grant to the Conservancy its \$100,000 contribution for the project, which, in turn, the Conservancy would provide to CEMAR to complete the project. The purpose of the proposed authorization is to enable the Conservancy to accept the SCWA funds and to disburse those funds to CEMAR for the project.

Site Description: Data collection will include coastal anadromous fish-bearing streams throughout the Eel River watershed.

Project History: See Exhibit 1 for the project history.

PROJECT FINANCING:

Coastal Conservancy (original authorization)	\$100,000
Coastal Conservancy (through SCWA grant)	<u>\$100,000</u>
Total Project Cost	\$200,000

Conservancy funding of the additional \$100,000 for the project will come from the proposed grant to the Conservancy by the SCWA. Those funds will be restricted in use to carrying out the Eel River Salmonid Resources Project.

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S ENABLING LEGISLATION:

For the reasons discussed in the October 3, 2006 staff recommendation (Exhibit 1), the project remains consistent with the requirements of Public Resources Code Section 31111 (authorizing grants for planning activities) and Sections 31251-31270 (Chapter 6 of Division 21, authorizing grants for watershed enhancement).

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

For the reasons detailed in the October 3, 2006 staff recommendation (Exhibit 1), the project remains consistent with **Goal 6, Objectives A and B** of the Conservancy's Strategic Plan.

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA & GUIDELINES:

The proposed project remains consistent with the Conservancy's Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines adopted January 24, 2001, as described in the October 3, 2006 staff recommendation (Exhibit 1).

CONSISTENCY WITH LOCAL COASTAL PROGRAM POLICIES:

See October 3, 2006 staff recommendation (Exhibit 1).

COMPLIANCE WITH CEQA:

The project is unchanged and continues to involve only data gathering, planning, and feasibility analyses for possible future actions and is thus statutorily exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to 14 Cal. Code of Regulations Section 15262.