

## COASTAL CONSERVANCY

Staff Recommendation

October 3, 2013

### **EXPLORE THE COAST GRANTS PROGRAM**

Project No. 13-027-01

Project Manager: Betsy Wilson

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Authorization to fund 52 nonprofit organizations and public agencies for projects that facilitate and enhance the public's opportunities to explore the coast of California and the San Francisco Bay shoreline.

**LOCATION:** Various locations along the coast of California and along the San Francisco Bay shoreline (Exhibit 1)

**PROGRAM CATEGORIES:** Coastal Education, Resource Enhancement, San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy, Public Accessways, and Urban Waterfront Restoration

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#### **EXHIBITS**

Exhibit 1: [Project Locations](#)

Exhibit 2: [Explore the Coast Competitive Grants Program Guidelines](#)

Exhibit 3: [Project Letters](#)

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#### **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 authorizes disbursement of up to one million, three hundred twenty-five thousand, four hundred fourteen dollars (\$1,325,414) to 52 nonprofit organizations and public agencies for projects that facilitate and enhance the public's opportunities to explore the coast of California and the San Francisco Bay shoreline, specifically as follows, to the:

- City of Fort Bragg: Thirty-two thousand dollars (\$32,000) to develop and implement educational, interpretive and stewardship programs for Blue Whale skeleton and Noyo Center classroom, Mendocino County.
- Friends of the Dunes: Thirty-two thousand, five hundred dollars (\$32,500) for development of multi-media outreach materials and education programs to attract new and underserved visitors to the coast, Humboldt County.

- Humboldt Baykeeper: Thirty-seven thousand dollars (\$37,000) to implement “Humboldt Bay Connections”, an inclusive and multi-modal Bay and Coastal Trail public access and education program, Humboldt County.
- Mattole Restoration Council: One thousand, eight hundred dollars (\$1,800) to design, build and install up to ten signs to manage and enhance enjoyment of coastal resources at Mattole Beach and on Prosper Ridge, Humboldt County.
- Mendocino Land Trust: Forty-one thousand, five hundred dollars (\$41,500) to develop an application for mobile devices to detail and interpret California Coastal Trail segments along the Mendocino coastline, Mendocino County.
- Redwood Community Action Agency: Eighteen thousand, three hundred twenty-eight dollars (\$18,328) to create a series of public outreach and education events bringing attention to and protection of south Eureka’s Elk River Wildlife Sanctuary, Humboldt County.
- Sonoma Land Trust: Six thousand dollars (\$6,000) to develop and coordinate five new “On the Land” events to engage the community in unguided public access at the Estero Americano Preserve, Sonoma County.
- Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods: Thirty-eight thousand dollars (\$38,000) to initiate the “Sonoma Coast Marine Education Program” at Bodega Head, Sonoma County.
- Acterra: Thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000) to engage youth and community members in the enhancement of a section of the San Francisco Bay Trail, San Mateo County.
- Association of Bay Area Governments: Fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) for development of a San Francisco Bay Trail way finding and interpretive mobile device application, Marin, Napa, Contra Costa, San Mateo, and Santa Clara Counties.
- Berkeley Racing Canoe Center: One thousand, five hundred dollars (\$1,500) for the purchase of personal floatation devices, paddles, and storage locker, and for boat maintenance for the Center’s dragon boat racing program that serves regional youth on San Francisco Bay, Alameda County.
- Earth Island Institute/Kids for the Bay: Thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000) to implement an environmental education program bringing urban, underserved youth to creek, bay, and ocean habitats, Alameda and Contra Costa Counties.
- East Bay Regional Park District: Forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) for the “Park Express Program”, providing transportation to shoreline parks, Alameda and Contra Costa Counties.
- Literacy for Environmental Justice: Thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000) to coordinate volunteer stewardship and community engagement events at Candlestick Point State Recreation Area, San Francisco County.
- The Environmental Volunteers: Twenty-four thousand, nine hundred dollars (\$24,900) for implementing environmental education and stewardship programs at the Palo Alto Baylands Nature Preserve, Santa Clara County.
- The Watershed Project: Thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000) for implementation of the *Wild! Oysters* classroom curriculum and field trips, Contra Costa County.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for interpretive panels that engage nontraditional users at one of the recently restored South Bay Salt Ponds Restoration Project sites, San Mateo County.

- Central Coast State Parks Association: Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for student bus transportation in the Central Coast and Central Valley to the Museum of Natural History at Morro Bay State Park and the Morro Bay National Estuary, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Central Valley Counties.
- City of Santa Barbara: Twenty-seven thousand dollars (\$27,000) for development of coastal environmental, historical, and cultural information for websites, maps and interpretive signage, Santa Barbara County.
- County of San Mateo: Fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) for instituting a volunteer trail patrol program to educate and assist users of the new 1.3-mile segment of California Coastal Trail at Devil's Slide, San Mateo County.
- Ecology Action of Santa Cruz County: Twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) for two "Open Street" events where several miles of coastal roads in Santa Cruz and Capitola will be closed to vehicular traffic and opened to the public for outdoor recreation and education, Santa Cruz County.
- McCabe Elementary: Sixteen thousand, eight hundred fifty-three dollars (\$16,853) for bus transportation and supplies for five field trips from a Fresno middle school to Morro Bay State Park and Museum of Natural History to participate in a docent-led school group program, San Luis Obispo and Fresno Counties.
- Museum Foundation of Pacific Grove: Twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) for the Museum's Long-term Monitoring Program and Experimental Training for Students ("LIMPETS") program to bring students to the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties.
- Oikonos Ecosystem Knowledge: Twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) for community based restoration of coastal bluff habitat along the California Coastal Trail, Santa Cruz County.
- O'Neill Sea Odyssey: Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for bus transportation to and from Santa Cruz Harbor for 18 lower-income elementary school classes to attend a marine education project, Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties.
- Pacifica Land Trust: Twenty-four thousand dollars (\$24,000) to develop a virtual tour of the Pedro Point Headland as an interpretive guide to both on-site and remote users, San Mateo County.
- Point San Luis Lighthouse Keepers: Twenty-four thousand dollars (\$24,000) to develop multi-media interpretive information for the lighthouse, classrooms and over the internet, San Luis Obispo County.
- Santa Barbara County Trails Council: Fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) for development of public interpretive information, a printed brochure and web-based interactive maps of Gaviota Coast access opportunities and resources, Santa Barbara County.
- Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History: Eight thousand, eight hundred five dollars (\$8,805) for a docent-led public program to find marine mammals in Monterey Bay with spotting scopes, Santa Cruz County.
- The Regents of the University of California: Twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) to create a youth education partnership program to provide teacher training and educational materials and to provide bus transportation for field trips for 12-14 fifth-grade classes, Santa Barbara County.

- Crystal Cove Alliance: Fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) to support educational programming at Crystal Cove State Park, including the expansion of Marine Protected Area Citizen Science Cruises and the development of citizen science programs to be used in conjunction with an on-site environmental study trail loop, Orange County.
- Heal the Bay: Twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) for the “Stoked on the Coast!” Video Contest, Los Angeles County.
- Los Angeles Conservation Corps: Twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) to develop a Coastal Corps program on public education and stewardship of shoreline natural resources, Los Angeles County.
- Maritime Museum of San Diego: Twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) to plan and host the San Diego Festival of Sail 2014, San Diego County.
- Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority: Twenty-four thousand dollars (\$24,000) for the “Transit to Trails” program of free trips to Los Angeles and Ventura County coastal areas for residents of disadvantaged and severely-disadvantaged areas, Los Angeles and Ventura Counties.
- NOAA National Marine Sanctuary: Forty-nine thousand, nine hundred twenty-five dollars (\$49,925) to implement an environmental education program including training of educators and study of coastal sites, Ventura County.
- Ocean Discovery Institute: Thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000) for coastal field trips and environmental stewardship projects as part of the “Ocean Science Explorers” program, San Diego County.
- Ocean Institute: Twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) to plan and host the Tall Ships Festival in Dana Point Harbor, Orange County.
- Otis College of Art and Design: Nine thousand, five hundred dollars (\$9,500) to provide a kite-making program for underserved children at the Otis Kite Festival, Los Angeles County.
- San Diego Audubon Society: Nine thousand, nine hundred fifty dollars (\$9,950) to provide two public awareness components of the San Diego Bird Festival, San Diego County.
- San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy: Thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) to provide school programs and weekend events for inland students and families from lower-income areas at the San Elijo Lagoon, San Diego County.
- The Ocean Foundation: Twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) to support educational activities of the “Ocean Connectors Program”, serving lower-income fourth through sixth grade school students in the National City School District, San Diego County.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: Nine thousand, eight hundred eighty-two dollars (\$9,882) for 10 field trips for 10 local schools to study and document coastal habitat along the Ventura coast, Ventura County.
- WILDCOAST: Twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) to provide educational, recreational and stewardship opportunities at three of San Diego’s Marine Protected Areas for lower-income high school students, San Diego County.
- Bay Area Outreach and Recreation Program: Twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) to provide adaptive cycling trips for persons with physical disabilities on the California Coastal Trail and San Francisco Bay Trail, Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Monterey Counties.

- Earth Island Institute/Shark Stewards: Fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) for a public education, technology and kayak event outreach program on sharks and their beneficial role in the San Francisco Bay and marine ecosystem, Alameda, Marin, and San Francisco Counties.
- Environmental Traveling Companions: Thirty-seven thousand, five hundred dollars (\$37,500) for a disadvantaged youth and physically or developmentally disabled persons paddling program on San Francisco and Tomales Bays, Marin County.
- Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy: Thirty-three thousand dollars (\$33,000) to provide free shuttle service from lower-income and underserved neighborhoods in the San Francisco Bay Area to four Golden Gate National Recreation Area park sites, Marin, San Francisco, and San Mateo Counties.
- KCETLink: Forty-eight thousand dollars (\$48,000) to develop and produce a multimedia, web-based documentary on the California Coastal Trail in San Diego, Orange, Los Angeles, Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo Counties.
- Pelican Media: Twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) to produce and distribute short-film extras and hand-held application clips of its documentary on California brown pelicans, Statewide.
- Turtle Island Restoration Network: Forty-five thousand dollars (\$45,000) to implement a bilingual public outreach campaign about sea turtles and other coastal and ocean protection issues and to encourage new visitation to the California Coast, Statewide, focused on San Francisco Bay Area counties.
- YMCA of San Francisco: Forty-nine thousand, four hundred seventy-one dollars (\$49,471) for coastal outdoor education, inquiry-based science, and service-learning programs for students in Title 1 middle and high schools at the YMCA Point Bonita location, Marin County.

The authorization is subject to the following conditions:

1. Prior to the disbursement of funds to each grantee, each grantee shall submit for the review and approval of the Conservancy's Executive Officer a final work program, schedule, budget, names of any project subcontractors, a plan for acknowledging Conservancy funding, and any other applicable agreements determined necessary for the project by the Conservancy's Executive Officer.
2. If the Conservancy's Executive Officer determines that a grantee nonprofit organization's corporate purposes are not consistent with Public Resources Code sections 31000 *et seq*, prior to disbursement of Conservancy funds, the nonprofit organization shall amend its corporate purposes to the satisfaction of the Conservancy's Executive Officer."

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 authorization is consistent with Public Resources Code sections 31000 *et seq* (Chapters 3, 4.5, 6, 7, and 9 of Division 21), regarding undertaking educational projects for K-12 students relating to the coastal resources (Ch. 3); the resource and recreational goals in the San Francisco Bay Area (Ch. 4.5); coastal resource enhancement (Ch. 6); urban

waterfront restoration (Ch. 7); and the establishment of a system of public accessways to and along the California Coast (Ch. 9).

2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.
3. The nonprofit organization grantees proposed under this authorization exist under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service, and their corporate purposes either are consistent with Division 21 of the Public Resources Code or, prior to disbursement of Conservancy funds, their corporate purposes shall be amended as provided in condition 2 of this resolution, above.”

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### **PROJECT SUMMARY:**

This authorization would provide up to \$1,325,414 to 52 different nonprofit organizations and public agencies for projects that facilitate and enhance the public’s opportunities to explore the coast of California and the San Francisco Bay shoreline. All of the organizations submitted applications for funding to the Conservancy’s Explore the Coast (ETC) grants program.

The Conservancy solicited applications from public agencies and nonprofit organizations for grants for projects that facilitate and enhance the public’s opportunities to “Explore the Coast.” The purpose of the ETC grants program is to support activities that allow more people to explore California’s spectacular coast and/or enhance a visitor’s experience. This includes projects that enhance visitors’ ability to learn about natural, recreational, cultural, and historic resources of the California and San Francisco Bay shorelines. A wide range of activities are eligible for ETC grants including communication and outreach, economic development related to coastal tourism, and development of interpretive information and/or education materials.

The ETC grants program solicitation was released on March 15, 2013 and was widely distributed. (See Exhibit 2). One hundred project proposals were submitted by the May 10, 2013 submission deadline, requesting over \$3.7 million in Conservancy funding.

Of the 100 proposed projects submitted, 52 are recommended for funding under this grant round. In making its funding recommendation, staff considered each project’s needs, its overall benefits, and the extent of competing demands for funds. Funding recommendation was made for a project that met one or more of the following priorities:

- Enhances a visitors’ coastal experience in a way that does not currently exist;
- Increases the number of people visiting the coast;
- Provides a valuable recreational, environmental, cultural or historic learning experience;
- Serves a large number of people within the context of the population density of the surrounding area;
- Serves lower-income or other underserved populations;
- Maximizes barrier-free access for persons with disabilities; and
- Increases stewardship of coastal resources.

In addition, priority was given to non-capital improvement projects generally not eligible for bond funding.

The following is a list of the projects proposed for funding under the ETC grants program, including the location of the proposed project; the name of the organization for the proposed project; the amount recommended for funding; and a brief proposed project description. Staff estimates that the proposed projects will reach over 1.5 million people.

**NORTH COAST**

**City of Fort Bragg**

**\$32,000**

The City of Fort Bragg will establish a Blue Whale Interpretive Program at its selected Noyo Center site to provide coastal resource education, interpretive, research, restoration, and stewardship opportunities. The City will prepare an education and interpretation program of the blue whale recovery process, skeleton assembly, and its natural history and ecology. Skeleton assembly will involve scientists and local volunteers and local and regional school-aged children. The City will document the assembly process with photographs and videos for display at the future Noyo Center Classroom. The whale skeleton will be assembled into three or four separate segments, which (when moved to a permanent exhibit shelter) will be a huge draw, enhancing the visitor's experience of the coast in a way that does not exist in Northern California.

**Friends of the Dunes**

**\$32,500**

Friends of the Dunes will develop a multifaceted outreach and education program to attract more students, families, volunteers, and visitors to visit the Humboldt Coastal Dunes Center and to explore the local bay and dune habitats. The campaign will include six informational videos to be distributed on the web, local television, and Humboldt Convention and Visitor's Bureau, promotional events and bilingual print ad and radio spots. Through a combined use of special events geared toward youth and families (health and movement activities, and coastal treasure hunts), education initiatives (training new volunteer docents, expanding visitor center days), enhanced visitor experiences (naturalist opportunities and interpretation of the coast) and removing access barriers for underserved inland students (providing bus services and in-class education for 600 children), this two-year long program is expected to attract more than 2,000 people to visit the coast who are either new to exploring coastal habitats or are underserved due to location or income.

**Humboldt Baykeeper**

**\$37,000**

Humboldt Baykeeper will implement a public education and coastal access outreach program to increase awareness of access opportunities on and immediately around Humboldt Bay. It will expand its use of free bay excursions to bring people from diverse backgrounds and all economic levels to the California Coastal Trail and Humboldt Bay for coastal exploration and increased ecosystem awareness. The program will outreach to the lower-income Latino community by fully incorporating into its outreach campaign a bilingual element aimed at attracting new and diverse stewards of the Bay and its environment. Called "The Humboldt Bay Connections" project, it will expand the number of tours offered by Humboldt Baykeeper and add walking tours of the historic waterfront that are accessible to people with disabilities.

**Mattole Restoration Council**

**\$1,800**

Mattole Restoration Council will coordinate with local schools and an artist to develop student-created signs whose goals are to educate the public to protect the ecological values of our coastal

public lands. This project replicates a very successful effort in 1996, in which students created signs urging off-road vehicle drivers to stay on the road and protect the natural sensitive habitats. Whereas previous official government signs had met with gunshots, these colorful signs hand-painted by local kids were not vandalized and succeeded in eliminating destructive off-road driving and maintaining open and safe public access. Those children's signs now are decrepit and need replacing. Students will be taught coastal prairie and dune ecology and will participate in field trips to the coast. Sign faces/boards will be installed at existing resource-protected public lands along and near Prosper Ridge Road and at the Mattole Beach parking lot.

**Mendocino Land Trust**

**\$41,500**

To facilitate and enhance the public's opportunities to explore the coast, the Mendocino Land Trust (MLT) will develop a mobile device application and supporting website to detail and interpret California Coastal Trail segments along the Mendocino coastline. The application and website will provide informational gateways for trail maps, natural and human history, user groups connections, directions, promotion of volunteer opportunities, announcement of community access-related events, etc. The application will be free for mobile devices (initially iPhone and Android) and will be designed to be used with live streaming connection or via download for use when data connection is unavailable. MLT will promote the use of the application through launch events, local and regional advertisement and placement with local businesses such as inns, Chambers of Commerce, equestrian groups, and hiking groups. MLT will develop the application to be complementary to the California Coastal Trail mobile application device being developed by the Conservancy in other regions of the state.

**Redwood Community Action Agency**

**\$18,328**

To promote public use of the newly opened Hikshari Trail in Eureka along the Elk River and protect the natural resources of the Elk River Sanctuary, Redwood Community Action Agency (RCAA) will develop a series of themed public outreach and education events at the Sanctuary and develop resource protection and interpretive signage for placement along the trail and at the Sanctuary. RCAA will promote two "Sundays in the Sanctuary" events that will include free naturalist-led interpretive pedestrian/bicycle and kayak coastal tours of the Sanctuary, free coastal-focused educational family workshops and activities, and free kayak, bike, and roller skate rentals. The program will be advertised via public service announcement and fliers intended to attract underserved and lower-income communities located in/around the project area to enjoy the public recreation and access opportunities of the waterfront, and understand the natural resources present in the Sanctuary.

**Sonoma Land Trust**

**\$6,000**

Sonoma Land Trust will build on its current guided-only "On the Land" program to provide five new events over the next two years that will offer the public with opportunities to engage in unguided "solo" natural resource viewing and recreational activities at its 127-acre Estero Americano Preserve, a scenic tidal estuary located on the Sonoma-Marin border south of Bodega Bay. The events will include activities such as nature journaling, photography, birding, and open access days through an advance reservation system. These events will allow Sonoma Land Trust to provide visitor infrastructure (two picnic tables) and experiment with ways to increase the number of community members who participate in its "On the Land" program at the Preserve in ways that fit the opportunities and constraints of this particular site.



**Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods**

**\$38,000**

Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods (Stewards) will establish a new program at Campbell Cove at Bodega Head, located along the California Coastal Trail, to enhance the visitor experience in Sonoma Coast State Park, with a focus on broadening Stewards' environmental education and volunteer stewardship programs along with access and tourist outreach associated with the opening of a new interpretive center at Campbell Cove near Bodega Head. The Stewards will recruit and train new volunteer docents and naturalist leaders, implement barrier-free improvements at Campbell Cove and reopen an unused parking lot to provide accessible trail access for people with disabilities, purchase two beach wheelchairs, develop targeted outreach materials for visitors, school, and community groups, including enhanced social media and web-based communications, promotional materials for eco-adventures, and expand funding of Stewards' existing transportation scholarship program to bring underserved students to the coast.

**SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA**

**Acterra**

**\$35,000**

Acterra will rally community members to the coast to enhance a 1.3 mile stretch of the San Francisco Bay Trail in East Palo Alto, San Mateo County. Project activities will include: 1) a series of community events that draw people out to the Bay Trail for stewardship, learning and recreation; 2) creation of a Junior Bay Steward Program targeting underserved East Palo Alto youth; 3) Citizen Science opportunities that involve local children and families in water quality monitoring along the trail; and 4) interpretive signage and web-based materials that increase trail users' understanding of the plant and animal life along the trail. The project will help bring more people to the bay shoreline by offering a variety of fun and accessible volunteer stewardship opportunities to local youth and adults, and by increasing the trail's recreational, educational, biological and aesthetic value for residents and the broader public.

**Association of Bay Area Governments**

**\$50,000**

The San Francisco Bay Trail Project, administered by the Association of Bay Area Governments, will work with mobile application developer Canogle to create a San Francisco Bay Trail application for mobile devices that will provide users with a set of trailside tools including maps with a geo-locate function, history of the site, current points of interest, photos, and the potential for audio tours. The four proposed sites for this project are: 1) Rosie the Riveter World War II/Home Front National Historical Park Visitor Center and Surrounding Area in Richmond; 2) Napa River and North Bay Salt Pond Restoration in American Canyon; 3) Hamilton Wetlands Restoration in Novato; and 4) South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Projects in East Palo Alto, Mountain View, and Sunnyvale. The San Francisco Bay Trail application will build upon the Bay Trail's existing mobile/web map, a companion piece to the newly redesigned and updated Bay Trail maps currently available online.

**Berkeley Racing Canoe Center**

**\$1,500**

The Berkeley Racing Canoe Center (BRCC) at the Berkeley Marina in Alameda County will expand its youth dragon boat paddling program through the purchase of additional personal floatation devices, paddles, a storage locker, and boat maintenance. The additional supplies will enable volunteer BRCC members to host additional paddling sessions for youth from local schools, camps, and cultural groups, including twice weekly outings with a nearby charter school. Participation in this human-powered boating activity on the San Francisco Bay will help

youth gain a new appreciation for their physical and cultural relationship to the shoreline, the Bay, and their maritime heritage.

**Earth Island Institute/Kids for the Bay** **\$35,000**

Kids for the Bay, a project of the Earth Island Institute, will implement a Watershed Action Program for students to learn how their neighborhoods connect with their local creek watershed, the San Francisco Bay watershed, and the Pacific Ocean through classroom lessons, clean-up and action projects, and field trips. The field trips will bring underserved students to local creeks, the San Francisco Bay, and the Pacific Ocean where they will engage in hands-on science and stewardship activities. These activities will give students the opportunity to develop a connection with nature and see how their actions as a watershed steward can make a difference in their own neighborhoods and the greater San Francisco Bay Area.

**East Bay Regional Park District** **\$40,000**

The East Bay Regional Park District's (EBRPD) Park Express Program will provide very low cost transportation by bus, coach, or lift van to underserved children, seniors, and people with disabilities to regional shoreline parks throughout Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. The transportation can be chartered to take advantage of the recreational and educational programs run by the EBRPD or for self-guided park experiences.

**Literacy for Environmental Justice** **\$35,000**

Literacy for Environmental Justice (LEJ) will implement the Candlestick Point Eco-stewards project to increase public engagement and ecological stewardship at Candlestick Point State Recreation Area, the largest public access point to the bay in southeast San Francisco. LEJ will 1) coordinate regular stewardship programs to grow, plant, establish, and monitor 5,000 watershed specific native plants at four established restoration sites at the park, totaling approximately four acres; 2) host specialized interpretive/community engagement events; and 3) develop outreach materials.

**The Environmental Volunteers** **\$24,900**

The Environmental Volunteers will leverage the new EcoCenter facility in the Palo Alto Baylands Nature Preserve to connect more people, especially underserved populations, to the San Francisco Bay. Through education, exploration and action in indoor and outdoor classrooms, visitors will learn about the Baylands ecosystem and what they can do to protect and enhance this special place. The project has three overarching goals: 1) to bring lower-income youth to the Baylands Nature Preserve for education and exploration; 2) to develop Baylands stewardship opportunities for people of all ages; and 3) to expand interpretive materials for Spanish speakers.

**The Watershed Project** **\$35,000**

*Wild! Oysters* is an education program that includes classroom curriculum and field trip visits to engage students in unique stewardship of coastal resources, get students into coastal waters to see subtidal habitat with their own eyes, and involve students in the restoration of native oyster habitats. The program will engage underserved students in the San Francisco Bay Area and increase their sense of connection to the shoreline environment and subtidal/intertidal habitats as well as increase students' knowledge of ocean literacy, the history, ecology, and biology of oyster reef habitats, and of the native oyster (*Ostrea lurida*) as a critical species, and its habitat's importance as a natural resource of the San Francisco Bay Area.

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,**

**Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge** **\$10,000**

The Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge will develop, design, and fabricate two interpretive panels that engage people with cognitive disabilities, such as autism. By using distinctive visual imagery and tactile learning with 3D models, nontraditional trail users will better understand the different ecological habitats of the San Francisco Bay. The panels will be placed along a 1.4 mile round trip trail at Pond SF2, one of the recently restored South Bay Salt Ponds Restoration Project sites. The trail provides an easy walk and great wildlife viewing along mudflat, managed pond, and salt marsh habitats.

**CENTRAL COAST**

**Central Coast State Parks Association** **\$10,000**

The Central Coast State Parks Association will provide bus transportation to take students from school districts in San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Central Valley Counties that cannot afford transportation to the Museum of Natural History at Morro Bay State Park and the Morro Bay National Estuary to participate in the Museum's coastal education programs.

**City of Santa Barbara** **\$27,000**

The City of Santa Barbara will develop and disseminate information to Santa Barbara area residents and visitors about Santa Barbara's coastal cultural history, industry, ecology, and coastal management in web-based and interpretive formats. Web-based information will be accessible from the City's website and other partner locations, and interpretive signage will be located in City-owned parks and recreational facilities. A Santa Barbara coastal trail map featuring the designated California Coastal Trail within the City, location of public coastal access areas, and location-specific coastal information, will be developed and made available online and in paper format.

**County of San Mateo** **\$15,000**

The Devil's Slide Trail Ambassadors project will create a corps of about 20 trail patrol volunteers who will work with County park rangers to educate and assist users of the new 1.3-mile segment of California Coastal Trail at Devil's Slide in San Mateo County. The project includes preparation of a training manual, purchase of safety and communications equipment for the volunteers, outreach to attract volunteers (website, flyers, and email), classroom workshops, field training for about 20 volunteers, and a six-month evaluation of the program.

**Ecology Action of Santa Cruz County** **\$20,000**

Open Streets Santa Cruz County, using Ecology Action of Santa Cruz County as a fiscal sponsor, will organize two Open Street events where several miles of coastal roads in Santa Cruz and Capitola will be closed to vehicular traffic and opened to the public for hiking, biking, and playing. The events will feature educational displays about ecology, conservation, and coastal recreational opportunities, and will take place in the summer and fall of 2014.

**McCabe Elementary** **\$16,853**

McCabe Elementary in Fresno County will provide bus transportation and supplies for five field trips to Morro Bay State Park and Museum of Natural History to participate in a docent-led school group program that supports California's required Social Studies and Science standards. A total of 250 students will be served. Students will also hike along the California Coastal Trail. The fourth grade students will prepare an oral presentation for a third grade classroom to share

their findings to impart knowledge, share experiences, and promote an interest in the stewardship of the environment and the coast.

**Museum Foundation of Pacific Grove** **\$20,000**

The Museum's Long-term Monitoring Program and Experimental Training for Students ("LiMPETS") program will bring students to the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary's rocky intertidal and sandy beach habitats to observe and collect invertebrate and algae population data. The designated LiMPETS sites are located along the California Coastal Trail corridor in Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties. The knowledge students gain from monitoring the same habitats over the course of a year will promote a deeper connection to nature and a sense of ownership and responsibility for "their" monitoring site.

**Oikonos Ecosystem Knowledge** **\$25,000**

The goal of the West Cliff Ecosystem Restoration is to restore coastal bluff habitat along the West Cliff drive portion of the California Coastal Trail through a community-based restoration program. The three primary objectives of the project are to: 1) restore the biologically diverse coastal bluff ecosystem; 2) promote integrated restoration ecology that includes understanding local geology and biological processes; and 3) increase education and community outreach. The project will restore native plant diversity, cover, and ecosystem function by removing and replacing ice plant.

**O'Neill Sea Odyssey** **\$10,000**

The project will support bus transportation for approximately 18 school classes located in lower-income communities to participate in the O'Neill Sea Odyssey (OSO) ocean-going science and environment education program. Fourth through sixth grade students receive hands-on lessons about the marine habitat and the importance of the sea and watersheds while aboard a 65-foot catamaran sailing the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. The one-day catamaran field trip is supplemented with follow-up lessons at OSO's shore-side education center at the Santa Cruz Harbor.

**Pacifica Land Trust** **\$24,000**

The Pacifica Land Trust will develop a virtual tour of the Pedro Point Headland that can serve as an interpretive guide to both on-site and remote users. The tour will be tied to learning stations that provide descriptions of the surroundings, photos of the site, and video by experts who will talk about plants, animals, marine life, geology, natural communities, and cultural history of the site. Pedro Point Headland is comprised of 245-acres of open space at the nexus of Montara Mountain, Pacifica State Beach, and Devil's Slide, and includes plans for a segment of the California Coastal Trail to go through the east side of the property.

**Point San Luis Lighthouse Keepers** **\$24,000**

The Point San Luis Lighthouse Keepers will develop a multi-media platform composed of inter-related modules, that can be used through the internet, smart phone or tablet, television, in the classroom, and on-site at the Port San Luis Lighthouse (also known as the San Luis Obispo Light Station). The modules will provide specific information on how to access coastal and historic resources, including Port San Luis and the Pecho Coast and Rattlesnake Canyon Trails, as well as information on the evolution of the region's coast for whaling, navigation, maritime safety, social and economic impact, and recreation via the story of the Light Station.

**Santa Barbara County Trails Council**

**\$15,000**

The Santa Barbara County Trails Council will develop a printed brochure and web-based interpretive and interactive maps and information to educate the public on coastal access opportunities and associated historic, natural, and cultural resources along a 22 mile-long reach of the greater Gaviota Coast extending from the community of Isla Vista west to Gaviota State Park, in Santa Barbara County. This interpretive material will serve to enhance the public's coastal access experience along this scenic shoreline and will lead to a greater understanding of the resources present, threats to such resources, and the ways to enjoy this shoreline in an environmentally-responsible and sustainable manner. The Gaviota Coast includes three existing sections of the California Coastal Trail, and will include more than 20 miles upon trail completion.

**Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History**

**\$8,805**

The Museum's "On the Spot" education program will train docent volunteers to help visitors explore the coast through spotting scopes. On the Spot will encourage wildlife viewing and coastal recreation opportunities, educate through artifacts and specimens, and inspire stewardship of coastal resources. It is an excellent opportunity to engage with the public about the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary's assets: its wildlife including sea birds, dolphins, pinnipeds, and marine mammals; its coastal geology including submarine canyons and upwelling; its recreational uses including sailing and surfing; as well as concerns including marine debris, ocean acidification, and coastal erosion.

**The Regents of the University of California**

**\$25,000**

The Kids in Nature program, offered by the University of California Natural Reserve System, Sedgwick Reserve, will engage local teachers and students in inquiry-based integrated science experiences that are focused on natural areas located along the California Coastal Trail within the Central Coast region. The project will upload lesson plans focused on the coastal environment to the Kids in Nature website; develop coastal-focused activity boxes for check-out by all local teachers; offer a two-day summer institute for 12-14 fifth grade teachers to highlight local coastal regions and available teaching resources and materials; and fund bus transportation for coastal field trips for 12-14 fifth grade classes.

**SOUTH COAST**

**Crystal Cove Alliance**

**\$50,000**

The Crystal Cove Alliance (CCA) Coastal Environmental Programs for K-12 and Public Audiences and Access project will develop, test, and disseminate new approaches to educational programming that improves the way public lands and waters can support K-12 science and environmental standards. Funding will be used to support the expansion of Marine Protected Area Citizen Science Cruises and to develop a suite of citizen science programs for the soon-to-be-completed amphitheater and half-mile accessible Environmental Study Loop at Crystal Cove State Park.

**Heal the Bay**

**\$20,000**

Heal the Bay will run a "Stoked on the Coast!" video contest, targeted to middle and high school students across Southern California, with a special focus on underserved and inland students. The goal of the project is to inspire the students to share their experiences, daily lives, passions, and activities as it relates to the Southern California coastline. The submitted films will be

promoted on Heal the Bay's website, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube pages, and shared with Heal the Bay's partners, including non-governmental organizations, agencies, businesses, educational institutions and others. Additionally, Heal the Bay will use the footage to communicate how and why local youth have a vested interest in enjoying and protecting local coastal waters to elected officials, policymakers, inland educators, and other audiences.

**Los Angeles Conservation Corps**

**\$20,000**

The Los Angeles Conservation Corps-SEA Lab will train a revolutionary Coastal Corps crew that would be fully equipped to support conservation efforts and to increase public education and stewardship of the Los Angeles County shoreline. The program will operate under the auspices of the SEA Lab, the Corps' existing marine science and education facility located in Redondo Beach. Serving over 30,000 visitors annually, SEA Lab is a respected training ground for lower-income young adults who want to enter the fields of marine science and education. Trained Coastal Corps members will focus on combating the urban blight encroaching on the coastline by rehabilitating rescued sea life, leading free aquarium tours, hosting field trips and classes, maintaining coastal restoration projects, and operating SEA Lab's native plant nursery.

**Maritime Museum of San Diego**

**\$20,000**

The Maritime Museum of San Diego will plan and host the Festival of Sail Tall Ships event in 2014, to be held in San Diego. Funding will be used for sponsorship of visits by historic tall sailing ships, international maritime training vessels, and other crafts, and the development of other related activities. Beyond sharing the majesty of these historic vessels, the purpose of this event is to share the maritime heritage that is an integral aspect of California's history and legacy, and to link that legacy with current maritime concerns. This Festival presents a tremendous opportunity to educate the public with regard to the ecology of the ocean environment and the nature of and challenges facing the state's tidelands, and in doing so promote the public's role as stewards and champions of these fragile resources. At the same time, this event stimulates waterfront tourism and bolsters the local economy, as annual attendance represents tens of thousands of visitors.

**Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority**

**\$24,000**

The Mountain Recreation and Conservation Authority's (MRCA) Transit to Trails program will provide free trips to coastal areas of Los Angeles and Ventura counties for residents of disadvantaged and severely-disadvantaged areas of these two counties. The trips include guided talks and activities led by a MRCA Interpretive Naturalist, through which individuals will learn about aquatic life and environments including native marine life, watershed ecology, the importance of oceans, and the effects of nonnative species.

**NOAA National Marine Sanctuary**

**\$49,925**

NOAA proposes to expand its environmental education and stewardship program, focused on underserved inner city youth, to train educators, provide classroom learning experiences and curriculums, survey using monitoring protocols along several specific Ventura coast sites, hold interpretive sign contests, and conduct pre- and post-evaluations to measure success of the program. Fifteen educators will be trained with a commitment of 50 hours each to school instruction; 450 students will be involved. The field trip and monitoring sites are located along the California Coastal Trail by the Santa Clara River Estuary, County Line Beach and Channel Islands Harbor.

**Ocean Discovery Institute**

**\$35,000**

The Ocean Discovery Institute will implement the “Ocean Science Explorers” program for third through sixth grade students by conducting the following activities: 1) plan and develop curriculum, materials, field trips; 2) present scientific/conservation lesson in each classroom; 3) conduct a field trip for each grade level; 4) lead students through a locally-based environmental stewardship project that applies principles learned in the field exercise; and 5) invite students to continue participation in volunteer projects.

**Ocean Institute**

**\$20,000**

The Ocean Institute will plan and host the Tall Ships Festival, to be held in Dana Point Harbor, Dana Point. In addition to the ships themselves, the festival will include live entertainment, folk heritage demonstrations, day sails, mock battles, educational programs, and theatrical performances. The festival attracts large numbers of visitors to coastal waterfront areas for activities that facilitate environmental education related to coastal and ocean resources, including events emphasizing maritime history. Hands-on marine science and maritime history exhibits in both the Ocean Education Center as well as the new Maddie James Seaside Learning Center are included in the festival’s entry fee. The visiting general public also has the opportunity to take part in sails onboard most of the participating tall ships during all three days of the event.

**Otis College of Art and Design**

**\$9,500**

The Kite Festival is a project of Otis’s Creative Action initiative, a program designed to provide a learning experience for students beyond the classroom, in this case at the beach, which is a rare experience for some of the underserved youth who participate. It is a collaborative festival that combines the work of world-renowned kite artists with kites made on-site by underserved children. Together they enliven the beach and draw in visitors to engage in a creative form of coastal recreation.

**San Diego Audubon Society**

**\$9,950**

San Diego Audubon Society will develop two public awareness components of the San Diego Bird Festival: 1) a free day of high-quality educational activities during “Family Day”; and 2) a partnership with Nikon Birding Adventures TV to produce an episode focused on San Diego birds, including coastal habitats.

**San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy**

**\$30,000**

The San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy (SELC) will expand the number of inland students visiting the lagoon through their school programs and also provide opportunities for the families of these students to visit the Lagoon and participate in weekend events. A major obstacle to making education and outreach programs available to inland communities has been the lack of funding for transportation. SELC will increase the number of lower-income students served by adding 150 fifth grade students to their existing school programs. To facilitate family visits, SELC will provide transportation for 450 people, 75 people on each of six Family Discovery Days.

**The Ocean Foundation**

**\$20,000**

The Ocean Foundation’s Ocean Connectors program provides marine conservation learning opportunities for more than 1,000 lower-income fourth through sixth grade students in the National City school district in San Diego County. Activities involve field trips to the South Bay Salt Ponds wetland complex on San Diego Bay and the Living Coast Discovery Center (formerly Chula Vista Nature Center) and whale watching excursions. The project will help defray staffing,

field trip transportation, and educational materials costs for the existing Ocean Connectors program.

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ventura Office** **\$9,882**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Ventura Office proposes to expand its “Citizen Science Phenology Field Studies Program” by providing 10 field trips serving over 300 students at 10 K-12 grade schools in Ventura County. USFWS biologists will lead site visits to California Coastal Trail locations at one or more State Park sites within Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. The students will be taught to observe and gather data on seasonal changes in plants and animals from year to year (phenology) which will be used as indicators of current and future climate impacts.

**WILDCOAST** **\$25,000**

WILDCOAST will provide educational, recreational, and stewardship activities at three of San Diego’s Marine Protected Areas (MPA) for a minimum of 60 disadvantaged high school-age youth. The high school students will draw from three high schools in Southeast San Diego, where students are predominately lower-income Hispanic and African-American. WILDCOAST will lead the youth participants in a series of MPA-related activities including coastal ecology trainings, tidepool tours, citizen science projects, and cleanups, in addition to recreational activities such as surfing, kayaking, and snorkeling.

**MULTIPLE REGIONS**

**Bay Area Outreach and Recreation Program** **\$20,000**

The California Coastal and San Francisco Bay Trails Disability Cycling Project will make it possible for people with physical disabilities to experience coastal recreation and education. In many cases, people with physical disabilities such as paralysis, blindness, and cerebral palsy are not able to fully experience these existing trail networks. Through this project, the Bay Area Outreach and Education Program (BORP) will: 1) provide 10 Adaptive Cycling “Discovery Rides” on sections of the California Coastal Trail or San Francisco Bay Trail in the San Francisco Bay Area and Monterey Bay; 2) provide year-round access, four days a week, to 300+ individuals for training, assistance, and cycles for youth, families, and adults on the San Francisco Bay Trail in the East Bay; 3) train 10 volunteers with disabilities to be Adaptive Cycling Coast and Bay Trail Guides; and 4) purchase four adaptive cycles to supplement BORP’s existing fleet. The “Discovery Ride” locations were selected for their scenic beauty and wildlife, historical and cultural significance, and access to interpretive sites and wildlife viewing areas.

**Earth Island Institute/Shark Stewards** **\$15,000**

Shark Stewards, a project of the Earth Island Institute, will implement the “Shark Watch” program, an interactive, experiential citizen science outreach program to develop an increased appreciation for the importance of sharks and the San Francisco Bay estuary and coastal ecosystems. The program consists of a series of three interactive elements: 1) “Paddle for Sharks, See Sharks” provides for direct on-the-water experiences using sea kayaks, guided by expert natural historians, to explore local piers and discuss coastal marine wildlife; 2) “Citizen Science” promotes shark education by engaging the public to collect and report shark data using the “Shark Watch” mobile application; and 3) “Sharktober Outreach” focuses on stewardship



through education by presenting a series of eight Bay Area events educating participants on the value of sharks to the San Francisco Bay ecosystem.

**Environmental Traveling Companions** **\$37,500**

Environmental Traveling Companions (ETC) will support and expand their existing accessible, educational Sea Kayak Program for disadvantaged youth and persons with physical or developmental disabilities on San Francisco and Tomales Bays. ETC will: 1) hire a seasonal trip manager; 2) award sliding-scale scholarships and conduct trips for 15 schools and agencies serving 200 special needs participants (300 user-days); 3) hire an environmental education consultant to develop an environmental education and stewardship curriculum focused on the ecosystems of San Francisco and Tomales Bays and on critical topics such as: climate change, ocean plastics, ocean acidification, and personal, local and global stewardship efforts; and 4) purchase materials to support the new stewardship curriculum.

**Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy** **\$33,000**

The Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, in partnership with the National Park Service and the Presidio Trust, are launching a “Community Shuttle” program to address one of the primary obstacles to visiting park lands – lack of easy transportation. The program will provide free shuttle service to an estimated 5,000 people from lower-income and underserved neighborhoods in the Bay Area to four key coastal park sites: Muir Beach in Marin County, Lands End and the Presidio in San Francisco County, and Mori Point in San Mateo County. Each site lies along the California Coastal Trail corridor, and the Presidio is a crossroads for four major regional trails - the San Francisco Bay Trail, the Bay Area Ridge Trail, the California Coastal Trail, and the Juan Bautista De Anza Trail. The program includes outreach activities in the communities, “shuttle ambassadors” (high school and college interns), and greeters at the parks.

**KCETLink** **\$48,000**

KCETLink will develop and produce *Coastal Trail Then & Now - From San Diego to San Luis Obispo (Then & Now)*, a transmedia series that combines journalism, photography, and video to create a comprehensive “Docu-logue” that rediscovers the past, reveals the present, and imagines the future of the Southern California Coastal Trail and its usage. *Then & Now* will be housed on the KCET website ([www.kcet.org](http://www.kcet.org)).

**Pelican Media** **\$20,000**

Pelican Media, the private non-profit organization that produced the award-winning documentary, *The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill*, is now producing *Pelican Dreams*, a documentary about California brown pelicans. *Pelican Dreams* is intended to engage a broad general audience through good story-telling and engaging characters and, in doing so, to provide a valuable environmental learning experience, enhance visitors’ experiences of the coast, and promote active stewardship of coastal resources. With the requested grant funds, Pelican Media will increase the number of people reached by *Pelican Dreams* by creating and distributing short-film extras and hand-held application clips and distributing them to nature centers and via social media, respectively.

**Turtle Island Restoration Network** **\$45,000**

The California Sea Turtle Hero Outreach Project will engage people in the exploration, enjoyment, and protection of California’s coastal resources, while building awareness of sea turtles and other marine species. The outreach project will: 1) design a bilingual California Sea Turtle Heroes website with information and simple actions people can take to protect them; 2)

conduct a three-phase photo contest asking the public to submit photos of sea turtle sand sculptures, “most beautiful” scenes of the California coastline taken from the California Coastal Trail, and the most beach debris collected from a Coastal Commission’s 2014 Coastal Cleanup Day site; and 3) implement a bilingual promotional campaign using pro bono print, public transit and online advertising to reach new audiences in the San Francisco Bay Area to encourage coastal exploration.

**YMCA of San Francisco**

**\$49,471**

YMCA Point Bonita, a branch of the YMCA of San Francisco, will plan and lead outdoor experiential education, inquiry-based science, and service-learning programs for San Francisco Bay Area youth ages 12-17 enrolled in Title 1 middle and high schools. Programs will focus on overnight outdoor learning experiences, hands-on science training in coastal ecosystems, and service learning through habitat restoration, on and near the California Coastal Trail.

**Site Description:** All of the projects serve a coastal region of the state and/or are within one or more of the nine counties under the jurisdiction of the San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program. See Exhibit 1 for regional maps depicting the location of the projects.

**Project History:** The Conservancy, as a non-regulatory state agency, works to preserve, improve, and restore public access, natural resources and agricultural lands along the California coast and the San Francisco Bay shoreline and its adjacent counties. The Conservancy’s work complements the California Coastal Commission and the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) by undertaking projects and working with public agencies and non-governmental organizations to accomplish these goals.

Increasing public access to California’s coast is a fundamental goal of the Coastal Act, and a core component of the Conservancy’s work. The Conservancy has funded the construction of hundreds of new trails, trailheads, and other features (e.g., beach stairways, bathrooms, and overlooks). With its partners, the Conservancy is working to complete the California Coastal Trail, a braided network of trails extending 1,200 miles from Oregon to Mexico. Similarly, increasing public access to the San Francisco Bay shoreline is a core mandate of BCDC, and one of the Conservancy’s San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program goals is to improve public access to, within, and around the bay through construction and operation of regional trail systems including the San Francisco Bay Trail. With the ETC grants program, the Conservancy is targeting projects that will bring more people to the coast and San Francisco Bay shoreline and/or enhance the experience of those visiting them.

The Conservancy released and widely-advertised the Explore the Coast call for proposals, starting March 15, 2013. Proposals were due May 10, 2013 and the 100 proposals received were evaluated by Conservancy staff. Fifty-two projects are being recommended for funding at this time. Over \$3.7 million in Conservancy funds were requested, indicating a significant need for funding for public access and education programs. This recommendation is to fund the proposed projects at approximately \$1.3 million, as evaluated by staff based on funding availability and prioritization of projects using the ETC criteria.

**PROGRAM FINANCING**

<b>Coastal Conservancy</b>	\$1,325,414
Other sources	<u>\$2,572,117</u>
<b>Total ETC Program Cost</b>	<b>\$3,897,531</b>

Two sources of Conservancy funding are expected to be used for the ETC grants program. One of the expected source of Conservancy funds is the appropriations from the Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 and FY 2012 Conservancy's Coastal Access Account (Public Resources Code § 30620.2), derived from permit fees from coastal development permits issued by the California Coastal Commission. Coastal Access Account funds may be used for grants to public agencies and nonprofit organizations for the development, maintenance, and operation of new or existing facilities that provide public access to the coast, but not in the San Francisco Bay. Use of these funds is appropriate for the following projects because each will develop, maintain, or operate a new or existing facility that provides access to the coast as indicated below:

- Central Coast State Parks Association (Central Coast Student Tours to Morro Bay): Morro Bay Natural History Museum operations
- City of Fort Bragg (Noyo Center Blue Whale Interpretive Program): Noyo Center development
- City of Santa Barbara (Santa Barbara Education and Outreach Project): California Coastal Trail (CCT) operations
- County of San Mateo (Devil's Slide Coastal Trail Ambassadors): CCT operations
- Friends of the Dunes (Explore Humboldt's Bay and Dune Habitats): CCT & Humboldt Coastal Dunes Center operations
- Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy (Golden Gate National Parks Community Shuttle and Outreach Program): CCT operations
- Maritime Museum of San Diego (Festival of Sail 2014 – San Diego): Tall ship operations
- Mattole Restoration Council (Get to Know the North Lost Coast): BLM Mattole Estuary development
- McCabe Elementary (Experience Morro Bay State Park): CCT & Morro Bay Natural History Museum operations
- Mendocino Land Trust (Mendocino County CCT App and Website): CCT operations
- Museum Foundation of Pacific Grove (Monterey Bay Sanctuary Student Monitoring and Training Program): CCT operations
- Ocean Institute (Tall Ships Festival): Tall ship operations
- Oikonos Ecosystem Knowledge (West Cliff Ecosystem Restoration): CCT operations
- O'Neill Sea Odyssey (Transportation for Environmental Stewards): O'Neill Sea Odyssey Education Center operations
- Pacifica Land Trust (Virtual Pedro Point Headland): CCT operations
- Point San Luis Lighthouse Keepers (Port San Luis Lighthouse Educational Outreach): Port San Luis Lighthouse operations
- San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy (Bringing Inland Families to the Coast): San Elijo Lagoon Nature Center operations
- Santa Barbara County Trails Council (Enhancing Visitor Experience along the Gaviota Coast): CCT operations

- Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History (On the Spot Education Program): Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History operations
- Sonoma Land Trust (Estero Americano Preserve Community Engagement Project): Estero Americano Preserve operations
- Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods (Sonoma Coast Marine Education Program at Bodega Head): CCT operations and maintenance
- The Regents of the University of California (Kids in Nature Explore the Coast): CCT operations

The expected source of funds for the remaining ETC grants program projects is the appropriations from the FYs 2011, 2012, and 2013 California Beach and Coastal Enhancement Account of the California Environmental License Plate Fund (Vehicle Code Section 5067) which is derived from sales of the Whale Tail® License Plate, an official “specialty” license plate issued by the California Department of Motor Vehicles for cars registered in California. The Whale Tail funds may be granted for projects throughout the coast and San Francisco Bay which are consistent with Division 21 of the Public Resources Code.

In addition to the cash contributions noted above, there is estimated to be over \$800,000 worth of in-kind contributions towards the ETC suite of projects. This includes volunteer time and donated equipment, materials, and services.

### **CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY’S ENABLING LEGISLATION:**

#### Chapter 3: Establishment and Functions (includes Coastal Education)

The projects listed below would be undertaken pursuant to Chapter 3 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, Section 31119, regarding coastal education projects and programs.

- Crystal Cove Alliance (Coastal Environmental Programs and Access)
- Heal the Bay (“Stoked on the Coast” Video Contest)
- NOAA Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (Ventura Coastal Exploration)
- Ocean Discovery Institute (Ocean Science Explorers)
- O’Neill Sea Odyssey (Transportation for Environmental Stewards)
- Pelican Media (Pelican Dreams)
- San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy (Bringing Inland Families to the Coast)
- The Regents of the University of California (Kids in Nature Explore the Coast)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ventura Office (Citizen Science Phenology)
- WILDCOAST (Get to Know Your New Underwater Parks)
- YMCA of San Francisco (“Get to the Coast” Program)

Pursuant to Section 31119(a)(1), the Conservancy is authorized to award grants to nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, and public agencies to undertake educational projects and programs for pupils in kindergarten to grade 12 inclusive, relating to the preservation, protection, enhancement and maintenance of coastal resources. Consistent with this section, the proposed authorization would award grants to nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, and public agencies to undertake the projects listed above and described in the “Project Summary” section.

Consistent with Section 31119(b), the Conservancy will not be using any of the funds provided to these projects (or any of the ETC projects) for Conservancy costs to administer the projects and no general fund money is being granted to a local public educational institution.

Chapter 4.5 San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program

The projects listed below would be undertaken pursuant to Chapter 4.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, Sections 31160-31165, regarding recreational and resource goals in the San Francisco Bay Area.

- Acterra (Bay Trail Enhancement Project): Sections 31162(a), 31162(d), and 31165
- Association of Bay Area Governments (San Francisco Bay Trail Mobile App): Sections 31162(a), 31162(d), and 31165
- Bay Area Outreach and Recreation Program (California Coastal Trail and San Francisco Bay Trail Disability Cycling): Sections 31162(d) and 31165
- Berkeley Racing Canoe Center (Berkeley Dragon Boat Youth Access): Section 31162(d)
- Earth Island Institute (Kids for the Bay): Section 31165
- Earth Island Institute (Shark Stewards): Section 31165
- East Bay Regional Park District (Parks Express): Section 31162(d)
- Environmental Traveling Companions (San Francisco and Tomales Bay Accessible Sea Kayak Program): Sections 31162(a), 31162(d), and 31165
- Literacy for Environmental Justice (Candlestick Point Eco-stewards): Sections 31162(b), 31162(d), and 31165
- The Environmental Volunteers (EcoCenter Education Initiative): Sections 31162(d) and 31165
- The Watershed Project (Wild! Oysters): Sections 31162(b), 31162(d), and 31165
- Turtle Island Restoration Network (California Sea Turtle Hero Outreach Program): Section 31165
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge (Interpretive Panels for Nontraditional Users): Sections 31162(a) and 31165

Pursuant to Section 31162, the Conservancy is authorized to award grants to projects located in the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area which will help achieve the following goals: a) to improve public access to, within, and around the bay, coast, ridgetops and urban open spaces... through completion and operation of regional bay, coast, water and ridge trail systems, and local trails connecting to population centers and public facilities; b) to protect, restore, and enhance natural habitats and connecting corridors, watersheds, scenic areas, and other open-space resources of regional importance; ... and d) to promote, assist, and enhance projects that provide open space and natural areas that are accessible to urban populations for recreational and educational purposes.

Pursuant to Section 31165, the Conservancy is authorized to award grants for activities that are compatible with the preservation, restoration, or enhancement of ocean, coastal, bay, or watershed resources, or that facilitate environmental education related to these resources.

The proposed authorization would award grants for the projects listed above as further described in the "Project Summary" section, all of which are consistent with Sections 31162 and/or 31165.

In addition, all of the proposed projects listed above would meet the criteria established in Section 31163(c) as the projects serve a regional constituency, can be implemented in a timely way, provide opportunities for educational, access, and restoration projects and activities that would be lost if not quickly implemented, and include matching funds.

#### Chapter 6: Coastal Resource Enhancement Projects

The Oikonos Ecosystem Knowledge (West Cliff Ecosystem Restoration) project would be undertaken pursuant to Chapter 6 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, Sections 31251-31270, which provides for the Conservancy's participation in a program of coastal resource enhancement.

Consistent with Section 31251, the project would award a grant to a nonprofit organization to enhance coastal resources that have become degraded due to invasive exotic plants. Consistent with Section 31252, the City of Santa Cruz Local Coastal Program identifies the seabird rookeries and roosting habitat along West Cliff Drive as limited habitat requiring protection, as detailed in the "Consistency with Local Coastal Program Policies" section of this recommendation, below. Section 31253 provides that the Conservancy "may provide up to the total cost of any coastal resource enhancement project including the state or local share of federally supported projects."

#### Chapter 7: Urban Waterfront Restoration

The projects listed below would be undertaken pursuant to Chapter 7 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, Sections 31300-31316, regarding urban waterfront restoration.

- City of Santa Barbara (Santa Barbara Education and Outreach Project): Section 31316
- Heal the Bay ("Stoked on the Coast" Video Contest): Sections 31308 and 31316
- Maritime Museum of San Diego (Festival of Sail 2014 – San Diego): Sections 31301, 31305, 31307, and 31316
- Ocean Institute (Tall Ships Festival): Sections 31301, 31305, 31307, and 31316
- O'Neill Sea Odyssey (Transportation for Environmental Stewards): Section 31316
- Otis College of Art and Design (Otis Kite Festival): Sections 31301, 31308, and 31316
- Santa Barbara County Trails Council (Enhancing Visitor Experience along the Gaviota Coast): Section 31316

Pursuant to Section 31301, the Legislature found the "encouragement of tourism, public access to the coast, and planned private sector development to be a benefit to the citizens of the state, as well as the local citizenry in affected urban waterfront areas."

Section 31305 directs the Conservancy to stimulate urban waterfront projects that exhibit "innovation in sensitively integrating manmade features into the natural coastal environment."

Pursuant to Section 31307, the Conservancy is authorized to award grants to nonprofit organizations for the restoration of urban coastal waterfront areas. Section 31308 authorizes the Conservancy to provide up to the total cost of any urban waterfront project.

Under Section 31316, the Conservancy is authorized to "undertake projects and award grants for activities that are compatible with the preservation, restoration, or enhancement of ocean, coastal, or watershed resources, or that facilitate environmental education related to these

resources. These projects or activities may include, but are not limited to, exhibits or events emphasizing coastal, watershed, or ocean resource education, or maritime history...”

The proposed authorization would award grants for the projects listed above and described in the “Project Summary” section, consistent with Sections 31300-31316, as listed above.

#### Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways

The projects listed below would be undertaken pursuant to Chapter 9 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, Section 31400, regarding public access to and enjoyment of coastal resources.

- Bay Area Outreach and Recreation Program (California Coastal Trail and San Francisco Bay Trail Disability Cycling)
- Central Coast State Parks Association (Central Coast Student Tours to Morro Bay)
- City of Fort Bragg (Noyo Center Blue Whale Interpretive Program)
- City of Santa Barbara (Santa Barbara Education and Outreach Project)
- County of San Mateo (Devil’s Slide Coastal Trail Ambassadors)
- Ecology Action of Santa Cruz (Open Streets Santa Cruz County)
- Friends of the Dunes (Explore Humboldt’s Bay and Dune Habitats)
- Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy (Golden Gate National Parks Community Shuttle and Outreach Program)
- Humboldt Baykeeper (Humboldt Bay Connections)
- KCETLink (The Coastal Trail: Then and Now)
- Los Angeles Conservation Corps (SEA Lab Coastal Corps)
- Mattole Restoration Council (Get to Know the North Lost Coast)
- McCabe Elementary (Experience Morro Bay State Park)
- Mendocino Land Trust (Mendocino County CCT App and Website)
- Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (Transit to Trails)
- Museum Foundation of Pacific Grove (Monterey Bay Sanctuary Student Monitoring and Training Program)
- O’Neill Sea Odyssey (Transportation for Environmental Stewards)
- Pacifica Land Trust (Virtual Pedro Point Headland)
- Point San Luis Lighthouse Keepers (Port San Luis Lighthouse Educational Outreach)
- Redwood Community Action Agency (Sundays in the Elk River Wildlife Sanctuary)
- San Diego Audubon Society (San Diego Bird Festival)
- San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy (Bringing Inland Families to the Coast)
- Santa Barbara County Trails Council (Enhancing Visitor Experience along the Gaviota Coast)
- Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History (On the Spot Education Program)
- Sonoma Land Trust (Estero Americano Preserve Community Engagement Project)
- Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods (Sonoma Coast Marine Education Program at Bodega Head)
- The Ocean Foundation (Ocean Connectors)
- WILDCOAST (Get to Know Your New Underwater Parks)
- YMCA of San Francisco (“Get to the Coast” Program)

Section 31400 states the Legislature's intent that the Conservancy play a principal role in the implementation of a system of public accessways to and along the state's coastline, including San Francisco Bay.

Section 31400.1 authorizes the Conservancy to award grants to public agencies and nonprofit organizations to develop, operate, or manage lands for public access purposes to and along the coast, provided the accessway serve more than local public needs. Section 31400.3, authorizes the Conservancy to provide such assistance as is required to aid public agencies and nonprofit organizations in establishing a system of public coastal accessways, and related functions necessary to meet the objectives of this division.

Consistent with Sections 31400.1 and 31400.3, the proposed authorization would award grants to nonprofit organizations and public agencies to undertake the projects listed above and described in the "Project Summary" section.

Consistent with Section 31400.2, staff recommends approval of the above-indicated projects after evaluating the amount of funding provided by the Conservancy in light of the total amount of available funds for coastal access projects, the fiscal resources of the grantees, the urgency of the projects relative to other eligible projects, and the Conservancy's Project Selection Criteria & Guidelines.

### **CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S 2013 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL(S) & OBJECTIVE(S):**

The 52 projects proposed for funding and described in the "Project Summary" section assist the Conservancy with meeting a number of its Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives. Relevant Goals and Objectives are listed below, along with the names of the projects that meet each Goal.

#### Public Access Goals

Consistent with **Goal 1, Objective A** of the Conservancy's 2013-2018 Strategic Plan, which seeks to implement projects to promote awareness and use of the California Coastal Trail, including web-based technologies, the following projects will contribute to this goal:

- Bay Area Outreach and Recreation Program (California Coastal Trail and San Francisco Bay Trail Disability Cycling)
- City of Santa Barbara (Santa Barbara Education and Outreach Project)
- County of San Mateo (Devil's Slide Trail Ambassadors)
- Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy (Golden Gate National Parks Community Shuttle and Outreach Program)
- Humboldt Baykeeper (Humboldt Bay Connections)
- KCETLink (The Coastal Trail: Then and Now)
- McCabe Elementary (Experience Morro Bay State Park)
- Mendocino Land Trust (Mendocino County CCT App and Website)
- Museum Foundation of Pacific Grove (Monterey Bay Sanctuary Student Monitoring and Training Program)
- NOAA Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (Ventura Coastal Exploration)
- Pacifica Land Trust (Virtual Pedro Point Headland)



- Santa Barbara County Trails Council (Enhancing Visitor Experience along the Gaviota Coast)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ventura Office (Citizen Science Phenology)

Consistent with **Goal 2, Objective A**, which seeks to develop projects that expand opportunities for barrier-free access to and along the coast and coastal trails, the following projects will contribute to this goal:

- Bay Area Outreach and Recreation Program (California Coastal Trail and San Francisco Bay Trail Disability Cycling)
- Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods (Sonoma Coast Marine Education Program at Bodega Head)

Consistent with **Goal 2, Objective B**, which seeks to open coastal areas that are currently inaccessible or closed to public use, the Sonoma Land Trust (Estero Americano Preserve Community Engagement Project) project will open access to the Estero Americano Preserve, and the Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods (Sonoma Coast Marine Education Program at Bodega Head) project will open access to the Campbell Cove area of Sonoma Coast State Park.

Consistent with **Goal 3, Objective B**, which seeks to implement waterfront revitalization projects that increase accessibility, create more inclusive access opportunities, and enhance cultural and historic resources, the following projects will contribute to this goal:

- Maritime Museum of San Diego (Festival of Sail 2014 – San Diego)
- Ocean Institute (Tall Ships Festival)

Consistent with **Goal 3, Objective C**, which seeks to design low cost visitor accommodations to expand access to the coast, the following projects will contribute to this goal:

- Maritime Museum of San Diego (Festival of Sail 2014 – San Diego)
- Ocean Institute (Tall Ships Festival)

#### Coastal Resources Conservation Goals

Consistent with **Goal 5, Objective B** of the Conservancy's 2013-2018 Strategic Plan, which seeks to restore or enhance coastal habitats, the Oikonos Ecosystem Knowledge (West Cliff Ecosystem Restoration) project will restore two acres of coastal bluff habitat.

Consistent with **Goal 9, Objective A**, which seeks to support programs and events that improve public understanding of coastal resources, the following projects will contribute to this goal:

- Bay Area Outreach and Recreation Program (California Coastal Trail and San Francisco Bay Trail Disability Cycling)
- Central Coast State Parks Association (Central Coast Student Tours to Morro Bay)
- City of Fort Bragg (Noyo Center Blue Whale Interpretive Program)
- City of Santa Barbara (Santa Barbara Education and Outreach Project)
- County of San Mateo (Devil's Slide Coastal Trail Ambassadors)
- Crystal Cove Alliance (Coastal Environmental Programs and Access)
- Earth Island Institute (Kids for the Bay)

- Earth Island Institute (Shark Stewards)
- Ecology Action of Santa Cruz (Open Streets Santa Cruz County)
- Friends of the Dunes (Explore Humboldt’s Bay and Dune Habitats)
- Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy (Golden Gate National Parks Community Shuttle and Outreach Program)
- Heal the Bay (“Stoked on the Coast” Video Contest)
- Humboldt Baykeeper (Humboldt Bay Connections)
- Los Angeles Conservation Corps (SEA Lab Coastal Corps)
- McCabe Elementary (Experience Morro Bay State Park)
- Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (Transit to Trails)
- Museum Foundation of Pacific Grove (Monterey Bay Sanctuary Student Monitoring and Training Program)
- NOAA Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (Ventura Coastal Exploration)
- Ocean Discovery Institute (Ocean Science Explorers)
- O’Neill Sea Odyssey (Transportation for Environmental Stewards)
- Otis College of Art and Design (Otis Kite Festival)
- Pelican Media (Pelican Dreams)
- Redwood Community Action Agency (Sundays in the Elk River Wildlife Sanctuary)
- San Diego Audubon Society (San Diego Bird Festival)
- San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy (Bringing Inland Families to the Coast)
- Santa Barbara County Trails Council (Enhancing Visitor Experience along the Gaviota Coast)
- Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History (On the Spot Education Program)
- Sonoma Land Trust (Estero Americano Preserve Community Engagement Project)
- Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods (Sonoma Coast Marine Education Program at Bodega Head)
- The Ocean Foundation (Ocean Connectors)
- The Regents of the University of California (Kids in Nature Explore the Coast)
- Turtle Island Restoration Network (California Sea Turtle Hero Outreach Program)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ventura Office (Citizen Science Phenology)
- WILDCOAST (Get to Know Your New Underwater Parks)
- YMCA of San Francisco (“Get to the Coast” Program)

Consistent with **Goal 9, Objective B**, which seeks to support the design and installation of interpretive or educational displays and exhibits related to coastal, watershed, and ocean-resource education, maritime history, and climate change, the following projects will contribute to this goal:

- City of Fort Bragg (Noyo Center Blue Whale Interpretive Program)
- City of Santa Barbara (Santa Barbara Education and Outreach Project)
- Friends of the Dunes (Explore Humboldt’s Bay and Dune Habitats)
- Mattole Restoration Council (Get to Know the North Lost Coast)
- Mendocino Land Trust (Mendocino County CCT App and Website)
- Pacifica Land Trust (Virtual Pedro Point Headland)

- Pelican Media (Pelican Dreams)
- Point San Luis Lighthouse Keepers (Port San Luis Lighthouse Educational Outreach)

#### San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program Goals

Consistent with **Goal 11, Objective D** of the Conservancy's 2013-2018 Strategic Plan, which seeks to enhance tidal wetlands, managed wetlands, seasonal wetlands, upland habitat, and subtidal habitat, the Literacy for Environmental Justice (Candlestick Point Eco-stewards) project will restore four acres of tidal and transitional wetland habitat.

Consistent with **Goal 12, Objective B**, which seeks to implement projects that provide recreational facilities including interpretive signs, the Acterra (Bay Trail Enhancement Project) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge (Interpretive Panels for Nontraditional Users) projects will provide interpretive signage that increase trail users' understanding of the plant and animal life along the trail.

Consistent with **Goal 12, Objective L**, which seeks to implement projects that expand opportunities for barrier-free access to natural areas, the following projects will contribute to this goal:

- Bay Area Outreach and Recreation Program (California Coastal Trail and San Francisco Bay Trail Disability Cycling)
- East Bay Regional Park District (Parks Express)
- Environmental Traveling Companions (San Francisco and Tomales Bay Accessible Sea Kayak Program)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge (Interpretive Panels for Nontraditional Users)

Consistent with **Goal 12, Objective M**, which seeks to implement projects that create, expand, or improve environmental educational or interpretive programs, especially those that are available to urban populations, the following projects will contribute to this goal:

- Acterra (Bay Trail Enhancement Project)
- Association of Bay Area Governments (San Francisco Bay Trail Mobile App)
- Berkeley Racing Canoe Center (Berkeley Dragon Boat Youth Access)
- County of San Mateo (Devil's Slide Coastal Trail Ambassadors)
- Earth Island Institute (Kids for the Bay)
- Earth Island Institute (Shark Stewards)
- East Bay Regional Park District (Parks Express)
- Environmental Traveling Companions (San Francisco and Tomales Bay Accessible Sea Kayak Program)
- Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy (Golden Gate National Parks Community Shuttle and Outreach Program)
- Literacy for Environmental Justice (Candlestick Point Eco-stewards)
- Pelican Media (Pelican Dreams)
- The Environmental Volunteers (EcoCenter Education Initiative)
- The Watershed Project (Wild! Oysters)

- Turtle Island Restoration Network (California Sea Turtle Hero Outreach Program)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge (Interpretive Panels for Nontraditional Users)

### **CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA & GUIDELINES:**

The proposed project is consistent with the Conservancy's Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines, last updated on November 10, 2011, in the following respects:

#### **Required Criteria**

1. **Promotion of the Conservancy's statutory programs and purposes:** See the "Consistency with Conservancy's Enabling Legislation" section above.
2. **Consistency with purposes of the funding source:** See the "Project Financing" section above.
3. **Support of the public:** The broad level of support for environmental education, resource protection and enhancement, and public access projects is indicated by the large numbers of people that will participate in these programs. It is estimated that over 1.5 million people will be served by the 52 projects. In addition, as indicated by the support letters provided in Exhibit 3, the suite of proposed projects are supported by elected officials, numerous community and nonprofit organizations, and local agencies.
4. **Location:** All 52 of proposed projects are located either within the coastal zone, a coastal watershed, or the nine-county San Francisco Bay region. Some of the transportation projects involve transportation from an area outside of the coastal zone to a location within the coastal zone, which is consistent with the intent of the ETC grants program to support activities that allow more people to explore California's coast.
5. **Need:** Without Conservancy funding, the proposed projects will either not proceed or have to be scaled back.
6. **Greater-than-local interest:** The projects to be funded by this authorization will enhance the coastal experience of over 1.5 million people throughout coastal regions of the state and the San Francisco Bay Area.
7. **Sea level rise vulnerability:** The majority of the proposed projects do not entail physical improvements that could be vulnerable to sea level rise impacts. The projects that include coastal or tidal restoration components may be susceptible to flooding and storm water surge, especially under future sea level rise projections, but the restoration goals of the projects will make the sites more resilient to sea level rise.

#### **Additional Criteria**

8. **Urgency:** The coast of California and the San Francisco Bay shoreline provide unique recreational opportunities. Participating in recreation activities along the coast of California and the San Francisco Bay shoreline can inspire an appreciation of these unique natural resources and can motivate people to participate in the responsible management and protection of these resources. Through education, individuals can become aware of and

encouraged to accept their share of responsibility for protecting and improving the natural environment.

9. **Leverage:** See the “Project Financing” section above.
10. **Readiness:** All of the projects described in the “Project Summary” section above are ready to implement and completed within one to two years.
11. **Realization of prior Conservancy goals:** See “Project History” above.
12. **Cooperation:** The ETC suite of projects are intended to foster cooperation between the lead organization and the public/visitors in helping to facilitate and enhance the public’s opportunities to explore the coast. Multiple nonprofit organizations and federal, state, and local agencies are involved in project implementation.
13. **Minimization of greenhouse gas emissions:** Implementation of the proposed projects that have transportation components may generate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, predominately in the form of carbon dioxide from exhaust associated with transportation equipment and motor vehicle operation by transportation companies. However, all of the transportation programs would be temporal in nature and would not generate substantial GHG emissions over prolonged periods. Additionally, all of the proposed projects with transportation components utilize maximum occupancy per vehicle (i.e., school buses, vans, carpools, etc.) to serve many more program participants with fewer GHG emissions than the GHG emissions associated with the same number of program participants making individual trips to the same location.

The habitat restoration projects are primarily people-powered, target local volunteers to participate in stewardship activities, and encourage the use of public transit and carpooling. Also, the restoration projects will likely result in a net benefit given the carbon sequestration that will occur through the installation of native plants.

#### **CONSISTENCY WITH THE COASTAL ACT:**

The ETC grants program, which is intended to support activities that allow more people to explore California’s spectacular coast and/or enhance a visitor’s experience, is consistent with the California Coastal Act. Policies encouraging the development of public access facilities are among the most prominent features of the state’s Coastal Management Program. The California Coastal Act indicates in Public Resources Code 30001.5(c) that the “basic goals of the state for the coastal zone” include the need to “maximize public access to and along the coast ...” Public Resources Code Section 30210 requires that “... maximum access, which shall be conspicuously posted, and recreational opportunities shall be provided for all the people...”. Public Resources Code Section 30530 expresses the intent of the Legislature that a program to maximize public access to and along the coastline be prepared and implemented “consistent with the provisions of Chapter 9 of Division 21.”

Similarly, the Coastal Act includes several references to the need to increase public knowledge of access opportunities and to involve community organizations in such efforts. Public Resources Code Section 30214(c) directs the Coastal Commission and other public agencies to “... encourage the utilization of innovative access management techniques including, but not limited to, agreements with private organizations which would minimize management costs and

encourage the use of volunteer programs.” Public Resources Code Section 30012 includes the Legislative finding that “an educated and informed citizenry ... is necessary to protect California’s finite natural resources [and] ... through education, individuals can be made aware of and encouraged to accept their share of responsibility for protecting and improving the natural environment.” These purposes would be promoted through the ETC grants program’s individual projects.

**CONSISTENCY WITH LOCAL COASTAL PROGRAM POLICIES:**

Chapter 6, Resource Enhancement Projects of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, requires a proposed project’s consistency with Local Coastal Plans (LCP) or other specified plans.

The Oikonos Ecosystem Knowledge (West Cliff Ecosystem Restoration) project is being undertaken under Chapter 6 as discussed in the “Consistency with Conservancy’s Enabling Legislation” section, above. The City of Santa Cruz LCP identifies the seabird rookeries and roosting habitat along West Cliff Drive as “limited habitat”. Its Environmental Quality, Policy 4.1.2 calls for preserving the habitat of and minimizing disturbance to seabird rookeries and roosting areas along the coastline. Thus, the proposed project restoration of the rookeries is consistent with the City of Santa Cruz’s LCP.

**CONSISTENCY WITH SAN FRANCISCO BAY PLAN:**

The following proposed projects are being undertaken pursuant to Chapter 4.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, are within the jurisdiction of BCDC, and are consistent with the policies of BCDC’s San Francisco Bay Plan (Bay Plan) as discussed below.

- Acterra (Bay Trail Enhancement Project), Association of Bay Area Governments (San Francisco Bay Trail Mobile App), Bay Area Outreach and Recreation Program (California Coastal Trail and San Francisco Bay Trail Disability Cycling), and The Environmental Volunteers (EcoCenter Education Initiative): Consistent with Part IV, Public Access policies, these proposed projects will promote public access opportunities along the bay shoreline. Public Access, Policy 9 states that access to and along the waterfront should be provided by walkways, trails, or other appropriate means and connect to the nearest public thoroughfare where convenient parking or public transportation may be available. Diverse and interesting public access experiences should be provided which would encourage users to remain in the designated access areas to avoid or minimize potential adverse effects on wildlife and their habitat. The proposed projects will facilitate appropriate enjoyment and use of the San Francisco Bay shoreline in a manner consistent with this policy.
- Berkeley Racing Canoe Center (Berkeley Dragon Boat Youth Access) and Environmental Traveling Companions (San Francisco and Tomales Bay Accessible Sea Kayak Program): Consistent with Part IV, Recreation, Policy 1, these proposed projects will provide diverse and accessible water-oriented recreational facilities to meet the needs of a growing and diversifying population, and will accommodate a broad range of water-oriented recreational activities for people of all races, cultures, ages, physical ability,

cognitive ability, and income levels. The Berkeley Dragon Boat project will expand its youth dragon boat paddling program through the purchase of additional personal floatation devices, paddles, storage locker, and boat maintenance. Environmental Traveling Companion's Sea Kayak program will provide access to water-oriented recreational facilities for persons with disabilities and to schools and underserved populations that could not otherwise participate.

- Earth Island Institute (Kids for the Bay; Shark Stewards): Consistent with Part IV, Public Access, both of these Earth Island Institute proposed projects will provide for nature study to orient people to the various parts of the San Francisco Bay and will provide access to the Bay to allow the public to discover, experience, and appreciate the Bay's natural resources. The projects are supported by Public Access, Policy 3 which states that "public access to some natural areas should be provided to permit study and enjoyment of these areas." The Kids for the Bay project will facilitate education and stewardship of Bay and marine resources by providing hands-on, onsite experiences at the Bay, bay area creeks, and coastal visitation. The Shark Stewards project will facilitate events educating the public on the importance of sharks, other marine species, and the marine ecosystem, and will provide public events, social media, and bay kayak trips to encourage the public to become stewards for bay and marine wildlife and resources.
- East Bay Regional Park District (Parks Express): Consistent with Part IV, Recreation, this proposed project will increase access to natural areas in and near the shoreline of San Francisco Bay. The Recreation section finds that "the Bay is the most important open space in the Bay region. The Bay and its shoreline provide unique recreational opportunities. Participating in recreation activities on the Bay and along its shoreline can inspire an appreciation of the Bay and can motivate people to participate in the responsible management and protection of the Bay."
- Literacy for Environmental Justice (Candlestick Point Eco-stewards): Consistent with Part III, Tidal Marshes and Tidal Flats, Policy 4, the proposed project will restore former tidal marshes and tidal flats that have been diked from the Bay to tidal action in order to replace lost historic wetlands or be managed to provide important Bay habitat functions, such as resting, foraging, and breeding habitat for fish, other aquatic organisms, and wildlife.
- The Watershed Project (Wild! Oysters): Consistent with Part III, Subtidal Areas, Policy 5, the proposed project will support and encourage expansion of scientific information on the San Francisco Bay's subtidal areas by providing additional data on native oyster monitoring and restoration at Point Pinole Regional Shoreline.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge (Interpretive Panels for Nontraditional Users): Consistent with Part IV, Appearance, Design, and Scenic Views, Policy 15, the proposed project will provide interpretive signs at vista points to explain the value or importance of the areas being viewed.

**COMPLIANCE WITH CEQA:**

The proposed projects considered for funding under this authorization are either exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (all section cites are to 14 California Code of Regulations) or are not considered a “project” under CEQA (See 14 Cal.Code of Reg. Section 15378).

Section 15301 (Existing Facilities): The YMCA of San Francisco (“Get to the Coast” Program) project is categorically exempt under Section 15301, which exempts minor alterations of existing facilities. The project falls under Section 15301(i), which exempts the maintenance of wildlife areas and stream channels to protect fish and wildlife resources. The habitat restoration work undertaken through the project will maintain fish and/or wildlife habitat by removing invasive exotic species that degrade native wildlife and fish habitat and planting native plants.

Section 15303 (New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures): The Berkeley Racing and Canoe Center (Berkeley Dragon Boat Youth Access) and the Mattole Restoration Council (Get to Know the North Lost Coast) projects are categorically exempt under Section 15303, which exempts construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; and installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures. The proposed installation of a storage locker on a dock at the Berkeley Marina and the installation of public access facilities including signage in and around Mattole Beach and along Prosper Ridge Road meet the conditions of the exemption.

Section 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land): The Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods (Sonoma Coast Marine Education Program at Bodega Head) project includes the implementation of trail improvements to provide barrier-free access. The trail accessibility improvement activities are categorically exempt under Section 15304 because the improvements involve development of a graded earthen ramp (for use by beach wheelchairs) that will not exceed a 10 percent grade and landscaping to maintain native plant populations in the area of the trail improvements. The remaining elements of the proposed project are not considered a “project” under CEQA because they do not have the potential for a physical environmental effect or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment. (See Section 15378).

Section 15306 (Information Collection): The Ocean Discovery Institute (Ocean Science Explorers), San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy (Bringing Inland Families to the Coast), WILDCOAST (Get to Know your New Underwater Parks), and YMCA of San Francisco (“Get to the Coast” Program) projects are categorically exempt under Section 15306, since they consist of basic data collection and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. Science and monitoring activities under the projects function as basic data collection.

Section 15311 (Accessory Structures): The Acterra (Bay Trail Enhancement Project) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge (Interpretive Panels for Nontraditional Users) projects are categorically exempt under Section 15311, which exempts placement of minor structures accessory to existing facilities, including on-premise signs. The interpretive signs will be small, minor structures that are accessory to the existing trail.



Section 15322 (Educational or Training Programs Involving No Physical Changes): The Los Angeles Conservation Corps (SEA Lab Coastal Corps) and The Ocean Foundation (Ocean Connectors) projects are categorically exempt under Section 13322, which consists of the adoption, alteration, or termination of educational or training programs which involve no physical alteration in the area affected or which involve physical changes only in the interior of existing school or training structures. The SEA Lab project involves implementation of a new training program located at an existing facility, while the Ocean Connectors project involves financial support of ongoing activities of an existing marine education program.

Section 15323 (Normal Operations of Facilities for Public Gatherings): The Los Angeles Conservation Corps (SEA Lab Coastal Corps), Maritime Museum of San Diego (Festival of Sail 2014 - San Diego), and Ocean Institute (Tall Ships Festival) projects are categorically exempt under Section 15323, which consists of the normal operations of existing facilities for public gatherings for which the facilities were designed, where there is a past history of the facility being used for the same or similar kind of purpose. For the purposes of this section, "past history" shall mean that the same or similar kind of activity has been occurring for at least three years and that there is a reasonable expectation that the future occurrence of the activity would not represent a change in the operation of the facility. The LA Conservation Corps has operated and managed SEA Lab at its current location since 1997. The two Tall Ship Festivals are part of the normal operations of the existing facilities of the Port of San Diego and other likely port locations for a public gathering where there is a history of such gatherings.

Section 15333 (Small Habitat Restoration Projects): The Acterra (Bay Trail Enhancement Project), Literacy for Environmental Justice (Candlestick Point Eco-stewards), Oikonos Ecosystem Knowledge (West Cliff Ecosystem Restoration), San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy (Bringing Inland Families to the Coast), WILD Coast (Get to Know your New Underwater Parks), and YMCA of San Francisco ("Get to the Coast" Program) projects are categorically exempt under Section 15333 in that the projects consist of small habitat restoration, enhancement, maintenance, and protection for fish, plants, or wildlife. These projects satisfy all of the criteria under Section 15333 as follows: 1) restoration does not exceed five acres in size; 2) there will be no significant adverse impact on endangered, rare, or threatened species or their habitat; 3) there are no hazardous materials at or around the project sites that may be disturbed or removed; and 4) the projects will not result in impacts that are significant when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.

Section 15378 (Definition of "Project"): The following projects, as described in the "Project Summary" section, are not considered a "project" under Section 15378, as they do not have the potential for a direct physical change or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change on the environment.

- Association of Bay Area Governments (San Francisco Bay Trail Mobile App)
- Bay Area Outreach and Recreation Program (California Coastal Trail and San Francisco Bay Trail Disability Cycling)
- City of Fort Bragg (Noyo Center Blue Whale Interpretive Program)
- City of Santa Barbara (Santa Barbara Education and Outreach Project)
- County of San Mateo (Devil's Slide Coastal Trail Ambassadors)
- Crystal Cove Alliance (Coastal Environmental Programs and Access)

- Earth Island Institute (Shark Stewards)
- Ecology Action of Santa Cruz (Open Streets Santa Cruz County)
- Environmental Traveling Companions (San Francisco and Tomales Bay Accessible Sea Kayak Program)
- Heal the Bay (“Stoked on the Coast” Video Contest)
- Humboldt Baykeeper (Humboldt Bay Connections)
- KCETLink (The Coastal Trail: Then and Now)
- Mendocino Land Trust (Mendocino County CCT App and Website)
- Otis College of Art and Design (Otis Kite Festival)
- Pacifica Land Trust (Virtual Pedro Point Headland)
- Pelican Media (Pelican Dreams)
- Point San Luis Lighthouse Keepers (Port San Luis Lighthouse Educational Outreach)
- Redwood Community Action Agency (Sundays in the Elk River Wildlife Sanctuary)
- San Diego Audubon Society (San Diego Bird Festival)
- Santa Barbara County Trails Council (Enhancing Visitor Experience along the Gaviota Coast)
- Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History (On the Spot Education Program)
- Sonoma Land Trust (Estero Americano Preserve Community Engagement Project)
- The Environmental Volunteers (EcoCenter Education Initiative)
- Turtle Island Restoration Network (California Sea Turtle Hero Outreach Program)

In addition to the information provided in the “Project Summary” section, Conservancy staff note that all of the below-listed projects will provide bus or van transportation to coastal and/or bay locations which will result in the generation of GHG emissions in the form of carbon dioxide from exhaust associated with transportation equipment and motor vehicle operation.

- Central Coast State Parks Association (Central Coast Student Tours to Morro Bay)
- Earth Island Institute (Kids for the Bay)
- East Bay Regional Park District (Parks Express)
- Friends of the Dunes (Explore Humboldt’s Bay and Dune Habitats)
- Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy (Golden Gate National Parks Community Shuttle and Outreach Program)
- McCabe Elementary (Experience Morro Bay State Park)
- Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (Transit to Trails)
- Museum Foundation of Pacific Grove (Monterey Bay Sanctuary Student Monitoring and Training Program)
- NOAA Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (Ventura Coastal Exploration)
- O’Neill Sea Odyssey (Transportation for Environmental Stewards)
- The Regents of the University of California (Kids in Nature Explore the Coast)
- The Watershed Project (Wild! Oysters)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ventura Office (Citizen Science Phenology)

While the transportation provided will result in the generation of GHG emissions, all of the transportation programs would be temporal in nature and would not generate substantial GHG emissions over prolonged periods. Additionally, all of the proposed projects will utilize maximum occupancy per vehicle (i.e., school buses, vans, carpools, etc.) to serve many more

program participants with fewer GHG emissions than the GHG emissions associated with the same number of program participants making individual trips to the same location. By providing public access to coastal and bay locations in the most efficient manner possible, the projects will likely not increase and may even reduce emissions. The New York Metropolitan Transportation Agency estimated in 2011 that each trip on a train or bus prevents the emission of 10 pounds of greenhouse gases, on average, compared with making that trip by car. Based on this analysis, Conservancy staff has determined these projects do not have the potential for a direct physical change or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change on the environment, and therefore, are not considered a “project” under CEQA.

Upon approval, staff will file a Notice of Exemption for each proposed project that is exempt from CEQA.