

**STATE COASTAL CONSERVANCY  
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES  
December 5, 2013**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Ann Notthoff (Public Member)  
Peter Sadowski (Public Member)  
Bryan Cash (Designated, Natural Resources Agency)  
Mary Shallenberger (Coastal Commission Chair)  
Marisa Moret (Public Member)

**OVERSIGHT MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Timothy Lippman for Assembly Member Al Muratsuchi

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Sam Schuchat, Executive Officer  
Glenn Alex, Legal Counsel

**LOCATION:**

Ocean Institute – Conference Center  
24200 Dana Point Harbor Drive  
Dana Point, CA 92629

Ann Notthoff, the Conservancy's vice-chair, conducted the meeting in the absence of the chairman.

**1. ROLL CALL**

Ann Notthoff (Public Member)  
Peter Sadowski (Public Member)  
Bryan Cash (Designated, Natural Resources Agency)  
Mary Shallenberger (Coastal Commission Chair)  
Marisa Moret (Public Member)

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 3, 2013 REGULAR MEETING AND  
OCTOBER 31, 2013 TELECONFERENCE MEETING**

Moved and seconded. Approved by a vote of 5-0.

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**3. CONSENT ITEMS**

**A. SF BAY LIVING SHORELINES PROJECT SITES**

Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby modifies its August 5, 2010, December 2, 2010, and March 29, 2012 authorizations to implement the Living Shorelines project, by authorizing an additional disbursement of up to two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) to conduct the final three years of monitoring at two pilot projects in San Francisco Bay on the San Rafael Shoreline (Marin County) and offshore from Eden Landing Ecological Reserve in Hayward (Alameda County).”

Findings:

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

1. The proposed project remains consistent with Chapter 4.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding the resource goals of the San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program.
2. The proposed project remains consistent with the Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines adopted on November 10, 2011.”

Moved and seconded. Approved by a vote of 5-0.

4. **EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT**. The Executive Officer’s report was moved to the end of the agenda.

**SOUTH COAST**

**5. RAMIREZ CANYON**

Kara Kemmler of the Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

Speaking in favor of the Staff Recommendation: Becky Nielson, Trust for Public Land.

Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (“MRCA”) for fee acquisition of approximately 104 acres of undeveloped land in Ramirez Canyon, Los Angeles County Assessor’s Parcel Nos. 4465-004-045 and 4465-004-084, (collectively the “property”), subject to the following conditions:

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1. Prior to the disbursement of any Conservancy funds for the property, the MRCA shall submit for the review and approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy (“Executive Officer”):
  - a. All relevant acquisition documents, including without limitation, an appraisal, purchase agreement, escrow instructions, environmental assessment, and title report.
  - b. Evidence that sufficient funds are available to complete the property acquisition.
  - c. Evidence of commitment by the MRCA to manage the property for open space, habitat and resource preservation and public access.
2. The MRCA shall pay no more than fair market value for the property, as established in an appraisal approved by the Executive Officer.
3. The MRCA shall permanently dedicate the property for open space, habitat and resource preservation, and public access, through an appropriate instrument approved by the Executive Officer.
4. Conservancy funding shall be acknowledged by erecting and maintaining a sign on the property that has been reviewed and approved by the Executive Officer.”

Findings:

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

1. The proposed project is consistent with the current Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.
2. The proposed authorization is consistent with the purposes and objectives of Chapters 8 and 9 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code (Sections 31350-31356 and 31400-31409) with respect to reservation of coastal resource areas and public access.
3. Consistent with Public Resources Code section 31117, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy supports the Conservancy’s funding for these acquisitions (see Letters of Support, attached to the accompanying staff recommendation as Exhibit 4.)
4. The proposed project serves a greater-than-local need.”

Moved and seconded. Approved by a vote of 5-0.

**CENTRAL COAST**

**6. VICTORINE RANCY PROPERTY**

Chris Krroll of the Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation

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Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby:

1. Approves the acceptance of the two high bids (one for \$75,000; the other for \$50,000) submitted in writing for the purchase of the Conservancy’s two Kasler Point Transfer of Development Credits (TDCs) and authorizes the Executive Officer to negotiate and execute any transactional or related documents that may be necessary to acceptance of the bids and subsequent conveyance of the TDCs. Copies of the bids are attached as Exhibits 2 and 3, respectively, to the accompanying staff recommendation.
2. Requests the Director of the Department of General Services to transfer the two TDCs, in accordance with the ‘*Craven-Nation Property*’ *Disposition/Implementation Plan* (Disposition Plan), approved by the Coastal Conservancy on March 23, 2000, a copy of which is attached as an exhibit to Exhibit 4 to the accompanying staff recommendation, and subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the accepted bids and in the Conservancy’s Request for Offers (RFO), a copy of which is attached as Exhibit 5 to the accompanying staff recommendation.
3. Authorizes the Executive Officer to:
  - a. Retain the services of a real estate broker to assist in the marketing and sale of the Conservancy’s property at Victorine Ranch.
  - b. Negotiate, enter into an agreement for and carry out the sale of the Victorine Ranch property under the following terms and conditions:
    - i. Terms and conditions that are consistent with the Disposition Plan, previously adopted by the Conservancy at its meeting of March 23, 2000, and with the RFO distributed in connection with the October 23, 2013 sale under the Disposition Plan.
    - ii. Price and payment terms that are consistent with the direction given by the Conservancy to the Executive Director in closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 11126(c)(7) on December 5, 2013.
    - iii. Any agreement and sale is subject to subsequent approval by the California Department of General Services as to the transfer of the property, or portion thereof, to the buyer.
  - c. Enter into any necessary agreements and take any necessary actions to formalize an agreement for and to complete the sale of the Victorine Ranch property.
4. After entering into a binding agreement for the sale of the Victorine Ranch property, or portion thereof, the Executive Officer shall notify the Conservancy of the agreement in open session at the next scheduled meeting of the Conservancy.”

Findings:

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

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1. The proposed authorization is consistent with the purposes and criteria set forth in Chapter 5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding coastal restoration, and Section 31107 regarding transfer of Conservancy land interests.
2. The project is consistent with the current Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.
3. Acceptance of the bid and sale of the two TDCs and marketing and sale of the Victorine Ranch is consistent with the authority of the Conservancy under Section 31107 of the Public Resources Code, with property disposition procedures developed by the Conservancy and the Department of General Services pursuant to Section 31107.1 of the Public Resources Code, and with the procedures described in the ‘*Craven-Nation Property*’ *Disposition/ Implementation Plan*, adopted by the Conservancy on March 23, 2000.”

Moved and seconded. Approved by a vote of 5-0.

**The Conservancy next took up agenda item 13 out of sequence.**

13. **CLOSED SESSION** to confer with Conservancy real estate negotiators to give instructions regarding the price and terms of payment for the sale of the Conservancy’s Victorine Ranch Property (Monterey County Assessor’s Parcel Numbers 243-211-025, 243-211-026 and 243-221-019). The session was closed to the public pursuant to Government Code Section 11126(c)(7).

**Following the closed session, the Conservancy resumed with item 7.**

7. **SLEEPY HOLLOW STEELHEAD REARING FACILITY**

Trish Chapman of the Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of an amount not to exceed four hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$450,000) of settlement funds from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (MPWMD) to prepare engineering, permitting, and environmental review documents to improve the intake structure of the Sleepy Hollow Steelhead Rearing Facility on the Carmel River in Monterey County. Prior to disbursement of funds, MPWMD shall submit for Executive Officer review and approval a work plan, schedule and budget, and the names and qualifications of any contractors.”

Findings:

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

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1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Chapter 5.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding Integrated Marine and Coastal Resources.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.”

Moved and seconded. Approved by a vote of 5-0.

**SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA**

**8. SOUTH BAY SALT PONDS RESTORATION PROJECT**

Brenda Buxton of the Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation

Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes disbursement of up to two million two hundred twenty thousand dollars (\$2,220,000) of Conservancy funds to be used for work associated with completing planning for Phase II of the South San Francisco Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project. The Conservancy further authorizes the disbursement of up to seven hundred ninety-six thousand dollars (\$796,000) from the United States Environmental Protection Agency for this purpose.

The funds will be used for engineering and environmental services, design and planning, project management, public outreach, adaptive management and applied studies, and other work associated with completing planning for Phase II. These disbursements include:

1. Up to five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) to the United States Geological Survey (USGS) for adaptive management and applied studies. Prior to the disbursement of any Conservancy funds for any study, USGS shall submit for the review and approval of the Conservancy’s Executive Officer a work program for that study, including schedule and budget, and the names of any contractors it intends to use to complete the study.
2. Up to thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) to the Resources Legacy Fund (RLF) for adaptive management and applied studies. Prior to the disbursement of any Conservancy funds for any study, RLF shall submit for the review and approval of the Conservancy’s Executive Officer a work program, including schedule and budget, and the names of any contractors it intends to use.”
3. Up to forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) to the San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI) for website maintenance and data management at [www.southbayrestoration.org](http://www.southbayrestoration.org). Prior to the disbursement of any Conservancy funds, SFEI shall submit for the review and approval of the Conservancy’s Executive Officer a work program, including schedule and budget, and the names of any contractors it intends to use.”

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Findings:

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

1. The proposed project is consistent with the Conservancy’s current Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.
2. The proposed authorization is consistent with the purposes and objectives of Chapter 4.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding the Conservancy’s mandate to address the resource and recreational goals of San Francisco Bay Area.
3. The Resources Legacy Fund and the San Francisco Estuary Institute are nonprofit organizations existing under Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code, and whose purposes are consistent with Division 21 of the Public Resources Code.”

Moved and seconded. Approved by a vote of 5-0.

**NORTH COAST**

**9. POLE MOUNTAIN PROPERTY**

Karyn Gear of the Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes disbursement of an amount not to exceed \$350,000 (three hundred fifty thousand dollars) to Sonoma Land Trust (“SLT”) to acquire the approximately 238-acre Pole Mountain property (Sonoma County Assessor’s Parcel Nos. 107-190-042, -043; 107-200-020, -021, & -022). This authorization is subject to the following conditions:

1. Prior to the disbursement of any Conservancy funds, SLT shall submit for review and approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy (the “Executive Officer”):
  - a. All relevant acquisition documents, including, without limitation, appraisals, environmental assessments, title reports, purchase agreements, escrow instructions and documents of title.
  - b. Documentation that all other funds necessary for the acquisition have been obtained.
2. SLT shall pay no more than fair market value for the property, as established in an approved appraisal.
3. SLT shall permanently dedicate the property for the purposes of protecting open space and water quality, restoring wildlife habitat, including existing salmonid habitat and providing compatible, low-impact public access, in a manner acceptable to the Executive Officer.
4. Conservancy funding shall be acknowledged by erecting and maintaining on the property a sign, the design and placement of which has been reviewed and approved by the Executive Officer.”

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Findings:

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

1. The proposed project is consistent with the current Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the purposes and objectives of the San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program, Chapter 4.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, Sections 31160-31165.
3. The grantee (SLT) is a private nonprofit organizations existing under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, and its purposes are consistent with Division 21 of the Public Resources Code.”

Moved and seconded. Approved by a vote of 5-0.

**10. MA-LE’L DUNES- PHASE II ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS**

Karyn Gear of the Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes disbursement of an amount not to exceed one hundred eighty-nine thousand four hundred twenty-five dollars (\$189,425) to the United States Bureau of Land Management to implement Phase II of the Ma-le’l Dunes Cooperative Management Area Access Plan, subject to the following conditions:

1. Prior to disbursement of any funds, the Executive Officer shall approve in writing a work plan, budget and schedule, detailed project designs, and any contractors to be used for the activities under this authorization.
2. With respect to work funded by the Conservancy and constituting an improvement or development, the grantee shall provide evidence that all permits and approvals necessary to this project have been issued.
3. Conservancy funding shall be acknowledged by erecting and maintaining on the property a sign or signs that have been reviewed and approved by the Executive Officer.”

Findings:

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

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Chapter 9 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding public access to and along the coast.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.



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3. The proposed project will serve greater than local needs.”

Moved and seconded. Approved by a vote of 5-0.

**The board next heard item 4.**

**4. EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT**

The Executive Officer shared two thank you letters from Assembly Member Das Williams and Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson thanking the Conservancy for approving the disbursement of Proposition 12 funds to the City of Port Hueneme for emergency shoreline stabilization work at Hueneme Beach at the Conservancy’s October 31, 2013 Teleconference meeting.

The Conservancy heard the Executive Report in the following order:

- C. Climate Ready: Mr. Schuchat reported that the board would see a staff recommendation in January to fund 20 projects for approximately \$3 million, out of over 70 proposals worth over \$13 million.
  
- A. San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority: The Conservancy was updated on the progress to date of the SFBRA. The SFBRA is working on a parcel tax for the November 2014 ballot at the level of \$9-10 per parcel. The proceeds from this would fund wetland restoration, flood control, and public access. Staff is considering a joint powers agreement with the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), SFBRA, and the Conservancy as the best way to staff this; the Conservancy will see a proposal in January.
  
- B. Why We Plan: Deputy Executive Officer Mary Small presented her memo on why and how the Conservancy plans. (memo is included at the end of the minutes)
  
- D. Update on Tall Ship San Salvador -- Ray Ashley from the San Diego Maritime Museum gave an update on the progress of the building of the San Salvador.

**11. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS.**

None.

**12. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:**

Philip Bettencourt, Director of Newport/Banning Land Trust. Banning Ranch.

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**13. ADDITIONAL CLOSED SESSION.**

None.

**15. ADJOURNMENT.** The meeting was adjourned at 2:44 pm.

Next meeting: January 23, 2014, Culver City.



# Memo

Date: December 2, 2013

To: State Coastal Conservancy Board

From: Sam Schuchat, Executive Officer  
Mary Small, Deputy Executive Officer

CC: Oversight Members

RE: The Role of Planning in Accomplishing the Conservancy's Mission and Strategic Plan Goals

The purpose of this memo is to explain to the Coastal Conservancy Board the important role of transparent, science-based planning in helping to establish conservation priorities and build partnerships to achieve statewide resource conservation goals. This memo will provide the Coastal Conservancy with some additional information about the context in which specific project recommendations come before the Conservancy. Occasionally, members of the Conservancy Board have asked why we need to fund or support planning studies. The Conservancy supports planning, with both funding and staff technical assistance, for three reasons: 1) to identify specific priority projects under our Strategic Plan; 2) to bring together large groups of stakeholders around a common vision of coastal resource protection that will be implemented over the long-term; and 3) to leverage other funding sources to implement priority projects that achieve statewide goals.

This memo presents examples of prioritization plans that have been supported by the Coastal Conservancy. In addition to plans developed with Conservancy support, this memo also discusses some of the existing statewide and regional plans under which the Conservancy operates. The Conservancy also funds specific site planning and design to develop projects so they are ready for implementation. Such project planning has been an important strategy in leveraging Conservancy resources; often a small initial investment in a site plan will enable project partners to obtain significant matching funds for implementation. However, the focus of this memo is on broader planning efforts, in particular those plans that identify specific priorities to achieve statewide goals.

A great deal of work has been done by local governments, stakeholders, scientists and other partners to identify specific priority projects that achieve statewide coastal resource conservation goals. Conservancy staff supports these planning efforts and uses them to inform recommendations for projects. Staff will convert this memo into a webpage with links to these plans. Starting in 2014, we will also direct staff to explicitly discuss the planning context for all recommended approvals as part of all staff recommendations.

## **Background**

The Coastal Conservancy was created in 1976 as part of a comprehensive strategy to protect California's coastal resources for the benefit of all Californians. A unique strength of California's strategy for coastal protection is that it does not rely only on regulation; the Conservancy was established out of the belief that some conservation objectives are better reached through collaboration. The Conservancy is directed to work proactively to solve problems and implement projects that 1) protect coastal resources including urban waterfronts and agricultural lands, 2) expand public access to the coast, and 3) enhance natural resources. The Conservancy's mission is to work collaboratively with other partners to achieve statewide coastal resource protection goals. Implicit in this approach is the need to bring people together to develop plans that lay out a vision for the future and identify specific priority activities to achieve that vision.

The Conservancy is charged with achieving a number of statewide coastal goals, including protecting land, enhancing habitat, improving public access, and preparing for impacts of climate change. The Conservancy implements the overarching statewide goals of the Coastal Act, the agency's enabling legislation and Strategic Plan, and other state policies by supporting regional planning to identify specific goals and priority projects. Key to the Coastal Conservancy's success has been its work with nonprofit organizations, local governments, scientists, other agencies, and the public to develop clear goals and a long-term shared vision for coastal resource protection in California. One of the key roles of the Conservancy is to bring scientific expertise and statewide perspective to local and regional planning efforts to protect coastal resources that benefit all Californians. The Conservancy has provided staff support and grant funds for many planning efforts. By engaging partners in transparent planning processes, the Conservancy has identified and implemented strategic priorities all along the California coast and in the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area.

Since its inception, the Coastal Conservancy has sought to strategically use its limited resources to maximize protection and enhancement of California's coastal resources. Many of these plans were incrementally implemented over the succeeding decades as resources became available and project opportunities unfolded. When significant bond funds became available to the Coastal Conservancy starting in 2001, the agency was able to quickly and successfully implement many projects that had already been identified in state-supported prioritization plans.

## **Identifying Statewide Priorities at the Regional Scale**

The Coastal Conservancy is a state agency and is charged with implementing projects that achieve statewide goals. However, as articulated in our Strategic Plan, we recognize the unique features, challenges and opportunities of the different regions of the state. California's coastal areas are incredibly diverse in all measures: geography, population distribution, economy, and resources. Much of the Conservancy's planning work is at the regional scale where plans can be specific enough to inform action and broad enough to identify priorities.

Planning at the appropriate geographic scale and around appropriate focal areas is critical to developing useful, actionable plans. Statewide plans can be useful for establishing broad goals, but they typically lack the specificity to evaluate specific priority actions. As an example, the statewide [California Wildlife Action Plan](#) (currently being updated by California Department of Fish and Wildlife) provides general

recommendations for action such as “(s)tate and federal agencies should work with cities and counties to secure sensitive habitats and key habitat linkages (p.32)”. The Wildlife Action Plan discusses general priorities for each of the state’s ecoregions but recommends development of more focused regional planning to identify specific priorities, actions and projects. Another statewide plan is the *Essential Habitat Connectivity Project*, commissioned by the California Department of Transportation and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to identify large remaining blocks of intact habitat and to model important habitat corridors between these blocks. Analysis was conducted with statewide data and as a result the project only looked at habitat blocks of at least 2,000 acres. Due to the coarse nature of the analysis, the plan recommends additional work at the regional scale. Regional plans such as the *South Coast Missing Linkages* and *Critical Linkages: Bay Area and Beyond* compliment the statewide plan and identify specific on-the-ground priorities and implementation strategies for wildlife linkages.

One of the strengths of the Conservancy is that through its diverse mission, it has worked on integrated, multiple objective plans and projects, such as plans identifying both public access and habitat enhancement priorities in a watershed. For purposes of organization this memo provides examples of four different types of plans that the Conservancy has helped develop and implement:

- Land Conservation
- Habitat Enhancement
- Public Access and Trails
- Plans to Prepare for the Impacts of Climate Change

However, there is often overlap between these types of plans and many plans cover more than one of these focal areas.

#### *Land Conservation*

To guide acquisition decisions, the Coastal Conservancy has led and supported many rigorous and scientific conservation planning efforts. These plans are grounded in conservation science and developed through transparent processes, providing appropriate involvement and input by key non-state partners. The Conservancy has supported, helped develop, and helped implement land conservation plans at a variety of landscape scales. Table 1 lists some of the conservation plans that the Conservancy has helped develop and implement, as well as other plans used by the Conservancy in its work.

An example of a Conservancy-supported planning effort is The Conservation Fund’s *Conservation Prospects for the North Coast*, completed in 2005. The stated purpose of the project was to “develop a regional perspective and provide a basis for implementing comprehensive conservation programs that address the many complex and compelling conservation opportunities on the North Coast.” The project reviewed and synthesized the recommendations from more than 150 local and regional planning efforts and provided conservation strategies across the five-county region. As a result, The Conservation Fund was able to provide a “big picture” context to local plans and identify specific conservation priorities. Subsequent acquisition projects by the The Conservation Fund and funded by the Conservancy implemented the conservation priorities identified in this plan.

The *Conservation Lands Network* is one example of a regional planning effort the Conservancy helped support and implement. This science-based study was led by the Bay Area Open Space Council and brought together more than 125 organizations and individuals to identify the most essential lands needed to sustain the “natural infrastructure” of the Bay Area. The plan covered an area of 4.3 million acres and over 1,000 variables were considered – from redwood forests to California red-legged frog habitat, from climate change to migratory routes. The Conservancy was an early and ongoing supporter and funder of this effort along with several other foundations and public agencies. The Conservation Lands Network map, report, and interactive on-line map were released in 2011 and are available to land managers, legislators and local planners to help them make informed and integrated decisions and regularly assess the region’s progress towards these goals.

The resulting plan and associated mapping tool has been and is being used to guide investments in land conservation. First, it is used to refine priorities at a local or subregional level. Land trusts, open space districts, and others can use the results of Conservation Lands Network to better prioritize habitat types in need of conservation in their locale. Second, it is used to evaluate potential projects. The Conservancy, private foundations, and other funders (as well as the project proponent) can evaluate the importance of a given acquisition using Conservation Lands Network’s interactive on-line mapping tool, Explorer. For example, the 1,500-acre Rockville Trails Estates acquisition in Solano County was assessed using Explorer and was determined to be a high priority based on its contribution to regional and landscape unit goals for specific habitat types on the property. The Conservancy awarded a grant for this acquisition in 2011.

#### *Habitat Enhancement*

The Conservancy has funded development of many science-based, comprehensive ecosystem management and habitat enhancement plans along the California coast and around the San Francisco Bay Area. These plans identify priority actions to restore and protect ecosystem functions and key habitats and usually one or more other objectives such as flood protection and public access. Habitat enhancement planning occurs at a variety of scales, from ecoregional plans to watershed enhancement plans to site-specific plans. The Conservancy has funded several studies identifying fish passage barriers, including the statewide *Inventory of Barriers to Fish Passage in Coastal Watersheds*. Table 2 lists habitat enhancement plans that the Conservancy has helped support as well as some of the important plans prepared by other agencies that the Conservancy regularly consults.

The *San Francisco Bay Subtidal Habitat Goals Report* was released in 2010, outlining a bold vision for the subtidal habitats of San Francisco Bay. Led by the Conservancy and prepared with many partners, the report presents a strong, non-regulatory vision for how to move forward with science-based subtidal research, protection, and restoration over the next 50 years. The report is the first comprehensive compilation of information about submerged areas in the Bay and has inspired a variety of in-the-water restoration efforts, including oyster, eelgrass, and living shoreline projects that benefit aquatic fish, invertebrates, and wildlife. Since its completion, the Conservancy and its partners have begun implementing several priority projects identified in the plan, including the living shorelines project and the creosote piling removal project. The first year monitoring results for the pilot native oyster restoration project have demonstrated significant success including growth of over two million oysters, an increased diversity of invertebrates, fish, and birds using the reef, and a 28% reduction of wave energy from the newly developed reef.

For the past 15 years, the Coastal Conservancy has staffed the *Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project*. The Wetlands Recovery Project is a regional collaboration that brings together 19 state and federal agencies to increase the pace and effectiveness of wetland restoration projects in the Southern California Bight, from Point Conception to Tijuana. The Wetlands Recovery Project's *Regional Strategy* and its *Work Plan* are documents developed with input from the member agencies and local stakeholders to identify wetland restoration priorities in the region. Currently the Regional Strategy is being updated to include considerations of climate change and to incorporate lessons learned from recently completed historical ecology studies.

The Conservancy has funded several historical ecology studies to inform the design of sustainable, resilient ecosystem restoration projects. California's coastal ecosystems have been irrevocably altered, so historical ecology studies do not provide a blueprint for restoration. Rather, these studies help us understand how systems performed prior to disturbance and to uncover both the landscape-scale patterns and local variability expressed by a system to guide effective restoration efforts. Historical ecology studies are powerful place-based tools for planning restoration in high priority areas.

The Conservancy has supported many plans that identify priority projects needed to restore ecosystem functions to an entire watershed. These plans create a blueprint for agreement among different stakeholders on a shared vision for the future. In the Navarro River Watershed, the Conservancy helped fund the watershed restoration plan and then relied on that plan to identify future projects. The Conservancy supported a multi-faceted approach over several phases of implementation. Projects completed under the program included riparian habitat restoration, a native plant nursery with the local high school, fish passage improvements, landowner workshops, road assessments and improvements to reduce sediment in tributaries, invasive species control, a best management practices vineyard certification program, and project monitoring. Through the development of the plan and its subsequent implementation, the Conservancy built trust among watershed landowners and added to the capacity of the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District to complete implementation of the plan using multiple funding sources.

### *Public Access and Trail Plans*

The Conservancy has funded and participated in many public access plans along the Coast and around San Francisco Bay. These plans help develop the vision for regional access systems, such as the California Coastal Trail, the San Francisco Bay Trail, and others. The Conservancy has also funded many plans to build regional trails that link up with the Coastal Trail, primarily along river parkways. By having regional access plans, multiple partners can identify opportunities to complete missing segments of trail networks through direct acquisition, permit activities or other means. Thus, these plans not only help the Conservancy identify priority projects, they help leverage the resources of other partners as well. Table 3 lists some of the public access plans that the Coastal Conservancy has helped support and implement.

The Conservancy developed a [statewide plan](#) for completing the California Coastal Trail. This plan was useful in identifying important gaps in completing the statewide trail. However, the statewide plan lacked the level of detail needed to provide guidance as to what particular projects should be undertaken in specific places. As a result, the Conservancy has funded more detailed planning for the Coastal Trail at the regional scale. One example of a regional plan is the recently completed [Santa Cruz County Coastal Trail Master Plan](#). This master plan identifies 20 specific trail segments that can be constructed and will be used to identify priority projects to be funded with \$7 million of federal transportation grant funds.

The [Humboldt Bay Trails Feasibility Study](#) was funded by the Coastal Conservancy in 2000 and completed in 2001. This was a pioneering planning effort for trails in Humboldt Bay. When the study began many partners did not think there would be real public access opportunities along the Humboldt Bay Shoreline. Today there is a new trail-related group and the cities and other potential partners are engaged in implementing a regional trail. New coastal access has been provided along the Old Town waterfront in Eureka and the Hikshari Trail along the Elk River. With Conservancy assistance the City of Arcata has made significant progress on planning and designing a rail-with-trail segment of the Bay Trail & Coastal Trail between Arcata and Bracut Marsh. As a result of Coastal Commission requirements, Caltrans is working on completing a significant section of trail as part of Highway 1 improvements. The study also included recommendations for a Water Trail, and with Conservancy support plans are now being completed for new and upgraded facilities for nonmotorized boaters.

### *Plans to Prepare for Impacts of Climate Change*

Over the past decade, California has become increasingly aware of the unavoidable impacts of climate change. The Coastal Conservancy is supporting several important regional efforts to plan for the changing climate. Again, the Conservancy's focus has been at the regional and local scale where information is specific enough to inform action. The Conservancy is working on updates to both the *Baylands Ecosystem Goals Report* and the *Southern California Wetland Recovery Project Regional Strategy* that consider climate change impacts in planning for future ecosystem restoration. The Conservancy is also working with several communities to assess vulnerability to sea level rise. Table 4 lists the plans the Coastal Conservancy is supporting that will help identify priority actions to prepare for the impacts of Climate Change.



The *Baylands Ecosystem Goals Report*, completed in 1999 by over 100 scientists and resource managers led by the US Environmental Protection Agency and the Regional Water Quality Control Board, identifies the types, amounts, and distribution of bayland habitats needed to sustain diverse and healthy communities of fish and wildlife. The report succeeded in articulating a vision for protecting and restoring 100,000 acres of wetland habitat in San Francisco Bay, and has become a key tool to support wetlands restoration. The Conservancy is now working with a comparable group of scientists and managers to produce a technical update to the report to incorporate an improved understanding of how climate change will affect the Bay's wetlands. This update will include specific recommendations for actions to address the impending and significant effects that climate change will have on the baylands, which provide essential habitat and tremendous benefits to wildlife and humans.

The *Humboldt Bay Sea Level Rise Adaptation Planning* Project is bringing together many land management agencies to conduct a regional vulnerability assessment, and to plan and implement adaptation projects. The first phase of the project, completed in January 2013, mapped the condition of the shoreline around Humboldt Bay and highlighted current threats of flooding due to potential failures of unmaintained dikes. The project made the community aware of existing flooding danger and built momentum for regional planning. The vulnerability assessment is still underway, but it has already helped the cities of Eureka and Arcata to secure additional funds for a Local Coastal Program update and to plan for a living shoreline project to protect the Arcata Wastewater Treatment Plant. The Adaptation Working Group formed as part of the project will continue meeting over the long term, coordinating adaptation policies of multiple jurisdictions with authority over hydrologically connected areas.

## **TABLE 1: Land Conservation Plans**

### *Statewide*

Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Plan

State Wildlife Action Plan

Essential Habitat Connectivity Strategy for Conserving a Connected California

### *North Coast*

Mendocino County Coastal Conservation Plan

### *San Francisco Bay Area*

San Francisco Bay Area Agricultural Sustainability Plan

San Francisco Bay Area Conservation Lands Network

San Francisco Bay Area Greenbelt: At-Risk Report (2012 Edition)

Critical Linkages: Bay Area and Beyond

East Contra Costa County Natural Community Conservation Plan

### *Central Coast*

Conservation Blueprint for Santa Cruz County

Irish Hills Watersheds Conservation Plan

Santa Cruz Mountains Redwoods Conceptual Area Protection Plan

Elkhorn Slough Conservation Plan

### *Southern California*

Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project Regional Strategy

Los Angeles Green Visions Plan

Orange County Natural Community Conservation Plan

Palos Verdes Peninsula Natural Community Conservation Plan

San Diego County Multiple Species Conservation Program

San Diego Multiple Habitat Conservation Program

San Diego North County Multiple Species Conservation Plan

San Diego River Conservation Plan

## **TABLE 2: Habitat Enhancement Plans**

### *Statewide*

Statewide Fish Barrier Assessment

### *North Coast*

Klamath River Offshore Ecosystem Study  
Humboldt Bay Regional *Spartina* Control Plan  
Humboldt Bay Ecosystem-Based Management Program  
Humboldt Bay Subtidal Habitat Goals Project  
North Coast Riparian Restoration Evaluation

### Watershed Restoration Plans

Austin Creek Watershed Restoration Program  
Klamath River Corridor Plan  
Mattole River Watershed Enhancement Activities  
Navarro Watershed Restoration Plan

### Fish Passage Barrier Assessment and Fish Habitat Restoration Plans

Humboldt Fish Passage Improvement Program  
Five Counties Fish Passage Improvement  
Caspar Creek Fish Passage Improvement  
Pine Gulch Creek Instream Flow Protection

### *San Francisco Bay Area*

San Francisco Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals Report: Climate Change Update  
San Francisco Estuary Invasive *Spartina* Eradication Plan  
Restoring the Estuary: An Implementation Strategy for the SF Bay Joint Venture  
San Francisco Bay Subtidal Habitat Goals Report  
Napa Historical Ecology Atlas  
East Contra Costa County Historical Ecology Project

### Watershed Restoration Plans

Bear Valley Creek Watershed Enhancement Plan  
Big Break Marsh Creek Restoration and Stewardship  
Eticuera Creek Watershed Restoration (Berryessa)  
Green Valley Creek Watershed Assessment and Integrated Plan  
Northern Tributaries to Upper Alameda Creek: Integrated Water Management Plan  
San Geronimo Creek Enhancement Plan  
Pinole Creek Watershed Planning and Design  
San Pablo Bay Watershed Restoration Program  
Suisun Creek Watershed Plan

### Fish Passage Barrier Assessment and Fish Habitat Restoration Plans

San Francisco Estuary Fish Passage Improvement Program  
San Francisco Estuary: Assessment of Anchor Watersheds for Fisheries

**TABLE 2: Habitat Enhancement Plans, continued**

Alameda Creek (Flows and Fish Passage Studies)  
Napa River Fish Barrier Assessment and Restoration Plans  
San Francisquito Creek Watershed Steelhead Recovery Plan

*Central Coast*

Integrated Watershed Restoration Program for Santa Cruz County  
Elkhorn Slough Tidal Wetlands Strategic Plan  
Morro Bay National Estuary Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan  
Santa Maria River Estuary Enhancement Plan  
Watsonville Slough Enhancement Plan

Watershed Restoration Plans

Arana Gulch Watershed Enhancement Plan  
Arroyo Grande Creek Watershed Enhancement and Restoration Plan  
Arroyo Seco Watershed Restoration Feasibility Study  
Austin Creek Watershed Restoration Program  
Carmel River Watershed Action Plan  
Garrapata Creek Watershed Restoration  
Gazos Creek Enhancement Watershed Plan  
Lower Santa Ynez River Restoration Feasibility Study  
Lower Santa Ynez River Watershed Enhancement Feasibility  
Lower Pajaro River Watershed Enhancement Plan  
Morro Bay Watershed Enhancement Plan  
San Lorenzo River Urban River Plan, including Enhancement Plan  
San Luis Obispo Creek Watershed Enhancement Plan  
Santa Rosa Creek Watershed Conservation Plan  
Soquel Creek Watershed Enhancement Plan

Fish Passage Barrier Assessment and Fish Habitat Restoration Plans  
County of Santa Cruz Stream Crossing Inventory and Fish Passage Evaluation  
Arroyo Hondo Creek Steelhead Habitat Enhancement Plan  
Upper San Lorenzo River Salmonid Enhancement Plan

*Southern California*

Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project Regional Strategy  
Southern California Coastal Wetlands Atlas  
Ventura County Historical Ecology Study  
Santa Monica Bay Restoration Plan  
Ballona Creek Historic Ecology Study Feasibility Study for Restoration of Rocky Feasibility Study for  
Restoration of Rocky Intertidal Habitat in Santa Monica Bay  
North San Diego County Coastal Wetlands Historical Ecology Study  
San Diego Nearshore Habitat and Beach Nourishment Studies  
Tijuana River Historical Ecology Project

**TABLE 2: Habitat Enhancement Plans, continued**

Watershed Restoration Plans

Southern California Watershed Inventory

Calleguas Creek Watershed Restoration

San Diego River Watershed Data Collection

Lower Rose Creek Watershed Assessment

Tijuana River Valley Invasive Plant Control Project

Fish Passage Barrier Assessment and Fish Habitat Restoration Plans

Santa Monica Mountains Steelhead Assessment

### **TABLE 3: Public Access Plans**

#### *Statewide*

California Coastal Trail Plan  
Coastal Trail in State Parks  
California Recreational Trails Plan

#### *North Coast*

Klamath River Estuary Access Planning  
Humboldt Bay Natural Areas Access Enhancement Project  
Humboldt Bay Water Trail Implementation Program  
Humboldt County Coastal Trail Implementation Program  
Humboldt Bay Trail Feasibility Study  
Mendocino Coastal Trail Plan  
Mendocino Access Improvements Plan  
Sonoma County Coastal Trail Plan

#### *San Francisco Bay Area*

San Francisco Bay Area Ridge Trail Plan  
San Francisco Bay Trail Planning and Gap Analysis  
San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail Plan  
East Bay Greenway  
The Great California Delta Trail Plan  
Lake Berryessa Shoreline Trail

#### *Central Coast*

Santa Cruz County Master Coastal Trail Plan  
Monterey Santa Cruz Rail to Rail Master Plan  
Watsonville Trail Master Plan  
N. San Luis Obispo County Coastal Trail Master Plan  
Devereux Slough/Ellwood Mesa Regional Open Space and Development Master Plan

#### *Southern California*

Palos Verdes Peninsula Coastal Trail  
San Diego River Trail Gap Inventory  
Ventura River Parkway  
Compton Creek Enhancement Feasibility Report  
San Diego River Trail Gap Analysis  
Southern San Diego County Coastal Access Vision Plan  
Tijuana River Valley Habitat Restoration and Trail Program

## **TABLE 4: Climate Change Adaptation Plans**

### *Statewide*

Sea Level Rise: Coastal Infrastructure and Resources Impact Project  
California Climate Change Adaptation Strategy  
State of California Sea Level Rise Guidance  
California Landscape Conservation Cooperative Five Year Strategic Plan

### *North Coast*

Humboldt Bay Shoreline Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment

### *San Francisco Bay Area*

San Francisco Baylands Habitat Ecosystems Goals Report: Climate Change Update  
San Francisco Bay Wetland and Ecological Sea Level  
Ocean Beach Managed Retreat Master Plan

### *Central Coast*

Monterey Bay Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment  
Goleta Slough Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment

### *Southern California*

Coastal Storm Model for Southern California Bight

### *Grants to Update Local Coastal Programs to Plan for Sea Level Rise*

(Funded by OPC, awarded 11/21/13, managed by Coastal Conservancy Staff)

- City of Eureka General Plan Update: Coastal Land Use Policy – Sea-level Rise Adaptation Strategies and Policies
- Sonoma County LCP Update: Sea-level Rise Assessment and Adaptation
- Collaborating on Sea-level Marin: Adaptation Response Team
- City of Half Moon Bay Local Coastal Program
- Collaborative Efforts to Assess Sea-level Rise Impacts and Evaluate Policy Options for the Monterey Bay Coast
- City of Morro Bay Sea-level Rise Vulnerability Assessment and Policy Framework
- Capacity Building and Information Acquisition for Sea-level Rise Planning in the Los Angeles Greater Metropolitan Region