

COASTAL CONSERVANCY

Staff Recommendation
September 28, 2017

EXPLORE THE COAST GRANTS PROGRAM - 2018

Project No. 17-024-01
Project Manager: Joel Gerwein

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Authorization to disburse up to \$594,124 to nonprofit organizations and public agencies for 18 projects that facilitate and enhance the public's opportunities to explore the coast of California in various counties throughout the State.

LOCATION: Various locations along the coast of California (Exhibit 1)

PROGRAM CATEGORY: Coastal Education and Public Accessways

EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1: [Project Locations](#)

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

Exhibit 3: [Project Letters](#)

RESOLUTION AND FINDINGS:

Staff recommends that the State Coastal Conservancy adopt the following resolution pursuant to Sections 31119 and 31400-31410 of the Public Resources Code:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes disbursement of up to five hundred ninety-four thousand, one hundred twenty-four dollars (\$594,124) to the following nonprofit organizations and public agencies for 18 projects that facilitate and enhance the public's opportunities to explore the coast of California (presented in alphabetical order):

- County of Santa Cruz: Fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) for recreation and education activities for underserved girls, Santa Cruz County.
- Crystal Cove Alliance: Twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) for transportation, education, and stewardship activities for underserved youth, Orange County.
- Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy: Fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) for outreach and transportation for underserved populations, San Francisco, Marin, and San Mateo counties.
- Greater Farallones Association: Seventeen thousand two hundred and fifty dollars (\$17,250) for transportation and educational activities for low-income youth, San Francisco and San Mateo Counties.

- Heal the Bay: Thirty-five thousand five hundred dollars (\$35,500) for transportation, outreach, education and recreation activities for low-income and underserved populations, Los Angeles County.
- LandPaths: Forty-nine thousand eight hundred and twenty dollars (\$49,820) for transportation, outreach, education, and recreation activities for underserved low-income, Latino, and wheelchair-bound residents, Sonoma County.
- Los Angeles Waterkeeper: Thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) for outreach and education activities for underserved and at-risk youth, Los Angeles County.
- Lost Coast Camp: Eighteen thousand eight hundred and fifty dollars (\$18,850) for transportation and recreation for low-income and underserved youth, Humboldt County.
- MeWater Foundation: Twenty-six thousand dollars (\$26,000) for equipment, transportation, outreach, and recreation activities for underserved youth and families, Marin, San Francisco, and San Mateo Counties.
- 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.
- Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians: Twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) for transportation, education and recreation activities for tribal youth and young adults, Los Angeles County.
- Point Bonita YMCA: Forty-nine thousand four hundred and twenty-six dollars (\$49,426) for transportation, outreach and education programs for underserved youth, Marin County.
- San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy: Forty-nine thousand five hundred dollars (\$49,500) for transportation, outreach, education and stewardship activities for underserved students, San Diego County.
- Social Good Fund: Forty nine thousand six hundred and fifty-three dollars (\$49,653) for outreach and education for women and girls, San Mateo County.
- The B-Rad Foundation: Six thousand dollars (\$6,000) for transportation, recreation, education and stewardship activities for at-risk youth, Sonoma County.
- The Ocean Foundation: Thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) for outreach, education, and recreation activities for underserved students, San Diego County.
- Ventana Wildlife Society: Thirty-six thousand one hundred and twenty-five dollars (\$36,125) for transportation, education, and recreation activities for underserved youth, Monterey County.
- Yurok Tribe: Thirty-six thousand dollars (\$36,000) for outreach, transportation, education and recreation activities for underserved youth and the general public, Del Norte and Humboldt Counties.

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 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); 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, and 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 in order to develop, operate, or manage lands for coastal access if the projects are determined to serve more than local public needs. The County of Santa Cruz’s “GIRLS Explore the Coast” project will bring underserved middle school girls from the Watsonville area to coastal locations for educational and coastal programs as part of a comprehensive program to provide them with educational support, and foster their social and emotional health and development, thus serving more than a local need.”

PROJECT SUMMARY:

The proposed authorization is to provide up to \$594,124 to nonprofit organizations and public agencies for 18 projects that facilitate and enhance the public’s opportunities to explore the coast of California 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 visitors’ experiences. 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 transportation for underserved communities to the coast for a variety of experiences, communication and outreach, development of interpretive information and educational materials, and educational events and programming. The ETC grants program solicitation was released on February 24, 2017 and was widely distributed. (See Exhibit 2.)

By the April 28, 2017 submission deadline, the Conservancy received 55 project proposals, requesting over \$1.5 million in Conservancy funding. Of the 55 proposed projects submitted, 18 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 2018 ETC grant program will engage approximately 18,700 people through the proposed fieldtrip projects and reach approximately 1,700 people through the proposed projects that support large events.

Staff recommends funding the following 18 projects for the 2018 ETC grants program. The projects are arranged alphabetically by grantee. Each 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).

COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ
GIRLS Explore the Coast

\$50,000
Central Coast

The GIRLS (Gaining Information to Reach a Life of Success) Explore the Coast project will enhance an existing extracurricular pilot program for low-income, underserved female middle school students from Latino/Hispanic communities in Watsonville and the Pájaro Valley to include coastal activities in their programming. The existing three-year pilot program provides a cohort of 35-40 middle school girls with educational and personal development support to help their future successes in graduating high school and beyond, and to improve their quality of life. The number of children living in poverty in the area, high school dropout rates, and the number of teen pregnancies, all point to the great need to provide additional support to Latina girls to help them succeed. This grant will enrich the existing GIRLS program to include coastal recreational and educational activities including exploratory field trips, water and ocean safety training, recreational activities in the ocean and on the beach, and educational sessions related to coastal and marine environments.

Funding: The project involves environmental education and is consistent with the Conservancy’s Enabling Legislation as described below, and is thus consistent with the use of California Environmental License Plate Funds.

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

Strategic Plan Goal 9, Objective A: The project will improve understanding of coastal resources through recreational and educational activities.

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

CRYSTAL COVE ALLIANCE (CCA) \$20,000
Crystal Cove Alliance Educational Programs for Underserved Youth South Coast

ETC funding would pay for transportation to bring students from low-income schools in five Southern California counties to Crystal Cove State Park to participate in CCA's educational and stewardship programs and to make a lasting connection to the coast. Students would participate in either the Marine Protected Area (MPA) Citizen Science Cruise program or the Coastal Field Science Program.

The MPA Citizen Science Cruise program takes junior high and high school students out on the open ocean to help State Park natural resource managers monitor the Crystal Cove State Marine Conservation Area. Students partner with researchers to survey underwater fish populations, assess water quality, and search for extraordinary plankton. The Coastal Field Science Program immerses fifth and seventh grade students in the stewardship of coastal habitats. Students visit Moro Canyon, where they become citizen scientists and collect data to help State Park natural resource managers understand the best methods for restoring the canyon. In addition, a classroom curriculum consisting of 12 in-class lesson plans introduces learners to the science of habitat restoration and wildlife monitoring.

Funding: The project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of the Crystal Cove State Marine Conservation Area and Crystal Cove State Park.

Enabling Legislation: The project is consistent with the Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands public access to the coast by enabling underserved students to visit Crystal Cove.

Strategic Plan Goal 9, Objective A: The project will improve public understanding of coastal resources by providing coastal educational programs to underserved students.

CEQA: The project is categorically exempt under Section 15322 (Educational or Training Programs Involving No Physical Changes) because it involves educational programs that will not result in physical changes to the environment. The project is also categorically exempt under Section 15306 (Information Collection) because it involves data collection that will not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource.

GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVANCY \$50,000
Community Shuttle Program: Welcoming All to Explore Coastal Parklands SF Bay Area

The Golden Gate National Park Conservancy's (GGNPC) "Community Shuttle Program: Welcoming All to Explore Coastal Parklands" project will provide free shuttle bus service for urban, underserved populations to explore and recreate at various park sites within the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). Conservancy funds will support transportation and project implementation to bring approximately 1,000 underrepresented community members from three GGNRA counties, San Francisco, Marin, and San Mateo, to the coast during 2017

and 2018. In addition to neighborhood partnerships, the GGNPC has developed new partnerships with the San Francisco Veterans Administration Medical Center and local public libraries, whose constituents will benefit from Conservancy-funded transportation. Local communities will also be involved in planning the new Presidio Tunnel Tops Park and a mural at Ocean Beach. Each shuttle outing will accommodate the particular needs of the attendees, including people with disabilities, and provide bilingual park staff and an introduction to the park's natural and cultural history to promote park stewardship.

Funding: The project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of multiple coastal sites located within the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

Enabling Legislation: The project is consistent with the Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands public access to the coast by providing underrepresented community members transportation and access to the coast for recreation and environmental education via a shuttle-bus program.

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

- **Goal 2, Objective A and Goal 12, Objective L:** The project will expand opportunities for barrier-free access to the coast in the Bay Area by providing bus transportation for disabled community members to accessible coastal locations.
- **Goal 9, Objective A:** The project will improve public understanding of coastal resources through recreation and coastal education.

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

**GREATER FARALLONES ASSOCIATION
(Coastal Monitoring for Bay Area Students)**

**\$17,250
San Francisco Bay Area**

The Greater Farallones Association (GFA) will connect 600 youth from 15 low-income, ethnically diverse middle and high schools in Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco, and San Mateo counties to meaningful coastal learning experiences provided by GFA's Long-Term Monitoring Program and Experiential Training for Students (LiMPETS) program. LiMPETS educates, inspires, and empowers students through a citizen science and STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) hands-on program. The LiMPETS program will facilitate a personal connection to our local coast and inspire the next generation of scientists, conservationists, and ocean advocates by providing these youths from low-income Bay Area schools with fun and engaging coastal monitoring field trips, free of cost. By participating in the program, students will also develop confidence, college-ready skills and interest in science as a career, as well as increased concern and sustained interest in environmental protection.

Funding: The project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of Ocean Beach, Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, Pillar Point Harbor Tide Pools, Dunes Beach, Pescadero State Beach, and Pigeon Point Light Station State Historic Park.

Enabling Legislation: The project is consistent with the Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands public access to the coast by providing field trips to 600 youth from 15 low-income and ethnically diverse schools. The project is also consistent with Section

31119(a)(1) regarding Coastal Education because it provides education to 6-12 graders related to the preservation and enhancement of coastal resources.

Strategic Plan Goal 9, Objective A: The project improves understanding of coastal resources through participation of 600 students in the LiMPETS coastal monitoring program.

CEQA: The project is categorically exempt under Section 15322 (Educational or Training Programs Involving No Physical Changes) because it is an education program that involves no physical alteration to any structures. The project is also categorically exempt under Section 15306 (Information Collection) because it involves data collection that will not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource.

HEAL THE BAY

\$35,500

Nick Gabaldón Day and Youth Education Day

South Coast

The grant will support two annual events, Nick Gabaldón Day and Youth Education Day, over the course of two years (four events total). 1) Nick Gabaldón Day: Together with multiple partners, Heal the Bay will host a day of activities at Inkwell beach in Santa Monica to honor the legacy of pioneering African-American surfer, Nick Gabaldón, celebrate diversity in the greater surfing community, and promote stewardship of the Santa Monica Bay coastline. 2) Youth Education Day: In partnership with Los Angeles County public schools, Heal the Bay will host a day of activities for 700 underserved K-5 students at Santa Monica Beach. The event will feature fun, hands-on learning and stewardship activities and a tour of the Santa Monica Pier Aquarium.

Funding: The project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves the operation of Santa Monica State Beach.

Enabling Legislation: The project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it increases access to the coast for underserved students and low-income residents.

Strategic Plan Goal 9, Objective A: The project will improve public understanding of coastal resources by supporting education, recreation and stewardship activities at Santa Monica State Beach.

CEQA: The project is categorically exempt under Section 15323 (Normal Operations of Facilities for Public Gatherings) because it involves the normal operation of Santa Monica State Beach for public gatherings for which the beach's facilities were designed. These events have been held over the past five years, and other festivals and educational programs have also been offered at Santa Monica State Beach. Therefore, there is a past history of the beach being used for the same or similar kind of purpose.

LANDPATHS

\$49,820

Exploring Sonoma's Coast with LandPaths

North Coast

LandPaths will provide opportunity, education and inspiration for Sonoma County's underserved low-income, Latino, and wheelchair-bound residents to explore and steward Sonoma County's coast through activities, including day hikes, backpacking "treks," camping trips, and paddling in coastal waters, offered through its *Inspired Forward*, *TrekSonoma*, *Vamos Afuera*, and *Full Access* programs and through promotion of coastal stewardship opportunities.

Coastal sites likely to be visited include the Sonoma Coast State Park (Shell Beach, Bodega Dunes, Kortum Trail, Bodega Head Trail), Doran Regional Park (Doran Beach), Stillwater Cove Regional Park, Salt Point State Park, and the Bird Walk Coastal Access Trail.

Funding: The project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of existing parks, including Sonoma Coast State Park and Salt Point State Park. The project involves environmental education and is consistent with the Conservancy’s Enabling Legislation as described below and thus is also consistent with the use of California Environmental License Plate Funds.

Enabling Legislation: The project is consistent with the Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands public access to the coast by providing trips for low-income, Latino, wheelchair-bound, and other underserved communities to the Sonoma Coast. The project is also consistent with Section 31119(a)(1) regarding Coastal Education because it will provide programs for K-12 students of low-income, underserved and non-coastal areas regarding the preservation, protection, enhancement and maintenance of coastal resources.

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

- **Goal 2, Objective A:** Through its *Full Access* program, the project will expand opportunities for barrier-free access for people in wheelchairs and their families to and along the Sonoma coast and coastal trails.
- **Goal 9, Objective A:** The project supports coastal exploration programs and events that will improve public understanding of coastal resources and foster a sense of stewardship.

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

LOS ANGELES WATERKEEPER	\$30,000
Marine Protected Area (MPA) Watch Program	South Coast

Los Angeles (LA) Waterkeeper’s (Waterkeeper) MPA Watch program educates and engages the public, most directly underserved and at-risk youth, throughout LA County in understanding and safeguarding the LA region’s Marine Protected Areas (MPAs): Point Dume (Malibu); Point Vicente/Abalone Cove (Palos Verdes); and Catalina. Through this program, Waterkeeper seeks to ensure widespread knowledge about the LA region’s MPAs to build public support and encourage non-consumptive recreational uses of these underwater parks; monitor and record all boating and fishing activity in and around our MPAs to promote greater understanding and help guide future management decisions; and bring underserved and at-risk youth who would otherwise not have access to the coast to aid in efforts to study and protect these special places.

In addition to bringing people to the coast, the MPA Watch program provides valuable environmental, cultural, and historical learning experiences for all participants. Student volunteers receive in-depth on-the-water MPA and other coastal waterway education during their trips, such as information on the purpose of MPAs; the cultural and environmental history of our coastal waters; the current threats to local coastal environments (many which they see first-hand); and the actions they can take to protect coastal resources. Seeing majestic wildlife while playing a vital role in safeguarding their habitats provides a once-in-a-lifetime experience for

participating students, many of whom have never visited the ocean before. Waterkeeper works to ensure that volunteers become informed MPA ambassadors who share their experience and knowledge within their schools and communities.

Funding: The project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Marine Protected Areas.

Enabling Legislation: The 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 Goal 9, Objective A: The MPA Watch Program provides a hands-on educational experience that improves public 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 Waterkeeper boat and the MPAs with no expansion of use. The project is also categorically exempt under Section 15306 (Information Collection) because it involves data collection related to the MPAs that will not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource.

LOST COAST CAMP

\$18,850

Lost Coast Camp Coastal Exploration Program

North Coast

Lost Coast Camps (LCC) will expand its existing Coastal Exploration Program to provide coastal experiences for an additional 150 Humboldt County underserved youth, for a total of up to 300, over two summers. A major part of the LCC curriculum involves fostering stewardship through building on a series of beach exploration days, beach hikes, and beach overnight backpack trips. The project will provide transportation for 300 students ages 4 to 17, and fund LCC camp counselors to guide and oversee educational activities. Twenty children, ages 4 to 7, will participate in 4-hour “Beach Days” to explore coastal dunes, build sand castles and examine found coastal objects. A total of 240 youth, ages 8 to 13, will participate in 8-hour “Beach Hikes” to experience carrying a backpack, explore tide pools, learn the principles of Leave No Trace, conduct a beach cleanup, hike 2-3 miles, and enjoy educational games and activities. Forty young adults between 13 and 17 years old will experience 5-day “Beach Backpacking” trips in the Lost Coast of the King Range National Conservation Area; each will carry their own gear and food, learn basic coastal ecology and wilderness backpacking skills, and will practice Leave No Trace principles.

For many of the program participants, this is their only visit to the beach during the year. By providing a positive experience, the LCC program builds a foundation for local youth to develop a lifelong connection to California’s coastal public lands.

Funding: The project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of the California Coastal Trail and the King Ranger National Conservation Area.

Enabling Legislation: The project is consistent with the Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by bringing approximately 300 underserved youth to the coast for recreation and education.

Strategic Plan Goal 9, Objective A: The project provides immersive educational opportunities to youth, including camping, hiking and recreational learning, that improve their understanding of coastal resources.

CEQA: The project is categorically exempt under Section 15322 (Educational or Training Programs Involving No Physical Changes) because it involves educational programs that involve no physical changes to the environment.

MEWATER FOUNDATION

\$26,000

Surf and Ocean Education and Safety Camps for at Risk and Underserved Youth in the Bay Area

San Francisco Bay Area

The proposed grant will fund equipment, transportation, and outreach activities to conduct 20 free surf and ocean education camps (each serving 20 participants for a total of 400 participants served by this grant) over the course of 2018. At each camp, participants will learn about coastal ecosystems, enjoy a surf lesson, practice mindfulness and emotional health exercises, and participate in a beach cleanup. The MeWater Foundation works to address trauma and stress in young people from backgrounds of poverty and violence and provide a different way of relating to the world and the communities they live in. The organization is run by volunteer surfers and mental health professionals with extensive experience working with at-risk youth and families from low-income communities in the San Francisco Bay Area. MeWater has been operating for 20 years. A fundamental tenet of the organization is that water is a conduit to well-being. Through exposure to the ocean and the practice of surfing MeWater aims to share this therapeutic method with the community it serves.

Funding: The project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of Muir Beach, Ocean Beach, Pacifica State Beach, and Miramar Beach.

Enabling Legislation: The 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 project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 9, Objective A:** MeWater 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 Muir Beach, Ocean Beach, Pacifica State Beach, and Miramar Beach with no expansion of use.

O'NEILL SEA ODYSSEY

\$20,000

Transportation For Ocean Stewards

Central Coast

O'Neill Sea Odyssey (OSO) engages 4th - 6th grade youth with a hands-on science and environmental education field trip on a 65-foot catamaran on Monterey Bay and in a shore-side

education center. In addition, OSO provides standards-aligned, ocean-based curriculum for use in the classroom. The ETC grant will provide transportation to enable over 1,000 students to participate in the program. The program includes three onboard learning stations: navigation, including compasses and triangulation; marine ecology, including the kelp forest, marine mammals, and human impacts on Monterey Bay; and marine biology, specifically examining and learning about plankton. These stations are complemented by three stations at an education center on land: navigation, including reading and plotting navigational charts; marine ecology, covering the water cycle, watersheds, and ocean pollution from land-based activities; and marine biology, where the plankton samples collected on the boat are examined further using microscopes. Teachers are provided with additional lessons they can implement at school before and after the trip. The program is free of charge, but participating classes earn their trip by first completing an approved community service project such as the incubation of steelhead eggs, cleaning and restoring wetlands, or restoring sand dunes.

Funding: The project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of the OSO's catamaran and education center.

Enabling Legislation: The project is consistent with the Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by enabling over 1,000 students to participate in ocean-based educational programs.

Strategic Plan Goal 9, Objective A: Through the OSO education programs, the project will improve understanding of coastal resources.

CEQA: The project is categorically exempt under Section 15322 (Educational or Training Programs Involving No Physical Changes) because it involves an educational program that will not physically alter the area affected.

PECHANGA BAND OF LUISEÑO INDIANS

\$20,000

Hani'cha móomat po'únnik: Let's go to the Heart of the Ocean

South Coast

The proposed grant will fund two three-day camping trips for approximately 40 youth members of the Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians to the Bahia Azul group campground at Two Harbors on Catalina Island. The Pechanga people have an ancestral connection to the Southern Channel Islands and the northern San Diego County coast. The project will enable the Pechanga tribal youth to experience the coastal resources their ancestors depended upon while learning about the tribe's cultural ties to those resources. Youth will take part in a variety of activities including canoeing, hiking, snorkeling, and beach recreation. Two cultural instructors will accompany the group who will offer lessons and lectures on cultural connections to the ocean and traditional beliefs about the southern Channel Islands. Topics will include traditional canoe manufacture, ocean navigation, fishing and shellfish procurement, and the creation of material objects.

Funding: The project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of the Bahia Azul group campground at Twin Harbors, Catalina.

Enabling Legislation: The project is consistent with the Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by bringing Pechanga youth to Catalina Island for a variety of coastal and cultural experiences.

Strategic Plan Goal 9, Objective A: The project improves understanding of coastal and cultural resources through camping, beach and ocean activities, and cultural education.

CEQA: The project is categorically exempt under Section 15322 (Educational or Training Programs Involving No Physical Changes) because it involves coastal and cultural education activities that do not result in physical alteration of the site.

**POINT BONITA YMCA
Get to the Coast Program**

**\$49,426
North Coast**

The Point Bonita YMCA will provide three-day, two-night outdoor education trips to the Marin Headlands for 200-300 low income or underserved youth. Participants will develop meaningful and lasting connections with the coast by participating in hands on science, stewardship and community building activities. The Point Bonita YMCA has a proven track record and will have provided over 500 students this important experience by the end of 2017. The proposed funding will allow the Point Bonita YCMA to expand the program from its current focus on Bay Area youth to include schools in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

Funding: The project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of the Marin Headlands.

Enabling Legislation: The project is consistent with the Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by bringing low-income and underserved youth from the Bay Area and Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta region to the coast for educational programs. The project is also consistent with Section 31119(a)(1) regarding Coastal Education because students participate in coastal stewardship activities during the trips.

Strategic Plan Goal 9, Objective A: The project improves public understanding of coastal resources by bringing Bay Area and Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta youth to participate in science, stewardship and community building activities.

CEQA: The project is categorically exempt under Section 15322 (Educational or Training Programs Involving No Physical Changes) because it involves an educational training program that does not physically alter the environment.

**SAN ELIJO LAGOON CONSERVANCY
Get Out in Nature (GOIN')**

**\$49,500
South Coast**

Get Out in Nature ('GOIN) will provide educational programming, bus transportation, nature exploration hikes, and restoration events for approximately 2,500 people, with a focus on families and multi-generational participation. Approximately 1,800 students and their families from five schools in Escondido will participate in three Family Discovery Days, which include free transportation to the Lagoon and a day full of educational outdoor activities. Families and community members from these schools will also be invited to approximately ten weekend events over the course of the grant, where 40 people will participate in nature walks, bird watching, and optional stewardship activities at each event. In addition to these school-oriented events, this program will also provide unique outdoor nature programs to approximately 250 members of the broader public through monthly events such as such as bilingual tours, tours designed for persons with disabilities, and leisurely sunset walks. These public programs will reach out to communities throughout San Diego County and will cover an extensive geographic

area that will include exploring the Escondido Creek Watershed and the six lagoons of northern San Diego County.

Funding: The project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of the San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve and Nature Center.

Enabling Legislation: The project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways, because it increases the number of people visiting the coast and expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing school and family weekend trips to the coast for lower-income populations residing inland.

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

- **Strategic Plan Goal 2, Objective A:** The project will expand opportunities for barrier-free access to the coast by providing tours specifically designed for persons with disabilities.
- **Strategic Plan Goal 9, Objective A:** The project will improve public understanding of coastal resources by funding events such as educational programs, hikes and walks, and stewardship opportunities.

CEQA: The project is categorically exempt under CCR Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of the San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve and Nature Center and other lagoons and watershed areas within northern San Diego County. The small amount of restoration and stewardship activities that the students, families and public will participate in are categorically exempt under Section 15304(d) (Minor Alternations to Land) because they involve planting native vegetation, removing weeds and collecting native seeds, which are considered minor alternations in land and vegetation in an officially designated wildlife management area.

**SOCIAL GOOD FUND (Fiscal Sponsor for BROWN GIRL SURF)
BROWN GIRL SURF - Surf Sister Program**

**\$49,653
Central Coast**

Brown Girl Surf’s Surf Sister Program is both a community building program and a leadership building program designed to help girls and women of all ages connect to the ocean through the sport of surfing. The program entails introducing approximately 100 girls and women of all ages, color, and incomes to the ocean and surfing in Half Moon Bay through 12 Community Surf Sister Saturday learn-to-surf days. In addition, the grantee will continue to build their Leadership Crew of around 25 girls and women that are empowered to further develop their skills in surfing, ocean safety, and leadership and become ambassadors during Community Surf Sister Saturdays, sharing their skills teaching others. In the Leadership Crew, Brown Girl Surf pairs adult and youth members in a big sister/little sister model to help build the leadership of the youth members.

Funding: The project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of Miramar and Surfer’s Beaches in Half Moon Bay.

Enabling Legislation: The project is consistent with the Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing a surfing experience for lower-income and underserved girls and women in the Bay Area/ Central Coast while also increasing the number of people visiting the coast.

Strategic Plan Goal 9, Objective A: The project improves understanding of coastal resources through surfing and educational games and activities on ocean ecology.

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

THE B-RAD FOUNDATION

\$6,000

Sonoma County Adventure Days: B-Rad Youth Program

North Coast

The project will provide funds for an existing program that offers multiple outdoor adventure days for at-risk and marginalized youth in Sonoma County. The B-Rad Foundation takes youth participants to Mammoth Rocks (also called Sunset Boulders) near Goat Rock Beach on the Sonoma Coast for rock climbing, team building, and coastal stewardship seminars. Over the last three years, the B-Rad Foundation has brought over 200 at-risk high school students from throughout Sonoma County to Sonoma Coast State Park to participate in its climbing and stewardship programs. This project will enable the inclusion of 150 marginalized youth (ranging from foster children to educationally and emotionally disabled teens receiving highly specialized counseling and treatment) in the climbing program at Mammoth Rocks over the next year through six individual Adventure Days at that location.

Funding: The project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of Sonoma Coast State Park.

Enabling Legislation: The project is consistent with the Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing coastal adventure opportunities for underserved youth in Sonoma County.

Strategic Plan Goal 9, Objective A: The project supports coastal outdoor education programs and events that will improve public understanding of coastal resources and foster a sense of stewardship in a youth population unfamiliar with their coastal resources.

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

THE OCEAN FOUNDATION (Fiscal Sponsor for OCEAN CONNECTORS)

\$30,000

OCEAN CONNECTORS – Connecting Youth for Conservation

South Coast

The Ocean Connectors' Connecting Youth for Conservation program provides three years of free marine science education programs to underserved students living in National City. The proposed ETC grant will allow the addition of a new middle school program to the existing Ocean Connectors elementary school programs. The Ocean Connectors program consists of coastal excursions, peer-to-peer learning, and hands-on lessons to engage youth in exploring the coast. Activities include sea turtle, seabird and shark observation, whale watching, and coastal restoration work. The program includes knowledge exchange between students in San Diego and their peers in Nayarit, Mexico about migratory marine life in the Pacific. Students use a different method each year to communicate about conservation including artwork, letters, and short video messages.

Funding: The project involves environmental education and is consistent with the Conservancy’s Enabling Legislation as described below and is thus consistent with the use of California Environmental License Plate Funds.

Enabling Legislation: The project is consistent with Section 31119(a)(1) regarding Coastal Education because it will provide opportunities for underserved youth in San Diego County to participate in environmental education and stewardship activities.

Strategic Plan Goal 9, Objective A: Through its marine science educational programs, the project will that improve public understanding of coastal resources.

CEQA: The project is categorically exempt under Section 15322 (Educational or Training Programs Involving No Physical Changes) because it involves an educational program that will not physically change the locations where it will be held. The project is also categorically exempt under Section 15304 (Minor Alternations to Land) because the coastal restoration component of the program consists of minor alteration of vegetation through small scale planting of native vegetation and weed removal.

VENTANA WILDLIFE SOCIETY **\$36,125**
Coastal Adventure Program for Underserved Youth **Central Coast**

The Ventana Wildlife Society will provide eight coastal-themed camps, one weekly school year class, and twenty single day programs at no cost to youth residing in low-income, inland areas of Monterey County. These programs will be offered in 2018, and will provide access to the coastline through meaningful and educational outdoor activities, including a coastal clean-up activity. The summer camps and other programs will serve 346 youth and provide them an average of nearly 30 hours of personal interaction with program staff.

Funding: The project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of the Salinas River National Wildlife Refuge, Marina Dunes Preserve, Del Monte Beach, Moss Landing Harbor, Monterey Harbor, Point Lobos Reserve, Carmel River State Beach, Garrapata State Park, and Asilomar State Beach. The project involves environmental education and is consistent with the Conservancy’s Enabling Legislation as described below and thus is also consistent with the use of California Environmental License Plate Funds.

Enabling Legislation: The project is consistent with the Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment while also increasing the number of people visiting the coast by providing summer camp and day trip coastal experiences for underserved youth. The project is also consistent with Section 31119(a)(1) regarding Coastal Education because it provides educational activities for K-12 students related to the preservation, protection, enhancement and maintenance of coastal resources.

Strategic Plan Goal 9, Objective A: Through its coastal-themed camps and environmental education programs, the project will improve public understanding of coastal resources.

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

YUROK TRIBE**\$36,000****Trails to Traditional Ecological Knowledge****North Coast**

The goal of the Yurok Tribe's Trails to Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TTEK) Stewardship Program is to increase stewardship of coastal natural resources by bringing together inland youth from urban areas and other residents from Del Norte and Humboldt Counties with Yurok Elder Stewards on the coast. Working with the Elders, college interns will accompany participants on TTEK adventure guided trips to the California Coastal Trail, Lower Klamath Estuary, and other coastal locations historically important to Yurok life. Participants will learn and practice Yurok navigation and sustainable harvesting techniques for food and basketry material. Participants will also learn about Yurok TEK fishery management, canoe building, and other aspects of the Yurok's traditional knowledge of the coast.

The program will help with transportation costs for youth and adults living in parts of Del Norte County and Humboldt Counties who cannot otherwise afford to travel to the coast. It will also develop educational materials focused on Traditional Educational Knowledge.

Funding: The project involves environmental education and is consistent with the Conservancy's Enabling Legislation as described below and is thus consistent with the use of California Environmental License Plate Funds.

Enabling Legislation: The project is consistent with Section 31119(a)(1) regarding Coastal Education because it provides environmental education for inland residents of Humboldt and Del Norte Counties. The project is also consistent with the Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by bringing people to the coast to participate in the TTEK program.

Strategic Plan Goal 9, Objective A: The project will improve public understanding of coastal resources by bringing underserved youth and adults to the coast for environmental education programs.

CEQA: The project is categorically exempt under Section 15322 (Educational or Training Programs Involving No Physical Changes) because it involves educational programs that will not physically alter the environment.

Site Description: All of the projects serve a coastal region of the state. 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 visitors' experiences. 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 \$4.2 million to fund 131 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 is for the fourth ETC grant round.

PROJECT FINANCING

Coastal Conservancy	\$594,124
Other funds (matching funds excluding in-kind)	\$1,074,175
Project Total	\$1,668,299

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, excluding San Francisco Bay. Use of the Coastal Access Account funds is appropriate for all of the proposed projects listed below because each will develop, maintain, or operate an 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.

- Crystal Cove Alliance (Educational Programs for Underserved Youth)
- Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy (Community Shuttle Program)
- Greater Farallones Association (Coastal Monitoring for Bay Area Students)
- Heal the Bay (Nick Gabaldón Day and Youth Education Day)
- LandPaths (Exploring Sonoma’s Coast)
- Los Angeles Waterkeeper (MPA Watch Program)
- Lost Coast Camp (Lost Coast Camp)
- MeWater Foundation (Surf and Ocean Education and Safety Camps)
- O'Neill Sea Odyssey (Transportation for Ocean Stewards)
- Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians (Hani’cha móomat po’únnik: Let’s go to the Heart of the Ocean)
- Point Bonita YMCA (Get to the Coast Program)
- San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy (Get Out In Nature)
- Social Good Fund (Surf Sister Program)
- The B-Rad Foundation (Sonoma Coast Adventure Days)
- Ventana Wildlife Society (Coastal Adventure Program for Underserved Youth)

The other expected source of funds for the ETC grants program proposed projects is an appropriation from the California Environmental License Plate Fund, derived from sales and renewal of personalized license plates. Funds in the California Environmental License Plate Fund are available upon appropriation for purposes outlined in Public Resources Code Section

21190. These purposes include funding environmental education programs. 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 18 proposed projects are consistent with the Conservancy’s enabling legislation, Division 21 of the PRC (Sections 31000-31410) as described in 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.

- Greater Farallones Association (Coastal Monitoring for Bay Area Students)
- LandPaths (Exploring Sonoma’s Coast)
- Lost Coast Camp (Lost Coast Camp)
- Point Bonita YMCA (Get to the Coast Program)
- The B-Rad Foundation (Sonoma Coast Adventure Days)
- The Ocean Foundation (Ocean Connectors)
- Ventana Wildlife Society (Coastal Adventure Program)
- Yurok Tribe (Trails to Traditional Ecological Knowledge)

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 2018 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 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; for grants to local agencies, the subject accessway must serve more than local public needs. Section 31400.3, authorizes the Conservancy to provide such assistance as is required to

aid public agencies and nonprofit organizations in establishing a system of public coastal accessways, and related functions necessary to meet the objectives of this division. 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 is to 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.

- County of Santa Cruz (GIRLS Explore the Coast)
- Crystal Cove Alliance (Educational Programs for Underserved Youth)
- Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy (Community Shuttle Program)
- Greater Farallones Association (Coastal Monitoring for Bay Area Students)
- Heal the Bay (Nick Gabaldón Day and Youth Education Day)
- LandPaths (Exploring Sonoma’s Coast with LandPaths)
- Los Angeles Waterkeeper (MPA Watch Program)
- Lost Coast Camp (Lost Coast Camp)
- MeWater Foundation (Surf and Ocean Education and Safety Camps)
- O'Neill Sea Odyssey (Transportation for Ocean Stewards)
- Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians (Hani'cha móomat po'únnik: Let's go to the Heart of the Ocean)
- Point Bonita YMCA (Get to the Coast Program)
- San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy (Get Out In Nature)
- Social Good Fund (Surf Sister Program)
- The B-Rad Foundation (Sonoma Coast Adventure Days)
- Ventana Wildlife Society (Coastal Adventure Program for Underserved Youth)
- Yurok Tribe (Trails to Traditional Ecological Knowledge)

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

The 18 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 each proposed project meets the relevant goal(s) and objective(s).

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:

- Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy (Community Shuttle Program)
- LandPaths (Exploring Sonoma’s Coast)

- San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy (Get Out In Nature)

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:

- County of Santa Cruz (GIRLS Explore the Coast)
- Crystal Cove Alliance (Educational Programs for Underserved Youth)
- Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy (Community Shuttle Program)
- Greater Farallones Association (Coastal Monitoring for Bay Area Students)
- Heal the Bay (Nick Gabaldón Day and Youth Education Day)
- LandPaths (Exploring Sonoma's Coast)
- Los Angeles Waterkeeper (MPA Watch Program)
- Lost Coast Camp (Lost Coast Camp)
- MeWater Foundation (Surf and Ocean Education and Safety Camps)
- O'Neill Sea Odyssey (Transportation for Ocean Stewards)
- Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians (Hani'cha móomat po'únnik: Let's go to the Heart of the Ocean)
- Point Bonita YMCA (Get to the Coast Program)
- San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy (Get Out In Nature)
- Social Good Fund (Surf Sister Program)
- The B-Rad Foundation (Sonoma Coast Adventure Days)
- The Ocean Foundation (Ocean Connectors)
- Ventana Wildlife Society (Coastal Adventure Program)
- Yurok Tribe (Trails to Traditional Ecological Knowledge)

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

- Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy (Community Shuttle Program)

Consistent with **Goal 12, Objective M**, which seeks to implement projects in the San Francisco Bay region that create, expand, or improve environmental education or interpretive programs, especially those that are available to urban populations, the following proposed project will contribute to this goal:

- MeWater Foundation (Surf and Ocean Education and Safety Camps)

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 2018 ETC program. It is estimated that over 20,000 people will be served by the 18 ETC 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. 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 20,000 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, 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:
 - San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy (Get Out In Nature)
 - The Ocean Foundation (Ocean Connectors)

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 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.
 - County of Santa Cruz (GIRLS Explore the Coast)
 - Crystal Cove Alliance (Educational Programs for Underserved Youth)
 - Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy (Community Shuttle Program)
 - Greater Farallones Association (Coastal Monitoring for Bay Area Students)
 - Heal the Bay (Nick Gabaldón Day and Youth Education Day)

- LandPaths (Exploring Sonoma’s Coast)
- Los Angeles Waterkeeper (MPA Watch Program)
- Lost Coast Camp (Lost Coast Camp)
- MeWater Foundation (Surf and Ocean Education and Safety Camps)
- O'Neill Sea Odyssey (Transportation for Ocean Stewards)
- Point Bonita YMCA (Get to the Coast Program)
- San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy (Get Out In Nature)
- Social Good Fund (Surf Sister Program)
- The B-Rad Foundation (Sonoma Coast Adventure Days)
- Ventana Wildlife Society (Coastal Adventure Program)
- Yurok Tribe (Trails to Traditional Ecological Knowledge)

COMPLIANCE WITH CEQA:

Conservancy staff reviewed the 18 proposed projects for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (14 California Code of Regulations, Sections 15000 *et seq*). All of the proposed projects are categorically exempt under CEQA. Please see the “Project Summary” section above, for more information on each proposed project and its compliance with CEQA. Applicable CEQA exemptions are listed below.

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)):

- Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy (Community Shuttle Program)
- Los Angeles Waterkeeper (MPA Watch Program)
- MeWater Foundation (Surf and Ocean Education and Safety Camps)
- San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy (Get Out In Nature)

CCR Section 15304 (Minor Alterations of Land): The following proposed ETC projects include planting of native vegetation and removal of weeds. These activities are categorically exempt under CCR Section 15304, which exempts minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees.

- San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy (Get Out In Nature)
- The Ocean Foundation (Ocean Connectors)

CCR Section 15306 (Information Collection): The following proposed ETC projects includes 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.

- Crystal Cove Alliance (Educational Programs for Underserved Youth)
- Greater Farallones Association (Coastal Monitoring for Bay Area Students)
- Los Angeles Waterkeeper (MPA Watch Program)

CCR Section 15322 (Educational or Training Programs Involving No Physical Changes): The following projects are categorically exempt under CCR Section 15322, 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.

- County of Santa Cruz (GIRLS Explore the Coast)
- Crystal Cove Alliance (Educational Programs for Underserved Youth)
- Greater Farallones Association (Coastal Monitoring for Bay Area Students)
- LandPaths (Exploring Sonoma's Coast)
- Lost Coast Camp (Lost Coast Camp)
- O'Neill Sea Odyssey (Transportation for Ocean Stewards)
- Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians (Hani'cha móomat po'únnik: Let's go to the Heart of the Ocean)
- Point Bonita YMCA (Get to the Coast Program)
- Social Good Fund (Surf Sister Program)
- The B-Rad Foundation (Sonoma Coast Adventure Days)
- The Ocean Foundation (Ocean Connectors)
- Ventana Wildlife Society (Coastal Adventure Program)
- Yurok Tribe (Trails to Traditional Ecological Knowledge)

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.

- Heal the Bay (Nick Gabaldón Day and Youth Education Day)

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