

## COASTAL CONSERVANCY

Staff Recommendation

February 2, 2017

### **EXPLORE THE COAST GRANTS PROGRAM - 2017**

Project No. 16-061-01

Project Manager: Luis Morales / Sam Jenniches

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Authorization to disburse up to \$1,142,479 to nonprofit organizations and public agencies for 39 projects that facilitate and enhance the public's opportunities to explore the coast of California and the San Francisco Bay shoreline in various statewide counties.

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

**PROGRAM CATEGORY:** Coastal Education, Resource Enhancement, San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy, Public Accessways

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#### **EXHIBITS**

Exhibit 1: [Project Locations](#)

Exhibit 2: [Explore the Coast Grant Announcement & Application](#)

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 31119, 31160-31165, 31251-31270 and 31400-31410 of the Public Resources Code:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes disbursement of up to one million, one hundred forty-two thousand, four hundred seventy-nine dollars (\$1,142,479) to the following nonprofit organizations and public agencies for 39 projects that facilitate and enhance the public's opportunities to explore the coast of California and the San Francisco Bay shoreline, (presented in alphabetical order):

- 5 Gyres Institute: Seventeen thousand nine hundred thirty-two dollars (\$17,932) for one-day research expeditions for diverse groups of high school students aboard a boat off the coast of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County.
- Amah Mutsun Land Trust: Six thousand one hundred and two dollars (\$6,102) for approximately nine 1-2 minute audio segments for the Explore the Coast web app about the natural and cultural history of Amah Mutsun coastal territory, Santa Cruz and San Mateo Counties.

- Amah Mutsun Land Trust: Forty-nine thousand nine hundred and forty dollars (\$49,940) for a summer camp program for Native American youth, ages 12-17, on the San Mateo/Santa Cruz coast, San Mateo and Santa Cruz Counties.
- Bay Area Outreach & Recreation Program: Fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) for a two-year program that creates a new series of accessible outdoor coastal trips on sections of the California Coastal and San Francisco Bay Trails, Alameda County.
- California State Parks Foundation: Twenty-six thousand and sixty-five dollars (\$26,065) for bus transportation, educational camping and one-day field trips to Marin County State Parks for diverse and primarily low-income Bay Area youth, Marin County.
- Central Coast Aquarium: Seven thousand dollars (\$7,000) for a citizen science program for low-income underserved students from Title 1 schools, San Luis Obispo County.
- Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria: Eleven thousand dollars (\$11,000) for an educational program for local underserved youth, grades K-12, about California's coastal habitats and its fish and wildlife populations, Humboldt County.
- City of Arcata, Recreation Division: Twenty-three thousand nine hundred and fifty-four dollars (\$23,954) for Humboldt Bay and Arcata Marsh educational programs and cruises, Humboldt County.
- City Surf Project: Forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) for a surfing and coastal stewardship program, Marin, San Francisco, and San Mateo Counties.
- Community Nature Connection: Forty-three thousand three hundred and thirty dollars (\$43,330) for bus transportation and educational content for underserved communities, Los Angeles and Ventura Counties.
- Community Science Workshop Network, Inc.: Forty-nine thousand seven hundred and fifty dollars (\$49,750) for bus transportation and educational content for underserved students, Monterey, San Luis Obispo Counties.
- Earth Island Institute: Forty-five thousand dollars (\$45,000) for an environmental education program for underserved students, Alameda and Contra Costa Counties.
- Earth Team: Twelve thousand six hundred and seventy dollars (\$12,670) for educational hikes incorporating citizen science, Alameda, and Contra Costa Counties.
- Environmental Traveling Companions: Fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) for recreation and environmental education for disabled and disadvantaged youth, Marin County.
- Explore Ecology: Twenty-two thousand dollars (\$22,000) for bus transportation and coastal education for underserved students, Santa Barbara County.
- Friends of the Dunes: Thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) for bus transportation, Latino outreach and barrier-free access at the Humboldt Coastal Dunes Center, Humboldt County.
- Humboldt Redwoods Interpretive Association: Thirteen thousand one hundred and sixty-two dollars (\$13,162) for ecological field trips for underserved students, Mendocino County.
- Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County: Twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) for bus transportation and docent-led hikes for low income communities, San Luis Obispo County.

- Los Angeles Audubon: Forty-three thousand three hundred and thirty dollars (\$43,330) for bus transportation and coastal education field trips for underserved students, Los Angeles County.
- Los Angeles Maritime Institute: Forty-three thousand three hundred and thirty dollars (\$43,330) for a bilingual coastal awareness campaign and Tall Ship excursion, Los Angeles County.
- Los Cerritos Wetland Land Trust: Fifteen thousand six hundred and fifty dollars (\$15,650) for bus transportation and environmental education for underserved students, Los Angeles County.
- Marina Del Rey Anglers: Thirty-four thousand dollars (\$34,800) for a multi-dimensional coastal education, fishing, access and stewardship program, Los Angeles County.
- Mendocino Land Trust: Thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000) for the development of content for the online Coastal Trail Guide, Mendocino County.
- Monterey Bay Center for Environmental Literacy: Forty-nine thousand one hundred and eighty-nine dollars (\$49,189) for the development of content for the Conservancy's "Explore the Coast" web app and coastal education for underserved students, Santa Cruz County.
- Ocean Discovery Institute: Forty-three thousand two hundred and eighty-five dollars (\$43,285) for bus transportation, environmental education and citizen science for underserved elementary school students, San Diego County.
- O'Neill Sea Odyssey: Twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) for bus transportation and environmental education for underserved and disabled elementary school students, Santa Cruz County.
- PADRE Foundation: Twelve thousand seven hundred and twenty-five dollars (\$12,725) for boat transportation, barrier-free access and marine science education for children and adolescents with Type 1 Diabetes, Orange County.
- Pie Ranch: Thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) for a coast and agriculture youth education program, San Mateo County.
- Rosie the Riveter Trust: Twenty-five thousand five hundred dollars (\$25,500) for bus transportation and a San Francisco Bay-focused environmental education program, Contra Costa County.
- Santa Barbara Channel Keeper: Five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for boat transportation and marine science education for low-income students, Santa Barbara County.
- Sierra Club Foundation: Eleven thousand seven hundred and forty-five dollars (\$11,745) for bus transportation and environmental education for low-income students, Los Angeles County.
- Solano Land Trust: Twenty-eight thousand four hundred and twenty dollars (\$28,420) for bus transportation and environmental education for underserved students, Solano County.
- Sonoma County Regional Parks: Forty-four thousand dollars (\$44,000) for bus transportation and a coastal environmental education program for underserved students, Sonoma County.

- Sonoma Land Trust: Forty-seven thousand dollars (\$47,000) for bus transportation, bilingual curriculum development and a bay-oriented environmental education program for elementary school students, Sonoma County.
- Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods: Forty-five thousand dollars (\$45,000) for mobile education content, interpretive content for the Conservancy’s “Explore the Coast” web app, transportation funding and coastal education for underserved students, Sonoma County.
- Trinidad Coastal Land Trust: Thirty-one thousand dollars (\$31,000) for docent-led hikes for kindergarten to university age students as well as the general public, Humboldt County.
- Ventura Audubon Society: Thirteen thousand dollars (\$13,000) for a coastal environmental education and stewardship program, Ventura County.
- Wahine Project: Eleven thousand six hundred dollars (\$11,600) for a surfing and stewardship program for underserved girls, Monterey County.
- WILDCOAST: Thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) for a Marine Protected Area education and stewardship program, San Diego County.

The authorization is subject to the following condition:

Prior to the disbursement of funds, 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 contractors, a plan for acknowledging Conservancy funding, and any other applicable agreements determined necessary for the project by 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 Chapters 3, 4.5, 7, and 9 of Division 21 (Sections 31000 *et seq*) of the Public Resources Code, 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); 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 authorization is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.
3. The proposed nonprofit organization grantees are nonprofit organizations existing under Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code, whose purposes are consistent with Division 21 of the Public Resources Code.
4. The proposed authorization is consistent with Section 31400.1 of the Public Resources Code which authorizes the Conservancy to grant funds to local agencies if the projects are determined to serve more than local public needs. The City of Arcata’s “Explore the Coast – Humboldt Bay” project and Sonoma County Regional Parks’ “Youth Exploring the Sonoma Coast (Yes-Coast)” project will both bring youth from inland and/or underserved

communities outside of the coastal zone to coastal locations for educational and coastal programs, thus serving more than a local need.”

## **PROJECT SUMMARY:**

The proposed authorization is to provide up to \$1,142,479 to nonprofit organizations and public agencies for 39 projects that facilitate and enhance the public’s opportunities to explore the coast of California and the San Francisco Bay shoreline under the Conservancy’s Explore the Coast (ETC) grants program. The purpose of the ETC grants program is to support activities that allow more people to visit California’s spectacular coast and/or enhance a visitor’s experience. The ETC grants program 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, development of interpretive information and educational materials, and educational events and programming. The ETC grants program solicitation was released on August 18, 2016 and was widely distributed. (See Exhibit 2.)

By the October 7, 2016 submission deadline, the Conservancy received 82 project proposals, requesting over \$2.8 million in Conservancy funding. Of the 82 proposed projects submitted, 39 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. Projects recommended for funding meet one or more of the following priorities:

- Provide a coastal experience for lower-income or other underserved populations;
- Increase the number of people visiting the coast;
- Improve barrier-free access for persons with disabilities;
- Provide a valuable recreational, environmental, cultural or historic learning experience;
- Serve a large number of people within the context of the population density of the surrounding area;
- Increase stewardship of coastal resources; and/or
- Enhance the public’s coastal experience in a way that does not currently exist.

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

Staff estimates that the proposed 2016 ETC grant program will engage approximately 51,000 people through the proposed fieldtrip projects and reach approximately 130,000 people through the proposed projects that support large events and development of web application content.

Staff recommends funding the following alphabetical list of proposed 39 projects for the 2016 ETC grants program. The individual project summary includes the grantee; project name; recommended funding amount; geographic region; a brief project description; and information on the consistency of the proposed project with the Conservancy’s proposed funding source, its enabling legislation, and its Strategic Plan. In addition, each project summary provides relevant information for project compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

**5 GYRES INSTITUTE**  
**Mi Mar/My Sea**

**\$17,932**  
**South Coast**

The 5 Gyres Institute’s Mi Mar/My Sea Program will engage diverse groups of high school students in one-day research expeditions to learn about plastic pollution through hands-on citizen science aboard a boat off the coast of Los Angeles. The students will collect ocean plastics using one of 5 Gyres signature trawls and analyze the findings. Students will also learn about the history, impacts, and solutions to plastic pollution. The Mi Mar Program will target students from underserved schools who would not normally have the opportunity to get out on the water and participate in hands-on citizen science alongside experts in the field. The project goal is to engage and empower a diverse group of next generation leaders to continue the fight for a planet free of plastic pollution.

**Funding:** This proposed project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of the Los Angeles Harbor. This proposed project is consistent with the Conservancy’s Enabling Legislation as described below and is thus also consistent with the use of California Environmental License Plate Fund.

**Enabling Legislation:** This proposed project is consistent with the Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment to lower-income students through the opportunity to participate in an ocean-going science and environmental education program.

**Strategic Plan:** This proposed project will further the following strategic objective:

- **Goal 9, Objective A:** The Mi Mar/My Sea ocean-going science program will improve understanding of coastal resources through hands-on citizen science and student led projects.

**CEQA:** This proposed project is categorically exempt under California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15306 (Information Collection) because it involves data collection on plastic pollution which will not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource.

**AMAH MUTSUN LAND TRUST**  
**Explore the Coast with the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band**

**\$6,102**  
**Central Coast**

The Amah Mutsun Land Trust will develop approximately nine 1-2 minute audio segments for the Explore the Coast web app that teach about the natural and cultural history of Amah Mutsun coastal territory between Año Nuevo Point and the Pajaro River mouth. The audio segments will introduce California Coastal Trail (CCT) visitors to the unique history, stories, customs, and land management practices of the original inhabitants of the coast, information that is not currently available elsewhere to the public. Amah Mutsun Tribal Band members will return to visit the significant coastal sites of their ancestors to record the audio segments.

**Funding:** This proposed project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it supports operation of the California Coastal Trail between Año Nuevo State Park and the Pajaro River mouth. (See Public Resources Code § 30620(c)(2)).

**Enabling Legislation:** This proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands operation and understanding of the coast by developing and providing interpretive content for the ETC web application on the natural and cultural history of the Amah Mutsun coastal territory. (See Pub. Res. Code §31400.1)

**Strategic Plan:** This proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 1, Objective A:** The proposed project promotes awareness and use of the CCT through audio segments for the ETC web app.
- **Goal 9, Objective A:** The proposed project improves public understanding of natural and cultural history of coastal resources.
- **Goal 9, Objective B:** The proposed project develops and records interpretive and educational materials of the history, culture, and land management practices of original inhabitants on the San Mateo/Santa Cruz coast.

**CEQA:** The proposed project is not a “project” as defined in CCR Section 15378 because development of interpretive and educational materials for the ETC web application does not have the potential for a direct physical change or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change on the environment.

#### **AMAH MUTSUN LAND TRUST**

**\$49,940**

#### **Amah Mutsun Land Trust Coastal Stewardship Summer Camp**

**Central Coast**

The Amah Mutsun Land Trust will develop a summer camp program for Native American youth, ages 12-17, on the San Mateo/Santa Cruz coast. Over two years, 72 underserved tribal youth will participate in a meaningful opportunity to enjoy their coastal backyard and ancestral territory and contribute to the revitalization of traditional ecological knowledge and cultural practices among tribal members. Participants will experience hands-on cultural learning and recreational activities that promote an appreciation for and connection to the coastal environment and their cultural identity. Tribal youth will learn how coastal plants and animals were used for indigenous food, medicine, and crafts, and will participate in conservation activities such as invasive species removal, beach cleanups at California State Beaches, and stabilization of archaeological sites.

**Funding:** This proposed project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of public access points to the sea at the Quiroste Valley Cultural Preserve (also known as Año Nuevo State Park), Pescadero State Beach, and Bean Hollow State Beach.

**Enabling Legislation:** This proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by reconnecting tribal youth of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band with their ancestral territory.

**Strategic Plan:** This proposed project will further the following strategic objective:

- **Goal 9, Objective A:** The project improves public understanding of cultural and coastal resources through the development of curriculum for future outreach and coastal education.

**CEQA:** The project is categorically exempt under CCR Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves operation and maintenance of the Quiroste Valley Cultural Preserve (Año Nuevo State Park), Pescadero State Beach, and Bean Hollow State Beach with no expansion of use. Invasive species removal activities are also categorically exempt under CCR Section 15333 (Small Habitat Restoration Projects) because it is as small-scale habitat restoration project that

meets all exemption criteria, as discussed in greater detail in the “Compliance with CEQA” section, below.

**BAY AREA OUTREACH & RECREATION PROGRAM (BORP) \$50,000**  
**Outdoor Coastal Access for Individuals with San Francisco Bay Area**  
**Disabilities Continuation Project**

The Outdoor Coastal Access for Individuals with Disabilities Continuation Project is a two-year program that will provide a series of accessible outdoor coastal trips on sections of the California Coastal Trail and San Francisco Bay Trail. These trips make it possible for people with physical disabilities to experience coastal resources and recreation similar to those available to people without disabilities. The project will have three primary components: 1) a sustained outreach to the disability community regarding the project; 2) 16 accessible outdoor coastal trips (including 1 overnight trip); and 3) eight adaptive cycling trips along the Coastal and Bay trails. These opportunities will make it possible for hundreds of people with disabilities and vision impairments to experience California’s coastal and bay trails, parks, and recreational areas.

**Funding:** This proposed project is consistent with the Conservancy’s Enabling Legislation as described below and is thus consistent with the use of California Environmental License Plate Fund.

**Enabling Legislation:** This proposed project is consistent with Chapter 4.5, San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program, Sections 31162(a) because it expands public access to the bay shoreline and coast.

**Strategic Plan:** This proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 2, Objective A:** The project expands opportunities for barrier-free access to and along the coast and coastal trails.
- **Goal 12, Objective L:** the project expands opportunities for barrier-free access to natural areas in the San Francisco Bay Area

**San Francisco Bay Plan:** Consistent with Public Access, Policy 9 the project will facilitate appropriate enjoyment and use of the San Francisco Bay shoreline. Consistent with Part IV, Recreation, Policy 1, the project will provide diverse and accessible water-oriented recreational activities for underserved populations. Consistent with Part IV, Recreation, the project will increase access to natural areas in and near the shoreline of San Francisco Bay.

**CEQA:** The project is categorically exempt under CCR Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves operation of the CCT and San Francisco Bay Trail with no expansion of use.

**CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS FOUNDATION \$26,065**  
**Summer Enrichment Program San Francisco Bay**

The Summer Enrichment Program will provide underserved K-12 students with bus transportation and educational camping and one-day field trips to Marin County State Parks. The 2017 program will enable approximately 300 diverse and primarily low-income Bay Area youth to experience coastal parks and to receive environmental education in coastal ecology and the impacts of climate change on natural resources. The curriculum in 2017 will be expanded to



include the impacts of ocean acidification, rising temperatures, habitat loss, and trends in coastal species diversity and population dynamics. The Program will also include hands-on citizen science experiments that include testing ocean acidity and temperature. The program is designed to provide education during the summer months to improve student's academic performance during the school year as well as to provide opportunities for outdoor experiences.

**Funding:** This proposed project is consistent with the Conservancy's Enabling Legislation as described below and is thus consistent with the use of California Environmental License Plate Fund.

**Enabling Legislation:** This proposed project is consistent with Chapter 4.5, San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program, Sections 31162(d) and 31165 because it provides bus transportation that enables youth to visit natural areas and because the project provides environmental education and recreational opportunities.

**Strategic Plan:** This proposed project will further the following strategic objective:

- **Goal 12, Objective M:** The project will provide camping and environmental education for underserved students.

**San Francisco Bay Plan:** Consistent with Public Access, Policy 9 the project will facilitate appropriate enjoyment and use of the San Francisco Bay shoreline. Consistent with Part IV, Public Access and Public Access, Policy 3, the project will provide environmental education and encourage stewardship of Bay and marine resources by providing hands-on, onsite experiences at the Bay. Consistent with Part IV, Recreation, the project will increase access to natural areas in and near the shoreline of San Francisco Bay.

**CEQA:** The project is categorically exempt under CCR Section 15306 (Information Collection) because it involves data collection on open water and other natural resources. The project is also categorically exempt under Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves operation of the State Parks located in Marin County with no expansion of use.

**CENTRAL COAST AQUARIUM**  
**Central California Coast Field Trips**

**\$7,000**  
**Central Coast**

Conservancy funding will provide over 600 low-income undeserved students from Title 1 schools in Central California with a rare, hands-on coastal experience. Students will use established scientific methods, such as core sampling, quadrat sampling and water quality analyses to monitor a variety of marine ecosystems. Lessons will be offered on ocean acidification, climate change, marine debris, sea birds, marine mammals, rocky intertidal, squid dissections, plankton identification, estuary ecology, and kelp forest ecology. Floating Labs will give students the opportunity to go on a boat and identify local marine species.

**Funding:** This proposed project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves regular operation of the Central Coast Aquarium.

**Enabling Legislation:** This proposed project is consistent with the Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment and enables lower-income students to participate in a coastal and marine science and environmental education programs

**Strategic Plan:** This proposed project will further the following strategic objective:

- **Goal 9, Objective A:** The Central California Coast Field Trips education program improves understanding of coastal resources.

**CEQA:** The project is categorically exempt under CCR Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of the Central Coast Aquarium with no expansion of use.

**CHER-AE HEIGHTS INDIAN COMMUNITY OF THE TRINIDAD RANCHERIA**

**\$11,000**

**Trinidad Rancheria Sustainable Coast Youth Stewardship Program**

**North Coast**

The Trinidad Rancheria Sustainable Coast Youth Stewardship Program will develop and implement an educational program to increase local underserved youth, grades K-12, knowledge of and interaction with California’s coastal habitats and its fish and wildlife populations. The program will develop educational materials describing the importance of environmental stewardship, highlighting Native American culture, history and traditional stewardship practices. Over two years, field trips for up to 200 students will include visits to the Humboldt State University Marine Lab, tide pools at Trinidad State Beach and Launcher Beach in Trinidad, California, sea bird monitoring on the Coastal Monuments surrounding Trinidad Harbor, and pier fishing on Seascape Pier in Trinidad utilizing materials and equipment developed under the Rancheria’s 2015 ETC grant.

**Funding:** This proposed project is consistent with the Conservancy’s Enabling Legislation as described below and is thus consistent with the use of California Environmental License Plate Fund.

**Enabling Legislation:** This proposed project is consistent with Chapter 3, Section 31119(a)(1) regarding Coastal Education because it involves developing and implementing K-12 educational programs on protection and stewardship of marine resources. As a federally recognized Indian tribe, the Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria qualifies as a public agency eligible to receive Conservancy grants under Section 31017.

**Strategic Plan:** This proposed project will further the following strategic objective:

- **Goal 9, Objective A:** The project will develop an educational program to improve public understanding of coastal resources.

**CEQA:** The project is categorically exempt under CCR Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of the Trinidad State Beach, Launcher Beach, and Seascape Pier with no expansion of use.

**CITY OF ARCATA**

**\$23,954**

**Explore the Coast – Humboldt Bay**

**North Coast**

The City of Arcata will bring 1,000 children over two summers from Humboldt County day-camps to its Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center (AMIC) for field trips at the Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary, and 300 children from Arcata’s day camp program for Humboldt Bay cruises on the vessel *Madaket*. The project will enable the City of Arcata and other regional day camp programs, which otherwise lack sufficient funds, to provide transportation for educational field trips to Humboldt Bay. While at AMIC, students participate in Marsh Explorers and Young

Explorers programs highlighting the ecological, historical and cultural significance of the Marsh and surrounding Humboldt Bay. While on the *Madaket*, students will learn about the discoveries of Humboldt Bay, Native American Wiyot Tribe history, maritime history, ships, fishing industries, and wildlife.

**Funding:** This proposed project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of the vessel *Madaket* and the Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center.

**Enabling Legislation:** This proposed project is consistent with the Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing regional youth with bus transportation for field trips to AMIC and Humboldt Bay.

**Strategic Plan:** This proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 2, Objective A:** The project will expand opportunities for barrier-free access to and along the trails of the Arcata Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary.
- **Goal 9, Objective A:** The project will provide educational programs to approximately 1000 children ages 4 to 12 to improve their understanding of the resources of Humboldt Bay.
- **Goal 9, Objective B:** The project will develop new educational material to update an existing student educational brochure.

**CEQA:** The project is also categorically exempt under CCR Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves the use of existing facilities, AMIC and the vessel *Madaket* with no expansion of use.

## **THE CITY SURF PROJECT** **Expansion of City Surf Project**

**\$40,000**  
**San Francisco Bay Area**

The City Surf Project (CSP) connects underserved youth from San Francisco with the ocean through surf clinics. CSP works with the San Francisco Unified School District to provide a full-service opportunity for students to surf and learn about their local coastline. Along with technical aspects of surfing, CSP clinics teach Bay Area teenagers about water safety, fitness, and ocean stewardship. By learning to become comfortable in the ocean, CSP students build self-confidence and discover tools necessary to overcome boundaries, both in and out of the water. CSP surf classes include transportation, equipment, instruction and supervision in and out of the water. Students are accompanied in the water by CSP staff and volunteers, where they learn to surf, at first by being pushed into waves and then eventually learning to paddle into them on their own. While at the beach students are instructed on ocean conditions, tides and conservation practices. This \$40,000 grant is to provide salary for a project coordinator to help expand the program. CSP expects to double the number of schools and students participating in their program by the Fall of 2018.

**Funding:** This proposed project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of Bolinas Beach, Pacifica State Beach, and Miramar Beach.

**Enabling Legislation:** This proposed project is consistent with the Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways, because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing lower-income students with surfing lessons and an ocean stewardship program.

**Strategic Plan:** This proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 9, Objective A:** The City Surf Project improves public understanding of coastal resources by bringing students, many of whom have never seen the ocean, to the ocean and teaching concepts of ocean stewardship.
- **Goal 12, Objective M:** The project expands environmental educational programs in the San Francisco Bay Area

**CEQA:** The project is categorically exempt under CCR Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of Bolinas Beach, Pacifica State Beach, and Miramar Beach with no expansion of use.

### **COMMUNITY NATURE CONNECTION**

**\$43,330**

#### **Transit to Trails Program**

**South Coast**

Community Nature Connection’s Transit to Trails (TTT) Program addresses the transportation barrier encountered by many families living in underserved areas of Los Angeles when trying to explore their coastlines. This program offers both free bus transportation from locations within disadvantaged areas as well as guidance from experienced CNC Naturalists and Outdoor Leaders to ensure a safe and educational exploration of coastal areas. Participants meet a CNC Interpretive Naturalist and bus at a predetermined location in an urban area for an all-day trip to a local coastal area where they will learn about native marine life, watershed ecology, importance of oceans, and effects of nonnative species through guided talks and activities by a CNC Interpretive Naturalist. These experiences also build familiarity with natural environments and start to break down the fear some people have of natural environments.

**Funding:** This proposed project is consistent with the Conservancy’s Enabling Legislation as described below and is thus consistent with the use of California Environmental License Plate Fund.

**Enabling Legislation:** This proposed project is consistent with the Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands public access by providing bus transportation to and interpretive information about the coast for underserved communities.

**Strategic Plan:** This proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 2, Objective A:** The project creates opportunities for barrier-free access to the coast by providing free bus transportation from underserved communities to coastal areas that they may not otherwise be able to visit.
- **Goal 9, Objective A:** The project is a program that improves public understanding of coastal resources.

**CEQA:** The project is categorically exempt under CCR Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of the beaches and parks in Los Angeles County with no expansion of use.

### **COMMUNITY SCIENCE WORKSHOP NETWORK, INC.** **Coastal Ecology and Environments for Central Valley Kids**

**\$49,750**  
**Central Coast**

The Community Science Workshop Network will bring kids and families from underserved Central Valley communities to the coast, including Moss Landing/Elkhorn Slough, Monterey Bay Aquarium, the Morro Bay Museum of Natural History, and Montaña de Oro State Park. This innovative program combines engaging hands-on scientific exploration emphasizing Earth's systems related to coastal ecosystems and human impact, and effective youth development strategies. Each of the three trips will bring 100 students and 10 instructors and mentors to scientifically investigate key questions about coastal ecology and human impact.

**Funding:** This proposed project is consistent with the Conservancy's Enabling Legislation as described below and is thus consistent with the use of California Environmental License Plate Fund.

**Enabling Legislation:** This proposed project is consistent with Chapter 3, Section 31119(a)(1) regarding Coastal Education because it provides K-12 students with education related to the preservation, protection, and enhancement of coastal resources.

**Strategic Plan:** This proposed project will further the following strategic objective:

- **Goal 9, Objective A:** The Coastal Ecology and Environments for Central Valley Kids education program improves understanding of coastal resources.

**CEQA:** The project is categorically exempt under CCR Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of Moss Landing Harbor, Elkhorn Slough Reserve, Monterey Bay Aquarium, the Morro Bay Museum of Natural History, and Montaña de Oro State Park with no expansion of use.

**EARTH ISLAND INSTITUTE (fiscal sponsor for KIDS for the BAY) \$45,000**  
**Watershed Action Program: Coastal Connections San Francisco Bay Area**

The Watershed Action Program will facilitate environmental education and hands-on experiences for approximately 600 underserved students in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. Students will learn how their neighborhood watershed connects with the San Francisco Bay watershed and the Pacific Ocean. Classroom lessons and action projects will focus on understanding the local watershed ecosystem and how students can become environmental stewards. Field trips will bring students to local creeks, the San Francisco Bay, and the Pacific Ocean where they will engage in hands-on science and stewardship activities. Students will experience nature firsthand and see how their actions as a watershed steward can make a difference in their own neighborhood and the greater Bay Area.

**Funding:** This proposed project is consistent with the Conservancy's Enabling Legislation as described below and is thus consistent with the use of California Environmental License Plate Fund.

**Enabling Legislation:** This proposed project is consistent with Chapter 3, Section 31119(a)(1) regarding Coastal Education because it will provide a coastal and bay watershed education program and field trips to local creeks, the San Francisco Bay, and Pacific Ocean.

**Strategic Plan:** This proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 9, Objective A:** The Watershed Action Program-Coastal Connections program will facilitate Bay and Coastal education and stewardship through classroom activities and site visits.
- **Goal 12, Objective M:** The project will provide approximately 600 urban, East Bay students with transportation and access to San Francisco Bay and Pacific Ocean sites for coastal education and hands-on activities.

**San Francisco Bay Plan:** Consistent with Part IV, Recreation and Public Access, Policy 3, the project will provide environmental education and encourage stewardship of Bay and marine resources by providing hands-on, onsite experiences at the Bay, local creeks, and the Pacific Ocean.

**CEQA:** The project is categorically exempt under CCR Section 15322 (Educational or Training Programs Involving No Physical Changes) since it is an education program that involves no physical alteration to any structures.

## **EARTH TEAM**

**\$12,670**

### **Discovering Little Known California Coastal Trails**

**San Francisco Bay Area**

Earth Team will provide three full-day educational hikes for 120 students from eight low-income, East Bay high schools. Earth Team will partner with the East Bay Regional Park District to take the students on three separate, guided hikes in Point Reyes National Shoreline, Big Break Regional Shoreline, and Hayward Regional Shoreline where they will explore their local coastal environments and shorelines, and learn about the native flora, fauna, and history of these ecosystems. During the hikes, students will use tablets to conduct litter surveys at each of the three locations, data from which will be mapped in Earth Team’s web app, zerolitter.org. Selected interns participating in the hikes will also help to map a segment of the California Coastal Trail, and create audio content for the Explore the Coast web app. The final project activity will include a student presentation of the hikes to students’ peers at Earth Team’s annual two-day LEAF conference in the summer of 2017.

**Funding:** This proposed project is consistent with the Conservancy’s Enabling Legislation as described below and is thus consistent with the use of California Environmental License Plate Fund.

**Enabling Legislation:** This proposed project is consistent with Chapter 4.5, San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program, Sections 31162(a), 31162(d), and 31165 because it provides public access and enjoyment for 120 students from low-income high schools by providing students with 3 full-day educational hikes, and also expands public access and enjoyment for the broader public through the students’ contribution to the Explore the Coast app for a segment of the California Coastal Trail.

**Strategic Plan:** This proposed project will further the following strategic objective:

- **Goal 1, Objective A:** The project promotes awareness and use of the California Coastal Trail (CCT) through audio segments for the Explore the Coast web app.

- **Goal 12, Objective M:** The project will provide coastal hiking opportunities and environmental education for high school students that don't typically have environmental education and camping opportunities.

**San Francisco Bay Plan:** Consistent with Public Access, Policy 9, the project will facilitate appropriate enjoyment and use of the San Francisco Bay shoreline. Consistent with Part IV, Recreation, Policy 1, the project will provide diverse and accessible water-oriented recreational activities for underserved populations.

**CEQA:** The project is categorically exempt under CCR Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of Point Reyes National Shoreline, Big Break Regional Shoreline, and Hayward Regional Shoreline with no expansion of use.

**ENVIRONMENTAL TRAVELING COMPANIONS** **\$50,000**  
**ETC Accessible Sea Kayak and Bay Education Program - Phase III** **SF Bay Area**

The Environmental Traveling Companions (ETC) Explore the Coast Grant - Phase III will support ETC's scholarship fund to provide 300 Bay Area residents with disabilities and disadvantaged youth with one- to three-day accessible and educational bay kayak adventures. Trip locations include Schoonmaker Point Marina in Sausalito, Angel Island State Park, Tomales Bay State Park, and Point Reyes National Seashore. Grant funds will enable ETC to build and sustain the program with seasonal Sea Kayak Program Associate/Educator and Operations Manager/Trip Leader positions. The project will involve development of a Bay Education Survey to measure learning and produce a "Bay Stewardship Action Pledge" Magnet to help participants spread the word about conservation to friends and family.

**Funding:** This proposed project is consistent with the Conservancy's Enabling Legislation as described below and is thus consistent with the use of California Environmental License Plate Fund.

**Enabling Legislation:** This proposed project is consistent with Chapter 4.5, San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program, Sections 31162(a), 31162(d), and 31165 because it improves public access to the Bay, and provides access to natural areas in the San Francisco Bay for recreational and educational purposes.

**Strategic Plan:** This proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 2, Objective A:** The project expands opportunities for barrier-free access to and along the coast
- **Strategic Plan Goal 12, Objective L:** The project expands opportunities for barrier-free access to natural areas in the San Francisco Bay Area
- **Strategic Plan Goal 12, Objective M:** The project expands environmental educational programs in the San Francisco Bay Area

**San Francisco Bay Plan:** Consistent with Part IV, Recreation, Policy 1, the project will provide diverse and accessible water-oriented recreational activities for underserved populations. Consistent with Part IV, Public Access and Public Access, Policy 3, the project will provide environmental education and encourage stewardship of Bay and marine resources by providing

hands-on, onsite experiences at the Bay. Consistent with Part IV, Recreation, the project will increase access to natural areas in and near the shoreline of San Francisco Bay.

**CEQA:** The project is categorically exempt under CCR Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves normal operations of the State Parks and other coastal locations that will be visited with no expansion of use.

**EXPLORE ECOLOGY**

**\$22,000**

**Explore Ecology Coastal Stewards**

**Central Coast**

Explore Ecology (EE) will expand their program to provide more underserved inland school children access to the beach. The project will provide 20 classes the opportunity to visit the South Coast Watershed Resource Center in Santa Barbara for a two-hour educational field trip. A total of 500 students from underserved schools who currently do not qualify for EE’s free programming will participate. Program curriculum will cover topics such as beach exploration, water runoff, marine debris prevention, a beach cleanup and hands on activities. Schools targeted for this program include, but are not limited to, those in Carpinteria, Ojai, Lompoc, Oxnard, Port Hueneme, Ventura, and Santa Maria. Funds will also provide transportation stipends to schools who qualify for free trips when transportation costs are too high. Ten bus stipends will be offered to classes from underserved schools that qualify for EE’s free services. Schools may include those located in the Santa Ynez Valley, New Cuyama, and Orcutt. The bus stipends would result in approximately 250 additional students visiting the coast.

**Funding:** This proposed project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of the South Coast Watershed Resource Center located at Arroyo Burro County Beach Park.

**Enabling Legislation:** This proposed project is consistent with the Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing expanded environmental education programming and bus transportation.

**Strategic Plan:** This proposed project will further the following strategic objective:

- **Goal 9, Objective A:** The EE education program improves understanding of coastal resources.

**CEQA:** The project is categorically exempt under CCR Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of the South Coast Watershed Resource Center with no expansion of use.

**FRIENDS OF THE DUNES**

**\$30,000**

**Coastal Exploration for All**

**North Coast**

The Friends of the Dunes’ Exploration for All project will expand Friend’s multifaceted outreach and education program to attract an additional 2,100 students, families, and visitors over two years to visit the Humboldt Coastal Dunes Center. The project will provide bus scholarships for low-income inland schools to participate in Friend’s Bay to Dunes field trip program. Friend’s will hire a Latino Outreach Intern to establish a Latino Outreach Program at the Humboldt Coastal Nature Center and develop Spanish-language interpretive materials, provide Spanish-



language guided walks, and host Nature Story time for Spanish speaking families. Partnering with Tolowa Dunes Stewards, Friends will present natural- and cultural-history guided walks at Tolowa Dunes. The project will also provide barrier-free dune access along Humboldt Bay trails utilizing a beach wheelchair. Finally, to attract more millennials and youth visiting the dunes, coast and bay habitats, the grantee will organize four regional Bio-Blitz events and develop content for the ETC Web app for trail(s) at the nature center.

**Funding:** This proposed project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of the Humboldt Coastal Nature Center.

**Enabling Legislation:** This proposed project is consistent with the Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing bus transportation for field trips to coastal resources

**Strategic Plan:** This proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 2, Objective A:** The project expands opportunities for barrier-free access to the coast with a newly acquired beach wheelchair available for use on interpretive walks.
- **Goal 9, Objective A:** The project develops programs and events that improve public understanding of coastal resources.
- **Goal 9, Objective B:** The project will develop new Spanish language educational and interpretive materials.

**CEQA:** The project is categorically exempt under CCR Section 15306 (Information Collection) because it involves data collection activities (Bioblitz) that do not result in a serious disturbance to an environmental resource. The project is also categorically exempt under Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of the Humboldt Coastal Nature Center with negligible or no expansion of use.

**HUMBOLDT REDWOODS INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION**  
**Usal Beach Education Field Trip Program**

**\$13,162**  
**North Coast**

The Usal Beach Education Field Trip Program will bring elementary students from seven area schools with underserved student populations to Usal Beach for ecologically-focused field trips. Hands-on curriculum will center on coastal protection, stewardship and restoration, and will include botany, hydrology, aquatic biology and other natural science disciplines. Grantee interpreters will also visit the schools to explore the relationship of academic study to the care of the coastal environment and connections between ocean health and human behavior at home. The program will include follow-up press releases to local communities to highlight the care and attention of the school children and the need for the whole community to care for Usal Beach.

**Funding:** This proposed project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of Usal Beach, a part of coastal Sinkyone Wilderness State Park.

**Enabling Legislation:** This proposed project is consistent with the Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment of coastal and marine areas.

**Strategic Plan:** This proposed project will further the following strategic objective:

- **Goal 9, Objective A:** The field trip program will improve the local student population’s understanding of coastal resources by engaging elementary school children in environmental education activities.

**CEQA:** The project is categorically exempt under CCR Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of Usal Beach with negligible or no expansion of use.

**LAND CONSERVANCY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY** **\$25,000**  
**Discover Pismo Preserve - Transportation and Docent Program** **Central Coast**

The Discover Pismo Preserve Project will enable up to 12,000 people from underserved communities on the Central Coast to explore and experience the natural beauty of the 900-acre Pismo Preserve. Transportation will be located to pick up lower income families in Grover Beach, Oceano, and Pismo Beach to bring them to the Preserve to enjoy the 11 miles of new trails and magnificent ocean views. Docent-led guided hikes will provide an educational experience to foster an understanding and appreciation for the region’s natural habitats, including coast live oak woodlands, coastal grasslands, and the adjacent marine environment.

**Funding:** This proposed project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of the Pismo Preserve.

**Enabling Legislation:** This proposed project is consistent with the Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment and provides lower-income students and others with coastal science and environmental education programs.

**Strategic Plan:** This proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 2, Objective B:** The project will enable more people to access the Pismo Preserve through operation of a shuttle system.
- **Goal 9, Objective A:** The Discover Pismo Preserve - Transportation and Docent Education program improves understanding of coastal resources.

**CEQA:** The project is categorically exempt under CCR Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves normal operations of the Pismo Preserve with no expansion of use.

**LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY** **\$43,330**  
**Ballona to the Beach** **South Coast**

Los Angeles Audubon Society (LAAS) will connect thousands of under-served youth in the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), as well as Los Angeles residents and visitors to Santa Monica Bay beaches and the Ballona coastal wetlands through five program activities that “Explore the Coast.” These include educational beach walks, school field trips, citizen science, coastal habitat restoration, and science illustration - with emphasis on the importance of coastal conservation. Conservancy funding will provide bus transportation and staff support for two years of field trips to Santa Monica Bay wetlands and beaches serving approximately 2,500 K-12 students from Title 1 schools in the LAUSD.

**Funding:** This proposed project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of Dockweiler State Beach, Venice Beach and the Ballona Wetlands.

**Enabling Legislation:** This proposed project is consistent with the Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it will increase public access to and enjoyment of beaches and wetlands on Santa Monica Bay.

**Strategic Plan:** This proposed project will further the following strategic objective:

- **Goal 9, Objective A:** The proposed project will provide bus transportation for school field trips to Santa Monica Bay so the proposed project supports events that improve public understanding of coastal resources.

**CEQA:** The project is categorically exempt under Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of Dockweiler State Beach, Venice Beach and the Ballona Wetlands with no expansion of use.

#### **LOS ANGELES MARITIME INSTITUTE**

**\$43,330**

#### **Explora la Costa en un Barco de Vela**

**South Coast**

The Los Angeles Maritime Institute (LAMI) will create a bilingual (Spanish/English) coastal awareness campaign and Tall Ship excursion project along the Point Vicente/Palos Verdes coastline. The project will target the 1.5 million Spanish-speaking visitors who annually visit the Los Angeles Waterfront where LAMI's tall ships are docked. Many of these visitors are from lower-income families. The project will raise awareness about lifestyle and habit changes regarding plastic pollution and impacts to California's Coast and Ocean.

**Funding:** This proposed project is consistent with the Conservancy's Enabling Legislation as described below and is thus consistent with the use of California Environmental License Plate Fund.

**Enabling Legislation:** This proposed project is consistent with the Chapter 7: Urban Waterfront Restoration because the project supports events focused on maritime history.

**Strategic Plan:** This proposed project will further the following strategic objective:

- **Goal 9, Objective A:** The Explora la Costa coastal awareness project improves understanding of coastal and ocean resources.

**CEQA:** The project is categorically exempt under CCR Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of the Los Angeles Maritime Institute with no expansion of use.

#### **LOS CERRITOS LAND TRUST**

**\$15,650**

#### **Los Cerritos Wetlands Urban Coast Explorers**

**South Coast**

This project will provide bus transportation for 15 environmental education field trips to and from the Zedler Marsh area of the Los Cerritos Wetlands in Los Angeles County for Title 1 third and fourth grade classes from the Long Beach Unified School District. Each trip involves three hours of interactive instruction in the Land Trust's outdoor learning laboratory and along the

completed trails system at Zedler Marsh. Students participate in hands-on activities to engage them directly in the marsh's learning laboratory through activities related to wetlands ecology, marine biology, botany, birding, human impacts on the environment, and coastal stewardship. The Urban Coast Explorers Program aims to inspire a sense of wonder and passion in students for coastal habitats that can be taken back to their homes and communities.

**Funding:** This proposed project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of the Zedler Marsh in the Los Cerritos Wetlands.

**Enabling Legislation:** This proposed project is consistent with the Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because provides a coastal experience for lower-income students and also increases the number of people visiting the coast.

**Strategic Plan:** This proposed project will further the following strategic objective:

- **Goal 9, Objective A:** By providing bus transportation for school field trips to Los Cerritos Wetlands, the project supports events that improve public understanding of coastal resources.

**CEQA:** The project is categorically exempt under CCR Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of the Los Cerritos Wetlands with no expansion of use.

## **MARINA DEL REY ANGLERS**

**\$34,800**

### **Sea Stewards: Exploring, Protecting, and Enhancing Marine Resources**

**South Coast**

The Marina Del Rey Anglers will work with the Boy Scouts of Long Beach, NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region, and the Los Angeles Rod and Reel Club to complete several projects and further develop the Sea Stewards program. First, NOAA Fisheries will develop a kid-friendly handbook that covers ocean etiquette, watershed health, and sustainable fishing principles. Then 60 members of the Boy Scouts of Long Beach will lead workshops during Sea Steward fishing excursions and trail clean-ups to teach others the handbook's concepts. Secondly, the project team will provide 30 fishing excursions to underserved individuals including veterans, low-income students, underrepresented communities, and persons with disabilities. Next, the team will host two annual California Coastal Clean-Up days along the CCT with targeted outreach to local schools and non-profits. Finally, each participating Boy Scout will submit a photo essay, Facebook live video, or journal entry about their experience.

**Funding:** This proposed project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves maintenance of the California Coastal Trail and operation of Marina Del Rey Harbor, Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and Ballona Freshwater Marsh.

**Enabling Legislation:** This proposed project is consistent with the Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it will increase access to and enjoyment of the coast through its Sea Stewards program and fishing trips.

**Strategic Plan:** This proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 1, Objective A:** The project will host two annual California Coastal Clean-Up days along of the California Coastal Trail in Los Angeles County.

- **Goal 9, Objective A:** The project will improve public understanding of coastal resources by developing a handbook about sea stewardship and by hosting two beach clean-up events.

**CEQA:** The project is exempt under CCR Section 15323 (Normal Operations of Facilities for Public Gatherings) because it involves annual beach clean-up events and fishing excursions at existing harbors. Development of the handbook does not meet the definition of “project” in Section 15378 as it does not have the potential for a direct physical change or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change on the environment. Accordingly, this portion of the project is not subject to CEQA.

**MENDOCINO LAND TRUST** **\$35,000**  
**Mendocino County Coastal Trail Web App Expansion** **North Coast**

The Mendocino Land Trust will develop new content to expand their successful online Coastal Trail Guide for Mendocino County. This guide provides visitors and locals information about popular local trails and beaches and how to access them. It has been viewed over 7,000 times since its launch in 2015. This update focuses on improving interpretive information for the existing trails as well as adding a number of new well liked trails to the guide. In addition, MLT will add guided hikes to the most viewed trails in their guide. All of the content is also available for download so that visitors to the more rural parts of Mendocino County can take it with them. The content will also be added to the Explore the Coast web app.

**Funding:** This proposed project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of the California Coastal Trail from the southern part of Mendocino County to the northern board with Humboldt County.

**Enabling Legislation:** This proposed project is consistent with the Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it makes the Mendocino Coast more accessible by providing up to date and accurate information about public trails to the coast.

**Strategic Plan:** This proposed project will further the following strategic objective:

- **Goal 1, Objective A:** The project promotes awareness and use of the California Coastal Trail by adding new content to an online guidebook for Mendocino County coastal trails.

**CEQA:** The project does not meet the definition of “project” in CCR Section 15378 because development of interpretive and educational material for the ETC Web App does not have the potential for a direct physical change or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change on the environment. Accordingly, this project is not subject to CEQA.

**MONTEREY BAY ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY (MBEL)** **\$49,189**  
**CAVES (Coastal App Visionaries from the East Side); and** **Central Coast**  
**WAVES (Watsonville App Volunteers Engaging Sightseers)**

The Monterey Bay Center for Environmental Literacy (MBEL) will develop content for the ETC Web App with the help of high school students from Watsonville and the community of Live Oak. MBEL and the students will develop environmental, stewardship and cultural content for a kid’s activity trail at two wetland locations. MBEL will mentor students participating in the

Watsonville Wetlands Watch Wetlands Stewards Program about creating entertaining, educational digital content. Five students will attend the summer WAVES academy and create content, including short audio and video clips, for a wetlands exploration trail at the Slough. Then 300 elementary students will use tablets to explore the trails using the ETC web app during fieldtrips from August to November of 2017. Through its CAVES Program, MBEL will create digital content to teach users about the ecosystems of the coast, including eight stewardship actions and six sensory awareness experiences that will link together in two digital nature discovery trails to be located at Twin Lakes State Beach (TLSB) in Santa Cruz. MBEL will also lead 22 students from Cypress High School on two fieldtrips who will then create content for a wilderness skills trail at TLSB. During summer 2017, MBEL will lead 150 elementary and middle school students on digital nature trails at TSLB and 60 middle school students will restore native plant species or help remove invasive species from these areas. Hundreds more students will attend field trips at these locations and use the ETC web app developed through this work.

**Funding:** This proposed project is consistent with the Conservancy’s Enabling Legislation as described below and is thus consistent with the use of California Environmental License Plate Fund.

**Enabling Legislation:** This proposed project is consistent with Chapter 3, Section 31119(a)(1) regarding Coastal Education because it involves education of elementary through high school-level students in the role of the coastal ecosystem and habitat responses to climate change and sea-level rise.

**Strategic Plan:** This proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 1, Objective A:** The project will help promote and educate students and the public about the California Coastal Trail.
- **Goal 9, Objective A:** The project will result in web-based materials that educate students and the public about coastal resources.

**CEQA:** The project is categorically exempt under CCR Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves operation and maintenance of the Watsonville Sloughs Wetlands and Twin Lakes State Beach without an expansion of use.

**OCEAN DISCOVERY INSTITUTE**  
**Ocean Science Explorers**

**\$43,285**  
**South Coast**

The Ocean Discovery Institute will implement the “Ocean Science Explorers” program for 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade students by conducting a coastal field trip for each grade level. Students will also participate in a locally-based environmental stewardship project that applies principles learned through their field trip. Students will conduct basic field data collection on wildlife and physical features of the coastal environment to better understand geologic processes, ocean chemistry, and how animals are adapted to living in their environment.

**Funding:** This proposed project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of the La Jolla Tide Pools, South San Diego Bay Marine Biology Study Area, Mission Bay and Torrey Pines State Beach.

**Enabling Legislation:** This proposed project is consistent with the Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing bus transportation for lower-income students to participate in a coastal science and environmental education program.

**Strategic Plan:** This proposed project will further the following strategic objective:

- **Goal 9, Objective A:** The project is consistent with Strategic Plan Goal 9A because the project includes field trips to study the coastal environment.

**CEQA:** The project is categorically exempt under CCR Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of the La Jolla Tide Pools, South San Diego Bay Marine Biology Study Area, Mission Bay and Torrey Pines State Beach with no expansion of use. The project is categorically exempt under Section 15306 (Information Collection) because it involves data collection on wildlife and physical features of the coastal environment.

**O'NEILL SEA ODYSSEY**

**\$20,000**

**Transportation For Ocean Stewards**

**Central Coast**

O'Neill Sea Odyssey (OSO) will provide bus transportation for up to 1,080 students to participate in the OSO ocean-going science and environmental education program. Conservancy funds are targeted for bus scholarships to schools with the highest percentage of lower-income students. Fourth–sixth grade students will receive hands-on lessons about marine habitats and coastal 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. Students come from Santa Clara, San Benito, Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties, and special outreach is made to students with cognitive and/or physical disabilities.

**Funding:** This proposed project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of the O'Neill Sea Odyssey Education Center.

**Enabling Legislation:** This proposed project is consistent with the Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing bus transportation for lower-income students to participate in an ocean-going science and environmental education program.

**Strategic Plan:** This proposed project will further the following strategic objective:

- **Goal 9, Objective A:** The OSO education program improves understanding of coastal resources.

**CEQA:** The project is categorically exempt under CCR Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of the O'Neill Sea Odyssey Education Center with no expansion of use.

**PADRE FOUNDATION**

**\$12,725**

**2017 Catalina Island Adventure**

**South Coast**

The Catalina Island Adventure Camp is a three-day camp for children and adolescents in Southern California with Type 1 Diabetes. The program provides hands-on marine science

education through an overnight camp experience. It is specifically designed for adolescents who lack experiences such as these particularly in a coastal environment. The event takes place at Campus By the Sea, near Avalon, Catalina. At the Adventure Camp, participants study island and marine ecology with an emphasis on the scientific method. Students are introduced to the process of scientific inquiry, postulation and reporting. They are briefed on the subject of journal keeping and required to maintain a scientific journal for the duration of the camp. The program includes sessions led by the Long Beach Marine Institute, nature hikes, snorkeling, kayaking, tide pool study, squid dissection, astronomy and a variety of opportunities for personal growth.

**Funding:** This proposed project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of the Catalina Island Adventure Camp.

**Enabling Legislation:** This proposed project is consistent with the Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing boat transportation to Catalina Island and two nights lodging at the Catalina Island Adventure Camp for medically-challenged students.

**Strategic Plan:** This proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 2, Objective A:** The project provides barrier-free access to and along the coast of Catalina Island for students requiring medical supervision. It is specifically designed for adolescents who lack experiences in a coastal environment.
- **Goal 9, Objective A:** The Catalina Island Adventure Camp provides a three-day program and is a study in island and marine ecology with an emphasis on the scientific method.

**CEQA:** The project is categorically exempt under CCR Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of the Catalina Island Adventure Camp with no expansion of use.

**PIE RANCH  
Youth Education Program**

**\$30,000  
Central Coast**

Pie Ranch will bring 1,200 young people over two years to its Youth Education Program on Pie Ranch's coastal San Mateo County farm for field trips, internships, and a Youth Food Justice Summit. While at Pie Ranch, students participate in hands-on, farm-based environmental education activities and learn about sustainable agriculture, the local and cultural history of the land, and the natural redwood forest, riparian, and other coastal habitats surrounding the farm. Participants are encouraged to explore, learn about, and be good stewards of the natural, cultural, historic, and cultivated features and resources of the California coast.

**Funding:** This proposed project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of the Pie Ranch organic farm and education center and Año Nuevo State Park.

**Enabling Legislation:** This proposed project is consistent with the Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing field trips and internships to the coastal farm at Pie Ranch and neighboring Año Nuevo State Park.

**Strategic Plan:** This proposed project will further the following strategic objective:



- **Goal 9, Objective A:** The Youth Education Program at Pie Ranch improves public understanding of coastal resources including sustainable agriculture and natural history.

**CEQA:** The project is categorically exempt under CCR Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of Pie Ranch with no expansion of use.

**ROSIE THE RIVETER TRUST**

**\$25,500**

**Every Kid in a Park at Rosie the Riveter**

**San Francisco Bay Region**

The Rosie the Riveter Trust will offer a San Francisco Bay-focused environmental education program for approximately 3,000 urban, fourth-grade students from Richmond and San Pablo, in Contra Costa County. The “Every Kid in a Park at Rosie the Riveter” program is based on the National Park Service’s “Every Kid in a Park” program which strives to bring children of all racial and cultural backgrounds to national parks. Conservancy-funded field trips will provide for educational activities and transportation for students to the Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front National Park, where they will learn about California history related to the San Francisco Bay and the global challenges that bay environments face. Students will also walk the nearby Bay Trail shoreline and visit the Marina Bay Park for a direct bay experience and to learn about bay wildlife and marine habitats in order to foster enjoyment and stewardship of coastal resources.

**Funding:** This proposed project is consistent with the Conservancy’s Enabling Legislation as described below and is thus consistent with the use of California Environmental License Plate Fund.

**Enabling Legislation:** This proposed project is consistent with Chapter 4.5, San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program, Sections 31162(a), 31162 (d) and 31165 because it expands public access to the bay shoreline and coast, promotes open space for urban populations for recreational and educational purposes, and provides a bay-coastal watershed education program, focused on environmental, cultural, and historic perspectives of the San Francisco Bay.

**Strategic Plan:** This proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 9, Objective A:** The project will facilitate Bay and Coastal education and stewardship through classroom activities and site visits to the San Francisco Bay and San Francisco Bay Trail.
- **Goal 12, Objective M:** The project will provide students, transportation and access to the San Francisco Bay for coastal education and hands-on activities.

**San Francisco Bay Plan:** Consistent with Part IV, Public Access and Public Access, Policy 3, the project will provide environmental education and encourage stewardship of Bay and marine resources by providing hands-on, onsite experiences at the San Francisco Bay shoreline and the Bay Trail. Consistent with Part IV, Recreation, the project will increase access to natural areas in and near the shoreline of San Francisco Bay.

**CEQA:** The project is categorically exempt under CCR Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of the Rosie the Riveter National Historic Park with no expansion of use.

**SANTA BARBARA CHANNELKEEPER****\$5,000****Seafaris: On-the-Water Experiential Education for Underserved Youth****Central Coast**

Santa Barbara Channelkeeper (SBCK) will provide free “Seafari” experiential education cruises on the *R/V Channelkeeper* boat. Youth groups will experience the marine environment firsthand and learn about the unique and rich biodiversity of the Santa Barbara Channel, its primary threats, and ways to protect and restore it. SBCK will provide at least 20 Seafaris in 2017 serving 200 students. Passengers have the opportunity to visually explore the kelp forest ecosystem at Mohawk Reef, approximately three miles west of the Santa Barbara Harbor. The SBCK program director (a certified scientific SCUBA diver) will dive into the water with a high quality underwater camera connected to an LCD monitor onboard and a surface-to-diver wireless communication unit so he can show and communicate directly with the students and SBCK staff scientist on deck about what he is seeing and experiencing. The target audience for SBCK’s Seafari Program is low-income and at-risk youth in the greater Santa Barbara area who may lack the means or opportunity to get out on the water and whose level of ocean awareness is likely relatively low. The youth participating in the cruises will range in age from elementary school to high school, and lessons will be tailored to be age-appropriate for each group of participants. Material will incorporate many of the State’s Ocean Literacy Principles and will thus reinforces concepts the students have already learned or will learn in school.

**Funding:** This proposed project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of the Santa Barbara Harbor and Waterfront.

**Enabling Legislation:** This proposed project is consistent with the Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing boat trips for lower income students to participate in an ocean-going science and environmental education program.

**Strategic Plan:** This proposed project will further the following strategic objective:

- **Goal 9, Objective A:** SBCK Seafaris education program improves understanding of coastal and ocean resources.

**CEQA:** The project is categorically exempt under CCR Section 15322 (Educational or Training Programs Involving No Physical Changes) because it is an expanded (altered) education program that involves no physical alteration of structures.

**SIERRA CLUB FOUNDATION****\$11,745****Los Angeles Inspiring Connections Outdoors****South Coast**

Los Angeles Inspiring Connections Outdoors is an environmental education program of the Sierra Club that will conduct 30 trips for students, parents, and teachers at Title 1 Schools in Los Angeles County to parks, beaches, and wetlands along the coast from Pt. Mugu State Beach in southern Ventura County down to Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve in Huntington Beach. LAICO aims to create safe and enjoyable outdoor experiences for young people who might not otherwise have them. Outings will include day hikes to coastal sage scrub habitats, beach visits and barbecues, beach clean-ups, and nature education.

**Funding:** This proposed project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of several coastal facilities including Pt. Mugu State Park, Malibu Lagoon State Beach, and White Point Nature Preserve.

**Enabling Legislation:** This proposed project is consistent with the Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it will expand coastal access by organizing 30 coastal outings for lower-income students.

**Strategic Plan:** This proposed project will further the following strategic objective:

- **Goal 9, Objective A:** The project will educate participants about the flora, fauna, habitat, and human impacts to the coastal environments of Los Angeles County.

**CEQA:** The project is categorically exempt under CCR Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of coastal beaches and parks including Pt. Mugu State Park, Malibu Lagoon State Beach, and White Point Nature Preserve with no expansion of use.

### **SOLANO LAND TRUST**

**\$28,420**

#### **Marshes Matter & Tidal Marshes Totally Matter**

**San Francisco Bay**

Solano Land Trust will provide more than 600 elementary school students with bus transportation for a one-day field trip to Rush Ranch in Suisun Marsh. Students visiting the Ranch will explore trails and learn about Suisun Marsh’s native plants and animals, marsh ecology, natural processes that shape marsh habitats, and the impact of pollutants and litter. Students will learn how their everyday actions can affect marsh health and the connection between healthy water and healthy communities. The program will be offered to Title 1 schools and to youth groups and after-school programs that serve low-income or other underserved children in Solano County.

**Funding:** This proposed project is consistent with the Conservancy’s Enabling Legislation as described below and is thus consistent with the use of California Environmental License Plate Fund.

**Enabling Legislation:** This proposed project is consistent with Chapter 4.5, San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program, Section 31162 (d) because it promotes use of natural areas in Suisun Marsh that are accessible to urban populations for recreational and educational purposes.

**Strategic Plan:** This proposed project will further the following strategic objective:

- **Goal 12, Objective M:** The project would expand an environmental education program by providing more field trips that give students an opportunity to learn about wetland and upland habitats.

**San Francisco Bay Plan:** Consistent with Public Access, Policy 9 the project will facilitate appropriate enjoyment and use of the San Francisco Bay shoreline. Consistent with Part IV, Public Access and Public Access, Policy 3, the project will provide environmental education and encourage stewardship of Bay and marine resources by providing hands-on, onsite experiences at the Bay.

**CEQA:** The project is categorically exempt under CCR Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of Rush Ranch with no expansion of use.

### **SONOMA COUNTY REGIONAL PARKS**

**\$44,000**

#### **Youth Exploring the Sonoma Coast (Yes-Coast)**

**North Coast**

The YES-Coast project will connect 250 underserved youth from inland communities to their coastline by providing year-long series of outings interweaving themes of local history, diverse ecosystems, and the rich culture that exists in Sonoma county. Youth will capture their experiences and share their stories through a Photo Voice project integrating educational, recreational, stewardship, and career exploration activities and events. The year-long series will include: 5 one-day trips; a 5-day and 6-night immersion along the entire stretch of the county's coastline; and a special event celebration with participants' family and friends to celebrate successes and raise awareness of opportunities to access the coast. In addition to a nature and conservation focus, the program will integrate people's relationships with the ocean, including topics such as maritime culture and economy past and present, Kashia traditional practices on the coast, the history of Fort Ross, and young people's personal connections with the ocean.

**Funding:** The project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of multiple coastal location in Sonoma including Doran Regional Park, Sonoma Coast State Beaches (Wrights Beach to Goat Rock), Pomo Canyon Environmental Camp, Fort Ross Historic State Park, Stillwater Cove Regional Park, Gualala Point Regional Park, and the Greater Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary.

**Enabling Legislation:** This proposed project is consistent with the Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment and enables lower-income students from inland communities to participate in coastal and environmental education programs.

**Strategic Plan:** This proposed project will further the following strategic objective:

- **Goal 9, Objective A:** By providing an integrated coastal experience to Sonoma County youth that never or rarely see the Pacific Ocean, the project will improve public understanding of coastal resources.

**CEQA:** The project is categorically exempt under CCR Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of the coastal beaches and parks in Sonoma County (see Funding section above) with no expansion of use.

**SONOMA LAND TRUST**  
**Sears Point Summer Camp**

**\$47,000**  
**San Francisco Bay Area**

The "Sears Point Summer Camp" program will bring approximately 120, seven-to-ten-year-old children to the Sonoma Baylands for a week-long, bay-oriented environmental education program. Children will bike the Bay Trail, kayak the marsh, and learn about the San Francisco-San Pablo Bay and wetlands through science-based activities. Activities will take place at the Ralph Benson Baylands Center at Sears Point and at the Dickson/Sonoma Baylands of the San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Conservancy funding will support bilingual-curriculum development, transportation to/from summer day camp for youth and for their families on a special family day, and project management. The program will host three week-long summer sessions over a two-year period with the goal of introducing local, disadvantaged families to the bay as a place to recreate while engaging in bay stewardship activities.

**Funding:** This proposed project is consistent with the Conservancy's Enabling Legislation as described below and is thus consistent with the use of California Environmental License Plate Fund.

**Enabling Legislation:** This proposed project is consistent with Chapter 4.5, San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program, Sections 31162(d) and 31165 because it provides transportation that enables youth to visit natural areas within the nine-county Bay region and because the project provides environmental education and recreational opportunities.

**Strategic Plan:** This proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 9, Objective A:** The project will provide Bay and Coastal education and stewardship through bilingual science-based activities and fieldtrips to San Francisco-San Pablo Bay.
- **Goal 12, Objective M:** The project will provide approximately 120 students and 240 family members transportation and access to San Francisco-San Pablo Bay sites for coastal education and hands-on activities.

**San Francisco Bay Plan:** Consistent with Part IV, Recreation, Policy 1, the project will provide diverse and accessible water-oriented recreational activities for underserved populations of Sonoma county. Consistent with Part IV, Public Access and Public Access, Policy 3, the project will provide environmental education and encourage stewardship of Bay and marine resources by facilitating onsite experiences at San Francisco-San Pablo Bay sites and the Bay Trail. Consistent with Part IV, Recreation, the project will increase access for a disadvantaged community to natural areas in and near the shoreline of San Francisco Bay-San Pablo Bay.

**CEQA:** The project is categorically exempt under CCR Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of the Ralph Benson Baylands Center at Sears Point and the San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge with no expansion of use.

## **STEWARDS OF THE COAST AND REDWOODS**

**\$45,000**

### **Mobilizing Marine Education, Outreach, and Stewardship on the Sonoma Coast (MMEOS)**

**North Coast**

Through their Mobilizing Marine Education, Outreach, and Stewardship on the Sonoma Coast (MMEOS) project, Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods (Stewards) will implement a set of mobile learning, exploration and stewardship activities. MMEOS builds on the successful coastal programs Stewards currently operates with their mobile marine education van or ‘Steward Ship’ serving as a project cornerstone. Key project elements include: installation of a tidepool touch tank in the Steward Ship; interpretive content for three coastal trails for inclusion in the Conservancy’s ETC mobile web app; transportation scholarships for underserved school and youth groups; outreach for the Steward Ship and for coastal Eco-Adventures; and support for volunteer trail crews’ work to ensure safe ADA trail access, as detailed in the grant application.

**Funding:** This proposed project is consistent with the Conservancy’s Enabling Legislation as described below and is thus consistent with the use of California Environmental License Plate Fund.

**Enabling Legislation:** This proposed project is consistent with Chapter 3, Section 31119(a)(1) regarding Coastal Education in that it will provide K-12 students with education related to the preservation, protection, enhancement and stewardship of coastal resources.

**Strategic Plan:** This proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 1, Objective A:** By developing interpretive content for the Kortum, Pomo Canyon and Red Hill coastal trails for inclusion in the Conservancy’s ETC mobile web app, the project will promote awareness and use of the California Coastal Trail.
- **Goal 2, Objective A:** The project’s volunteer crew component will improve trails to provide increased barrier free access to persons with disabilities.
- **Goal 9, Objective A:** The environmental education provided by the MMEOS project will improve public understanding of coastal resources.

**CEQA:** The project is categorically exempt under CCR Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) since it involves normal operation and maintenance of the California Coastal Trail with negligible or no expansion of use. The development of content for the web app does not meet the definition of “project” as defined by Section 15378, because development of interpretive and educational material for the ETC Web App does not have the potential for a direct physical change or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change on the environment.

**TRINIDAD COASTAL LAND TRUST** **\$31,000**  
**Connecting Coast to Community: Explore the Trinidad Coast** **North Coast**

The Trinidad Coastal Land Trust’s (TCLT) Connecting Coast to Community project will engage kindergarten through university level students in exploration and conservation of local coastal habitats by bringing them to the coast for guided hikes. Hikes will be led by docents trained through TCLT’s two-month long docent training program which will take place in advance of the outreach efforts to the local schools. Docents will also lead hikes for the general public focused on the area’s many publicly owned properties and those owned by TCLT. A part time education coordinator position will be created at TCLT to manage the guided hikes, create a new local trail map, and finalize the docent training manual and guidebook.

**Funding:** This proposed project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of the property owned by the Trinidad Coastal Land Trust and the Coastal National Monument.

**Enabling Legislation:** This proposed project is consistent with the Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it brings more people to the coast by providing transportation for students and a new map of local beaches.

**Strategic Plan:** This proposed project will further the following strategic objective:

- **Goal 9, Objective A:** The project provides guided hikes for students and the general public which improves understanding of coastal resources.

**CEQA:** The project is categorically exempt under CCR Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of the California Coast National Monument and lands owned by TCLT with no expansion of use.

**VENTURA AUDUBON SOCIETY** **\$13,000**  
**Ormond Beach Stewardship** **South Coast**

The Ventura Audubon Society will implement a multi-faceted outreach program to engage elementary school students, beach goers, university students, and community members in efforts to increase public stewardship of Ormond Beach and protect the sensitive coastal resources of the Ormond Beach wetlands complex. This program will enhance the Audubon Society's ongoing Shorebird Recovery Program at Ormond Beach. The program will include classroom education and field trips to Ormond Beach for elementary school students, a volunteer naturalist program, "Plover Pal" program for beachgoers, stewardship training for CSU Channel Islands students, and a "Share the Shore" program with an Oxnard elementary school, as detailed in its grant application.

**Funding:** This proposed project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of Ormond Beach. Conservancy funding will be matched with \$21,000 from other sources.

**Enabling Legislation:** This proposed project is consistent with the Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it will expand coastal access and enjoyment by environmental education related to the sensitive coastal resources at Ormond Beach.

**Strategic Plan:** This proposed project will further the following strategic objective:

- **Goal 9, Objective A:** The project will improve public understanding of the sensitive coastal resources at Ormond Beach.

**CEQA:** The project is categorically exempt under CCR Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of Ormond Beach with negligible or no expansion of use.

**WAHINE PROJECT**  
**El Proyecto Wahine**

**\$11,600**  
**Central Coast**

The Wahine Project will provide transportation for 150 underserved girls ages 7-17 from East Salinas and South Monterey County to participate in the Wahine Project at Casa Verde Beach in Monterey for one semester (5-8 visits). These girls will become empowered as water women and environmental stewards through ocean activities, environmental stewardship curriculum, and mentorship with California State University Monterey Bay students. Ocean activities may include surfing, boogie boarding, and other activities. Participants will develop a sense of leadership and environmental/social responsibility in addition to an understanding of the coastal environment.

**Funding:** This proposed project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of Casa Verde Beach.

**Enabling Legislation:** This proposed project is consistent with the Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it provides a coastal experience for lower-income and underserved girls in the Monterey region while also increasing the number of people visiting the coast.

**Strategic Plan:** This proposed project will further the following strategic objective:

- **Goal 9, Objective A:** The Wahine Project's programming improves understanding of coastal resources.

**CEQA:** The project is categorically exempt under CCR Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of Casa Verde Beach with no expansion of use.

**WILDCOAST****Marine Protected Area Youth Education and Stewardship Project****\$30,000****South Coast**

WILDCOAST will provide educational, recreational and stewardship activities at five of San Diego's Marine Protected Areas (MPA) for a minimum of 150 at-risk high school students from San Diego County underserved communities. WILDCOAST will lead the youth participants in a series of MPA-related activities including coastal ecology trainings and cleanups in conjunction with recreational kayaking activities.

**Funding:** This proposed project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because involves operation of La Jolla Cove.

**Enabling Legislation:** This proposed project is consistent with the Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing kayak transportation for lower-income students to participate in a coastal science and environmental education program.

**Strategic Plan:** This proposed project will further the following strategic objective:

- **Goal 9, Objective A:** The Wildcoast Education and Stewardship Project improves understanding of coastal resources.

**CEQA:** The project is categorically exempt under CCR Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of La Jolla Cove with no expansion of use. The project is also categorically exempt under Section 15306 (Information Collection) because it involves data collection related to the MPA.

**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:** In 2013, the Conservancy launched the Explore the Coast Grant Program with the two main goals of supporting activities that allow more people to explore California's spectacular coast and/or enhancing a visitor's experience. The latter includes projects that enhanced visitors' ability to learn about natural, recreational, cultural and historic resources of the California and San Francisco Bay shorelines. ETC grants were envisioned to support a wide range of activities including funding transportation for coastal experience for communities less familiar with the coast, communication and outreach, economic development related to coastal tourism, and development of interpretive information and/or education materials. The program was designed as a "small grants" program with a maximum award of \$50,000.

To date, the Conservancy has provided approximately \$3.1 million to fund 93 projects. The project has been hugely successful in meeting the ETC goals. Funded projects include several programs to bring students from Title 1 (low-income) schools to the coast, development of interpretive content for the Explore the Coast and San Francisco Bay Trail web applications, funding for kite, tall ship, and open street festivals; and different environmental education and community stewardship projects.

The current staff recommendation would be for the third ETC grant round.



## PROJECT FINANCING

<b>Coastal Conservancy</b>	\$1,142,479
Other funds (matching funds excluding in-kind)	\$2,636,962
<b>Project Total</b>	<b>\$3,779,441</b>

Two sources of Conservancy funding are expected to be used for the ETC grants program. The first funding source is an appropriation from the Conservancy's Coastal Access Account (Public Resources Code § 30620.2) derived from coastal development permit application fees required 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, except in the San Francisco Bay. Use of the Coastal Access Account funds is appropriate for all of the following proposed projects because each proposed project will develop, maintain, or operate a new or existing facility that provides access to the coast. Please refer to the "Project Summary" section, above, for more information on the specific facility(ies) associated with each proposed project.

- 5 Gyres Institute (Mi Mar/My Sea)
- Amah Mutsun Land Trust (Explore the Coast with the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band)
- Amah Mutsun Land Trust (Amah Mutsun Land Trust Coastal Stewardship Summer Camp)
- Central Coast Aquarium (Marine Biologist for a Day)
- City of Arcata, Recreation Division (Explore the Coast - Humboldt Bay)
- City Surf Project (Expansion of City Surf Project)
- Explore Ecology (Explore Ecology Coastal Stewards Program)
- Friends of the Dunes (Coastal Exploration for All)
- Humboldt Redwoods Interpretive Association (Usal Beach Education Field Trip Program)
- Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County (Discover Pismo Preserve - Transportation and Docent Program)
- Los Angeles Audubon (Ballona-to-the-Beach)
- Los Cerritos Wetland Land Trust (Los Cerritos Wetland Urban Coast Explorers)
- Marina Del Rey Anglers (Sea Stewards: Exploring, Protecting, and Enhancing California's Marine Resources)
- Mendocino Land Trust (Mendocino County Coastal Trail Web App Expansion)
- Ocean Discovery Institute (Ocean Science Explorers)
- O'Neill Sea Odyssey (Transportation for Ocean Stewards)
- PADRE Foundation (2017 Catalina Island Adventure)
- Pie Ranch (Youth Education Program)
- Santa Barbara Channel Keeper (Seafaris: On-the-Water Experiential Education for Underserved Youth)
- Sierra Club Foundation (Los Angeles Inspiring Connections Outdoors)
- Sonoma County Regional Parks (Youth Exploring the Sonoma Coast)

- Trinidad Coastal Land Trust (Connecting Coast to Community: Explore the Trinidad Coast)
- Ventura Audubon Society (Ormond Beach Stewardship)
- Wahine Project (El Proyecto Wahine)
- WILDCOAST (San Diego County Marine Protected Area Youth Education and Stewardship Project)

The expected source of funds for the remaining ETC grants program proposed projects is an appropriation from the 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 that are consistent with the purposes of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code (PRC) (Sections 31000 *et seq.*). Please refer to the “Project Summary” section, above, and the “Consistency with Conservancy’s Enabling Legislation” section, below, for more information on how each proposed project is consistent with Division 21.

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

Staff recommends the Conservancy find that the 39 proposed projects are consistent with the Conservancy’s enabling legislation, Division 21 of the PRC (Sections 31000-31410) as described the “Project Summary” section, above. Below is a list of the proposed projects that staff recommends the Conservancy find consistent with the relevant section of the Conservancy’s enabling legislation.

#### Chapter 3: General Conservancy Powers (includes Coastal Education)

Pursuant to PRC 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 students in kindergarten–twelfth grade, relating to the preservation, protection, enhancement and maintenance of coastal resources. Consistent with this section, the proposed authorization will award grants to nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, and public agencies to undertake the proposed projects listed below.

- Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria (Trinidad Rancheria Sustainable Coast Youth Stewardship Program)
- Community Science Workshop Network, Inc. (Coastal Ecology and Environments for Central Valley Kids)
- Earth Island Institute (Watershed Action Program – Coastal Connections)
- Monterey Bay Center for Environmental Literacy (Coastal App Visionaries from the East Side, and Watsonville App Volunteers Engaging Sightseers)
- Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods (Mobilizing Marine Education, Outreach, and Stewardship on the Sonoma Coast (MMEOS))

Consistent with PRC Section 31119(b), the Conservancy will not be using any of the funds provided to these proposed projects (or any of the 2016 ETC proposed 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 proposed projects listed below will be undertaken pursuant to Chapter 4.5 of Division 21 of the PRC, Sections 31160-31165, regarding recreational and resource goals in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Pursuant to Section 31162, the Conservancy is authorized to award grants to projects located in the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area that 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; ... 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. All of the projects listed below are consistent with this section as they all help to achieve at least one of these goals, as more particularly described in the “Project Summary” section, above.

- Bay Area Outreach & Recreation Program (Outdoor Coastal Access for Individuals with Disabilities Continuation Project)
- Earth Team (LEAF'17 Hiking Series: Discovering Little Known California Coastal Trails)
- Environmental Traveling Companions (ETC Accessible Sea Kayak and Bay Education Program - Phase III)
- Rosie the Riveter Trust (Every Kid in a Park at Rosie the Riveter)

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. All of the proposed projects listed below are consistent with this section as the proposed projects are for compatible activities, as more particularly described in the “Project Summary” section, above.

- California State Parks Foundation (Summer Enrichment Program)
- Earth Team (LEAF'17 Hiking Series: Discovering Little Known California Coastal Trails)
- Environmental Traveling Companions (ETC Accessible Sea Kayak and Bay Education Program - Phase III)
- Rosie the Riveter Trust (Every Kid in a Park at Rosie the Riveter)
- Sonoma Land Trust (Sears Point Summer Camp)

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

## Chapter 7: Urban Waterfront Restoration

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

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 project listed below is consistent with this section, as more particularly described in the “Project Summary” section, above.

- Los Angeles Maritime Institution (Explora la Costa en un Barco de Vela)

## Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways

The proposed projects listed below will be undertaken pursuant to Chapter 9 of Division 21 of the PRC, Sections 31400 *et seq.*, regarding public access to and enjoyment of coastal resources.

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. All of the proposed projects listed below will be funded by the Conservancy to implement public access objectives, as more specifically described in the paragraphs below.

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 serves 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. All of the proposed projects listed below are consistent with these sections, as more specifically described in the “Project Summary” section, above.

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

Consistent with Section 31400.2, staff recommends approval of the proposed projects below 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 proposed projects relative to other eligible projects, and the Conservancy's Project Selection Criteria & Guidelines.

- 5 Gyres Institute (Mi Mar/My Sea)
- Amah Mutsun Land Trust (Explore the Coast with the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band)
- Amah Mutsun Land Trust (Amah Mutsun Land Trust Coastal Stewardship Summer Camp)
- Central Coast Aquarium (Marine Biologist for a Day)
- City of Arcata, Recreation Division (Explore the Coast - Humboldt Bay)

- City Surf Project (Expansion of City Surf Project)
- Community Nature Connection (Transit to Trails Program)
- Explore Ecology (Explore Ecology Coastal Stewards Program)
- Friends of the Dunes (Coastal Exploration for All)
- Humboldt Redwoods Interpretive Association (Usal beach Education Field Trip Program)
- Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County (Discover Pismo Preserve - Transportation and Docent Program)
- Los Angeles Audubon (Ballona to the Beach)
- Los Cerritos Wetland Land Trust (Los Cerritos Wetland Urban Coast Explorers)
- Marina Del Rey Anglers (Sea Stewards: Exploring, Protecting, and Enhancing California’s Marine Resources)
- Mendocino Land Trust (Mendocino County Coastal Trail Web App Expansion)
- Ocean Discovery Institute (Ocean Science Explorers)
- O’Neill Sea Odyssey (Transportation for Ocean Stewards)
- PADRE Foundation (2017 Catalina Island Adventure)
- Pie Ranch (Youth Education Program)
- Santa Barbara Channel Keeper (Seafaris: On-the-Water Experiential Education for Underserved Youth)
- Sierra Club Foundation (Los Angeles Inspiring Connections Outdoors)
- Sonoma County Regional Parks (Youth Exploring the Sonoma Coast)
- Trinidad Coastal Land Trust (Connecting Coast to Community: Explore the Trinidad Coast)
- Ventura Audubon Society (Ormond Beach Stewardship)
- Wahine Project (El Proyecto Wahine)
- WILDCOAST (San Diego County Marine Protected Area Youth Education and Stewardship Project)

**CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY’S 2013 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL(S) & OBJECTIVE(S), AS REVISED JUNE 25, 2015:**

The 39 projects proposed for funding assist the Conservancy in meeting a number of its Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives. Relevant Goals and Objectives are listed below, along with the names of the proposed projects that meet each goal. Please see the “Project Summary” section, above, for how the proposed project meets the relevant goal(s) and objective(s).

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 (CCT), including web-based technologies, the following proposed projects will contribute to this goal:

- Amah Mutsun Land Trust (Explore the Coast with the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band)
- Friends of the Dunes (Coastal Exploration for All)
- Marina Del Rey Anglers (Sea Stewards: Exploring, Protecting, and Enhancing California’s Marine Resources)
- Mendocino Land Trust (Mendocino County Coastal Trail Web App Expansion)

- Monterey Bay Center for Environmental Literacy (Coastal App Visionaries from the East Side, and Watsonville App Volunteers Engaging Sightseers)
- Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods (Mobilizing Marine Education, Outreach, and Stewardship on the Sonoma Coast (MMEOS))

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 proposed projects will contribute to this goal:

- Bay Area Outreach & Recreation Program (Outdoor Coastal Access for Individuals with Disabilities Continuation Project)
- City of Arcata, Recreation Division (Explore the Coast - Humboldt Bay)
- Community Nature Connection (Transit to Trails Program)
- Environmental Traveling Companions (ETC Accessible Sea Kayak and Bay Education Program - Phase III)
- Friends of the Dunes (Coastal Exploration for All)
- PADRE Foundation (2017 Catalina Island Adventure)
- Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods (Mobilizing Marine Education, Outreach, and Stewardship on the Sonoma Coast (MMEOS))

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

- 5 Gyres Institute (Mi Mar/My Sea)
- Amah Mutsun Land Trust (Explore the Coast with the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band)
- Amah Mutsun Land Trust (Amah Mutsun Land Trust Coastal Stewardship Summer Camp)
- Central Coast Aquarium (Marine Biologist for a Day)
- Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria (Trinidad Rancheria Sustainable Coast Youth Stewardship Program)
- City of Arcata, Recreation Division (Explore the Coast - Humboldt Bay)
- City Surf Project (Expansion of City Surf Project)
- Community Nature Connection (Transit to Trails Program)
- Community Science Workshop Network, Inc. (Coastal Ecology and Environments for Central Valley Kids)
- Earth Island Institute (Watershed Action Program – Coastal Connections)
- Explore Ecology (Explore Ecology Coastal Stewards Program)
- Friends of the Dunes (Coastal Exploration for All)
- Humboldt Redwoods Interpretive Association (Usal beach Education Field Trip Program)
- Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County (Discover Pismo Preserve - Transportation and Docent Program)
- Los Angeles Audubon (Ballona to the Beach)
- Los Angeles Maritime Institution (Explora la Costa en un Barco de Vela)
- Los Cerritos Wetland Land Trust (Los Cerritos Wetland Urban Coast Explorers)

- Marina Del Rey Anglers (Sea Stewards: Exploring, Protecting, and Enhancing California’s Marine Resources)
- Monterey Bay Center for Environmental Literacy (Coastal App Visionaries from the East Side, and Watsonville App Volunteers Engaging Sightseers)
- Ocean Discovery Institute (Ocean Science Explorers)
- O'Neill Sea Odyssey (Transportation for Ocean Stewards)
- PADRE Foundation (2017 Catalina Island Adventure)
- Pie Ranch (Youth Education Program)
- Rosie the Riveter Trust (Every Kid in a Park at Rosie the Riveter)
- Santa Barbara Channel Keeper (Seafaris: On-the-Water Experiential Education for Underserved Youth)
- Sierra Club Foundation (Los Angeles Inspiring Connections Outdoors)
- Sonoma County Regional Parks (Youth Exploring the Sonoma Coast)
- Sonoma Land Trust (Sears Point Summer Camp)
- Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods (Mobilizing Marine Education, Outreach, and Stewardship on the Sonoma Coast (MMEOS))
- Trinidad Coastal Land Trust (Connecting Coast to Community: Explore the Trinidad Coast)
- Ventura Audubon Society (Ormond Beach Stewardship)
- Wahine Project (El Proyecto Wahine)
- WILDCOAST (San Diego County Marine Protected Area Youth Education and Stewardship Project)

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 proposed projects will contribute to this goal:

- Amah Mutsun Land Trust (Explore the Coast with the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band)
- City of Arcata, Recreation Division (Explore the Coast - Humboldt Bay)
- Friends of the Dunes (Coastal Exploration for All)

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

- Bay Area Outreach & Recreation Program (Outdoor Coastal Access for Individuals with Disabilities Continuation Project)
- Environmental Traveling Companions (ETC Accessible Sea Kayak and Bay Education Program - Phase III)

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 proposed projects will contribute to this goal:

- California State Parks Foundation (Summer Enrichment Program)
- City Surf Project (Expansion of City Surf Project)
- Earth Island Institute (Watershed Action Program – Coastal Connections)

- Earth Team (LEAF'17 Hiking Series: Discovering Little Known California Coastal Trails)
- Environmental Traveling Companions (ETC Accessible Sea Kayak and Bay Education Program - Phase III)
- Rosie the Riveter Trust (Every Kid in a Park at Rosie the Riveter)
- Solano Land Trust (Marshes Matter & Tidal Marshes Totally Matter)
- Sonoma Land Trust (Sears Point Summer Camp).

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

The proposed projects are consistent with the Conservancy's Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines, last updated on October 2, 2014, in the following respects:

### **Required Criteria**

1. **Promotion of the Conservancy's statutory programs and purposes:** See "Consistency with Conservancy's Enabling Legislation", above.
2. **Consistency with purposes of the funding source:** See "Project Financing", above.
3. **Promotion and implementation of state plans and policies:** The ETC grants program is consistent with the San Francisco Bay Plan (see "Consistency with Bay Plan", below) as well as the California Coastal Act (Public Resources Code Sections 30000 *et seq*) ("Coastal Act").

The Coastal Act indicates in Section 30001.5(c) that it is the state's goal to "maximize public access to and along the coast..." Section 30210 requires that "maximum access, which shall be conspicuously posted, and recreational opportunities shall be provided for all the people." 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." (See "Consistency with Enabling Legislation," above).

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. 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." 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."

The ETC grants program is consistent with and promotes the priorities of the Coastal Act for project selection and the ETC program's individual projects are consistent with the Coastal Act because all of the proposed projects involve maximizing access to the coast for coastal resource education and recreation. Please see "Project Summary," above, and "Consistency



with Conservancy’s Enabling Legislation”, above, for how the individual proposed projects are consistent with the Coastal Act’s priorities of maximizing coastal access.

4. **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 the 2016 ETC program. It is estimated that over 180,000 people will be served by the 39ETC projects. In addition, this suite of proposed ETC projects is supported by elected officials, numerous community and nonprofit organizations, and local agencies (See Exhibit 3).
5. **Location:** All of the proposed ETC projects bring people to the coast or to the San Francisco Bay shoreline. Some of the proposed projects also 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 facilitate bringing more people to explore California’s coast. Similarly, some of the proposed projects involve classroom education at inland locations, which is also consistent with the intent of supporting activities that enhance a coastal experience.
6. **Need:** Without Conservancy funding, the proposed projects will either not proceed or have to be scaled back.
7. **Greater-than-local interest:** The proposed projects recommended for funding under this authorization will enhance the coastal experience of over 180,000 people throughout coastal regions of the state and the San Francisco Bay Area. The proposed projects will serve more than local needs in one or more of the following ways: transportation from inland and underserved communities to the coast, development of coastal educational content for inland locations, development of local Explore the Coast web app content that will serve visitors to the region, and the development of coastal education and citizen science programs for underserved and inland youth.
8. **Sea level rise vulnerability:** Most of the proposed ETC projects do not entail physical improvements that could be vulnerable to sea level rise impacts, except for small restoration activities, which are primarily for public education objectives. Of the proposed ETC projects that include coastal restoration components that may be susceptible to flooding and storm water surge, especially under future sea level rise projections, restoration of these project areas will enhance native biodiversity and abundance, resulting in larger and likely more genetically diverse populations of native species that have greater potential to adapt to future changes in habitat due to sea level rise. These proposed restoration projects are:
  - Amah Mutsun Land Trust (Amah Mutsun Land Trust Coastal Stewardship Summer Camp);
  - Humboldt Redwoods Interpretive Association (Usal Beach Education Field Trip Program);
  - Los Angeles Audubon (Ballona to the Beach);
  - Los Cerritos Wetland Land Trust (Los Cerritos Wetlands Urban Coast Explorers);
  - Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods (Mobilizing Marine Education, Outreach, and Stewardship on the Sonoma Coast); and

- Ventura Audubon Society (Ormond Beach Stewardship).

### **Additional Criteria**

9. **Leverage:** See the “Project Financing” section, above.
10. **Readiness:** All of the proposed projects described in the “Project Summary” section, above, are ready to implement and will be completed within 1 to 2 years.
11. **Realization of prior Conservancy goals:** See “Project History,” above.
12. **Minimization of greenhouse gas emissions:** Implementation of the following 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. However, all of the transportation programs would be temporary 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 proposed projects will not increase and may even reduce emissions. The New York Metropolitan Transit Authority (2013) estimated that in 2011, each trip on a train or bus within their service area prevented the emission of 10 pounds of greenhouse gases, on average, compared with making that trip by car.
  - 5 Gyres Institute (Mi Mar/My Sea)
  - Amah Mutsun Land Trust (Explore the Coast with the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band)
  - Amah Mutsun Land Trust (Amah Mutsun Land Trust Coastal Stewardship Summer Camp)
  - California State Parks Foundation (Summer Enrichment Program)
  - City of Arcata, Recreation Division (Explore the Coast - Humboldt Bay)
  - Community Nature Connection (Transit to Trails Program)
  - Community Science Workshop Network, Inc. (Coastal Ecology and Environments for Central Valley Kids)
  - Earth Island Institute (Watershed Action Program – Coastal Connections)
  - Earth Team (LEAF'17 Hiking Series: Discovering Little Known California Coastal Trails)
  - Explore Ecology (Explore Ecology Coastal Stewards Program)
  - Friends of the Dunes (Coastal Exploration for All)
  - Humboldt Redwoods Interpretive Association (Usal beach Education Field Trip Program)
  - Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County (Discover Pismo Preserve - Transportation and Docent Program)
  - Los Angeles Audubon (Ballona to the Beach)
  - Los Angeles Maritime Institution (Explora la Costa en un Barco de Vela)
  - Los Cerritos Wetland Land Trust (Los Cerritos Wetland Urban Coast Explorers)

- Monterey Bay Center for Environmental Literacy (Coastal App Visionaries from the East Side, and Watsonville App Volunteers Engaging Sightseers)
- Ocean Discovery Institute (Ocean Science Explorers)
- O'Neill Sea Odyssey (Transportation for Ocean Stewards)
- PADRE Foundation (2017 Catalina Island Adventure)
- Rosie the Riveter Trust (Every Kid in a Park at Rosie the Riveter)
- Santa Barbara Channel Keeper (Seafaris: On-the-Water Experiential Education for Underserved Youth)
- Sierra Club Foundation (Los Angeles Inspiring Connections Outdoors)
- Solano Land Trust (Marshes Matter & Tidal Marshes Totally Matter)
- Sonoma County Regional Parks (Youth Exploring the Sonoma Coast)
- Sonoma Land Trust (Sears Point Summer Camp)
- Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods (Mobilizing Marine Education, Outreach, and Stewardship on the Sonoma Coast (MMEOS))
- Trinidad Coastal Land Trust (Connecting Coast to Community: Explore the Trinidad Coast)
- Ventura Audubon Society (Ormond Beach Stewardship)
- Wahine Project (El Proyecto Wahine)

#### **CONSISTENCY WITH SAN FRANCISCO BAY PLAN:**

The six proposed ETC projects that are authorized pursuant to Chapter 4.5 of the Conservancy's enabling legislation, regarding the San Francisco Bay Conservancy Program, are consistent with the San Francisco Bay Plan, as described below. (See "Consistency with Conservancy Enabling Legislation, San Francisco Bay Program," above, for a list of the projects. See also "Project Summary," above, for more information about each of the proposed projects listed below).

Consistent with Public Access, Policy 9, 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 that encourage users to remain in the designated access areas to avoid or minimize potential adverse effects on wildlife and their habitat. The following proposed projects will facilitate appropriate enjoyment and use of the San Francisco Bay shoreline in a manner consistent with this policy:

- Bay Area Outreach & Recreation Program (Outdoor Coastal Access for Individuals with Disabilities Continuation Project)
- California State Parks Foundation (Summer Enrichment Program)
- Earth Team (LEAF'17 Hiking Series: Discovering Little Known California Coastal Trails)
- Solano Land Trust (Marshes Matter & Tidal Marshes Totally Matter)

Consistent with Part IV, Public Access, the following proposed ETC 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 proposed projects are supported by Public Access, Policy 3, that states "public

access to some natural areas should be provided to permit study and enjoyment of these areas.” These proposed projects will provide environmental education and encourage stewardship of Bay and marine resources by providing hands-on, onsite experiences at the Bay:

- California State Parks Foundation (Summer Enrichment Program)
- Earth Island Institute (Watershed Action Program – Coastal Connections)
- Environmental Traveling Companions (ETC Accessible Sea Kayak and Bay Education Program - Phase III)
- Rosie the Riveter Trust (Every Kid in a Park at Rosie the Riveter)
- Solano Land Trust (Marshes Matter & Tidal Marshes Totally Matter)
- Sonoma Land Trust (Sears Point Summer Camp)

Consistent with Part IV, Recreation, the following proposed projects 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.”

- Bay Area Outreach & Recreation Program (Outdoor Coastal Access for Individuals with Disabilities Continuation Project)
- California State Parks Foundation (Summer Enrichment Program)
- Earth Team (LEAF'17 Hiking Series: Discovering Little Known California Coastal Trails)
- Environmental Traveling Companions (ETC Accessible Sea Kayak and Bay Education Program - Phase III)
- Rosie the Riveter Trust (Every Kid in a Park at Rosie the Riveter)
- Sonoma Land Trust (Sears Point Summer Camp)

#### **COMPLIANCE WITH CEQA:**

Conservancy staff reviewed the 39 proposed projects for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (14 California Code of Regulations, Sections 15000 *et seq.*). Please see the “Project Summary” section above, for more information on each proposed project and its compliance with CEQA.

##### I. Proposed projects that are categorically exempt under CEQA:

California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15301 (Existing Facilities): The following proposed ETC projects are categorically exempt under CCR Section 15301, which exempts operation, maintenance, and minor alterations of existing facilities or topographic features including pedestrian trails (CCR Section 15301(c)) and wildlife areas and stream channels to protect fish and wildlife resources (CCR Section 15301(i)):

- Amah Mutsun Land Trust (Amah Mutsun Land Trust Coastal Stewardship Summer Camp)
- Bay Area Outreach & Recreation Program (Outdoor Coastal Access for Individuals with Disabilities Continuation Project)
- California State Parks Foundation (Summer Enrichment Program)

- Central Coast Aquarium (Marine Biologist for a Day)
- Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria (Trinidad Rancheria Sustainable Coast Youth Stewardship Program)
- City of Arcata, Recreation Division (Explore the Coast - Humboldt Bay)
- City Surf Project (Expansion of City Surf Project)
- Community Nature Connection (Transit to Trails Program)
- Community Science Workshop Network, Inc. (Coastal Ecology and Environments for Central Valley Kids)
- Earth Team (LEAF'17 Hiking Series: Discovering Little Known California Coastal Trails)
- Environmental Traveling Companions (ETC Accessible Sea Kayak and Bay Education Program - Phase III)
- Explore Ecology (Explore Ecology Coastal Stewards Program)
- Friends of the Dunes (Coastal Exploration for All)
- Humboldt Redwoods Interpretive Association (Usal beach Education Field Trip Program)
- Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County (Discover Pismo Preserve - Transportation and Docent Program)
- Los Angeles Audubon (Ballona to the Beach)
- Los Angeles Maritime Institution (Explora la Costa en un Barco de Vela)
- Los Cerritos Wetland Land Trust (Los Cerritos Wetland Urban Coast Explorers)
- Monterey Bay Center for Environmental Literacy (Coastal App Visionaries from the East Side, and Watsonville App Volunteers Engaging Sightseers)
- Ocean Discovery Institute (Ocean Science Explorers)
- O'Neill Sea Odyssey (Transportation for Ocean Stewards)
- PADRE Foundation (2017 Catalina Island Adventure)
- Pie Ranch (Youth Education Program)
- Rosie the Riveter Trust (Every Kid in a Park at Rosie the Riveter)
- Sierra Club Foundation (Los Angeles Inspiring Connections Outdoors)
- Solano Land Trust (Marshes Matter & Tidal Marshes Totally Matter)
- Sonoma County Regional Parks (Youth Exploring the Sonoma Coast)
- Sonoma Land Trust (Sears Point Summer Camp)
- Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods (Mobilizing Marine Education, Outreach, and Stewardship on the Sonoma Coast (MMEOS))
- Trinidad Coastal Land Trust (Connecting Coast to Community: Explore the Trinidad Coast)
- Ventura Audubon Society (Ormond Beach Stewardship)
- Wahine Project (El Proyecto Wahine)
- WILDCOAST (San Diego County Marine Protected Area Youth Education and Stewardship Project)

CCR Section 15306 (Information Collection): The following proposed ETC projects include science and monitoring activities that are categorically exempt under CCR Section 15306, which exempts basic data collection and resource evaluation activities that do not result in a serious or

major disturbance to an environmental resource. The proposed science and monitoring activities will not result in serious or major disturbances.

- 5 Gyres Institute (Mi Mar/My Sea)
- California State Parks Foundation (Summer Enrichment Program)
- Friends of the Dunes (Coastal Exploration for All)
- Ocean Discovery Institute (Ocean Science Explorers)
- WILDCOAST (San Diego County Marine Protected Area Youth Education and Stewardship Project)

CCR Section 15322 (Educational or Training Programs Involving No Physical Changes): The following projects are categorically exempt under CCR Section 13322, which applies to the adoption, alteration, or termination of educational or training programs that involve no physical alteration in the area affected or that involve physical changes only in the interior of existing school or training structures. These proposed projects provide financial support of new and expanded (altered) environmental education or training programs without any physical changes in any structures for these programs.

- Earth Island Institute (Watershed Action Program – Coastal Connections)
- Santa Barbara Channel Keeper (Seafaris: On-the-Water Experiential Education for Underserved Youth)

CCR Section 15323 (Normal Operations of Facilities for Public Gatherings): The following project is categorically exempt under Section 15323, which applies to 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.

- Marina Del Rey Anglers (Sea Stewards: Exploring, Protecting, and Enhancing California's Marine Resources)

CCR Section 15333 (Small Habitat Restoration Projects): The following proposed project includes activities that are categorically exempt under CCR Section 15333 in that the activities include small-scale stewardship and habitat restoration activities that involve planting native plants and/or removing invasive plants. These activities satisfy all of the criteria under CCR Section 15333 as follows: 1) restoration does not exceed 5 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 activities 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.

- Amah Mutsun Land Trust (Amah Mutsun Land Trust Coastal Stewardship Summer Camp)

Upon approval, staff will file a Notice of Exemption for each proposed project, above.

## II. Proposed Projects Not Considered “A Project” under CEQA:

The following proposed ETC projects or some of the proposed project components as identified in the “Project Summary” section, above, do not meet the definition of “project” in CCR Section 15378 because the proposed projects do not have the potential for a direct physical change or a

reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change on the environment. Accordingly, these proposed ETC projects or some of the proposed projects' components are not subject to CEQA.

- Amah Mutsun Land Trust (Explore the Coast with the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band)
- Marina Del Rey Anglers (Sea Stewards: Exploring, Protecting, and Enhancing California's Marine Resources)
- Mendocino Land Trust (Mendocino County Coastal Trail Web App Expansion)
- Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods (Mobilizing Marine Education, Outreach, and Stewardship on the Sonoma Coast (MMEOS)).