

COASTAL CONSERVANCY

Staff Recommendation

September 25, 2008

**CARPINTERIA CREEK WATERSHED RESTORATION:
BLISS AND CATE SCHOOL FISH PASSAGE IMPROVEMENTS**

File No. 02-088-03

Project Manager: Rachel Couch

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Augment the Conservancy's June 16, 2005 authorization by disbursing an additional amount of up to \$289,439 of grant funds from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to the Earth Island Institute for fish barrier removal projects on Carpinteria Creek in the southern Santa Ynez Mountains, Santa Barbara County.

LOCATION: Carpinteria Creek watershed, Santa Barbara County (Exhibit 1)

PROGRAM CATEGORY: Resource Enhancement

EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1: [Project Location and Site Map](#)

Exhibit 2: [June 16, 2005 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 augments its June 16, 2005 authorization by disbursing an additional amount of up to two hundred eighty-nine thousand four hundred and thirty nine dollars (\$289,439) to Earth Island Institute to implement fish barrier removal projects on Carpinteria Creek, subject to the conditions contained in its June 16, 2005 authorization, attached to the accompanying staff recommendation as Exhibit 2.”

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 augmentation of funds remains consistent with the Conservancy's June 16, 2005 authorization regarding resource enhancement under Public Resources Code Sections 31251-31270; and with the Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.

2. Earth Island Institute 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.”
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PROJECT SUMMARY:

Staff recommends that the Conservancy augment its June 16, 2005 authorization to disburse an additional amount of up to \$289,439 in funds from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Community-based Habitat Restoration Partnership Grant Program to Earth Island Institute. Earth Island Institute would use these funds to continue its implementation of southern steelhead fish passage barrier removal projects on Carpinteria Creek as described in the Conservancy’s June 16, 2005 authorization (See Exhibit 2). The additional funds will cover the construction costs, which since 2005, increased significantly for the project as raw materials have become more expensive. Delays to project implementation have occurred due to permitting issues and obtaining landowner consents.

PROJECT FINANCING:

Coastal Conservancy	\$510,000
NOAA Community-based Habitat Restoration Partnership Grant	\$289,439
NRCS Grant	\$250,000
Cate School	\$100,000
Earth Island Institute	\$ 55,000
DFG Office of Spill Prevention and Response	\$ 47,000
Los Padres National Forest	\$ 43,000
US Fish & Wildlife Service	\$ 23,500
Level 3	\$ 38,143
Total Project Cost	\$1,356,082

The Conservancy’s funding for this project, approved on June 16, 2005, (See Exhibit 2), was originally granted to the Community Environmental Council and was subsequently assigned to Earth Island Institute as grantee. The NOAA Community-based Habitat Restoration Partnership Grant provides funding to the Conservancy specifically for the Carpinteria Creek project.

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY’S ENABLING LEGISLATION, STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL(S) & OBJECTIVE(S); PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA & GUIDELINES; AND LOCAL COASTAL PROGRAM POLICIES:

The proposed augmentation of funds remains consistent with the Conservancy’s authorization of June 16, 2005 regarding its enabling legislation, strategic plan goal(s) and objective(s), project selection criteria and guidelines and local coastal program policies. (See Exhibit 2).

COMPLIANCE WITH CEQA:

The proposed authorization does not have the potential to result in any physical changes to the environment and therefore is not a "project" subject to the California Environmental Quality Act, as provided in 14 California Code of Regulations Section 15378.