

**STATE COASTAL CONSERVANCY
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
October 2, 2014**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Douglas Bosco (Public Member), Chairman
Ann Notthoff (Public Member)
Peter Sadowski (Public Member)
Sara Ramirez Giroux (Public Member)
Steve Kinsey, Coastal Commission Chair
Bryan Cash (Designated, Natural Resources Agency)
Karen Finn (Designated, Department of Finance)

OVERSIGHT MEMBERS PRESENT:

No Oversight members attended

OTHERS PRESENT:

Sam Schuchat, Executive Officer
Jack Judkins, Legal Counsel

LOCATION:

Ferndale City Hall Auditorium
834 Main St.
Ferndale, CA

1. ROLL CALL

Douglas Bosco (Public Member), Chairman
Ann Notthoff (Public Member)
Peter Sadowski (Public Member)
Sara Ramirez Giroux (Public Member)
Steve Kinsey, Coastal Commission Chair
Bryan Cash (Designated, Natural Resources Agency)
Karen Finn (Designated, Department of Finance)

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 16, 2014 TELECONFERENCE PUBLIC MEETING

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Approval of the Minutes of the July 16, 2014 Teleconference Public Meeting was moved and seconded, then approved by a vote of 7-0.

The Chair introduced the Mayor of Ferndale, Stuart Titus, who welcomed the Conservancy to Ferndale. Jay Parrish, City Manager, thanked the Conservancy for supporting the Salt River Project which was toured on October 1, 2014.

CONSENT ITEMS:

A. BEACH DATA COLLECTION

Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes disbursement of up to \$25,000 to the University of Southern California Sea Grant Program to provide surveys of beach profile changes and high-water mark data along Santa Monica Bay, Los Angeles County.”

Findings:

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

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with the purposes and objectives of Public Resources Code Section 31113, regarding addressing the potential impacts of climate change on coastal resources.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.
3. The University of Southern California is an organization existing under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and whose purposes are consistent with Division 21 of the Public Resources Code.”

B. SANTA ANA RIVER PARKWAY TRAIL

Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby augments its June 20, 2013 authorization, attached as Exhibit 1 to the accompanying staff recommendation, to provide an additional disbursement of up to four hundred thousand five hundred dollars (\$400,500) to the County of San Bernardino (County) for engineering and design of a Class I bikeway with pedestrian shoulders for a 3.5-mile segment of the Santa Ana River Parkway Trail corridor from California Street to Orange Street, City of Redlands, subject to the conditions of its June 20, 2013 authorization.”

Findings:

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1. “Based on the accompanying staff report and attached exhibits, the State Coastal Conservancy hereby finds that the proposed authorization remains consistent with the Conservancy’s June 20, 2013 findings. (See Exhibit 1 to the accompanying staff recommendation).”

C. SOUTH BAY SALT PONDS RESTORATION PROJECT

Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes disbursement of up to two hundred thirty thousand dollars (\$230,000) of Conservancy funds to allow Ducks Unlimited, Inc. to undertake applied studies associated with the implementation of Phase I projects. Prior to the disbursement of any Conservancy funds, Ducks Unlimited, Inc. 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.”

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. Ducks Unlimited, Inc. is a 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.”

D. FIVE COUNTY FISH PASSAGE DESIGN

Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of up to two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) to the Northwest California Resource Conservation and Development Council (“Council”) for the preparation of engineering, design, environmental and permitting documentation for the future implementation of four fish passage improvement and water quality improvement projects (“Program”). Prior to the commencement of work, the Council shall submit for the review and approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy a work program, schedule for completion, budget, and the names and qualifications of any contractors to be employed in the preparation of the Program.”

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Prior to the disbursement of Conservancy funds, the Council shall submit for review and approval by the Executive Officer of the Conservancy:

1. A work program, including a schedule and budget.
2. The names of all contractors to be retained.
3. Documentation that all required funding has been secured.

Findings:

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

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with the current Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.
2. The proposed authorization is consistent with the purposes and objectives of Chapter 6 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding resource enhancement.
3. The Northwest California Resource Conservation & Development Council is a nonprofit organization existing under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service, and whose purposes are consistent with Division 21 of the Public Resources Code.”

E. TIJUANA RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL PARK

Speaking in favor of the Staff Recommendation: Supervisor Greg Cox, San Diego County.

Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of an amount not to exceed one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) to the County of San Diego (County) for the development of a public use feasibility study for the Tijuana River Valley Regional Park. Prior to the disbursement of any Conservancy funds, the County shall submit for review and approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy a work program, schedule and budget, and the names of any contractors that it intends to employ for this planning work.”

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 9 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code (sections 31400-31409) regarding a system of public accessways.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.
3. The proposed project serves greater than local need.”

F. LITTLE RIVER ACQUISITION

Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) in grant funds from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (“USFWS”) and forty-five thousand dollars (\$45,000) of Conservancy funds for a total disbursement of up to eighty five thousand dollars (\$85,000) to the Trinidad Coastal Land Trust (“TCLT”) to acquire the Little River property south of the City of Trinidad, Humboldt County (Humboldt County Assessor’s Parcel Number 513-171-009, depicted in Exhibit 1 to the accompanying staff recommendation); and for estimated closing costs for the transaction, for open space, natural resource protection and public access, subject to the following conditions:

1. Prior to the disbursement of any Conservancy funds for the acquisition, TCLT shall submit for review and approval by the Executive Officer:
 - a. All relevant acquisition documents, including but not limited to an appraisal, environmental assessment, agreement of purchase and sale, escrow instructions, and documents related to title.
 - b. Evidence that TCLT has obtained all funds necessary to complete the acquisition.
2. In accordance with Public Resources Code Section 31116(b), TCLT shall permanently dedicate the property for public access, open space, and habitat conservation, in a manner acceptable to the Executive Officer.
3. TCLT shall pay no more than fair market value for the property, as established in an appraisal approved by the Executive Officer.
4. Conservancy and USFWS funding shall be acknowledged by erecting and maintaining a sign on the property that has been reviewed and approved by the Executive Officer.
5. TCLT shall ensure compliance with and assist the Conservancy in complying with the grant terms of the USFWS.”

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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 the coast.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.
3. The Trinidad Coastal Land Trust is a nonprofit organization existing under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service, and whose purposes are consistent with Division 21 of the Public Resources Code.”

G. MOAT CREEK BEACH

Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of an amount not to exceed fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) to Moat Creek Managing Agency to operate and maintain public access improvements at Moat Creek Beach and along the Moat Creek segment of the California Coastal Trail in Mendocino County, subject to the condition that prior to the disbursement of funds, Moat Creek Managing Agency shall submit for the written approval of the Conservancy’s Executive Officer a work program, budget, names of any contractors it intends to employ for the project, and plans for signs acknowledging Conservancy funding.”

Findings:

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

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with the purposes and objectives of Chapter 9 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding public access to the coast.
2. The proposed authorization is consistent with the Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines, last updated by the Conservancy on November 10, 2011.
3. Moat Creek Managing Agency is a private nonprofit organization, existing under the provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Service Code, and its purposes are consistent with Division 21 of the Public Resources Code.”

Moved and seconded. Consent Items approved by a vote of 7-0.

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4. EXECUTIVE OFFICERS REPORT:

- A. Aldaron Laird, Sea Level Rise Adaptation Planner, gave a power point presentation on Humboldt Bay Regional Sea Level Rise.
- B. The Conservancy approved the 2015 Conservancy Meeting Schedule with a vote of 7-0. The Conservancy agreed to meet with the Delta Conservancy in the afternoon of the June 25 board meeting scheduled to be in Sacramento.
- C. Executive Officer presented the Project Selection Criterion Staff Recommendation.

Member Ann Notthoff, commended the new criteria as good preparation for implementation of Proposition 1, since the state Water Action Plan is one of many referenced in the Staff Recommendations.

Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby adopts the revised Conservancy *Project Selection Criteria*, attached as Exhibit 1 to the accompanying memorandum, to require that projects promote or implement priorities that are identified in statewide plans and policies.”

Findings:

“Based on the accompanying staff memorandum and its attached exhibits, the Conservancy hereby finds that:

- 1. Requiring that Conservancy projects promote or implement statewide plans and policies is consistent with and will support implementation of the Conservancy’s statutory responsibilities under Division 21 of the California Public Resources Code.
- 2. The revision to the Coastal Conservancy’s *Project Selection Criteria* is intended to provide a policy reference, a strategy, and a broad context for evaluating, prioritizing, and allocating Conservancy funding for new projects.”

Moved and seconded. Approved by a vote of 7-0.

- D. Mary Small, Deputy Executive Officer gave the Financial Report.
- E. Sam Schuchat, the Executive Officer gave the Legislative Report.

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NORTH COAST

5. FISH CREEK FISH PASSAGE

Michael Bowen of the Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

Speaking in favor of the Staff Recommendation: Anna Halligan, North Coast Coho Project Coordinator, Trout Unlimited

Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of up to six hundred thousand dollars (\$600,000) to Trout Unlimited, a nonprofit organization, to implement the Fish Creek Salmonid Barrier Removal project to enhance habitat for anadromous fish on Fish Creek, tributary to the Eel River in Humboldt County, subject to the following conditions:

1. Prior to the disbursement of funds for the project, Trout Unlimited shall submit for review and approval by the Executive Officer of the Conservancy:
 - a. A work program including a schedule and budget for the project.
 - b. All contractors to be retained for the project.
 - c. Documentation that Trout Unlimited has secured all funding needed for the project, including agreement by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), as owner of the project site, to commit resources, in the form of staff time and additional monetary contributions, as needed for the timely review and approval of the design of the project and for the implementation and completion of the project and future monitoring and maintenance of the project improvements.
 - d. Documentation that all necessary permits and approvals have been obtained.
2. Prior to commencement of work on the Fish Creek Fish Passage Project, Trout Unlimited shall enter into and record an agreement with Caltrans and approved by the Conservancy, pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 31116(c), that authorizes Trout Unlimited to carry out and monitor the project and to enter the property for those purposes and that is sufficient to protect the public interest in and provides for long-term monitoring and maintenance by Caltrans of the project improvements.”

Findings:

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

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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 Chapter 6 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding resource enhancement.
3. Trout Unlimited is a nonprofit organization existing under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service, and whose purposes are consistent with Division 21 of the Public Resources Code.”

Moved and seconded. Approved by a vote of 7-0.

6. LOST COAST HEADLANDS

Su Corbaley of the Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

Speaking in favor of the Staff Recommendation: Bruce Cann, Bureau of Land Management

Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes disbursement of an amount not to exceed three hundred fifty-seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$357,500) to the United States Bureau of Land Management (“the grantee”) to implement portions of the Lost Coast Headlands Activity Plan and develop public access in the Lost Coast Headlands Management Area; and, consistent with the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”), adopts the federal Finding of No Significant Impact, attached as Exhibit 2 to the accompanying staff recommendation, as well as the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, attached as Exhibit 3 to the accompanying staff recommendation. This authorization is 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

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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.
3. Consistent with the California Environmental Quality Act, the Conservancy has independently considered BLM's Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact for the project, attached as Exhibit 2 to the accompanying staff recommendation, as well as comments received, and finds on the basis of the whole record that there is no substantial evidence that the proposed project as mitigated will have a significant effect on the environment."

Moved and seconded. Approved by a vote of 7-0.

7. BEACHFRONT PARK

Peter Jarausch of the Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation .

Speaking in favor of the Staff Recommendation: Richard Holley, Mayor of Crescent City.

Resolution:

"The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of up to one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars (\$125,000) to the City of Crescent City (City) to construct access improvements including but not limited to a stairway and accessible ramp to the beach at Beachfront Park, in Crescent City, subject to the following conditions:

1. Prior to the disbursement of any funds the City will submit to the Executive Officer of the Conservancy for review and approval the following items:
 - a. A work program, schedule and budget and the names and qualifications of any contractors to be employed in carrying out the work.
 - b. Evidence that all necessary permits and approvals for the project have been obtained.
 - c. A sign plan.
2. The City shall ensure that the access improvements are consistent with the Conservancy's 'Standards and Recommendations for Accessway Location and Development' and with all applicable federal and state statutes, regulations and guidelines governing access for persons with disabilities."

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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 a system of public accessways.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.
3. The Conservancy has reviewed the proposed Negative Declaration attached to the accompanying staff recommendation as Exhibit 4, and finds, based on the State Coastal Conservancy’s independent judgment and analysis of the whole record before it, including the Initial Study, addendum, and comments received, that the project avoids, or reduces the possible significant environmental effects to a level of insignificance, and that there is no substantial evidence that the Crescent City Beachfront Park Coastal Access Project may have a significant effect on the environment, as defined in 14 California Code Regulations Section 15382.
4. The proposed project serves greater than local needs.”

Moved and seconded. Approved by a vote of 7-0.

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA

8. SONOMA DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER

This item was removed from the agenda.

CENTRAL COAST

9. CAYUCOS PIER

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 seven hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$750,000) to the County of San Luis Obispo (County) to renovate the Cayucos pier, located as shown in Exhibit 1 to the accompanying staff recommendation, subject to the following conditions:

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1. Prior to the disbursement of funds the County shall submit for the review and approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy:
 - a. A work program, budget, schedule, and names and qualifications of any contractors to be employed for these tasks.
 - b. Evidence that the County has obtained all necessary permits and approvals, and all other funds necessary to complete the project.
 - c. A signing plan for the project acknowledging Conservancy participation and designation of the project as a segment of the California Coastal Trail. The plan shall also identify, and the County shall sign, all other real property interests controlled, maintained or managed by the County that are deemed by the Conservancy to be existing segments of the Coastal Trail.
2. The County shall ensure that the project improvements are consistent with the Conservancy's 'Standards and Recommendations for Accessway Location and Development' and with all applicable federal and state statutes, regulations and guidelines governing barrier-free access for persons with disabilities.
3. The County shall comply with all permit conditions associated with the renovation of the pier."

Findings:

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

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with the purposes and objectives of Chapter 9 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding public access.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.
3. The proposed project serves greater than local needs."

Moved and seconded. Approved by a vote of 7-0.

10. TWIN LAKES BEACH

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 two hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) to the County of Santa Cruz to construct improvements to the California Coastal Trail and other access features at Twin Lakes Beach, subject to the following conditions:

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1. Prior to the disbursement of funds, grantee shall submit for the review and approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy:
 - a. Evidence that the County has obtained all necessary permits and approvals, including entering into any agreements necessary to implement the project on land not owned by the County, and all other funds necessary to complete the public access improvements.
 - b. A final work program, budget, schedule, and names and qualifications of any contractors to be employed for these tasks.
 - c. A signing plan for the project acknowledging Conservancy participation.
2. The County shall ensure that the final design of the project is consistent with the Conservancy's 'Standards and Recommendations for Accessway Location and Development' and with all applicable federal and state statutes, regulations and guidelines governing access for persons with disabilities.
3. The County shall install California Coastal Trail emblems, provided by the Conservancy, in the project area at locations identified by the County in consultation with the Conservancy."

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, Sections 31400-31410 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding coastal access.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.
3. The Conservancy has independently reviewed and considered the Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring Program adopted by the County on October 24, 2012, under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and attached to the accompanying staff recommendation as Exhibit 2 , and finds, based on the Conservancy's independent judgment and analysis, that the project avoids or reduces the possible significant environmental effects to a level of insignificance, and that there is no substantial evidence that the project may have a significant effect on the environment, as defined in 14 California Code of Regulations Section 15382.
4. The proposed project serves greater than local needs."

Moved and seconded. Approved by a vote of 7-0.

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SOUTH COAST

11. SEAL BEACH SEDIMENT AUGMENTATION

Evyan Borgnis of the Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of an amount not to exceed five hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$550,000) to Southwest Wetlands Interpretive Association (“SWIA”) to implement a pilot project studying the effectiveness of sediment augmentation in a salt marsh within the Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge, and adopts the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the pilot project, attached to the accompanying staff recommendation as Exhibits 3. This authorization is subject to the condition that, prior to the disbursement of any funds, SWIA shall submit for the review and written approval of the Conservancy’s Executive Officer:

1. A work program, budget, schedule, and the names of any contractors to be employed in carrying out the work.
2. Evidence that all required permits and approvals have been obtained for the pilot project.
3. Evidence that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (“USFWS”) has committed to implementing all mitigation measures identified in the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration attached to the accompanying staff recommendation as Exhibit 3.
4. A written agreement between SWIA and USFWS authorizing SWIA’s role in implementation of the pilot project and including USFWS’s commitment to preparation of a guidance document, based upon the results of the pilot project monitoring, setting forth a protocol for sediment augmentation as an adaptive strategy.”

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 6 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding Coastal Resource Enhancement Projects.
2. The pilot project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.
3. The Southwest Wetlands Interpretive Association is a nonprofit organization existing under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service, and whose purposes are consistent with Division 21 of the Public Resources Code.”

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4. In light of the whole record, including the Final Initial Study/Environmental Assessment and any comments received, there is no substantial evidence that the pilot project will have a significant effect on the environment, and the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration, attached as Exhibit 3 to the accompanying staff recommendation, reflects the Conservancy's independent judgment and analysis."

Move and seconded. Approved by a vote of 7-0.

12. ALISO CREEK ESTUARY

Joan Cardellino of the Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

Speaking in favor of the Staff Recommendation: Ed Almanza, Laguna Ocean Foundation

Resolution:

"The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes disbursement of an amount not to exceed three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) to The Ocean Foundation to develop a restoration plan for the Aliso Creek Estuary, subject to the condition that no funds shall be disbursed until the Executive Officer of the Conservancy has approved in writing a detailed work program, schedule, budget, and the names of any contractors the grantee intends to employ."

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 6 (§§ 31251-31270) of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code regarding enhancement of coastal resources, and with § 31111 regarding preparation of plans and feasibility studies.
2. The proposed project is identified in several Local Coastal Programs as requiring action to resolve existing or potential resource protection problems.
3. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.
4. The Ocean Foundation is a nonprofit organization existing under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service, and has purposes consistent with Division 21 of the Public Resources Code."

Moved and seconded. Approved by a vote of 7-0.

13. CLOSED SESSION

There was no closed session

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14. CONSERVANCY MEMBER COMMENTS

Member Ann Notthoff complimented staff for moving forward with adding project selection criteria and proactively addressing legislative concerns. Member Steve Kinsey noted ongoing work on Sea Level Rise and encouraged continued Conservancy cooperation with other involved agencies, including the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission and the California Coastal Commission. Members Bryan Cash and Karen Finn noted that the Chief Counsel of the Natural Resources Agency had recently provided a confidential memorandum with guidance on the rules against using state resources for campaign activities and wanted to be sure similar confidential advice had been given to Conservancy staff in light of Proposition 1, the state water bond, being on the ballot in November 2014. Jack Judkins, Conservancy Staff Counsel, and Sam Schuchat, Executive Officer, confirmed that such information had been given to Conservancy staff and that the confidential memorandum from the Natural Resources Chief Counsel had been distributed to staff.

15. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There was no public comment.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 11:24 a.m.

EDITORIAL

Salt River project a model of compromise

September 28, 2014

Decades in the making, restoration efforts now in progress on the Salt River provide an example of the best Humboldt County politics has to offer.

Compromise and collaboration between farmers and scientists have pushed the first phase of the project toward completion after nearly 30 years of planning.

As the Times-Standard reported earlier this month, the first phase of the project, completed in fall 2013, restored hundreds of acres of wetlands, expanding part of the Eel River tributary from a silt-clogged trickle to near its historic breadth of about 200 feet. Between March and October 2013, 330 acres of estuary were restored and 2.5 miles of channels on the lower Salt River were carved out, with monthly fish monitoring efforts beginning in March.

It's quite a turnaround for the Salt River, which after decades of diking, channel digging and leveeing by agriculture and timber interests had been transformed into more of a ditch than a river — a far cry from its days as a route for shipping between Ferndale and San Francisco in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The resulting persistent flooding inundated hundreds of acres and interfered with the disposal of Ferndale's wastewater.

Now, decades of effort have finally started paying off.

As Michael Bowen of the California Coastal Conservancy and the California Fish Passage Forum told the Times-Standard, "These projects are not 50-yard dashes, they are marathons. Each of these undertakings requires or will require a leap of faith. At the Salt River, we have made this leap of faith already. ... There are hopeful signs that this leap of faith has been worthwhile."

Former Humboldt County Supervisor Jimmy Smith, who worked on the project for nearly two decades, calls it the "most successful and largest restoration project in Northern California" as a result of hundreds of meetings between local landowners and stakeholders who managed to overcome not only bureaucratic obstacles at a host of local, state and federal agencies, but also work to bring widely disparate interests to the table in the drive to make restoration a reality.

All too often in North Coast politics, stakeholders on different sides of an issue lock horns and accomplish little in the way of compromise. The Salt River project shows us all that another way of doing things is possible. While no party involved can claim absolute advancement of their agenda, all interests are moving forward. As a recent tour of the project after its \$8 million first phase showed, fish have already reclaimed their once-thriving habitat, and as the remaining \$5 million channel expansion progresses, local landowners will benefit from improved flood control and drainage.

Fish win, people win, Humboldt County wins. Not a bad deal.

http://www.times-standard.com/editorials/ci_26621818/editorial-salt-river-project-model-compromise