

COASTAL CONSERVANCY

Staff Recommendation
September 25, 2008

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WETLANDS RECOVERY PROJECT
LOCAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

File No. 97-001-03
Project Manager: Greg Gauthier and Karen Bane

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Authorization to disburse an amount not to exceed fifty thousand four hundred dollars (\$50,400) to augment the Conservancy's January 18, 2007 authorization to Environment Now to manage the Local Assistance Program of the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project.

LOCATION: Coastal wetlands and watersheds from Point Conception in Santa Barbara County south to the international border with Mexico (Exhibit 1).

PROGRAM CATEGORY: Resource Enhancement

EXHIBITS

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

Exhibit 2: [Staff Recommendation, January 18, 2007](#)

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 disbursement of up to fifty thousand four hundred dollars (\$50,400) to augment its January 18, 2007 authorization to Environment Now to manage the Local Assistance Program of the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project (WRP). This augmentation is subject to the January 18, 2007 authorization's conditions, 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:

The proposed augmentation of funds remains consistent with the findings made under the Conservancy's January 18, 2007 authorization, attached to the accompanying staff recommendation as Exhibit 2.”

PROJECT SUMMARY:

Staff recommends augmenting the Conservancy's January 18, 2007 authorization to add up to \$50,400 in funds to Environment Now for to manage the Local Assistance Program of the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project (WRP). (See Exhibit 2) These additional funds would come from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Community Habitat Restoration Partnership Grant, a 3-year award for the WRP to the Conservancy effective October 1, 2007. The majority of the funds from this Partnership are dedicated to implementing restoration projects on the WRP Work Plan that protect and enhance NOAA Trust Resources. The proposed augmentation will support the Local Assistance Program's participation in the development and implementation of the restoration projects receiving Partnership funds.

PROJECT FINANCING:

Coastal Conservancy	\$650,000
Earth Island Institute	500,000
NOAA's Community-based Habitat Restoration Partnership Grant	50,400
Total Project Cost	\$1,200,400

The Conservancy's funding for this project was approved on January 18, 2007 (Exhibit 2). This authorization would augment the existing project budget with \$50,400 from NOAA's Community Habitat Restoration Partnership Grant, awarded to the Conservancy for this purpose.

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S ENABLING LEGISLATION, STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL(S) & OBJECTIVE(S), PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA & GUIDELINES:

The proposed augmentation of funds remains consistent with the Conservancy's January 18, 2007 authorization regarding the Conservancy's enabling legislation, strategic plan goal(s) and objective(s), and project selection criteria and guidelines. (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.